



With snow threatening a few times and indeed a slight flutter mid-week, we are drawing to the end of another busy week at Duncombe.

I gave an assembly on Martin Luther King Junior on Monday, as it was the day that the world recognises the incredible impact he had through his tireless campaigns for rights for all people. His famous 'I have a Dream' speech also ties in with our theme this half-term of Dreams and Goals and the children also recognised the relevance of the work on Human Rights from the previous week.

History was brought to life for our Year 3 children when we had a visit from 'History off the Page'. It was wonderful to have so many mini-Romans wandering around the school in all their finery. Further information on this day will follow later.

Last night we hosted our second Parents' Evening Event. This time we looked at Digital Technology and Senör Torres and his team invited guests to have a go at some of the incredible software and hardware that we have here for the children. It was really interesting to see the progression from Treetops, with their light up chalk boards, programmable toys and light panels, to Lower School with their extensive use of 2Simple and then up to Upper School where the children are looking at Micro:Bit for coding and Hudl which enhances their sporting techniques. Across the whole school, we have been using our Green Screens and this was a particular hit with parents last night as they were transformed to weather readers or re-created being chased by sharks in the ocean! Thank you to all those parents who were able to attend. We shall be following up our E-Safety learning on 5th February and sharing with all parents the booklets that support what we cover in school.

Our week ended with a sombre but interesting assembly from 6M who were looking at World War II. Despite this being such a busy time for some of our Year 6 pupils, the children had all learnt their lines perfectly and gave rousing renditions of 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary' and 'We'll Meet Again'. Our thanks to the children and to Miss Morley for putting together this performance.

Next week, we shall be hosting our 'Future Schools Evening'; an opportunity for our Year 4 and 5 parents to find out more about our preparation for senior schools and I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend,

Miss Sands

Diary Dates

Thursday 31st January - Open Morning for Prospective Parents. 9.45am start.
Future Schools Evening for Year 4 & 5 Parents. 7pm in Old Hall.

Looking Forward

Monday 4th February - Year 4 to the Sikh Temple.
Tuesday 5th February - Year 1 Glass Workshop in Hertford.
Year 5 Come Dine with Us. New Hall at 5pm.
Wednesday 6th February - Year 1 Glass Workshop in Hertford.
Friday 8th February - 5SA Assembly (parents welcome).
Music Assembly (parents welcome). Old Hall at 8.50am.
Tuesday 12th February - No swimming for Year 4 due to pool closure.
Wednesday 13th February - Year 5 Eureka Workshop at PHC Hitchin.
Thursday 14th February - Woburn Dress Up Day (odd socks and crazy hats).
Author visit for Years 5 and 6 at Duncombe.
School finishes at normal time and all After School Clubs will be on as normal.
Friday 15th February - Half Term begins. School closed

Sports Fixtures

Wednesday 30th January - U10 & U11 Netball v St Joseph's in the Park (home). 2.45pm start.
Thursday 31st January - U9 Rugby and U9 Hockey v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.15pm start.
Wednesday 6th February - U10 Netball v Westbrook Hay (home). 2.30pm start.
U11 Rugby v Westbrook Hay (away). Time TBC.
Thursday 7th February - U9 Netball v St Francis (away). 3.30pm start.
Tuesday 12th February - U9 Netball v Stormont (away). Time TBC.
Thursday 14th February - U9 Netball v Edgegrove (home). Time TBC.

Well done to this pupil who received a Headmaster's Award Today



Congratulations

Congratulations to Jaxon C (6M) who played in the Badminton U13 County Restricted at Stevenage at the weekend and won a bronze in the singles, a bronze in the mixed and a silver in the boys doubles.



Jaxon also won a silver in the mixed at his first international in Holland recently. Well done Jaxon!

Treetops Science Day

On Wednesday, all of Treetops became engaged in our annual science day.

Each class devised experiments themed around fairytales for the other classes to take part in.

A few of the fun activities featured; frog slime making for 'Princess and the Pea', bean planting for 'Jack and the beanstalk', dissolving gingerbread for 'the Gingerbread man', carriage racing for 'Cinderella' and raft building for 'Billy Goat's Gruff'.

Every child from EKG to Reception had a chance to take part and be a professor for the day. Very definitely a day of 'magical' fairytales!



Orchestral Day

Last Friday a group of our advanced instrumentalists were privileged to attend the orchestral day at Haileybury College.

This was a very demanding day, requiring our pupils to play from 9:30am to 5:00pm! They learned a medley of John Williams music from Jurassic Park and Indiana Jones, 'In the Hall of the Mountain King' by Grieg, 'Accents' by Robert S Frost and then an additional piece for the jazz band 'Brooklyn'. This was a tremendous amount to learn in one day, but the children rose to the occasion brilliantly and threw themselves into rehearsals. At the end of the day, parents were invited to attend a concert of the pieces. All of our children performed beautifully and were a credit to the school.

