

# Duncombe Digest



As we approach the end of November our staff and pupils have been working exceptionally hard in preparation for concerts and carols next week. The transformation overnight on Thursday to the wonderful wall displays revealed on Friday morning was exceptional. Each form from Treetops to Year 6 really produced something very special on the theme of Carols and as a whole school that #TeamDuncombe spirit was very evident indeed. Well done to all the staff and pupils for such a wonderful achievement.

I have been busily observing lessons this week with a focus on Maths and English. I have been delighted with the progress of our children and their continued engagement and active learning is a joy to witness. The staff here at Duncombe really do plan for the individual child and the result is so evident in their work and the discussions I have had with them. One pupil shared with me that they had been inspired by their fractions and multiplication work to go home and create a costed menu which is being shared with the class teacher! This is brilliant to see and is very indicative of the excellent experience our pupils have in the classroom which filters through to other areas.

The Virtual Reality Space Exploration experience was a significant hit with the pupils. They were taken on a tour of our universe incorporating the building blocks of life here on Earth and the wonder that is water, which doesn't behave as science suggests it should! This awe and wonder was so enthusiastically seized upon by the children and was equally reflected in the pupil's engagement with Anthony Glenn's visit where The Little Fir Tree was the interactive play which they thoroughly enjoyed. These wonderful enrichment experiences really are at the heart of Duncombe and I'm delighted with how well the children take advantage of these opportunities.

I have been meeting with a number of new families joining in the next few weeks and have been delighted with the wonderful comments they have shared about the children. Several have identified the willingness to share answers, work collaboratively and be prepared to be challenged. I am always so very pleased and proud when these qualities are identified by new visitors. It reflects well on all of us.

Next week is packed full of events culminating in the PA Winter Wonderland. It is certain to be a very busy and tiring week so I would encourage you to let the children have plenty of rest, so they can really take the very best of all that is planned for the coming few days.

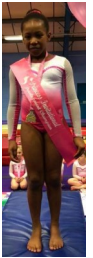
Do have a wonderful weekend . *Mr Phelan.*

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



### Congratulations

Congratulations to Tami who was awarded Development Squad Champion at the Hertford Gymnastics Club Invitational last Saturday. Well done Tami!



Congratulations to Zadie who received two awards from Ware Swimming Club following their Club Championship Awards Presentation last Saturday. Zadie was presented with The Dean Cup for Girls U10 Breaststroke and an award for Girls U10 50m Breaststroke for achieving a new club championship record. Well done Zadie!

Congratulations to Estelle who flew through her grade work for her orange belt in martial arts and was successfully graded with Distinction last weekend. Estelle is now promoted to the rank of 8th KYU. Well done Estelle!



## Well done to our Wonderful School Patrol!



Congratulations to Mrs Brown who received some lovely feedback this week. One of our local residents phoned the Council to say how helpful she is and that she is always smiling.

Well done Mrs Brown we all appreciate you keeping us safe whilst crossing the road!



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## Diary Dates

### **Monday 2nd December**

Years 1 to 6 Carol Service Rehearsal at Haileybury.  
2.30pm KG Singalong. Parents welcome.

### **Tuesday 3rd December**

Last swimming lesson for years 2, 3 & 4.  
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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## Looking Forward

### **Monday 9th December**

Music Assembly (Parents Welcome). 8.50am in Old Hall.  
Flu vaccination for Reception to Year 6 children.

### **Tuesday 10th December**

EKG, KG and Nursery to Springtime Nurseries.  
2pm Senior Choir to The Dell in Hertford.

### **Wednesday 11th December**

Reception to Year 6 to Pantomime at Hertford Theatre.  
Treetops Party.

No After School Clubs due to the pantomime.

### **Thursday 12th December** - Last day of term.

Treetops and Years 1-3 finish at 2.45 pm,  
Years 4 - 6 finish at 3.00pm.

**Please note that no after school clubs will take place on either the 11th or 12th December, but after school care will be available. Please let the School Office know if you need care.**

**The Spring Term commences on Tuesday 7th January 2020.**

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## Sports Fixtures

### **Wednesday 4th December**

U11 Netball Festival at Heath Mount. Time 2pm start.

### **Thursday 5th December**

U9 Football v Heath Mount. Time 2.30pm start.

## Important Notices

### **Last Swimming Lesson This Term**

The last swimming lesson this term is on Tuesday 3rd December, this will be a fun swim. Swimming will resume on Tuesday 14th January 2020.

### **Speech & Drama**

The last Speech and Drama lessons take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Mrs Coley has said that children are welcome to bring in reindeer antlers, Christmas hats, and props for the last festive-themed lesson. Speech and Drama lessons resume on Thursday 9th January 2020.

