



15th March 2019

The term races on and this week has been no exception with the number of exciting and engaging opportunities for learning here at Duncombe. International Pi Day was a whole school affair with our pupils looking at the different applications of Pi in the world around us. There was a fascinating article about Pi in the news this week. I have put the link in. It really is a most interesting read and I was very taken that we here at Duncombe are able to introduce our children to these mathematical wonders. Who knows, in the future it could be a Duncombian who smashes the Pi world record!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-47524760>

I had the privilege of observing our Kindergarten pupils at work during the week. As ever I was delighted with the work and progress the children are making. I was also struck with how high the expectations for the pupils are. At three years of age they engaged, observed, commented and asked pertinent questions which really moved their communication and language forward. It was not hot housing, but rather, exceptional teaching allied with the belief that our children can rise to the challenge. It reaffirmed the solid foundation that is laid by our Treetops team.

6TH introduced us to St Patrick and all things Irish in their class assembly today. An excellent balance of comedy, a great tune and significant research, including very effective use of the Green Screen Technology, that gave us all a greater depth of understanding about the ideas and traditions behind Ireland's patron saint. A hearty well done to 6TH and Mrs Thomas for such an informative and enjoyable assembly.

Señor Torres was most excited to share that our Cognita Calling Skype calls with schools around the world has lead to letters being shared between our pupils and pupils at Stamford American Hong Kong. A wonderful blend of communication and writing that being part of an international organisation gives us. My big take away from such events is that wherever in the world, children are children and love the chance to share and talk with their peers. Well done Señor Torres.

As we canter towards the Easter break, next week sees a number of events to look forward to. With 4V's assembly on Monday, Tournaments, Year 4 Parents' Evening, Year 2 visiting the Roald Dahl Museum, Year 3 to the Natural History Museum in Tring, our Music assembly on Friday along with the Upper School Swimming Gala we have a great deal to be involved in. In addition, we are running our next Parental Information Event looking at Food and Nutrition with a visiting nutritionist, our Head Chef and a taster menu to enjoy. This is on Thursday evening. Do book via the Eventbrite link (here) to ensure you have a place. Have a wonderful weekend. *Mr Phelan.*



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

Diary Dates

Monday 18th March - 4V Assembly (Parents Welcome). 8.50am in New Hall.

Shaking Up Shakespeare for Years 3 to 6.

Tuesday 19th March - Year 3 to Natural History Museum in Tring.

Year 4 Parents' Evening. 4.30pm to 8.30pm.

Wednesday 20th March - Year 2 to Roald Dahl Gallery.

Year 1 Parent to Lunch. 1T at 12.15pm and 1A 12.25pm.

Thursday 21st March - Parent Information Evening on Nourish: Healthy Body, Healthy Mind. From 6.30pm in New Hall.

Friday 22nd March - Music Assembly. 8.50am in Old Hall. Nursery and Reception to Hertford Theatre to see Room on the Broom.

Upper School (Years 4 to 6) Swimming Gala. 1.30pm at Hartham (Parents Welcome).

Looking Forward

Wednesday 27th March - Parents' Association Cheese and Wine Evening.

Thursday 28th March - Nursery and Reception Mothers' Day Assembly. 9.00am to 9.20am in New Hall.

Lower School Mothers' Day Assembly. 9.30am to 10.15am in New Hall.

End of Term.

Treetops and Years 1-3 - finish time 2.45pm,

Years 4-6 - finish time 3.00pm.

There will be no After School clubs but care will be available until 6.30pm. Please let us know if your child requires care.

Sports Fixtures

Saturday 16th March - U11 Netball Tournament at St Francis College. 9am start.

Wednesday 20th March - U11 Rugby v St Edmund's Prep & Heath Mount (away). 2.30pm start.

U10 Netball v Edge Grove (away). 2.30pm start.

Monday 25th March - U10 Rugby v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.45pm start.

Wednesday 27th March - U11 Girls Football v St Edmund's Prep (away). Time TBC.

U10/U11 Rugby v Kingshott (away). Time TBC.

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



Congratulations

Congratulations to Estelle O (2W) who was awarded Distinction in her karate grading, promoting her to the rank of 11th KYU and achieving her yellow stripe belt. Well done Estelle, you should be very proud of yourself!



Nursery Stars of the Week

Congratulations to Frank P and Jennifer M in Nursery for winning the class trophies this week.



Congratulations to Torri H (6TH) who competed last weekend at the Eastern Region Acrobatic Gymnastics competition in Milton Keynes. Torri won her grade category, competing as a trio with her partners Erin and Daizee.

This makes it a win for Torri 3 years in a row and a PB for her club, HGC, across the region. Well done Torri!

