



30th November 2018

The Christmas spirit is fully upon us here at Duncombe as pupils and staff have created a wonderful series of displays on the theme of Duncombe Bear Christmases around the world! As we entered school this morning, the staff and Santa's helpers had put up the wonderful images for us all to enjoy. It certainly is the perfect setting for the PA Christmas Fair which is on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. In anticipation of this, I do want to say a very sincere thank you to the PA team who I know are working hard, with the support of a massed team of parents, to deliver another wonderful event for us all to enjoy.

The Music Assembly this morning was another celebration of the vast array of talented musicians we have here at Duncombe. Do please look out for the write up of what was a most impressive recital. Well done to all involved.

The creative curriculum was in full flow with the visit of Anthony Glenn and his Christmas Carol play. Year 3 to 6 launched into the interactive nature of the play and were buzzing with enthusiasm around the classic Dickensian tale. I overheard several pupils talking to each other as they left exclaiming 'what a great story that is!' It made me want to sit and watch the Albert Finney version all over again!

Each week we have a number of visitors to Duncombe, many of whom are prospective parents looking to join us in the near future. I need little encouragement to talk about Duncombe, its pupils and staff as you will know, and I have greatly enjoyed the number of conversations I have been having recently about the school. I did want to share with you some feedback from a family I met with on Tuesday. Having toured and met the staff and pupils they shared with me with great enthusiasm, about what they had observed. 'Your pupils and staff are a credit to you. We are so impressed with how willing the children were to talk about their learning and how inclusive and enthusiastic the staff are.' At any time of the year I'd be delighted with that, but as we near the end of term with concerts, plays and the end of year festivities, that really is a significant compliment that we can all be very proud of.

Good luck to all our pupils involved in the Haileybury entrance exams over the next few days. Remember to keep calm, focus on what you have been working on and give of your best.

Have a lovely weekend and an enjoy our PA Christmas fair.

*Mr Phelan.*

## Well done to this week's Lower School Stars of the Week



## Diary Dates

**Monday 3rd December** - Years 1 to 6 Carol Service Rehearsal at Haileybury.

2.15pm EKG and KG Singalong. Parents welcome.

**Tuesday 4th December** - Carol Service Years 1-6 at Haileybury Chapel. 5pm start.

**Thursday 6th December** - Nursery Christmas Play. 9.15am in New Hall. Parents welcome.

Last Speech and Drama lesson.

**Friday 7th December** - Reception Christmas Play. 9.15am in New Hall. Parents welcome.

## Looking Forward

**Monday 10th December** - Harmony Choir to Hanbury Manor. 6pm start.

**Tuesday 11th December** - EKG, KG and Nursery Trip to Springtime Nursery.

Senior Choir to Bentley House, Hertford. 2pm start.

**Wednesday 12th December** - Reception to Year 6 to Pantomime at Hertford Theatre.

Treetops Disco.

No After School Clubs due to the pantomime.

**Thursday 13th December** - Last day of term.

Treetops and Years 1-3 finish at 2.45 pm,

Years 4 - 6 finish at 3.00pm.

**Please note that no after school clubs will take place on either the 12th or 13th December, but after school care will be available. Please let the School Office know if you need care.**

**The Spring Term commences on Monday 7th January 2019.**

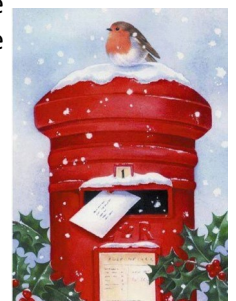
## Sports Fixtures

**Wednesday 5th December** - U11 Netball v Westbrook Hay (away). Time TBC.

**Thursday 6th December** - U9 Football v Heath Mount (away). 2.30pm start.

## Duncombe Christmas Postal Service

The Duncombe School Christmas Postal Service will be open for business for the children from Monday 3rd December. The Post Box will be placed in the Old Hall and emptied at least once a day. There is also a box in the entrance to Treetops. Please make sure you put the full name and class of the child on the envelope.



### A Christmas Carol

Anthony Glenn visited Duncombe for yet another captivating show to commence the Christmas festivities at Duncombe. Performing the Charles Dicken's classic, A Christmas Carol, all children from Years 3-6 were truly captivated. In true Duncombe style, the enthusiasm and participation led to a wonderful afternoon of improvised acting and laughter. Our pupils agree too...

