



11th January 2019

Firstly, may I wish you all a very warm welcome back to school.

The week started with an assembly about New Year's Resolutions, which reflected our Dreams and Goals topic being followed for PSHE. The children have been talking about what they hope for and how they are going to achieve these aspirations. I am still giving interview practice to those of our Year 6 pupils who have imminent entrance examinations and it is inspiring to hear from them of where they hope to be when they are older; architect, furniture designer, You-Tuber, vet, mid-wife, scientist and banker are all in the mix with the obligatory smattering of footballers thrown in for good measure! It would be so interesting to see whether these dreams come true, and if, in fact these jobs are still around when our children venture out into the workplace. I wanted to 'stamp' things, so banks, post-offices or libraries were all on my hit list – I don't think any of these still use actual stamps but I feel lucky to have found my dream job in teaching.

The children have all settled in really well and there is the usual buzz around the school as they discuss what they are doing in lessons. It is lovely to see friendships resuming in the playground and the mild weather has meant we have not had any rain days yet. Year 6 have continued to remain focused as they approach the remaining entrance exams and we wish them all the best of luck.

It was interesting to see that in KG, when I visited with a tour this morning, that the children had been exploring fairy tales and in particular looking this week at 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. The children were making their own porridge in the messy trays and then deciding upon which toppings would best accompany their food. This leads me in to announce that we are launching the next **Duncombe Bake Off**, details of which can be found within this newsletter. It was fantastic to see so much enthusiasm when I mentioned it in assembly this morning.

Yesterday, we had a very successful fire drill with all the children outside and accounted for in 2 minutes and 3 seconds. I also talked this morning about our Lockdown drill, so ask your children to tell you what this involves as we will be having a drill for that too during this term. This goes along -side the mandatory Safeguarding refresher training which all staff participated in on our recent INSET day and supports the belief that we are keeping your children safe at all times. We shall be speaking about Internet safety at our Parent Information Evening - **Enriching Learning with Digital Technology** - being held on Thursday 24th January, so I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Today we launched our '**Reward and Relaxation**' initiative in Upper School. This rewards the children for their effort and

behaviour each week, culminating in a session on Friday afternoon when they can relax and play with friends in the year group. It has been in the pipe-lines for a little while now and we are trialling to tweak as necessary. All children start off the week with the full 25 minutes (not lesson time) and if there is reason to deduct a minute for not following the Golden Rules, then those children spend the time with Mrs Micele-Jones or me before re-joining their peers. We are not using ipads as a reward, so it will be interesting to see what the children come up with – today there was lots of interaction with glove puppets!

Have a relaxing weekend.

With best wishes, Miss Sands

Diary Dates

Tuesday 15th January - Nursery and Reception 'Drama for All' Superhero Workshop at Duncombe.

Looking Forward

Tuesday 22nd January - Year 3 History off the Page at Duncombe.

Thursday 24th January - Parent's Event - Digital Technology Workshop. 7pm in New Hall.

Friday 25th January - 6M Assembly (parents welcome).

Thursday 31st January - Open Morning for Prospective Parents. 9.45am start.

Future Schools Evening for Year 4 & 5 Parents. 7pm in Old Hall.

Friday 1st February - 5SA Assembly (parents welcome).

Sports Fixtures

Wednesday 16th January - U11 Netball v Sherrardswood (home). 2.15pm start.

Tuesday 22nd January - U10 Netball v St Francis (home). 4pm start.

Wednesday 23rd January - U11 Rugby v St Christopher's School (away). 2.30pm start.

Thursday 24th January - U9 Netball v Westbrook Hay (away). 2.30pm start.

Well done to these pupils who received a Headmaster's Award Today



Well done to these pupils who received a Headmaster's Award at the end of last term



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



Congratulations

Congratulations to Alex ML (6TH) who, after an audition in Leeds in October 2018, has been invited to join the U11 National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain for 2019. Well done Alex!



Christmas Holiday Works 2018

Over the Christmas holiday period, we have continued to invest in the facilities and fabric of the school and have completed a number of essential works including:

- Replacement of Treetops staircase handrail
- Replacement of 7 window openers in New Hall
- Installation of tree art outside Treetops
- Reconfiguration of Honours Boards on the main staircase
- Installation of Solar System mobile in Science Room
- Installation of new plant sculptures at the front of the school.

Ian Thomas, Business Manager.

Bake off

As Miss Sands mentioned at assembly today, we are delighted to launch our 2019 Duncombe Bake Off. A letter and entry form from our new Chef Manager, Michael Goulston, is attached to this newsletter. This year Michael and his Team will be judging our finalists in July. Please get your entries in to the School Office by Friday 25th January.

