

Duncombe Digest



February is almost over! It certainly appears that time is shifting at an ever-faster rate as we move into the next month and the blossom is already visible on the trees. It can feel a little like the 'blink and you miss it' quote. That's why I am so pleased with both pupils and staff often stopping and taking stock of the learning they have covered in lessons. I observed this often this week as I moved around the school. Pupils and teachers engaged in conversations about how their work could be 'even better if...' This willingness to take a moment to review and reflect is a critical skill for learning and indeed for wider life, I'd encourage you to have a conversation with your children this weekend where you reflect on what went well and how it 'could be even better if.'

Our U11 Girls Netball Team came 5th in IAPS Framlingham National Finals last week. This is an excellent outcome and demonstrated the continued excellent sporting progress of #TeamDuncombe. Both Mrs Johnson and Mrs Price were delighted with the team's performance, spirit and commitment, falling at the Quarter final stage by just 2 goals and ranking 5th out of 32 Prep School finalists. An amazing outcome that we can all be very proud of. Well done to all involved!

Year 4 hosted a Come Dine with Me experience for their parents this week which was a great success. The quality of food and service provided by our young caterers was exceptional and parents were very complimentary indeed. Well done to the Year 4 team, pupils and Catering Staff who ensured all had a wonderful time.

3S led assembly this morning taking pupils and parents to a Galaxy Far Far Away whilst exploring Ancient Rome and the parallels therein. As ever this was an excellent combination of their learning experience, comic timing, projection, announcement and stagecraft. Congratulations to all of 3S, to Miss Saito and Mrs Pannett for yet another innovative, engaging and enjoyable form assembly. As we go into next week we will be focusing on Monday on International Women's Day as well as preparing for World Book Week. Do look out for the reminders about the different activities we have allocated to celebrate the joy of books and reading. I have already seen some decorated stones with numerous book characters that look stunning, so please do keep them coming in.

6T will be entertaining us in their assembly on Friday, we have many matches and fixtures, our Nursery to Year 3 Parents' Evening on Thursday as well as our Dress Up Day on Thursday too! I will be visiting the Heads at Haileybury and St Albans Girls during the week continuing our excellent relationships with these and other leading Senior Schools. The outcomes of our 11+ examinations have been exceptional with just a couple more results due in we certainly have had another exceptional year with offers. At a local meeting with other Prep School Heads I sat and listened of tales of multiple places not offered to numerous schools and was able to reflect that once again Duncombe's pupils and staff have delivered excellent outcomes. It really is a testament to the excellent work that goes on right through the school, reflecting the very real approach of always wanting to develop, improve and as I said at the top of this piece, a willingness to stop and reflect. Have a restful weekend. *Mr Phelan.*

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



Well done to the Lower School Stars of the Week



Well done to 3S for a brilliant assembly today!



Nursery Goal

Well done to Chloe who reached her class goal this week!





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Diary Dates

Wednesday 4th March

Year 4 Sikh Temple visit.

Thursday 5th March

World Book Dress Up Day.

Nursery to Year 3 Parents' Evening. 4.30pm to 8.30pm.

Friday 6th March

6T Assembly (Parents Welcome). 8.50am in New Hall.

Looking Forward

Monday 9th March

Year 6 to Crucial Crew at Morgans School.

Harmony Choir to The Royal Festival Hall.

Tuesday 10th March

Last swimming day for Years 2 and 3.

Year 4 Science Parents' Evening. 2.30pm to 8.30pm in the Science Room.

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

Wednesday 11th March

Year 5 visit to GSK.

Thursday 12th March

Open Morning for Prospective Parents. 9.30am start.

Friday 13th March

Year 3 to The Natural History Museum in Tring.

Monday 16th March

5J Assembly (Parents Welcome). 8.50am in New Hall.

Wednesday 18th March

Year 4 to York.

Reception to Mill Green Museum.

Year 3 Parent to Lunch. Meet in Main Reception at midday.

Year 5 Science Parent's Evening. 3pm to 8.30pm in the Science Room.

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

Friday 20th March

Year 4 return from York.

Year 1 Parent to Lunch. Meet in Main Reception at midday.

Sports Fixtures

Monday 2nd March—U11 IAPS Swimming Gala.

Wednesday 4th March—U10 Netball v Kingshott (away).
2.45pm start.

U10 & U11 Rugby v Heath Mount (away). 2.30pm start.

Monday 9th March—U10 Rugby v Manor Lodge (away). Time TBC.

Wednesday 11th March—U11 Netball v Edge Grove (away).
Time TBC.

Thursday 12th March—U9 Rugby v Heath Mount (away). Time TBC.

Important Notices

Class Assembly—Parking & Crèche

Could we please ask that you park elsewhere in the local area when you are attending a class assembly. This will ease the flow of traffic in and out of the car park. Thank you.

Just a reminder that we offer a crèche facility for younger siblings for class assemblies. Please ensure you book your crèche place well in advance. We do ask that no younger siblings attend the class assembly to ensure the enjoyment for all. Thank you.

Fencing After School Club

Please be aware that there is no fencing on Thursday 5th March due to Parents' Evening.

