Duncombe Primary School Newsletter

18th September 2026

Dear Parents and Families,

It has been another positive week in school, and it has been wonderful to see the children continuing to settle so well into their new classes. They are becoming increasingly confident with their new routines and are showing a fantastic attitude towards their learning.

This week, we were delighted to welcome Rocksteady into school. They spoke to the children about a range of different musical instruments and the exciting opportunity to learn to play one. The children also took part in an interactive workshop and enjoyed every moment! It was lovely to see their enthusiasm and excitement, and we hope the experience has inspired some of our budding musicians.

Our attendance is looking more positive, and I would like to thank you for your continued support in ensuring that so many children are in school every day and ready to learn. A special congratulations goes to Safaa in Year 6, who won a gift voucher for being in school every day. Well done, Safaa – a fantastic achievement!

It has also been great to see our children looking so smart in their school uniform. Children are coming to school wearing the correct clothing and are arriving prepared and ready for the day ahead.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our parents and carers for your continued support, particularly in ensuring that children are attending regularly and transitioning so well into their new classes. Your support makes such a difference, and together we have made a really positive start to the new school year.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Have a lovely weekend!

Katija Ali

Coffee Morning:

Dates to be announced in September

Important Dates

Wed 23rd Sep - 15.45 Secondary Transfer Meeting for Parents of children in Yr 6

Thursday 24th - Great Athletics Sporting Event - For children only!!

Half Term - Monday 27th Oct - Friday 31st October

School Attendance

Julia Donaldson 75%	Maya Angelou 92%
Eric Carle 87%	William Shakespeare 99%
Judith Kerr 80%	Emmeline Pankhurst 94%
Greta Thunberg 86%	Martin Luther King 89%
Florence Nightingale 92%	Marcus Rashford 91%
Marie Curie 92%	Nelson Mandela 93%
Isaac Newton 93%	

Whole School Attendance this week = 92%

Attendance and Punctuality

Our target for individual and whole school attendance is 95%.

Click here to see the attendance prizes we will be awarding for this year.

The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn.

School starts at 8:50am. It is important that your child arrives on time to ensure they have a positive start to the day.

If your child is going to be absent, please call the school office on 02072725620.
The school office is open from 8am – 4:30pm.

Celebration Awards

Julia Donaldson 2YO: Levi
You have been showing great independence. You have been so helpful around the nursery and you are using more words to communicate to us. We are so proud of you. Well done.

Eric Carle 3YO: Jaheim
For settling so well into Nursery, now being so much more confident. As well as showing wonderful curiosity about nature.

Judith Kerr Reception Yayha
For showing improvement at looking, listening and joining in during carpet times and for your creative story about the man who escaped from jail.

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Emily S
For showing me how respectful she is towards the children and adults. You have been so kind to your friends all week! Keep up the excellent work.

Florence Nightingale Year 1/2: Azra
For showing enthusiasm and kindness this week! You have been eager to learn and always ready to help and care for your friends. We are so proud of you!

Marie Curie Year 2: Ameena
For always showing that you are ready, respectful, and safe. She always tries her best and has a positive, can-do attitude towards her learning. She is an excellent role model in the classroom and an even better friend in the playground. Well done, and keep up the fantastic work!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Siham
She is someone who always has lovely manners and is respectful to staff and her peers. She is always ready to learn and curious about many things. Keep asking questions and keep it up Siham!

William Shakespeare Year 4: Tina
For always showing that you are ready, respectful, and safe. She always tries her best and has a positive, can-do attitude towards her learning. She is an excellent role model in the classroom and an even better friend in the playground. Well done, and keep up the fantastic work!

Maya Angelou Year 4: Farahmand
Well done Farahmand! You have been superb since starting Year 4! You always come into school with a smile on your face and a cheerful 'Good morning'. You consistently uphold the school's values and are an incredible role model to others. Keep up the greatness Farahmand!

Martin Luther King Year 5: Rania
You have made an exceptional start to Year 5, Rania. You shown incredible enthusiasm for your learning, ensuring your contributions in class are thoughtful and helpful for others. Keep up the great attitude!

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Triko
Well done, Triko! I love how focused you are in lessons and how you always show me that you're ready to learn. Keep up the good work.

Marcus Rashford: Year 6: Bayinnah.
For showing a consistently excellent attitude towards your learning. You always strive to do your best and be ambitious in all your work. Keep it up - we are all very proud of you!

Nelson Mandela Year 6: Hanar
For showing independence in our dialogue lesson in writing and developing your own ideas. Your positive attitude has shown across all subjects. Keep it up!

Orchard Room: Jesse
Well done for showing continued enthusiasm for learning, taking part in activities with other children and safely exploring the world around you!

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

2YO Nursery -

It's been a busy week. We have been getting to know our new friends and getting back into routine.

