

Duncombe Digest



The penultimate week of the first half term has come and gone with next week being the conclusion of our first half term. The time has raced past and as I spent some time reflecting on this, I was very mindful of how much has been achieved. Our pupils continue to make very pleasing progress in such a positive environment. As I toured a new family around recently, they commented on how impressed they were with the level of engagement and discussion that was evident right from Treetops through to the end of Upper School. This engaged and purposeful atmosphere leads to the progress and achievements that have been celebrated with you at our recent Parents' Evenings. The new format for Lower School and the new booking system have made for a further improved experience. Year 4 and 5 Parents' Evenings occur after half term and will also benefit from the new booking system.

I was delighted to see that Señor Torres was celebrated on the Cognita.com website in an article referring to his contribution to collaborative work with schools in Madrid. The focus on the development of an app which supports emotional intelligence was most impressive and supports our commitment to providing the tools for wellbeing. Do take the time to read the article via the link <https://www.cognita.com/thought-leadership/can-an-app-tell-us-how-we-feel/>

I was visited by two Year 3 pupils this week who shared their excellent work on their research into Hindu gods. The work was extremely well presented, thorough and most importantly led to a really interesting discussion about the importance of cultural understanding. This is what I so enjoy about being Head here at Duncombe. The meaningful conversations with pupils about their learning and not just the facts alone. The ability of the children to evaluate what they have learnt and apply it to new situations is exactly what marks out learning and achievement at its highest.

We have a focus on gardening next week so please do look out for the piece in the newsletter from Miss Angus next week. The importance of learning about and from nature is so very important and I know that time spent in the Secret Garden is very popular with all of the pupils.

Year 4 and 5 have enjoyed trips to the theatre as part of their History learning and I am greatly looking forward to hearing all about the experience.

I'm delighted to share that Miss Eden Riddle will be joining us as a GAP Assistant from Tuesday next week. Eden has an excellent background in rugby both as a player and coach. She will be assisting in Games and PE, in classrooms and within the office. Having successfully completed her A' Levels she has a deferred place at university to read Psychology and will be a great addition to Team Duncombe.

Do remember we break at the end of Thursday 24th next week for our half term rest. In the meantime have a wonderful weekend and if you like the Rugby World Cup there should be some great matches to enjoy! *Mr Phelan.*

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



Music Exam Success

Congratulations to the following pupils who achieved amazing success in their music exams!

- Xavier M-L grade 2 cornet (Distinction)
- Eloise F with grade 1 singing (Merit)

Well done to the Lower School Stars of the Week



Well done to Mr Sopher who ran the Royal Parks Half Marathon last Sunday and raised an amazing £1,320 for Parkinson's UK. Thank you to everyone who supported him!



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Diary Dates

Monday 21st October

Year 5 to Hindu Temple.

Thursday 24th October

School finishes at normal time and all After School Clubs will be on as normal.

Friday 25th October - Half Term begins. School closed

Looking Forward

Tuesday 5th November

Year 1 Light and Dark Workshop at Duncombe.

Wednesday 6th November

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to Hertford Theatre to see Dear Zoo.

Thursday 7th November

Year 4 Parents' Evening. 4.30pm to 8.30pm in New Hall.

Friday 8th November

3CW Assembly (Parents Welcome). 8.50am start in New Hall.

PA Laser Show. 6pm for a 7.15pm start.

Monday 11th November

Upper School to Holy Trinity Church for Assembly (children only).

Tuesday 12th November

Year 6 to the Natural History Museum.

Wednesday 13th November

Year 5 Parents' Evening. 4.30pm to 8.30pm in New Hall.

Friday 15th November

Dress Up Day for Knebworth House Charity.

1A Assembly (Parents Welcome). 8.50am start in New Hall.

Sports Fixtures

Tuesday 22nd October

U10 Netball v Stormont (away). 2.30pm start.

Wednesday 23rd October

U11 Football v St Christopher School (away). 2.30pm start.

Wednesday 6th November

U11 Netball v Stormont (away). Time TBC.

U11 Football v Westbrook Hay (away). 2.30pm start.

Important Notices

Half Term Finish Time

Please note that we break up for Half Term on Thursday 24th October at normal time. All After School Clubs will run as usual.

Year 5 & 6 Netball

Girls in Years 5 & 6 will be doing hockey after half term and need to bring in their shin pads and gum shield please for every games lesson.

Thank you.

Mrs Johnson

REMINDER: PA Laser Show

Tickets are selling fast for 'Son Et Lumiere' the exciting laser show which is taking place on Friday 8th November. On the night there will be great food, drinks and much more.

