



3rd May 2019

May the 4th be with you (well almost!) Being a child of the 70s certainly has a big impact on our generations' interpretation of popular culture; particularly if you grew up with a Star Wars themed bedroom like I did. But there's a reason I have opened on this theme, and it's not just because of our close proximity to the 4th of May.

In assembly on Monday 6TA challenged us to consider a world without circles or spheres. Just give that a moment to sink in, it actually is a most challenging and near existential concept. The pupils explored the idea of a flat world, transport, cameras and indeed sight. They looked at potential positives which might be a reduction in earthquakes, as less pressure is exerted on the earth's plates, and the ease of which peas might be eaten from a plate. However, sport as we know it would be radically changed and the earth would have vast areas which would be frozen and then exceptionally hot with the absence of an equator. The inspiration for such a thought-provoking assembly? Maths! In particular Pi. As our pupils study the significance of Pi in Maths and indeed the world, the assembly sought to really underline just how fundamentally important this is. A marvellous assembly from 6TA and a very significant well-done to Mrs Takawira and all the pupils.

Not to have Maths outdo English, Friday saw the power of the dictionary and vocabulary take centre stage as 4C took us on a commendatory and salubrious journey through the English language with Dr Samuel Johnston ably guiding us through. We had music, poetry, passion and a video dedication from 4C which was exceptionally meritorious. Congratulations to all 4C and Miss Cartwright for such a captivating and compelling assembly.

I was fascinated and impressed in equal measure at the Micro:bit programming lessons our Year 6 pupils have been experiencing with Señor Torres in ICT. Focusing on coding the Micro:bits are a specifically designed hardware and software developed with the BBC for the express purposes of delivering effective coding skills to pupils. To date, pupils have created a flashing heart, scrolling name tags, smiley buttons and shaking dice. Taking advantage of the accelerometer which detects motion and has a compass, the children are soon to begin the creation of their own Fitness Band which will be used in PE lessons to measure distance, speed and number of steps. In turn, in maths they will be using the data to explore data handling. This is an exceptional development in the learning experience and as time progresses further elements of our curriculum will be able to take advantage of these excellent features.

This week saw a focus on the environment and waste. Our junk percussion workshops were greatly enjoyed by the pupils as they combined their music and science studies in a most enjoyable and thought-provoking series of events. The Junk Model competition was closely contested with Mrs Marrion delighted with the outcomes. Well done to all involved. Do look out for the report with images to see how they all got on.

We have the May Day Bank Holiday on Monday and all return on Tuesday 7th May. Have a wonderful long weekend.

Mr Phelan

Diary Dates

Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday - school closed.

Wednesday 8th May - Knebworth House Charity Coffee Morning. 8.30am start in Old Hall.

Parents Event - Music at the Heart of Duncombe. 6.30pm start in New Hall.

Thursday 9th May - Year 3 to Bushcraft.

Friday 10th May - Year 3 return from Bushcraft.

2W Class Assembly (Parents Welcome).

Year 4 Parent to Lunch. 12.40pm 4V and 12.45pm 4C.

Looking Forward

Sunday 12th May - May Fair. Time: Midday to 3pm.

Monday 13th May - Exam Week for Year 6

Tuesday 14th May - Year 5 to Rye Meads.

Lower School Bake Off - 2nd Round.

Wednesday 15th May - Year 4 River Trip to Ware.

Thursday 16th May - Upper School Bake Off—2nd Round.

Friday 17th May - Music Assembly in Old Hall at 8.50am.

Monday 20th May - Year 6 to France.

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

Thursday 23rd May - Year 2 Sleepover.

Friday 24th May - Half Term - School Closed.

Sports Fixtures

Wednesday 8th May - U11 Boys Cricket v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3pm start.

Wednesday 15th May - U10 Girls Cricket v Westbrook Hay (away). 3pm start.

U10 Boys Cricket v St Nicholas School (away). Time TBC.

Thursday 23rd May - U8 Cricket v St Edmund's Prep (home). Time TBC.

Well done to 6TA and 4C for giving two brilliant class assemblies this week!



Knebworth Charity This Term

As announced in last week's newsletter, Knebworth are raising money for Herts Young Homeless this term.

The first event will be a Coffee Morning/Bake Sale on **Wednesday 8th May** in Old Hall from 8.30am. We would be most grateful if children in all year groups (EKG to Year 6) could bring in cakes or biscuits, nut free (including ground almonds and almond essence) to Old Hall on the 8th May. The tasty treats will be delivered to classrooms at first break with the remainder of the cakes being sold after school. Please could the children also bring in £1 to donate to the charity.