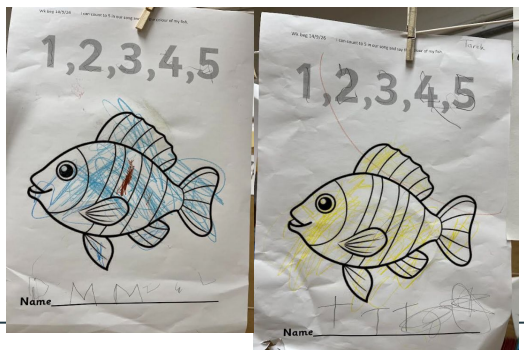
It has been lovely seeing the children exploring the nursery, finding out what they like and don't like and showing us that some are becoming more independent and so helpful.

Well done to you all.

3YO Nursery

We have had a brilliant time settling into Nursery this year. Children are eagerly learning the rhymes 1,2,3,4,5, Once I caught a fish alive as part of maths learning.

They are learning Row Row your boat for literacy and looking at different types of boats. The children have enjoyed sharing their favourite boats - as predicted, the yacht is the firm favourite!



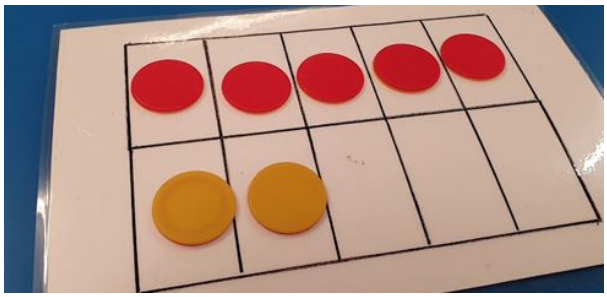
Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

Reception - This week we have played listening games in preparation for starting phonics lessons next week. The children demonstrated careful listening, distinguishing between different sounds.

We have been reading some of our favourite stories from nursery and home such as Brown Bear, brown bear, Dear Zoo and the Very Hungry Caterpillar.

In maths we introduced our self registration board. When we arrive at school we put our photo in the five frame helping us to notice how many people are at school.

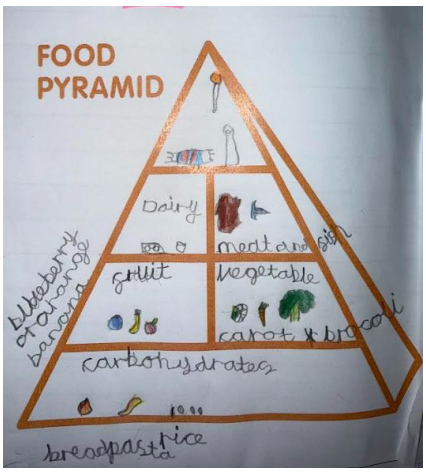
Year 1 - This week in Maths, we have been using our counting skills to 10 to represent numbers. The children counted out their chosen amount using counters and then placed them onto a ten frame. This helped them to see the numbers clearly and practise counting carefully.



Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

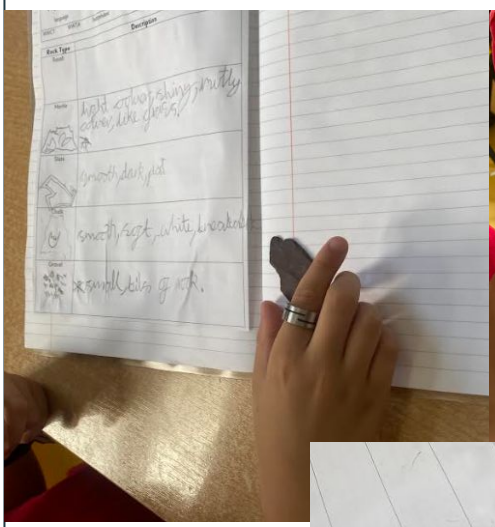
Year 2

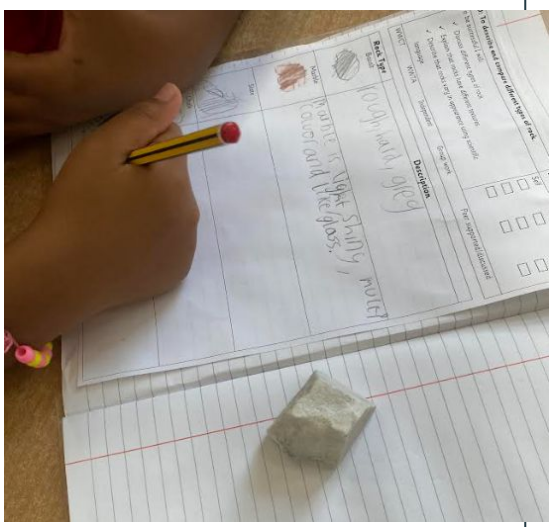
Year 2 have been learning about how to stay healthy and what humans need to live. They have explored the five food groups: fruits and vegetables, carbohydrates, dairy, protein, and sweets and fats. The children labelled a food pyramid and drew pictures of different examples from each food group. This helped them develop their understanding of the importance of eating a balanced and healthy diet.