*"Great at exaggerating tragedy and making comedy even funnier than it is."* Dominic K (6M)

*"This year was the best by far. Everyone felt incredibly happy after the performance and ready for our Christmas celebrations."* Joshua K (6TA)

*"Anthony Glenn is hilarious. It is brilliant how he gets children from the audience to perform as characters."* Maya B (6TH)

*"I love it when Anthony Glenn visits. He makes everyone laugh and feel included. I am so sad this was our last Christmas performance, but I can't wait for the next Shakespeare one!"* Matilda C (6TH)

### Woodwind Workshop for Lower School

This Wednesday, Lower School were treated to a wonderful woodwind workshop, led by our very own Mrs Parker. She was ably assisted by Jasmin Hunt, who performed some of her clarinet pieces for the children.

Mrs Parker demonstrated a range of instruments including the clarinet, kinder-clarinet (a smaller version suitable for those with smaller hands) and the saxophone. The children were also able to try a few out. Several children have already taken up clarinet tuition places after this assembly – they were inspired!

If your child has shown an interest, there are limited spaces remaining for those in year 2 and 3. Please contact me [jo.sutton@duncombe-school.co.uk](mailto:jo.sutton@duncombe-school.co.uk) or Mrs Selwood [rebecca.selwood@duncombe-school.co.uk](mailto:rebecca.selwood@duncombe-school.co.uk) if you would like to explore instrumental tuition. If your child is in Year 1, please feel free to add them to the waiting list ready to start when they are just a little bit bigger!

*Mrs Sutton*

### Music Assembly

This morning we were treated to another wonderful Music Recital packed full of our talented young instrumental players. Anna B opened the show with a lovely piano performance of 'Train Ride' which showed some very good dynamic contrasts. Jaxson B then played 'Arabesque' demonstrating some very fast fingering and smooth changes in tempo. James S completed the piano performances with a confident rendition of the popular 'Egyptian Level'. Our violinists were next and Leah B treated us to a highly accomplished performance of Entr'acte with great control of her bow over long, sustained notes. Chloe C performed next, playing the lively 'Tapdancer' with great confidence and showing a good ear for the timing. Jamie R represented the brass players playing 'Frere Jacques' and achieving a very impressive quality of sound. Next were the guitars, beginning with Toby F who performed 'Ines' with a gorgeous light touch on the strings and a good sense of melodic phrasing. James M then also played 'Ines' showing a slightly contrasting interpretation of the piece and a beautiful understanding of the tune. Aidan E then played in his first recital, performing 'Dutch Folk Song' very confidently. Josh K followed with 'Wilson's Wilde' showcasing his technical skill with some complex fingering – very impressive. Cooper B completed the guitars with 'Mona Lisa', a lovely, lyrical performance. A first for Duncombe came next, with Leah B treating us to a performance on her cello. She performed 'Watkin's Ale' with great lyricism, a truly lovely performance. For the flutes, next was Polly B who played 'Rigaudon' with a lovely, smooth melody line. Then our clarinets: Jasmin Hunt performed 'Frere Jacques' very smoothly and then 'Away in a Manger' which got us all in the mood for the upcoming festivities. To close the concert, the talented Georgiana F played 'Summer' by Paul Reade. This was a beautiful performance which showcased Georgiana's skill to the full, making the most of the musical dialogue between the clarinet and the accompanying piano.

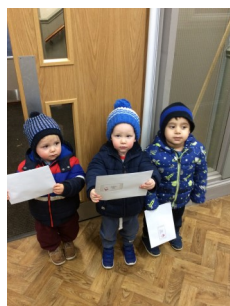
This was a beautiful concert and our thanks, as always, go to the instrumental tutors for their support and encouragement, to the families of our performers for their constant help with practise and of course to the wonderful Mrs Turner for her faultless accompanying. *Mrs Sutton.*



### Early Kindergarten go Posting....

This week in Early Kindergarten the children have been busy making their letters to send off to Father Christmas in the North Pole. The children then had the special job of going to post them - it was lots of fun!

*Miss Kavanagh.*



### Pantomime - Wednesday 12th December

Reception to Year 6 pupils are looking forward to going to the pantomime on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December to see Pinocchio. We would like to make you aware that the children will be back at school between 4.15pm to 4.30pm for a late dismissal due to the finish time of the pantomime. As the whole school (Reception to Year 6) will be returning at the same time parking may be difficult on site so we would ask you park considerately in the local area.

Due to the later return time, we **will not be running any after school clubs**, however after school care will still be available. Unless we hear otherwise we will assume all children booked in to clubs will require after school care as normal.

### After School Club Information for the remainder of this term

May we remind you that **fencing, horse riding, cheerleading, tennis, cookery and chess** have now finished for the term.

