

# Duncombe Digest



This week has seen a great deal of work based on our Christmas Write, taking inspiration from Kevin the Carrot and his arch nemesis Pascal Parsnip! From our very youngest through to Year 6, pupils have been honing their creative writing skills with evidence up on walls and discussions with children in lessons. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the energy and endeavour on show both from pupils and staff and can't wait to see the finalised work. Alice Hemming has supported our work here running workshops for Treetops and also Year 5 & 6 pupils. With further planned sessions throughout the year, we really are enjoying the positive input she is making and are delighted with how successful this initiative is.

Class 1TG wowed us this morning with their assembly on the Theme of 'Change'. This was a beautifully crafted affair with great comic timing, wonderful reflections from the children concerning their progress from Reception, songs, poems, expertly edited videos and a whole class approach which really showcased our pupils in a delightful way. A very well-deserved congratulations to all in 1TG, Mrs Turner, Mrs Galaska and Mrs Griffiths. A superb effort all round!

Year 2 travelled to the Roald Dahl Museum during the week exploring their favourite characters and building on the wonderful creative writing work we have been focusing on as a school. This was a very well enjoyed trip, please do look out for the report from Year 2.

Tonight sees the Charity Movie Evening for Knebworth's charity, The Brothers Trust, the beneficiaries of the money raised tonight. With popcorn, a good movie and friends, it certainly is shaping up to be a wonderful evening.

I have visited three Independent Senior schools over the course of this week. I am delighted to report that our Old Duncombians are getting on extremely well with the respective teams at St Edmund's, Queenswood and Haileybury reporting on how well the children are doing. It is always wonderful to hear. I even had the chance to catch up with a few of last year's Year 6 and they really have settled well and were a pleasure to catch up with. The Leadership Team and I keep in regular contact with the schools in the area and ensure that we are up to speed on any developments that are important to us all here at Duncombe.

Following on from last week's newsletter I'd like to remind you of the sign-up sheet for the PA Christmas Fair. Thanks to everyone who has already got involved and signed up, if you haven't, please do get involved so we can ensure we have another wonderful PA Duncombe experience.

The last week of November sees Duncombe involved in a number of sporting events, Haileybury entrance examinations and Shaking Up Shakespeare. Plenty to keep us all busy. Do have a wonderful weekend. *Mr Phelan.*

## Well done to the Lower School Stars of the Week



## Woodland Trust—Platinum Award

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Marrison back to Duncombe on Monday to take part in our assembly celebrating Duncombe achieving the Woodland Trust Platinum Award. Mrs Marrison played a huge part in this achievement and was delighted to see everyone. She also gifted a book to the school library about the importance of trees. Miss Ashcroft has taken on the Eco baton this year.



## 1TG Assembly

This morning the whole school was witness to 1TG's assembly all about change. Changes from light to dark, changes in our weather, and changes in us as we learn. The assembly started in the dark with the children coming into the hall in darkness singing and holding glo-sticks. The audience were treated to a feast of words, song and dance and marvellous videos. The assembly showed how confident the children have become, how expressive they are in the movement and words, and how much they are learning here at Duncombe school. Thank you to all the children and teachers for putting on such an interesting assembly.



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## Diary Dates

### **Monday 25th November**

Flu vaccination for Reception to Year 6 children.

### **Thursday 28th November**

Shaking up Shakespeare for Years 3 to 6.

### **Friday 29th November**

4S Class Assembly. 8.50am start in New Hall.

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## Looking Forward

### **Monday 2nd December**

Years 1 to 6 Carol Service Rehearsal at Haileybury.

2.30pm KG Singalong. Parents welcome.

### **Tuesday 3rd December**

Carol Service Years 1-6 at Haileybury Chapel. 5pm start.

**Thursday 5th December** - Nursery Christmas Play. 9.15am in New Hall. Parents welcome.

2pm Junior Choir to Bentley House

2.30pm EKG Singalong. Parents welcome.

Last Speech and Drama lesson.

**Friday 6th December** - Reception Christmas Play. 9.15am in New Hall. Parents welcome.

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## Sports Fixtures

### **Monday 25th November**

U8 Football v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3pm start.

U8 Netball v St Edmund's Prep (home). 3pm start.

### **Tuesday 26th November**

U11 Hockey v St Francis (home). 4pm start.

### **Wednesday 27th November**

U11 Rugby Tournament at Haileybury. 2pm start.

### **Wednesday 4th December**

U11 Netball Festival at Heath Mount. Time TBC.

### **Thursday 5th December**

U9 Football v Heath Mount. Time TBC.

## Important Notices

### **Winter Uniform**

We would like to remind you that all children should be in winter uniform now. For your information the uniform lists are on the Duncombe website under the Parent Portal section.

### **Last Day of Term**

We would like to remind you that we break up for Christmas on **Thursday 12th December**. Lower School will finish at 2.45pm and Upper School will finish at 3pm. We return to school on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

### **Christmas Fair Carol Singing**

All members of Junior and Senior Choirs are invited to sing at the Christmas Fair on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 2:30pm.

Christmas jumpers, reindeer antlers and Santa hats are encouraged – the sparklier the better!

Please see the upcoming parentmail for further details.

### **Individual and Sibling Photo Orders**

We would like to remind you that orders of individual and sibling photos need to be submitted to Gillman and Soame by 30th November, in order to get them for Christmas.

If you have lost your child's photo details, please contact Gillman and Soame directly at: [enquiries@gillmanandsoame.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@gillmanandsoame.co.uk) or 01869 328200  
Please quote password: **duncombe841hdckh2019**.