At the May Fair on **Sunday 12th May**, Knebworth will be running some stalls to raise money - so please make sure you all visit those ones!

There will also be a dress up day on **Tuesday 11th June** where everyone can wear something purple, green or the Knebworth House colour of blue – or a combination of all 3!

Finally we will be launching a fund raising competition which will be announced very soon.

The Knebworth Charity Team

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



Junk Competition Winners

Never have we seen so much created from junk. The children's models for the Waste Week Junk Competition were outstanding and judging was incredibly challenging. After much deliberation the results were as follows. Well done to everyone that took part.

Upper School - Harry H runner up and winner Polly B

Lower School - Daniel W runner up and winner Samuel G.



Nursery Stars of the Week

Congratulations to Oscar O in Nursery Maple who was awarded the class trophy this week.



Music at the Heart of Duncombe Event

On Wednesday 8th May at 6:30pm our Music Team will be hosting an evening showcasing music and creative arts here at Duncombe.

From 6:30pm our instrumental teachers will be available for an informal chat over canapé and drinks. During this time, you will also have the opportunity to view some of the children's art and DT work on display from this year.

We will then move to Old Hall for 7pm, where Duncombe's four music scholars from Year 6 will be performing for us and sharing their experience of the scholarship process. We'll also welcome back Lucy Harris, Music Captain 2017-18, to talk to us about music at secondary level.

During the evening Mrs Sutton and Mrs Turner will talk about Duncombe's musical curriculum and how your child develops as a musician from Nursery through to Year 6.

To book a place on this event please click on this link which will also be on our website from next week.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/music-at-the-heart-of-duncombe-tickets-60926323273>

We look forward to sharing this evening with you.

Toddler Group

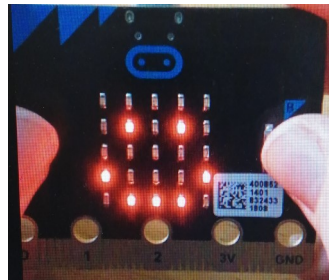
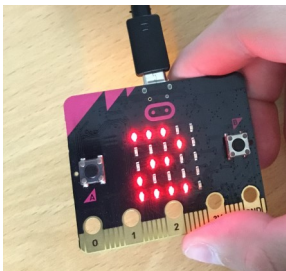
Please be aware that the next Toddler Group will be on Monday 20th May due to bank holiday next week and staff first aid training the following week.

Crazy Chemistry in Treetops - Polymers and Plastic

The children had an amazing time at Labtots this week. They learnt about polymers and monomers. The children then undertook their own polymerisation reaction and looked at how adding different materials together can change them. The children had a go at mixing materials and predicting what would occur and then made their own slime to take home! They also learnt a very catchy song to remember 'polymerisation'.



Micro:bits in Action!



Self Defence

Please be aware that there will be no self defence on Friday 10th May as Mr Boddy is at a competition. If you still require care please let the School Office know. Thank you.

May Fair

There's only one week to go to the May Fair on Sunday 12 May from noon to 3pm! The PA would be delighted if you could please volunteer some time to help on the stalls, donate bottles, toys and jars of sweets. The PA will have a table outside Old Hall at pick up and drop off throughout the week for your donations and we look forward to seeing you on the 12th.

Many Thanks, The PA Team.



Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 6th May 2019



Duncombe School Lunch Menu - Week 3 (06/05, 27/05, 17/06, 08/07)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread	Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread	Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread	Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread	Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread
Chicken Tagine	Wholemeal Pizza Pepperoni and Sweetcorn	Roast Beef with Yorkshire puddings and Gravy	Stir Fry Chicken and vegetable Chow Mein	
5 Bean Chilli	Wholemeal Pizza Margarita	Quorn Stir Fry	Vegetable Spring Rolls	
Penne Napolitana	Baked Jacket Potato Chef's Special	Pasta in 3 Cheese sauce	Baked Jacket Potato Chef's Special	
Roast Cauliflower Cous Cous and Pomegranate	Potatoes Wedges Red Cabbage Slaw Corn on the cobs	Roast Rustic Potatoes Parsnips Broccoli	Prawn Crackers Vegetable Chow Mein Peas	
Orange and Lemon Cake	Rhubarb Crumble	Orange Jelly and Fruit	Banoffee Pie	

Salad Bar available everyday
Chunks of fresh fruit and Homemade Wholemeal Bread

