



As another week draws to a close, I am spending time with colleagues from Cognita discussing how we can further improve our network of schools. While I prefer to be in school, it is interesting to see the developments that are in hand and also to know that there is a great deal which we, at Duncombe, are already doing.

At the start of this week, Señor Torres and I gave an assembly focussed on SID – Safer Internet Day 2019. We discussed with the children the importance of consent or permission – be it the permissions granted to access a particular app or website, or the consent of a friend when passing on pictures on social media. Throughout the week, the children participated in a range of activities which tied into this day. Your child should have received a booklet that we are sending home to parents of children in Years 1-6 which gives guidance on keeping your child safe on-line. The world of technology is fast-paced and there is much to be celebrated yet we need to remind ourselves and our children of the pitfalls.

It has been another cultured and cultural week; Year 4 set off with colourful head scarves to visit the Sikh Temple which is part of their RE curriculum, parents were impressed by the culinary skills of the Year 5 pupils when they joined the 'Come Dine with Us' event that celebrated Chinese food, and also, to mark Chinese New Year, we had a wonderful lunch in school. Thank you to our catering team for all their support. Lower School have been entertained by a Chinese Dance Group who ran workshops with them and Year 1 demonstrated their artistic skills when they visited the Glass Workshops. In addition the Upper School took part in a live lesson hosted by the BBC to support their development of creative writing. Please see the full article on this by Miss Cartwright in the newsletter.

To finish the week off, a number of our talented young musicians performed at the Music Assembly, where the quality and confidence of our children is always impressive and 5SA presented their fabulous assembly on Chinese New Year, on which I know they have all been working incredibly hard.

Next week we finish on Thursday but there is no doubt that we will squeeze in a whole week's worth of fun, learning, sport and excitement! Wishing you all a peaceful weekend, Miss Sands.

## Here are 5SA after their assembly which began with a spectacular dragon entrance.



## Diary Dates

**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.

## Looking Forward

**Monday 25th February** - School resumes.

**Thursday 28th February** - Woburn Charity Coffee Morning.

**Monday 4th March** - Year 4 Victorian Day at Duncombe.

**Tuesday 5th March** - Nursery to Year 3 Parents' Evening. 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

**Wednesday 6th March** - Nursery to Year 3 Parents' Evening. 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

**Thursday 7th March** - Open Morning for Prospective Parents. 9.45am to 11.45am.

Year 6 Normandy Meeting. 7pm start in New Hall.

**Friday 8th March** - 3K Assembly (Parents Welcome).

Dress up day for World Book Day.

## Sports Fixtures

**Tuesday 12th February** - U9 Netball v Stormont (away). Time TBC.

**Wednesday 13th February** - U11 Netball v Sherrardswood (home). Time TBC.

**Thursday 14th February** - U9 Netball v Edge Grove (home). Time TBC.

**Tuesday 26th February** - U9 Rugby v Kingshott (away). Time 2.45pm.

**Wednesday 27th February** - U11 Netball v Westbrook Hay (away). Time 3pm.

**Thursday 28th February** - U8 Rugby v St Edmund's (away). Time 3.15pm.

**Friday 1st March** - U11 Girls Football v St Edmund's Prep (away). Time TBC.

**Friday 1st March** - U11 Boys Hockey v St Edmund's Prep (away). Time TBC.

## Well done to these pupils who received a Headmaster's Award this week



## Congratulations

Congratulations to Harrison G (3G) who attended the Hertford District Cubs Swimming Gala last Saturday where he won the U9 1/2 front crawl final. Also Harrison's Cub Pack were the winners of the U9 1/2 and second overall. Here he is with his certificates and medals. Well done Harrison and his Cub Pack!



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



# WOBURN HOUSE CHARITY EVENTS

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Please accessorise your school uniform for just **£1** by wearing **odd socks and funky hats.**



### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February

On **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February**, the Woburn Charity Team will be holding a coffee morning in Old Hall from 8.30am.



Please donate **cakes and biscuits** on the day (nut free including ground almonds and almond essence).

Remember to bring in **£1** for a tasty treat at breaktime. Left over cakes will be sold after school.



## BBC Live Lesson - 500 Words Writing Competition

On Thursday, pupils in Upper School took part in a Live Lesson hosted by the BBC, to support the development of creative writing for the 500 Word writing competition. Gathered together in Old Hall, we listened, captivated by the dulcet tones of author, Frank Cottrell-Boyce. With the creative juices flowing, pupils helped plan out ideas for a short story which, no more than 500 words in length, could showcase their imaginative ideas. There was a collective gasp when David Walliams stepped unexpectedly into the studio to read our shared story!

Pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 have been given an invitation in their English lessons to opt out of their usual comprehension weekend homework and instead draft their 500 word story. It is entirely optional and children can do their regular English homework task instead. Pupils who would like to opt into creative writing this weekend have been asked to hand in their story (or draft) to their English teachers for an in-house Duncombe writing competition. These can be typed or handwritten. We would encourage children to electronically submit their entries to the National 500 Words competition too. Details about online submission can be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/28zgDX98FnDYbN9j1jbk4HS/500-words-2019>. The deadline for entries is Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The only rule is that the story can be no longer than 500 words; the only limit is the children's imaginations!

*Miss Cartwright*



## Music Assembly

This morning we were treated to a wonderful display of musicianship from some of our talented young performers. Thomas H opened the show with *Castanets* on the piano. This was a lively Spanish number with driving rhythms played with great skill. Toby R played next, also on the piano, performing *Asian Tiger* with natural confidence and a great feel for the oriental style of the music. Charlie C then played *O When the Saints*. This is a familiar favourite and Charlie played with lovely control, his left and right hands working well together. William B opened the guitars with *Folk Song* demonstrating a great awareness of the melody. He was followed by Aidan E, also on guitar, who performed *O When the Saints* with a nice pace and accurate pitching. Maya D then sang for us with a beautiful performance of *Sing a Rainbow* sung with a dreamlike quality to her voice. Then it was back to the piano with James P playing *La Foret*, showing good dynamic control between the right and left hand melody lines. Hexia Y was our final pianist, playing *Cherry Blossoms*. This was a piece in a Japanese style which Hexia performed with a gorgeous light touch perfect for the mood. Another guitar piece followed, with Toby F performing the enchanting *Moderato* demonstrating his every-growing prowess on this instrument with a delicate touch and haunting melodies. Keanush SF then performed *Mona Lisa*, also on guitar, full of energy and brightness. Bella BM then treated us to another song performing *Pirates* with great skill. Her high notes were clear as glass! Our final performer of the morning was Thomas H, this time on the saxophone. Thomas treated us to an exceptionally accomplished rendition of *From the Sixties*. This was a technically challenging piece which showcased a talent well beyond his years. The thunderous applause he received was thoroughly deserved! Our thanks to all of the instrumental tutors for their support and encouragement, to Mrs Turner for her flawless accompaniments and to all of the family members who came to support their children.

*Mrs Sutton, Head of Music.*



## Music Tuition

There are limited spaces available for a Summer Term start for tuition in brass and clarinet. These places are open to pupils currently in Year 2 or above. For all other instruments, waiting lists are kept.

If you would like to take up a brass or clarinet place, or want to be added to the waiting list for an instrument, please email: [jo.sutton@duncombe-school.co.uk](mailto:jo.sutton@duncombe-school.co.uk) or [sarah.price@duncombe-school.co.uk](mailto:sarah.price@duncombe-school.co.uk).

Children may be added to the waiting list at any age and will be offered a place when they reach Year 2 or 3.

Please see the leaflet below for more information and some of the benefits of learning a musical instrument.



### A sense of responsibility

People who learn to play an instrument develop the skill of perseverance that can be applied to many areas of their lives, such as being organised in their studies.

### Academic achievement

There is a link between academic success and learning a musical instrument. The University of Texas has confirmed that playing an instrument benefits long-term and short-term memory and linguistic ability.



Did you know that the following famous people play an instrument:

- Einstein - Piano and Violin
- Keanu Reeves - Bass Guitar
- Charles Dickens - Accordion
- Samuel L Jackson - Trumpet and French Horn
- Julia Roberts - Clarinet and Oboe
- Neil Armstrong - Baritone Horn
- Halle Berry - Flute
- Clint Eastwood - Piano

### Builds confidence

Performing in front of an audience helps your confidence to grow. It develops your sense of achievement and pride in your accomplishments.

### It's fun!

Playing music is fun and makes you feel good! It is a social activity. People who have a musical skill can play in bands and orchestras and sing in choirs. It is a great way of getting to know people and relaxing.





## Duncombe School Book Week



Duncombe School Book Week (**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March**) will be packed with plenty of activities to inspire and engage the children. We hope to encourage our pupils to pick up a book, share their favourite stories and develop a lifelong love of reading. This year we will be celebrating all things good, evil and in-between through our **'Heroes and Villains'** theme.

