

Duncombe Digest



What a fabulously busy week we have had! The Nursery and Reception Christmas plays were as ever a delight to watch, full of energy and growing challenges. Our young performers coped with their lines, actions and collective performing and were rightly treated to a very significant round of applause and praise. Our youngest pupils delighted staff and parents alike at their sing-along and true to form, the Treetops staff worked extremely well and ensured that pupils and parents had a wonderful experience. This great foundation of public performance was further evidenced by our Christmas Carol Service on Tuesday at Haileybury Chapel. The Lower School and Upper School pupils sang, recited and read exceptionally well, moving seamlessly from one element to the next which enabled all present to really be lifted into the Christmas Spirit. I took great pleasure in congratulating the staff on a job very well done. One parent spoke with me yesterday to say that each year it gets better and that the singing was exceptional. I could not agree more.

This Sunday will be our PA Winter Wonderland here at Duncombe. Thanks in advance to all who are working hard to ensure that we have a wonderful event to attend. I'm sure that we shall all feel fully in the flow of glad tidings to all come Sunday afternoon.

Next week we have a music assembly on Monday, EKG, KG and Nursery are visiting Springtime Nursery to meet Father Christmas; Reception through to Year 6 will be heading down to Hertford Theatre for the panto - oh yes they will! Good luck to Sofia Smith who is part of the cast and will be performing for Duncombe when we visit! Our Christmas lunch as ever will be on the final day, Thursday 12th.

In addition, our choirs have and will be performing and visiting the residents of local care homes to sing some well-known carols and some modern classics too. We wish them a very enjoyable experience as they share their beautiful sound.

There won't be a newsletter next week, I shall be writing to you all over the holiday but do let me wish you all a wonderful Christmas break. *Mr Phelan.*

This is the last newsletter for this year so Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!



Nursery Nativity

This week Nursery performed their Nativity play 'The Sleepy Shepherd' with lots of enthusiasm and energy! Their teachers and parents were very impressed with their beautiful singing and speaking voices, and fantastic dancing. Well done Nursery, we are very proud of you!

Miss Ord and Miss Sawyer



Reception Nativity

Reception had lots of fun performing their Nativity play today with lots of enthusiasm and energy. Their teachers and parents were very impressed with their beautiful singing and speaking voices. Well done Reception, we are very proud of you! *Miss Flowers and Mrs Copeman.*



Well done to these pupils who received a Headmaster's Award today.



Well done to the Lower School Stars of the Week



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Diary Dates

Sunday 8th December

Winter Wonderland PA Christmas Fair. Midday to 3pm.

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.

Looking Forward

Tuesday 7th January

Spring Term commences.

Thursday 9th January

Speech and Drama Resumes

Monday 13th January

Toddler Group resumes.

Tuesday 14th January

Swimming Resumes for Years 2, 3 & 4.

Wednesday 15th January

Year 3 History Off the Page at Duncombe.

Sports Fixtures

Wednesday 15th January

U11 Rugby v St Christopher School. 2.30pm start.

Important Notices

The Winning House is Hatfield!

We are pleased to inform you that **Hatfield** is the winning House this term. This means that any child in Hatfield House can wear their House colours of red to school on Tuesday 10th December. They do not have to be completely dressed in red, but should wear enough to identify them as true members of the Hatfield community.

Thank you. *Miss Sands.*

Duncombe Christmas Cards

Your child/children will be bringing home any orders of their Duncombe Christmas card today. Please check book bags for your order.

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 8th 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 11th 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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'Share a Story Around the World' Project

Duncombe has been involved in Cognita's "Share a Story Around the World" project. This is a grass-roots project, led by educators within our schools and supported by Cognita Communications. The project encourages widespread participation across Cognita schools.

The main aims this year are to:

1. Translate the story into Spanish and Portuguese
2. Involve every Cognita school in a part of the process (writing, illustrations, translations)

Duncombe is part of the second book in the project, which is due to be distributed to schools ready for World Book Day 2020. Here is just a teaser of the book to give you a taste of what to expect.

"Peaceful melodies of the forest softened the now distant howls and the sun began to sink under the horizon. A glow of golden light illuminated a fractured old oak that sat opposite us. Its withered branches welcomed our refuge."

Cognita Code

This week Cognita has celebrated "Cognita Code" and one of the activities we have completed has been in collaboration with St Margaret's School. Their children have designed games in Scratch which our children have tested and given feedback on how to improve them.

Some feedback provided from Duncombe pupils:

"You might want to make the controls easier because some people might get confused".

"Fun and enjoyable but maybe add some game mode options."

"For player 2 the arrows are swapped. Up arrow = character goes down and vice versa and you cannot score unless you are in full screen."

"It was very good, but I would not play it all day it is hard, and it was a bit confusing because player two had to use w and s to type but very well done."

Christmas Around the World

At Duncombe we don't stop! This week, we have been celebrating "Christmas around the World". The pupils in 3CW have written Christmas cards in Spanish and sent them to Limonar International School in Spain. We are eagerly awaiting to receive some exciting post next week with Spanish Christmas cards kindly sent from the pupils at Limonar.

Finally our Eco Christmas Tree which was created in Forest School with Mrs Lee has been entered into the International Cognita Tree Competition. Pleasingly, our tree is 100% biodegradable! What a fantastic effort from Team Duncombe.

Señor Torres



Duncombe Christmas Postal Service

Please be aware that the Duncombe Christmas Postal Service will close on Tuesday 10th December.



Lost

Named ballet shoes belonging to Freya Higgins.

Named grey trousers belonging to James Mitchell



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Warren Restaurant Menu

Week commencing 9th December 2019



Monday

The SOUP Kettle

Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread

TASTY ENTREES

Minced Beef Chilli with Taco chips and Sour Cream

VEGGIE LOVERS

Thai Green Quorn and Vegetable Curry with Basmati Rice

Light BITES

Baked Jacket Potato Chef's Special

on the SIDE

Green Beans Sweetcorn

TASTY PUDS

Yoghurt Sundae with Sliced Peaches

Duncombe School Lunch Menu - Week 3

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread

Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread

Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread

Christmas Holidays

Chicken Tagine

Duncombe

5 Bean and Soya mince Tagine

Beef Burger Or Vegetable Burger

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Penne Napolitana

Roast Cauliflower Cous Cous and Pomegranate

Served In Class

2019

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