### **Mask Competition for Knebworth Charity (The Brothers Trust)**

The children will be bringing home a Design a mask sheet today. It can be any sort of mask they wish to create. It is £1 to enter and the closing date is Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

Please return completed masks and £1 to your child's form teacher. We look forward to seeing your marvellous creations.

Thank you  
*The Knebworth Charity Team*



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## Alice Hemming - Author Patron Visits Duncombe

Alice Hemming, our Patron of Reading and local children's author, paid a visit to Duncombe today to help Treetops pupils celebrate Nursery Rhyme Day. Pupils came suitably dressed for the occasion! Alice shared her favourite Nursery Rhyme, the classic 'The Grand Old Duke of York'. Against the backdrop of our brand new Reading Café, she also gave a wonderful reading of one of her own books, 'A Gold Star for George' to Nursery and Reception pupils.

Next on Alice's busy agenda was an interactive session with our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils in Old Hall, where she delivered an inspirational Creative Writing Masterclass. Looking initially at how to originate and develop ideas, Alice then guided us all through the writing process and the ingredients required for successful writing. We discussed 'blank page syndrome' and how to tackle writer's block. Pupils then used buttons of all sizes, shapes, proportions and colours as a writing stimulus, to help get the creative juices flowing. The importance of planning was considered and pupils were tasked with planning out their own piece of creative writing, which they then used to support their final composition. With lots of hands-on support from Alice, Year 5 and 6 were delighted with the results! With Entrance Exams looming for Year 6 and the Christmas Write for all our pupils to get their teeth into, this timely masterclass should further encourage our pupils to be imaginative, write creatively and feel confident in themselves as writers. The written compositions were superb and Alice couldn't have been more complimentary about the final results!

*Miss Cartwright, Head of English*



## Year 2 Roald Dahl

Year 2 had an absolutely phizwhizzing time at the Roald Dahl Gallery yesterday!

We began the day exploring the children's gallery. This included being magically transported into the television, like the Mike Teavee character from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

We made some fantastic dream bottles after gathering inspiration from the wonderful variety of artefacts found in the museum.

**Here are 2A and 2W re-enacting Augustus Gloop falling into the Chocolate river.**



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## Carol Service - Tuesday 3rd December

We are looking forward to our Carol Service at Haileybury on Tuesday 3rd December for Years 1-6.

Here is more information about this event:

Treetops' day will end as normal at 3.30pm. If parents are going to the Carol Service at Haileybury, please see your form teacher to arrange an early pick up.

Please note that school will finish for **Lower School** at **2.45pm** and **Upper School** at **3pm**. This allows everyone the opportunity to freshen up and have tea in good time before our Carol Service in Haileybury Chapel which starts at 5pm.

This year, we are asking that pupils be brought to the Attlee Room prior to the service no earlier than 4.30pm (this is a large room to the left of the main doors.) Parents and guests will then be seated as normal from 4.30pm and just before 5.00pm, the children will walk into the church in their classes and be seated.

**After School Clubs** - Treetops After School Activities will continue as normal. **There will be no Clubs for non-Treetops pupils.** If you are unable to collect your child by 3pm on Tuesday 3rd December, please let the School Office know.

Please arrange childcare for siblings below Reception age and babies.

Any Reception child who has an older sibling is allowed to attend the Christmas Carol Service. They must be in their school uniform and will be seated with their class teacher in the pews towards the front of the church. If you are intending to bring your Reception child with you, please let the School Office know so that we can make sure we have enough room for them all.

We will be sending more information out next week.

## Lost

Named turquoise mouth guard belonging to Ruby Lavery.

## Duncombe Christmas Postal Service

The Duncombe School Christmas Postal Service will be open for business for the children from Monday 2nd December. The Post Box will be placed in the Old Hall and emptied at least once a day. There is also a box in the entrance to Treetops. Please make sure you put the full name and class of the child on the envelope.



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## Warren Restaurant Menu

Week commencing 25th November 2019

		Duncombe School Lunch Menu - Week 1				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
	<b>The Soup Kettle</b> Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread	<b>The Soup Kettle</b> Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread	<b>The Soup Kettle</b> Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread	<b>The Soup Kettle</b> Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread	<b>The Soup Kettle</b> Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread	
	Beef Chilli con Carne Served with sour cream and Guacamole	Lemon Paprika Chicken with Rice and Crunchy Slaw	Beef Pasta Bolognese	Honey Roast Gammon	Pupils Choice Cod Fillet Fingers with Homemade Tartare Sauce	
	Cherry Tomato and Basil Quiche	Vegetable Sausages with Gravy	Macaroni Cheese with Garlic Bread	Braised Quorn Fillet with Onion Chutney	Vegetable spring Roll and Sweet Chilli Noodles	
	Baked Jacket Potato Chef's Special	Pasta Penne with Tomato Sauce	Baked Jacket Potato Chef's Special	Pasta Spirals with a Nut-free Green Pesto	Baked Jacket Potato Chef's Special	
	Braised 50/50 Rice Broccoli Corn with Roast peppers	Crushed New Potatoes Glazed local Carrots Cauliflower	Garlic Bread Peas Mixed Garden Salad	Roast Potatoes Green Beans and Carrots Roasted Parsnips	Sautéed Potatoes Peas Baked Beans	
	Choc Chip Cookie Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Yoghurt Sundae with Mixed Berry puree	Peach and Honey Crumble	Chunky Fruit Jelly Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Ice-cream or Yogurt and Fruit	

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

