



17th May 2019

We had all the fun of the May Fair on Sunday and what an amazing event it was! With the sun shining and the numerous stalls and activities to get involved in, it was no wonder so many stayed and played for the entirety of the event. Thank you to everyone who supported, helped with a stall, set up and cleared away. The PA team, with Jilly McCullagh at the helm, did an exceptional job and I have written to thank them on everyone's behalf. I know Jilly would be the first to say it is a team effort and that we could not have such delightful experiences without the entire community pulling together as it does.

The weather continued to be kind as this week saw further examinations for Year 6. Year 5 visited Rye Meads as part of their science and geography studies. Year 4 went on a train and boat trip to Ware and back as part of their geography studies. With the second round of the Lower and Upper School Bake Off competition and the Music Assembly today, it is fair to say that our pupils continue to receive the broad and varied curriculum experiences that are so beneficial to development and learning.

In assembly I discussed the numerous benefits of trips and visits which is further supported by research carried out by the Education Endowment Foundation. The link below can take you to the site for a more detailed look. In fact, Mr Thomas and I attended the opening of the Active Learning Group's Cuffley site today to see the many benefits of outside learning activities and pursuits.

What is abundantly clear is that the model of curriculum provision here at Duncombe is structured to really take advantage of outside learning both here on site and wider afield. <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/outdoor-adventure-learning/>

As if to underscore the point, next week sees Year 6 off to Normandy and on Thursday our Year 2 sleepover. Plus, there is an information talk to Year 4 about the York Trip as part of the Come Dine With Us experience next Tuesday. We wish all involved a most enjoyable and valuable set of experiences.

Amazingly we find ourselves just one week away from half term! So a good rest is needed to maximise next week's learning. Have a wonderful weekend.

*Mr Phelan*

## Diary Dates

**Monday 20th May** - Year 6 to France.

Toddler Group resumes. 10am start.

**Tuesday 21st May** - Year 4 Come Dine with Us and York Meeting. 4.30pm start in 4C.

**Thursday 23rd May** - Year 2 Sleepover.

School finishes at normal time.

**Friday 24th May** - Half Term - School Closed

## Looking Forward

**Monday 3rd June** - Second Half of Summer Term starts.

Year 6 Cycle Proficiency Week.

**Tuesday 4th June** - Year 1 to Woburn Safari Park.

Year 2 Parent to Lunch. Times TBC.

**Wednesday 5th June** - Whole School Photo.

**Friday 7th June** - Sports Day (Reception to Year 6) at Wodson Park.

**Tuesday 11th June** - Knebworth Dress Up Day.

**Wednesday 12th June** - Year 4 to York.

**Friday 14th June** - 1T Class Assembly (Parents Welcome). 8.50am start time in New Hall.

Dads to Play at Treetops.

## Sports Fixtures

**Thursday 23rd May** - U8 Cricket v St Edmund's Prep (away). Time 3.15pm.

**Wednesday 12th June** - U10 Cricket v St Christopher School (away). 2.15pm start.

**Wednesday 19th June** - U10 Cricket v St Joseph's in the Park (away). Time TBC.

## End of Half Term Finish Time & After School Clubs

We would like to remind you that school finishes at **normal** time on Thursday 23rd May when we break up for half term.

All After School Clubs will be running on that day as normal.

## Congratulations

Well done to Luca K (2W) who played at Molineux Wolverhampton Wanderers stadium with his U7 Phil Pledger Academy football team recently. Luca's team came 2nd out of 17 teams. Well done to them all!



### Staff News

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Mack next Thursday 23rd May as she has decided to retire. She is very much looking forward to spending more time with her granddaughter. Mrs Mack has worked in every year group in Treetops and has helped to run breakfast club for 20 years. She really is part of the Duncombe family and has contributed to so many pupils lives over her time here. Mrs Mack will be missed by us all but we know she will come back to visit us! We will be saying goodbye and celebrating her excellent contribution next week.

### Nursery Stars of the Week

Congratulations to Serena & Oscar B from Nursery Birch and Isla W from Nursery Maple who reached their class goal this week.



### Year 4 Enjoy a River Cruise

On a very sunny Wednesday morning, Year 4 were lucky enough to have a trip to Ware on the train, then travelled back to Hertford on the River Boat. The children learnt about the animals that can be found along the river and were lucky enough to see cygnets, ducklings and a family of coots. By the end of the river trip pupils discovered the reason why Hertford is called Hertford and facts about locks and rivers. The Year 4 pupils are now well equipped for getting on and off the train and are looking forward to York in a few weeks after half term.



### Year 5 to Rye Meads

On Tuesday, Year 5 visited Rye Meads RSPB Nature Reserve as part of their Science learning. What a wonderful day it was! The weather was perfect for outdoor activity. The pupils enjoyed pond-dipping, bird-watching and observing nature at its best. They identified many different birds and pond creatures. Walking through the reserve the pupils made great use of their binoculars and even spotted a huge Cormorant resting on a pylon. The staff at the centre were full of praise for our Year 5 pupils and commented on their knowledge and were amazed at the questions they raised. A lovely day had by all. Thanks to Ms Saito, Miss Norton and Mrs Coughlan for assisting. *Mrs Marrion, Head of Science.*



### Year 3 trip to Bushcraft.

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May Year 3 went to Bushcraft. It was amazing! We participated in lots of activities such as going on a nature walk, making rabbit traps, building shelters and we even took part in a knife workshop. I really enjoyed the food especially the burgers because we cooked them ourselves. They were delicious! We were all sad to leave. It was the greatest school trip ever!