Swimming on 17th March

Please be aware that there is no swimming for Years 2, 3 & 4 on Tuesday 17th March due to the Haileybury Pool being in use for another event.

Nursery to Year 3 Parents' Evenings

Reception Parents' Evening

We would like to inform you that Parents' Evenings for Nursery to Year 3 will take place in classrooms on Thursday 5th March from 4.30pm.

Year 1, 2 and 3 Parents' Evening on Thursday 5th March will take place in New Hall from 4.30pm.

Instrumental Notice

Can we remind you that notice to stop instrumental tuition at the end of this academic year must be given by the end of the Spring term.

If your child is in Year 6, notice does not need to be given.

Email notice may be given to:

jo.sutton@duncombe-school.co.uk or
sarah.price@duncombe-school.co.uk

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Reminder of Book Week Events



Duncombe School Book Week

Duncombe School Book Week takes place next week. With the help of our Patron of Reading, **Alice Hemming**, we will be encouraging our pupils to get involved with an exciting array of reading activities because...READING ROCKS!

COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

Reading Rocks

Decorate a stone, pebble or a rock using paints or permanent markers to immortalise a book. Each pupil may enter up to two Reading Rocks into our competition.

The closing date for the competition is **Tuesday 3rd March 2020**. All the entries for Treetops, Lower School and Upper School will be judged later during Book Week. Please be aware you are being asked to **donate** your reading rock, so that it can form a collection to be laid in the Duncombe Garden. You may wish to varnish it to keep your artwork in perfect condition. Please remember to clearly **paint your child's name and form on the underside of your stone**.



A selection of current entries

Send us Your Shelfie!

It's not too late to help us create a display for Book Week reflecting the books you really enjoy reading. Share a photo of you against the backdrop of your bookshelf at home, with us here at school! The 'shelfie' is the perfect way to showcase your most treasure titles. Please email pictures to: office@duncombe-school.co.uk by **Tuesday 3rd March**. Prizes will be on offer for fantastic photos!

Book Swap

If you have any children's books that are no longer age appropriate, then please do donate your books for our book swap on **Wednesday 4th March**. Please bring them to the Old Hall and leave them in the relevant area on the tables provided. Children will be given the opportunity to swap books throughout the day.

World Book Day Fancy Dress

To enter into the spirit of celebrating World Book Day, we are inviting both staff and pupils to dress as a book character on **Thursday 5th March**. Children can wear costumes of any character from children's literature. The outfit can be as simple or as elaborate as you wish! Some ideas can be found on the following website:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/ideas/dressing-up-gallery/>

All pupils and staff will be invited to participate in a Costume Parade at breaktime to showcase their efforts. Please could children bring in £1 on the day, as a donation to our House Charity.

We look forward to seeing the children in character and on the playground catwalk!



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Year 4 Come Dine

Tuesday afternoon saw our Year 4 children turned into budding caterers, as they took part in their first 'Come Dine With Me' event.

Working in teams, they prepared a superb afternoon tea! They made an array of sandwiches, clotted cream scones and shortbreads as well as overseeing front of house preparations. The children handled kitchen equipment safely and sensibly and learned about food hygiene on the way. The food was very well-received by the Year 4 parents. Our thanks to Mr Goulston and the kitchen team for a fantastic event!

Miss Cartwright and Mrs Sutton



Instrumental Tuition

Places are currently available in most instruments should your child be considering taking up tuition.

Please contact jo.sutton@duncombe-school.co.uk or sarah.price@duncombe-school.co.uk for further information.

Tuition is normally offered to children in Year 2 or above, but Year 1 pupils may be considered in cases of exceptional talent.

Thank you.

Mrs Sutton, Head of Music.

Lost

Named coat belonging to Isaac Francis.

Warren Restaurant Menu

Week commencing 2nd March 2020

Duncombe School Lunch Menu - Week 3

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ENTREE	Minced Beef Pasta Bake	Chicken Balti with Braised Basmati Rice	Pepperoni Pizza with a Wholemeal Base	Roast Beef Yorkshire puddings and Gravy	Breaded Fish Fillet with Homemade Tartar Sauce and Lemon
VEGGIE LOVERS	Sweet Potato and Quorn Moroccan Tagine with Cous-Cous	Winter Vegetable Cottage Pie	Margarita Pizza with a Wholemeal Base	Roasted Beetroot with Herby Crust	Freshly Made Vegetable Samosa
LIGHT BITES	Baked Jacket Potato Baked Beans/Cheese	Penne Napolitana	Baked Jacket Potato Baked Beans	Tomato and Basil Sauce with Lightly Boiled Pasta	Baked Jacket Potato Baked Beans
SIDE	Green Beans Sweetcorn Freshly Baked Focaccia Bread	Roast Cauliflower Bombay Potatoes Sauté White Cabbage	Warm Potato Salad Red Cabbage Slaw Ratatouille	Roast Potatoes Steamed Broccoli and Carrots	Potato Wedges Baked Beans Peas
TASTY PUDS	Yoghurt Sundae with Sliced Peaches	Barana and Cinnamon Cake	Rice Pudding with a Mixed Berry Compote	Orange Jelly	Cookie! Shortbread

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

TACO nutritious LEAVES TASTY PUDS