Year 3

Year 3 started our new science unit - Rocks and sol. We looked at the different types of rocks and described what they looked and felt like.





Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

Year 4

This term in Geography, Year 4 have been learning about Africa. In our introductory lesson on Monday, the children explored African prints and learnt about their origins. They were fascinated by the geometric and symbolic patterns and excited to recreate their own 'African-inspired' designs on fabric.

Here are some photos of the children participating in the lesson and proudly showing off their creations!

Year 5

Pupils began their new Computing unit: A History of Computers. They learned about some of the first computers ever created and how they might be different to the computers we use today. Year 5 then reflected on what a life without computers and used their typing and document skills to type up their answers. How would you keep in touch with friends if you can't message them? How would you wake up without a phone alarm? Could you still do Doodle Maths without a computer?

Daily Activity Phone alarm	**Computer?** Yes	**How is it involved in the activity?** Wake you up in the morning	**Affected by the removal of technology?** Using alarm clocks and blinds (windows)	**How?** Setting the time on the alarm clock like 6:30 am
Teacher takes the register while children are doing a activity	Yes	Teachers do it to check if children are in by a register and to see their attendance	Using paper and a pen or by chalk boards	Using a pen or paper to see if the children are in or not in attendance

Year 6 -

Year 6 began their learning about rivers in geography by painting river scenes inspired by Monet's impressionist work. What wonderful artwork!

Rocksteady at Duncombe

Rocksteady Music Lessons

We're excited to welcome **Rocksteady Music School** to our school! Children can learn **vocals, keyboard, drums, guitar or bass** as part of their very own rock and pop band, with weekly 30-minute lessons taking place during the school day.

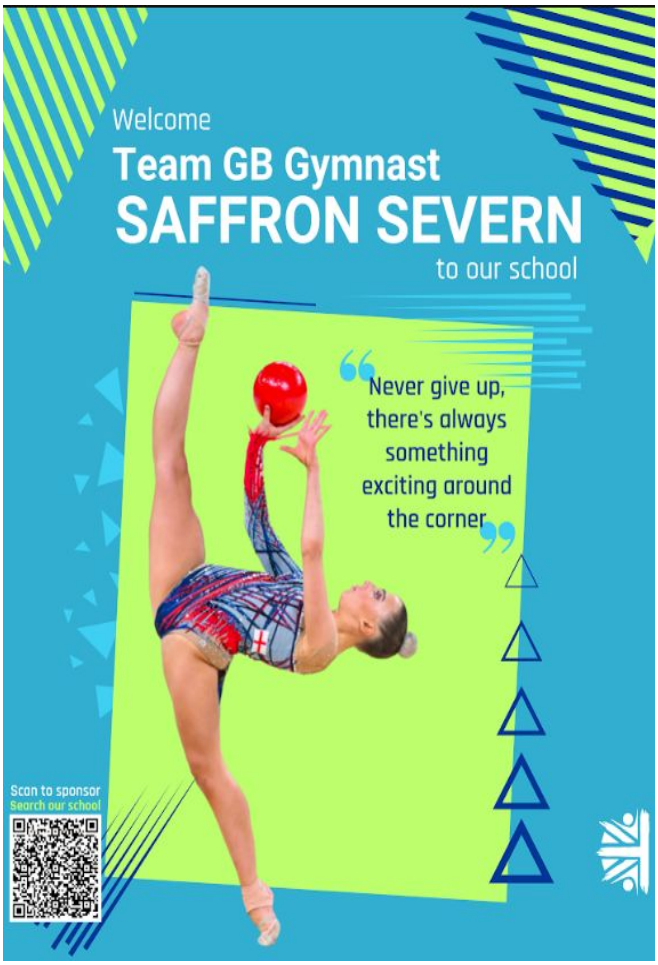
No previous musical experience is needed and all instruments are provided. The sessions are designed to be fun, inclusive and accessible, helping children develop their **musical skills, confidence, teamwork and friendships**. Children will also have the opportunity to perform in **end-of-term concerts**.

Places are limited and offered on a **first come, first served basis**. For information about availability, costs and signing up, please visit rocksteadymusicschool.com and search for our school, or use the QR code on the Rocksteady flyer available from the school office.

Here are some photos from the launch Rocksteady assembly today!

CFSW London Zoo Trip

A group of children got to visit London Zoo on Friday with our Family Support Worker this week. These children were recognised for their achievements last year. They had a fantastic day, and learnt loads about the different types of animals in our world.



Great Athletes

A reminder that on **Thursday 24th September,** Team GB gymnast Saffron Severn is visiting the children at Duncombe where she will be leading them through a fitness circuit and holding a Q&A session.

Have you set up your fundraising sponsorship page yet? If you've already got yours set up don't forget to share it with friends and family. You can donate by scanning the QR code and searching for the school name. Or use this video link for support: **https://vimeo.com/1148909287**