*By our roving reporter Martha R (3K)*



### EKG and The Beanstalks!

The children in Early Kindergarten have enjoyed planting and looking after their own beanstalks this week.



### Spanish Cafetería

Year 2 have had lots of fun practicing conversation in a Spanish Cafetería this week. They had Spanish music in the background and really enjoyed practising their Spanish.

Year 5 set up a Spanish restaurant and enjoyed practising their Spanish to order their food and the bill. Miss Sands was invited to the Duncombe Spanish Restaurant and said the service was outstanding!

Well done to Years 2 and 5 who worked really hard to master the complex grammar to order their food in a polite manner.

*Señor Torres*



### Whole School Photo

The whole school photograph will take place on Wednesday 5th June. All children should have neat hair and smart summer uniform please, including blazers. Due to the fact the photographers will need to set the scaffolding up from 8am, we will not be able to use the car park for drop off that morning. Therefore, we will adopt the 'kiss and drop' system for this day. Year 6 and staff will be on hand to escort the children to New Hall and Old Hall. Treetops children should be walked across by their parent/guardian please. Children attending Breakfast Club will need to enter via the double white doors at the front of the school.

### Music Assembly

This morning we were treated to a musical recital by some of our talented performers from throughout the school. Georgiana F opened the show with a stunning clarinet performance of *Talkin' the Talk*, a jazzy number full of contrasts between staccato and legato playing and showing off some exceptionally fast fingering. Hexia Y then played *Who Said Mice?* on the piano demonstrating good movement over the keyboard and lovely dynamic contrasts. Monty D then played *Circle Dance*, also on the piano, a confident performance with really sensitive melodic awareness. Aidan E was next, performing *Magic Flute* on the guitar. He played with great confidence producing a lovely tone from the strings. Toby F followed, also on guitar, with an accomplished rendition of *Dancing Shadows*. This was a rhythmic number and Toby showed some incredibly fast fingers over the frets, capturing the slightly 'bluesy' feel of the piece very well. Our vocalist was next, Luca M, who sang *Out in the Garden*. This was a gentle piece which showed off the clarity and accuracy of Luca's singing very well – a lovely performance. Next was Jamie L, who is our only baritone player in school at the moment – an honoured guest indeed! He played a medley of familiar tunes producing a great, clear sound. Jamie R followed on the cornet, playing *The Barley Break* which showed off his super control over his breathing with gorgeous long notes. James S then played *The Echo* on the piano, demonstrating sensitivity over the keys and good control of the dynamic changes in the piece. He was followed by Keanush S-L who played the traditional song *Ines* on the guitar, capturing the Spanish feel beautifully with some really lovely fingering. Next was Freddie M who showed off some driving rhythms and incredibly fast movement over the strings in his performance of *Aquarelle*. Xavier M-L then played *Basse-Dance* on the cornet. This was a piece with strong Tudor-style rhythms which demonstrated excellent control of his breathing and a lovely clear tone. To close the show we had Maya D who played *Two Guitars* on the violin. This was a piece of technically challenging contrasts; bowing and plucking, loud and soft, fast and slow. She produced a superb performance capturing the mood of the piece beautifully. Highly accomplished.

This was a really lovely concert and, as always, it is so wonderful to see the progress the children are making. Our thanks to all the family members who were able to attend, to the instrumental tutors for their dedication and, as always, to the incredible Mrs Turner for her flawless accompanying.



## PE Shed

May we please remind you that parents should not be going into the PE shed at any time. If you need to drop PE kit in for your child please bring it to the School Office and it can be taken over for you. *Miss Varney.*

### Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 20th May 2019



#### Duncombe School Lunch Menu - Week 2 (29/04, 20/05, 10/06, 01/07)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
The SOUP Kettle	The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread	The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread	The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread	The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread	
TASTY ENTREES	Tuna and Spinach Pasta Bake	Jamaican Style Jerk Chicken with Rice & Peas	Teriyaki Beef	Roast Turkey Breast & Cranberry Sauce with Gravy	
VEGGIE LOVERS	Quorn Cottage Pie	Sweet Potato and Corn Patties	Cauliflower and Roasted Butternut squash Cheesy Bake	Meatless Sausage Rolls with a Warm Onion Relish	Half Term Break
Light BITES	Baked Jacket Potato Chef's Special	Vegan Red Lentil Bolognese with Penne Pasta	Baked Jacket Potato Chef's Special	Cream of Mushroom and Dill Sauce with Pasta	
on the SIDE	Garlic Bread Sweetcorn Cauliflower	Green Beans Cucumber Salad	Chinese 5 Spice Noodles Broccoli Sauté Courgettes	Roast Potatoes Braised White Cabbage Lightly Boiled Carrots	
TASTY PUDS	Chocolate Cookie and Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt Sundae with Fruit	Apple Crumble	Raspberry Ripple Ice Cream	

Salad Bar available everyday

Chunks of fresh fruit and Homemade Wholemeal Bread