As previously mentioned there will be **no clubs** on the 4th December due to the Carol Service or on the 12th December due to the late arrival back at school after the pantomime.

Finally please note that there are no clubs on our last day of term, 13<sup>th</sup> December, but there is care for those who need it. Please let the school office know if you do.

*Mrs Price.*

### Carol Service - Tuesday 4th December

We are looking forward to our Carol Service at Haileybury on Tuesday 4th December for Years 1-6. Here is more information about this event:

**Treetops' day will end as normal at 3.30pm.** If parents are going to the Carol Service at Haileybury, please see your form teacher to arrange an early pick up. **Please note that school will finish for Lower School at 2.45pm and Upper School at 3pm.** This allows everyone the opportunity to freshen up and have tea in good time before our **Carol Service in Haileybury Chapel which starts at 5pm. Please do not arrive before 4.30pm.** This allows us time to prepare the Chapel. We ask that you do not arrive before this time as your child/children will have a long time to wait before the start of the service. The service will last for an hour.

**After School Clubs** - Treetops After School Activities will continue as normal. **There will be no Clubs for non-Treetops pupils.** If you are unable to collect your child by 3pm on Tuesday 4th December, please let the School Office know.

Please arrange childcare for siblings below Reception age and babies.

Any Reception child who has an older sibling is allowed to attend the Christmas Carol Service. They must be in their school uniform and will be seated with their class teacher in the pews towards the front of the church. If you are intending to bring your Reception child with you, please let the School Office know so that we can make sure we have enough room for them all.

Please refer to the letter sent out for full details.

### Individual and Sibling Photo Orders

We would like to remind you that orders of individual and sibling photos need to be submitted to Gillman and Soame before Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, in order to get them for Christmas.

If you have lost your child's photo details, please contact Gillman and Soame directly at [enquiries@gillmanandsoame.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@gillmanandsoame.co.uk) or on 01869 328200 quoting the security password **duncombe4plrx2018**.

Thank you.

# Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 3rd December 2018

*Monday*

**TUESDAY**

*thursday*

Week commencing  
3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018

**The Soup Kettle**  
Seasonal soup  
with 50/50 homemade bread

**Tasty Entrée**  
Flaked salmon in tomato  
sauce with 50/50 pasta

**Flexitarian**  
Roast tomato with cannellini beans  
and basil sauce with 50/50 pasta

**Allergen Option**  
Insert Allergen Free options

**On the side**  
Roast peppers  
with kale and sweetcorn

**Tasty puds**  
Peach and strawberry  
topped yoghurt

**The Soup Kettle**  
Seasonal soup  
with 50/50 homemade bread

**Tasty entrée**  
Lamb Rogan josh with onion salad,  
mango chutney and raita

**Flexitarian**  
Cheese layered  
potato bake

**Allergen Option**  
Insert Allergen Free options

**On the side**  
Basmati rice or naan  
Curried lentils  
Garden peas

**Tasty puds**  
Fudgy chocolate  
brownie bites  
(reduced sugar recipe)

**The Soup Kettle**  
Seasonal soup  
with 50/50  
homemade bread

**Tasty entrée**  
Roast chicken legs  
with homemade  
gravy

**Flexitarian**  
Stuffed sweet potato  
with borlotti beans  
and plum tomatoes

**Allergen Option**  
Insert Allergen Free  
options

**On the side**  
Rustic roast  
potatoes  
Baked parsnip and  
carrots

**Tasty puds**  
Mandarins in jelly

**The Soup Kettle**  
Seasonal soup  
with 50/50 homemade bread

**Tasty entrée**  
Grilled chicken fillet burgers  
with gherkins and relish

**Flexitarian**  
Squash and chick pea burger  
with gherkins and relish

**Allergen Option**  
Insert Allergen Free options

**On the side**  
Oven chips  
Garden peas  
Baked squash and kale  
Baked beans

**Tasty puds**  
Raspberry ripple  
ice cream

*Wednesday*

<p><b>The Soup Kettle</b> Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p><b>Tasty entrée</b> Sticky BBQ ribs with homemade corn bread Roast chicken legs with homemade gravy</p>	<p><b>Flexitarian</b> Lentil and vegetable polenta slice Stuffed sweet potato with borlotti beans and plum tomatoes</p> <p><b>Allergen Option</b> Insert Allergen Free options</p>	<p><b>On the side</b> Corn on the cob Spring greens Coleslaw</p> <p><b>Tasty puds</b> Homemade berry and swirl smoothie</p>
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