Please use the order form sent out this week via Parentmail to secure your tickets.

Plus don't forget that all funds raised go to the PA, which funds various initiatives within Duncombe, enriching our children's journey at school.

The PA Team

Duncombe Digest



Encouraging a Love of Reading

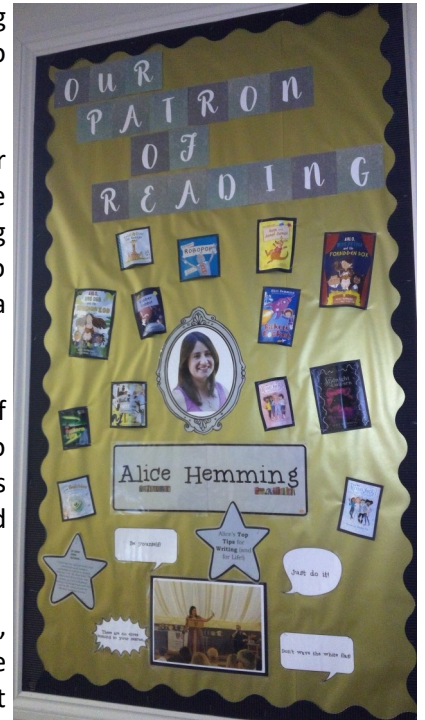
As Duncombe's Patron of Reading this academic year, I am very excited about working with all your children and sharing my own love of books and reading. However, I do realise that it can be a real challenge to persuade some children to pick up a book.

If you find that with after school clubs, playdates and screen time, there is never enough time to read, then maybe you could try to find just 10 minutes a day. Bedtime is the obvious time but if your child is far too tired then, what about reading first thing in the morning, or at the breakfast table? Maybe if you leave something to read next to their morning cornflakes, they might pick it up and flick through. You might even get a chance to read a page of your novel at the same time!

Also, I strongly believe in giving children freedom in their reading choices. There will of course always be material that is important to read for school, but when it comes to reading for pleasure, let them read whatever they are interested in. Daniel Pennac's *The Rights of the Reader* lists all our rights as readers, including 'the right to read anything', 'the right not to finish a book' and 'the right to dip in'.

Try picture books, comics, pink and sparkly series books, children's newspapers, instruction manuals, even recipe books. It really doesn't matter what. Audio books are great too. Your child could listen to these in the car or while playing with their Lego. It is all about instilling a healthy reading habit and a love of books.

Happy reading! *Alice Hemming*



So far this term Alice Hemming, our Patron of Reading, has worked with the English Department and signed copies of her complete collection of books which are gifted to our Library. From next half term onwards we are really looking forward to welcoming Alice to run lots of exciting events, so that we can all benefit from her expertise and she can further inspire our pupils' love of reading and creative writing. Forthcoming events include:

- Year 5 and 6 Creative Writing Masterclass on Friday 22nd November 2019
- Whole-school World Book Day activities on Thursday 5th March 2020
- Workshop for our Early Years pupils in Treetops on Thursday 30th April 2020
- Lower School workshop in the Summer Term (Date TBC)

In addition, we will be using Alice's renowned picture book 'Bibble and the Bubbles' to make cross-curricular links during our annual Pi Day. Do look out for further updates regarding our collaboration with our Patron of Reading. In the meantime, keep an eye out for our new initiative – monthly 'Reading Recommendations' – which will appear on our social media and include book recommendations from our pupils, staff and Alice herself. All of Alice's books are now available to borrow from the library and include her three recent releases: *The Midnight Unicorn*, *Rose Gold* and *Friends and Yasmeen's Winter Fun*.

Miss Cartwright, Head of English.

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Reception and Year 4 Buddy Reading

This week our Year 4 reading experts supported Reception pupils with their reading skills in a buddy reading session in Treetops. Each Year 4 pupil loved reading their buddy's favourite books to them and then eagerly but patiently listened to the younger children read and gave them encouragement and support. They assisted their reading buddies with using their phonic knowledge effectively and helped them improve their blending and segmenting skills. Both year groups gained so much from the experience. The Year 4s loved a trip down memory lane to Treetops and enjoyed reminiscing about Biff, Chip and Kipper's adventures. What a lovely way for Year 4 to put their reading skills to good use and for their younger counterparts to see where their reading will take them in years to come!