### Book in a Jar Competition

As part of our celebrations for World Book Day, there will be a competition to represent a beloved book in a jar. Some examples of book scenes in a jar are below for some inspiration! The closing date for the competition is **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019**. All the entries for Treetops, Lower School and Upper School will be judged later during Book Week. There will be lots of time during and after the half term holiday to prepare a book in a jar but please remember to clearly label the jam jar with your child's name and form.



### Hunt the Heroes and Villains

In their classes, pupils will navigate their way around the school and grounds finding celebrated heroes and villains from the world of children's literature. They will then be challenged to recall the book in which the character appears.

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March

#### **D.E.A.R**

Children and staff across the school will be encouraged to participate in our D.E.A.R event (Drop Everything and Read) and will be dropping their activity when the special whistle sounds and picking up a book to celebrate the importance of reading.

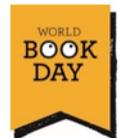
### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March

#### **Book Swap**

If you have any children's books that are no longer age appropriate, then please feel free to donate your books for our book swap on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Please bring them to the Old Hall and leave them in the relevant area on the tables provided. Children will be given the opportunity to swap books throughout the day.

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

As well as enjoying a variety of World Book Day activities and quizzes, pupils will be learning how to write fantastic character descriptions about a real or imagined hero or villain.



#### **World Book Day Token**

Each child will receive a World Book Day token in their book bags.

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

#### **World Book Day Fancy Dress**

To enter into the spirit of celebrating World Book Day, we are inviting both staff and pupils to dress as a book character on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March**. This year's theme is Literary **Heroes and Villains**. The outfit can be as simple or as elaborate as you wish! Some ideas can be found on the following website:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/ideas/dressing-up-gallery/>

Children and staff will be invited to participate in a Costume Parade at breaktime to showcase their efforts. Please could children bring in £1 on the day, as a donation to our House Charity. We look forward to seeing the children in character and on the playground catwalk!



## Swimming Changes

In preparation for the Upper School Swimming Gala on Friday 22nd March, Years 5 & 6 will be swimming at Hartham on the following dates:

- Friday 1st March – Year 6
- Friday 8th March - Years 2 & 3 as normal
- Friday 15th March - Year 5
- Friday 22nd March – Swimming Gala

This means that Years 2 & 3 will not be swimming on the 1st March, 15th March and 22nd March.

## Uniform

We will be displaying all the unnamed, unclaimed uniform and non uniform after school on Wednesday 13th February outside the Old Hall. Please do check to see if anyone of it is yours. Anything which has not been taken will be put in the uniform shop or given to charity.

## Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 11th February 2019

*Monday*

- The Soup Kettle**  
Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread
- Tasty Entrée**  
Teriyaki Chicken With Vegetable Noodles
- Flexitarian**  
Stir Fried Quorn and Shitake Mushrooms with Edamame and Chinese Leaf
- Pasta Bar**  
Tomato and Basil
- On the side**  
Sweetcorn and Kale Oriental Vegetable Stir fry
- Tasty puds**  
Cherry Topped Greek Yogurt

**TUESDAY**

- The Soup Kettle**  
Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread
- Tasty entrée**  
Chilli Beef Nachos with Sour Cream and Refried Beans
- Flexitarian**  
Mushroom and Olive Focaccia Pizza
- Jacket Potato Bar**  
Tuna mayonnaise
- On the side**  
Courgettes and Peppers Green Beans
- Tasty puds**  
Oaty Apple Cake (reduced Sugar)

*thursday*

- The Soup Kettle**  
Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread
- Tasty entrée**  
Maple Glazed Gammon and Apple Sauce
- Flexitarian**  
Macaroni Cheese
- Pasta Bar**  
Creamy Leeks
- On the side**  
Crushed New Potatoes Carrots and Cabbage
- Tasty puds**  
Red Velvet Slice

Week commencing 11th February 2019

**FRIDAY**

**Half Term**

*Wednesday*

- The Soup Kettle**  
Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread
- Tasty entrée**  
Butchers Sausages with Warm Onion Chutney
- Flexitarian**  
Veggie sausages with warm onion chutney
- Jacket Potato Bar**  
Bbq Beans
- On the side**  
Rustic roast sweet potatoes Spring Greens and Sweetcorn
- Tasty puds**  
Yogurt Topped Fruit