### **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.

### **Pantomime - Wednesday 11th December**

Reception to Year 6 pupils are looking forward to going to the pantomime on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December to see The Snow Queen. We would like to make you aware that the children will be back at school between 4.15pm to 4.30pm for a late dismissal due to the finish time of the pantomime. As the whole school (Reception to Year 6) will be returning at the same time parking may be difficult on site so we would ask you park considerately in the local area.

Due to the later return time, we **will not be running any after school clubs**, however after school care will still be available. Unless we hear otherwise we will assume all children booked in to clubs will require after school care as normal.



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## Virtual Reality blasts into Duncombe

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November, Years 1- 6 took part in the long-awaited Virtual Reality workshop. They were not disappointed. The workshop leader Steve was enthusiastic, funny and extremely knowledgeable about all things space related.

As the children were simultaneously blasted off into space, the Old Hall was filled with squeals of excitement and delight. This incredible, immersive experience gave them the opportunity to see planets close-up and to learn more about our solar system. It was a fantastic experience, thoroughly enjoyed by our students and teachers alike!

Here's what the children thought about their experience:

Kai: 'It was amazing, the rocket launch was like a roller-coaster!'

Ines: 'I thought it was really fun and learnt lots of facts, I didn't know before.'

Kiyana: 'It was excellent to actually see everything in space and experience what other planets are like.'

Toby: 'It was really cool, it was like you were actually in space. I liked how you could look around everywhere.'

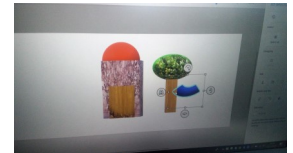
James: 'Amazing, I just wish we could have had even longer!'

*Mrs Ferguson, Head of Science.*



## 3D Adventure for Year 4

Last week year 4 learnt how to design a 3D house using 3D Paint from Microsoft. They have learnt how to insert 3D shapes, colour them, change textures, group them in a single and new 3D object. Their house has been their final project to conclude our amazing travel through the 3D world. ICT in Duncombe has changed bringing to our children a whole new world!



## Shaking up Shakespeare—The Little Fir Tree

On Thursday, Anthony Glenn visited Duncombe for yet another captivating show to ring in our Christmas preparations at school. Performing the Hans Christian Anderson classic, The Little Fir Tree, pupils from Years 3-6 were treated to a festive spectacular. In true Duncombe style, the enthusiasm and participation led to a wonderful performance, full of improvisation and laughter. Our pupils have this to say:

*"It was fantastic! Anthony Glenn made us all laugh and feel included in his performance." Tilly, 6M*

*"He got us all performing actions, even if we didn't get the opportunity to be an actor onstage. I was Spring and had to make noises and actions like plants growing." Anna, 6M*

*"He was hilarious and made us all laugh our heads off. He also made a very good point that you should live for the moment and enjoy what you've got. I can't wait for the next one!" Ines, 6M*





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## The Big Christmas Display Reveal

Duncombe Christmas Elves worked very hard overnight to put up all the wonderful Christmas displays. The children gathered excitedly this morning and gave a big cheer when each display was revealed. Christmas has officially started at Duncombe.



## 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.



## REMINDER: 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.

For information the service will finish at 6pm.

**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.

Named school shoes belonging to Maxwell Hozier.



# Duncombe Digest

## Warren Restaurant Menu

Week commencing 2nd December 2019



### Duncombe School Lunch Menu - Week 2

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	<b>MEAT FREE</b>				
<b>The SOUP Kettle</b>	<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
<b>TASTY ENTREES</b>	Tomato Tuna and Fresh Basil Pasta Bake	Korean Style Chicken with Egg Noodles	Butchers Choice Sausages and Mash Potato	Roast Chicken with Gravy	Homemade Salmon and Cod fish cakes
<b>VEGGIE LOVERS</b>	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	Brie & Tomato Quiche
<b>Light BITES</b>	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	Baked Jacket Potato Chef's Special
<b>on the SIDE</b>	Garlic Bread Sweetcorn Steamed Carrots	Green Beans Cucumber Salad	Broccoli and Cauliflower Peas Mash Potato	Roast Potatoes Steamed Green Cabbage Lightly Boiled Carrots	Potato Wedges Garden Peas Baked Beans
<b>TASTY PUDS</b>	Chocolate Cookie	Yoghurt Sundae with Fruit Coulis	Apple and Pear Crumble	Chunky Fruit and Strawberry Jelly	Vanilla Ice-Cream

Salad Bar available everyday

Chunks of fresh fruit and Homemade Wholemeal Bread