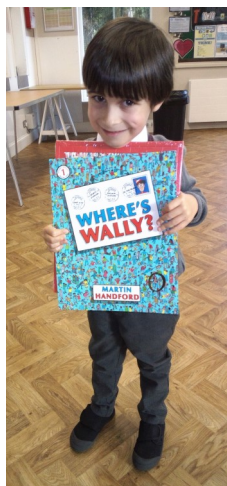


Summer Reading Challenge

We received an incredible number of entries for our '7 Books in 7 Weeks' Summer Reading challenge. It was wonderful to see the vast array of books which were being read every week! From seasoned classics to modern-day comic book stories, it was evident that Duncombe pupils really enjoyed getting stuck into a good book – or seven! All children who entered have received a special commemorative bookmark.

Congratulations to Sebastian, who won our prize draw of a book and a puzzle.

Miss Cartwright, Head of English.



Music Assembly Friday 18th October

This morning saw the first music recital of the new academic year and what a treat for the ears it was! Isaac opened the concert with a piano rendition of *Minuet in C*, showing off superb technique and dynamic contrasts. Aidan was next, playing *Dancing Shadows* on the guitar. This was a piece filled with confident control over the *bluesy* rhythms and fast fingers over the frets. He was followed by Savannah, who played in her first concert in the Old Hall with a medley of clarinet pieces: *Twinkle Twinkle*, *Burgers and Chips* and *The Bells*. A lovely performance showcasing a confident, clear sound on her instrument. Jasmin then played *Continental Breakfast*, also on the clarinet. She made a fantastic sound and great fun with the playful rhythms. The final clarinet performance was from Hexia, who performed *Bubblegum*. This was a bouncy, lively number which she played with great confidence. Chloe then played *Circle Dance*, on the piano. She showed a lovely, gentle touch on the keys with both hands working well together. Isabella then performed *Go For Gold*, also on the piano. This was a fun duet which showed a great sense of melody and timing. Our flautists were next, with Polly performing the well-known *La Donna e Mobile* with exciting, bouncy rhythms and technical embellishments. To close the show, Estelle played *Shepherd's Hey*. This was her first Old Hall performance and she showed incredible confidence, making a beautiful sound on her flute. Our thanks, as always, to our marvellous team of instrumental tutors for their help preparing the children, to our wonderful families for their support with the practising and to the incredible Mrs Turner for her polished accompaniments.

Mrs Sutton, Head of Music.





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Lost

Named blazer belonging to Jasmin Hunt.

Charity of the Term

As mentioned last week, Knebworth will be raising money for The Brothers Trust this term which helps small charities.

Here are the fundraising events coming up:

Design a Mask for Spiderman Competition

We will shortly be launching this competition which will be £1 to enter.

Dress Up Day — Friday 15th November

We invite all children from EKG to Year 6 to come to school in their onesies or pyjamas. Entry for this will be £1.

Movie Night — Friday 22nd November

We will be hosting a movie night for children in Years 3 to 6 where we will be showing Toy Story 4. Tickets will be going on sale after half term.

	3-4 year olds	4-5 year olds	5-8 year olds
Monday	1pm or 2pm	4pm or 5pm	5pm
Tuesday	-	4pm	4pm
Wednesday	1pm	5pm	4pm or 5pm
Thursday	1pm	-	-
Friday	1.30pm	-	-
Saturday	9am	9am or 10am	10am or 11am
Sunday	10am	11am	-

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Warren Restaurant Menu

Week commencing 21st October 2019



Duncombe School Lunch Menu - Week 2

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

MEAT FREE



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



Tomato and Fresh Basil
Pasta Bake with a
Parmesan Crisp

Korean Style Chicken with
Egg Noodles

Butchers Choice
Sausages and Mash
Potato

Roast Chicken
with Gravy



Quorn and vegetable
Hotpot

Vegetable Chili with
Nachos, Sour cream and
Salsa

Cauliflower and Roasted
Butternut squash Cheesy
Bake

Meatless Sausage Rolls
with a Warm Onion Relish

HALF TERM



Baked Jacket Potato
Chef's Special

Vegan Red Lentil
Bolognese with Penne
Pasta

Baked Jacket Potato
Chef's Special

Creamy Mushroom and
Dill Sauce with Penne
Pasta



Garlic Bread
Sweetcorn
Roasted Vegetables

Green Beans
Cucumber Salad

Broccoli and Cauliflower
Peas
Mash Potato

Roast Potatoes
Steamed Green Cabbage
Lightly Boiled Carrots



Yoghurt Sundae with Fruit
Coulis

Chocolate Cookie

Apple and Pear
Crumble

Chunky Fruit and
Strawberry Jelly

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

