

DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER



To Home

The marvelous moon rises and the sunny sun slowly moves away from the sky
It's only me in the dark
No one else
No one else
The wind slowly pushes against, my face
It's a long way home
Autumn leaves blow around in the air
The breath of my mouth warms my frosted face
I have nothing to eat nothing to drink
just walk on,
walk on,
walk on.

Nihal Akanjee, age 10 years, Winston Churchill Class
Winner of the Future Zone Year 6 Poetry Competition

Christmas Holiday

May we wish you a very Happy and Holy Christmas. It has been a really exciting term with great success for Duncombe Primary School. Our appearances at the Arts Depot and the Royal Albert Hall were amazing.

Future Zone Year 6 Poetry Competition

The Future Zone held its third Poetry Competition this Autumn. The competition commenced on 3rd October and concluded the week beginning 2nd December. During the duration of the course pupils from several Islington Primary and Secondary schools studied a different poet and poem each week, including works from Wordsworth, Hughes a famous Turkish Poet, Hikmet Ran. In addition to their work in class children were encouraged to share their thoughts about the lesson and their own opinions about specific poems and poets on Fronter. Each child then submitted a poem based on the theme journeys. All the children's poems were printed in a book of Duncombe's entries but Nihal Akanjee, Salman Khan and Ali Ahmed's Poems were chosen to be

printed in an anthology of poems across all competing schools. Nihal's poem was judged to be the best poem overall and won an iPod Shuffle.

Attendance

As you are aware we are trying to improve attendance at school. This term we have awarded a Nintendo DS (name to be announced in January) who has been in school every day since September. Next term we will have another Nintendo DS raffle for children who are in school every day from January until Easter. Everyone is in with a chance of winning. In July all children who have been in school every day for the academic year could win a Wii. Of course the greatest prize anyone gets from coming to Duncombe School is Love and Education!

Christmas Plays

This year we had an excellent Christmas Nativity Play performed by our Early Years Children with the support of our Key Stage 1 Children and the School Choir. There was an enormous staff involvement, but we are clear that only with your support and encouragement could our children have achieved so much.

Carol Singing

With our highly successful Carol Singing at the N1 Shopping Centre we managed to raise a total of **£296.00** which will be sent as usual to 'Help a London Child'. This is a great way of promoting an excellent local charity and our school in the local community, as well as giving a lot of fun and satisfaction to our children and staff. Well done to everyone who participated and many thanks go to our friends and parents who came along to support us.

Father Christmas

Many thanks go to Father Christmas and his beautiful Elf who visited our younger children; Santa always arrives at Duncombe to deliver Christmas presents on the children's party day.

Computer For Parents – Beginners Course

The Beginners course starts on Thursday 12th January 2012, all learners will need to understand spoken English, difficulties with reading and writing are not a barrier to complete this course. Unfortunately there are only 12 spaces available so please book early to avoid disappointment.

School Places at Duncombe School

We have had several sad cases in September of Duncombe Nursery parents who forgot to apply for a place in Duncombe's Reception. As our school was so heavily oversubscribed - over 120 applicants for 60 places - we could not find a place for them! Please do not forget to complete an application form for our Reception for September 2012. If you have a child in our Nursery and have mislaid your form, please call into the school office to collect one. The closing date for all applications is **15th January 2012**.

Farewell to Alison Taylor

We would like to give a special thank you to Alison Taylor who will be leaving us today. We send many good wishes to Alison and wish her the very best for a successful future. A new teacher, Jennifer Fearnley will be joining us in January.

Duncombe School Uniform

Please find overleaf a letter from our Chair of Governors, Lucia Garratt with regards to various issues relating to Duncombe.

Uniform Shop

The next uniform shop will be held on **Wednesday 11th January 2012** from 9.00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m. We are indebted to Joyce for the smooth running of the shop.

Late Collection of Children

Can parents please ensure that they collect their children from school at 3.30pm. Children can get very distressed at being left in the school office when parents do not turn up on time to collect them.

Returning to School

Children return to school on **Wednesday 4th January 2012** at the usual time of 8.55 a.m. for juniors and 9.00 a.m. for the infants. Please ensure that your children arrive on time for school.

End of Term

Today we break up for our Christmas Break; we have been celebrating Christmas which is one of the most important festivals of the year. As you are aware we celebrate all major festivals, Islam, Hindu, Jewish and Christian. An understanding and appreciation of our children's cultures and beliefs helps us to achieve the community of nations

that is Duncombe Primary School. We try to help our children to show an understanding and appreciation of that which different cultures and religions have to offer. All the staff and children at Duncombe would like to wish all our parents a very happy and holy Christmas.

Barrie O'Shea
Headteacher