Hatfield House Charity - Final Total

The Hatfield Charity Team are delighted to announce that they raised a fantastic £1,047 for the RP Fighting Blindness Charity. Thank you to everyone who supported the team during the Autumn Term, it is very much appreciated.

Congratulations to the overall winner of the collage design who was Mia Kasoulis.

Staff News

We would like to inform you that Mrs Selwood, who works in the School Office, will be leaving Duncombe on Thursday 17th January 2019. Mrs Selwood will be taking up a new role working for Hertfordshire County Council. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her well in her new role.

Spring Term Pocket Calendar

The Spring Term Pocket Calendar has been sent home in book bags today. Please let the School Office know if you do not receive one.

Year 4 & 5 Future Schools' Information Evening
Thursday 31st January

On Thursday 31st January we are holding a Year 4 & 5 Future Schools' Information Evening. The intention is to help you understand the process of selecting the right senior school for your child, how senior schools select pupils and also what Duncombe does to prepare pupils for entry to these schools. This will be an informative evening that will be of great benefit to all Year 4 and 5 parents. The evening will start promptly at 7pm and we hope to see you there.

Christmas Write Competition

Just before term ended for the Christmas break, winners of our school-wide Christmas Write competition were announced in assembly. Eagerly anticipated and hotly contested, deciding the eventual winners became quite the debate for the English team!

The Bear and the Hare – EKG to Year 4

Huge congratulations to Hugo H, 4V, who wrote a delightfully descriptive story entitled 'Bear's First Christmas', inspired by our stimulus, The Bear and Hare John Lewis advert. Packed full of adventurous vocabulary choices and with fantastic attention to detail, Hugo wrote a story which conveyed all the warmth of the film stimulus. A big well done also to Lottie D, 4C, who was our runner-up. Special mentions additionally went to Nathan M, Gloria P, George S, Isla C, Lucy S, Samuel G, Emilie B and William W.

The Christmas Truce – Year 5 and 6

Grace W, 6Ta, blew us away with her incredibly sophisticated and moving letter from the front. Putting her recent learning into practice, she included some fantastically original 'show not tell' phrases, combined with an appropriately old-fashioned turn of phrase. Her use of sensory description was exceptional and we all felt transported to No Man's Land in 1914 - in all of its vivid detail. What an achievement, Grace! Congratulations also to Harry F, 6Th, our worthy runner-up, along with special mentions which went to Dominic D, Dylan C, Sophie G and Lois P.

Miss Cartwright



Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 14th January 2019

<p style="text-align: center; color: #4CAF50;"><i>Monday</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #4CAF50; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f2f1;"> <p>The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p>Tasty Entrée Flaked salmon in tomato sauce with 50/50 pasta</p> <p>Flexitarian Roast tomato with cannellini beans and basil sauce with 50/50 pasta</p> <p>Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise/Cheese</p> <p>On the side Roast peppers with kale and sweetcorn</p> <p>Tasty puds Peach and strawberry topped yoghurt</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #4CAF50;">TUESDAY</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed #4CAF50; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f2f1;"> <p>The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p>Tasty entrée Lamb Rogan josh with onion salad, mango chutney and raita</p> <p>Flexitarian Cheese layered potato bake</p> <p>Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans</p> <p>On the side Basmati rice or naan Curried lentils Garden peas</p> <p>Tasty puds Fudgy chocolate brownie bites (reduced sugar recipe)</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #4CAF50;"><i>Thursday</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #4CAF50; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f2f1;"> <p>The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p>Tasty entrée Sticky BBQ ribs with homemade corn bread</p> <p>Flexitarian Lentil and vegetable polenta slice</p> <p>Jacket Potato Bar Cheese And Beans</p> <p>On the side Corn on the cob Spring greens Coleslaw</p> <p>Tasty puds Mandarins in jelly</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #4CAF50;">Week commencing 14th January 2019</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #4CAF50; font-size: 2em;">FRIDAY</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed #4CAF50; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f2f1;"> <p>The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p>Tasty entrée Grilled chicken fillet burgers with gherkins and relish</p> <p>Flexitarian Squash and chick pea burger with gherkins and relish</p> <p>Pasta Bar Pesto and sundried Tomatoes</p> <p>On the side Oven chips Garden peas Baked squash and kale Baked beans</p> <p>Tasty puds Raspberry ripple ice cream</p> </div>
<p style="text-align: center; color: #4CAF50;"><i>Wednesday</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #4CAF50; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f2f1;"> <p>The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p>Tasty entrée Roast chicken legs with homemade gravy</p> <p>Flexitarian Stuffed sweet potato with borlotti beans and plum tomatoes</p> <p>Pasta Bar Vegetable chilli</p> <p>On the side Rustic roast potatoes Baked parsnip and carrots</p> <p>Tasty puds Homemade berry and swirl smoothie</p> </div>			