Well done to them all! Mrs Sutton, Head of Music.



Writer of the Term

During Monday's assembly, we celebrated our Writer of the Term awards, in recognition of pupils from every class who have shown a real commitment to improving their writing. It proved a very challenging decision for their teachers! Congratulations to Ruby R (RO), Nathaniel D (RA), Lila W (1A), Jamie S (1T), Arthur B (2W), Alfie L (2A), Jamie R (3G), Oscar E (3K), Harry H (4V), Toby R (4C), Monty M (5Su), George M (5Sa), James W (6TH), Elizabeth B (6Ta), Maya D (6M) for their fantastic achievement. Children in Treetops will receive their awards next week.



Rocket Your Vocabulary Competition

We have been inundated with an overwhelming amount of entries for our vocabulary competition, showcasing some excellent definitions for Duncombe staff's favourite words. Soon to be displayed outside the library, pupils' favourite words have been collated into a word cloud as a celebration of this rich vocabulary. Examples of this include: *archipelago*, *discombobulated* and *pearlescent*!

Congratulations to our Lower School winner, Isabella B-M for her wonderful definition of her favourite word - *enchanted*. Kiyana P won the Upper School prize for her favourite word - *ominous*. Very well done! Miss Cartwright, Head of English.



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



Year 3 Roman Day

On Tuesday, Year 3 travelled back in time to Roman Britain. The children saw their school hall transform into a Roman villa. Through role-play and drama, the children enjoyed experiencing what life was really like in Roman Britain. The children had the opportunity to become mosaic makers, wax tablet makers, beauticians and metal workers. In the afternoon, a fantastic Roman feast was had by all. Year 3 enjoyed some delicious bread, cheese, grapes and wine (red grape juice). We then completed the day with a show of dancing, acting and marching. Harry R (3K) said, "It was the best day of my life!"

Miss Kyriakou and Miss Gaffney.



Hartham Pool

Please be aware that the main pool at Hartham will be closed for essential maintenance works from 11th to 14th February. This means that there will be no swimming for Year 4 on Tuesday 12th February.

Bake Off

We are extending the deadline to get your Bake Off entries in to Friday 1st February. Please return your entry to the School Office.

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 28th January 2019

<p style="text-align: center; color: #4682B4;"><i>Monday</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #4682B4; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #E0F0F0;"> <p>The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p>Tasty Entrée Korean BBQ chicken legs with kimchi slaw</p> <p>Flexitarian Gochujang tofu with roast cauliflower</p> <p>Pasta Bar Tomato and Basil</p> <p>On the side Edamame beans Sweetcorn Warm new potato salad</p> <p>Tasty puds Greek yoghurt sundaes with fruit coulis</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #4682B4;">TUESDAY</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed #4682B4; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #E0F0F0;"> <p>The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p>Tasty entrée Katsu pork steak with noodles</p> <p>Flexitarian Red pepper omelette with fried rice</p> <p>Jacket Potato Bar Tuna</p> <p>On the side Chinese leaf with bean sprouts and peppers</p> <p>Tasty puds Apple and blackberry oat crumble with custard</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #4682B4;"><i>thursday</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #4682B4; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #E0F0F0;"> <p>The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p>Tasty entrée Roast Beef</p> <p>Flexitarian Aubergine and courgette lasagne</p> <p>Jacket Potato Bar Cheese And Beans</p> <p>On the side Aubergine & courgettes Sweetcorn and peppers</p> <p>Tasty puds Peach slices in jelly</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #4682B4; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #4682B4; color: white; text-align: center;"> <p>Week commencing 28th January 2019</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: white;">FRIDAY</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px dashed #4682B4; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #E0F0F0;"> <p>The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p>Tasty entrée Pupils choice cod fillet fingers with homemade tartare sauce</p> <p>Flexitarian Crispy chickpea & pepper fritters</p> <p>Pasta Bar Roasted Vegetable</p> <p>On the side Oven chips Peas Honey glazed carrots Baked beans</p> <p>Tasty puds Soft scoop chocolate ice cream</p> </div>
<p style="text-align: center; color: #4682B4;"><i>Wednesday</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #4682B4; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #E0F0F0;"> <p>The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p>Tasty entrée Butter chicken with mango chutney, onion salad and raita</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #4682B4; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #E0F0F0;"> <p>Flexitarian Simple tomato and lentil sauce with 50/50 pasta</p> <p>Pasta Bar Two Cheese and Nut Free Pesto Sauce</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #4682B4; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #E0F0F0;"> <p>On the side crushed new potatoes, sautéed cabbage and carrots</p> <p>Tasty puds Strawberry banana smoothie with juice or milk</p> </div>	