Nursery Kings and Queens

Today, Nursery banqueted at a tea party fit for Kings and Queens! Our topic this week is the story of 'the princess and the pea' and the children had lots of fun making some decadent crowns to wear for the occasion! They were also involved in the menu, making haute cuisine 'heavenly ham' and 'jewelled jam' sandwiches and personalising their place-mats.



Well done to 6TH for a brilliant assembly today.



Duncombe Book Week

Book Week began last Monday with the launch of our competitions. The 'Guess the Hero or Villain' competition, where staff read some extracts from novels celebrating a whole host of famous literary characters, was launched in assembly, followed by a Character Hunt in both Main school and Treetops. Books in a Jar, paying homage to some of our most treasured children's novels, came in thick and fast, forming an 'exhibition' in the library. Tuesday saw the whole school participating in our Drop Everything and Read event, with students and staff readily getting in on the act. Our whole-school Book Swap took place on Wednesday, with each year group swapping old favourites for new. Celebrations continued into World Book Day itself, with online author masterclasses and book mark making taking place in classrooms and a Year 5 and 6 Book Quiz in the afternoon. Our week culminated in a vibrant rainbow of colour in the playground, as a variety of heroic and villainous book characters took to the running track to participate in Friday's Costume Parade. Compered by Mr Sopher and Mr Price as the dastardly Captain Hook and Smee, children from different year groups buddied up and showcased their incredible costumes as they sashayed down the running track!

Pictured below is a hastily taken snap of a group of our Year 3s, who spontaneously set up their own book club at break time, enjoying their book swap books together. This seems the perfect embodiment of the purpose of World Book Day: picking up a book, sharing it and fostering a lifelong love of reading.



Parent Information Evening

Nourish: Healthy Body, Healthy Mind

Thursday 21st March 2019 - 7pm to 8pm

Join us for the next event in our programme of parent information evenings where we will be focusing on the impact of food and nutrition on children's development, learning and well-being.

We will be joined by early childhood nutrition experts Julia Hayes and Matt Steadman from Thomas Franks Catering as well as our own Chef Manager and 2018 LACA School Chef of the Year Michael Goulston, who will be discussing:

- The nutritional needs of school children
- The sugar battle
- The impact of food on children's mental health and well-being
- Positive body image and the food debate.
- Incorporating healthier options into the school menu.

There will be a Q&A session at the end, and a chance to sample some of the meals on offer from our current school lunch menu.

Tickets are free, and can be booked by following the links on the school website.

Upper School Swimming Gala

We are looking forward to our Upper School Swimming Gala on Friday 22nd March. Please see the letter sent via Parentmail for full details.

May we ask that Upper School children come in to school in their PE kit and bring all relevant swimming kit with them, including a swimming hat in their House colour. For any children taking part in the Music Assembly could they come in their school uniform and bring their PE and swimming kit with them. Thank you. *Miss Varney.*

Early Finish Time on Thursday 28th March 2019

As always on the last day of term, we will be finishing early as follows:

Lower School will finish at 2.45pm.
Upper School will finish at 3pm.

There will be no After School clubs but after school care will be available until 6.30pm. Please let us know if your child requires care.

After School Football on Monday 25th and Wednesday 27th March

Please be aware that there is no After School Football on Monday 25th and Wednesday 27th March. Care is still available so please let the School Office know if you need it. *Mrs Price.*

Lost

Named coat belonging to Charlie Ripp.
Two named jumpers belonging to Luca Mariutto.

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 18th March 2019

Monday	TUESDAY	thursday	FRIDAY
<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 Quorn with roast cauliflower</p> <p>Jacket Potato Bar Tuna</p> <p>On the side Edamame beans Sweetcorn Warm new potato salad</p> <p>Tasty puds Greek yoghurt sundaes with fruit coulis</p>	<p>The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p>Tasty entrée Sweet and Sour Pork</p> <p>Flexitarian Red pepper omelette with fried rice</p> <p>Pasta Bar Tomato and Basil</p> <p>On the side Chinese leaf with bean sprouts and peppers</p> <p>Tasty puds Apple and blackberry oat crumble with custard</p>	<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>Pasta Bar Cheesy Leeks and peppers</p> <p>On the side Aubergine & courgettes Sweetcorn and peppers</p> <p>Tasty puds Peach slices in jelly</p>	<p>The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p>Tasty entrée Hot Dog</p> <p>Flexitarian Vegetarian Hotdog</p> <p>Pasta Bar Roasted Vegetable and Pesto</p> <p>On the side Oven chips Peas Honey glazed carrots Baked beans</p> <p>Tasty puds Soft scoop chocolate ice cream and Fruit</p>
<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>	<p>Flexitarian Simple tomato and lentil sauce with 50/50 pasta</p> <p>Jacket potato Bar Cheese and Beans</p>	<p>On the side Rice Green Beans, Carrots</p> <p>Tasty puds Strawberry banana smoothie Shortbread Biscuit</p>	