Duncombe Primary School Newsletter

23rd October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had such an amazing half term and we are so proud of the way the children have settled into their new classes.

Our Black History Month celebration showcased all the talent Duncombe Primary has to offer and, as always, it made me feel incredible proud.

I am grateful for the parents who support us every day and the staff who work so hard to support your children.

We hope you have a wonderful and restful half term and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 2nd November.

Katija Ali

Fluoride Varnish a (sign up here):
https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/xYbPfxsnzC

Important Dates

Half Term - Monday 26th Oct - Friday 30th October Children return on Monday 2nd Nov

Oct 31st: Deadline for applying for secondary school for year 6 children. (See page 9 for link details).

Wed 4th Nov: 9.00-15.00 Photographer in school for individual photos.

Thursday 5th Nov: 09.00-13.00: Flu vaccine catch up (3rd visit)

Thursday 5th Nov: 15.40: 16.00: SATS meeting

Friday 6th Nov: 14.45-15.15: Year 6 Poetry Assembly - Parents welcome

School Attendance

Julia Donaldson **70%**	**Maya AngeLou** 95%
Eric Carle: **84 %**	**William Shakespeare** **97%**
Judith Kerr **90%**	**Emmeline Pankhurst** **94%**
Greta Thunberg: **91%**	**Martin Luther King** **94%**
Florence Nightingale **93%**	**Marcus Rashford** **94%**
Marie Curie **92%**	**Nelson Mandela** **95%**
Isaac Newton **93%**	
Whole School Attendance this week = 94.14%	

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: Ahmad
You have been showing great kindness with your friends.
Thank you for being a great help.

Eric Carle 3YO: Hanna
Hanna has learnt our first model text brilliantly and can re-tell our story showing her enthusiasm for learning.

Judith Kerr Reception : Theo L
For your passion and enthusiasm for all things animal related and your wonderful zoo keeper letter mark making.

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Muddasir
For trying his best in writing this week. He persevered and used Fred talk even when he found it tricky. Well done!

Florence Nightingale Year 1/2: Uzair
For showing enthusiasm and determination in Phonics! You have been working hard every day and always trying your best. I am so proud of your effort! Keep up the fantastic work!

Marie Curie Year 2: Jahvai
He has shown excellent effort in his writing and has produced a fantastic fact file about the life of Mary Seacole. He always tries his best and continues to work hard even when faced with challenges. Well done, Jahvai, for your fantastic effort and determination!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Lya
She is someone that is really helpful to anyone that needs it in class. She is sensible and kind and shows a lot of respect to other children and adults. Keep it up Lya!

William Shakespeare Year 4: Symphony-
For following instructions and being a good role model in class. She is always kind and helpful to others. Well done!

Maya Angelou Year 4: Salma
For writing an inspiring and interesting piece about the origins of the Notting Hill Carnival for Black History Month.

Martin Luther King Year 5: Ibraaheem
Ibraaheem, you have been amazing this week! Your enthusiasm for learning is infectious. I have been so impressed with your contributions during class discussions and how much care you have put into making your writing a high standard. Keep it up!

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Skylar
Well done, Skylar! She has settled in so well and had an excellent first week at school. Keep up the great job !

Marcus Rashford Year 6:. Raina
For showing excellent focus and determination during this week's assessments. Your hard work helped to show your learning progress. You also showed exemplary behaviour and maturity throughout the week's learning and our trip.

Nelson Mandela Year 6: Elif
For showing a positive attitude throughout assessment week. You stay focussed on the 'big picture' and show a willingness to listen to and respond to feedback. Well done Elif!

Orchard Room:
This award is proudly presented to Naveed for showing incredible ability in PE particularly in cricket, where he showed enthusiasm and great determination.

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

2YO Nursery -

We have been very busy this term. We have been trying so hard to be independent. We have been learning to spread our jams on our toast, peel our fruit, knowing when we need the toilet and helping our new friend learn the routine.

Thank you for your support and we hope you all have a lovely break.

3YO Nursery

Nursery have been getting spooky, enjoying exploring pumpkins and working their mouths on blowing skills as they create ghostly artwork with straws and white paint. We also had a fun trip to buy our ingredients and then baked banana bread!

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

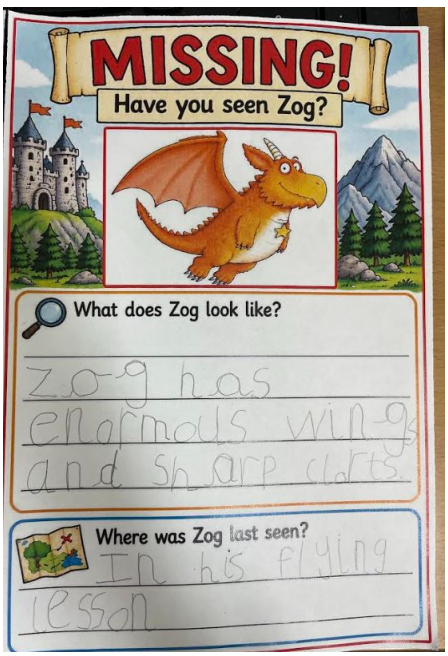
Reception

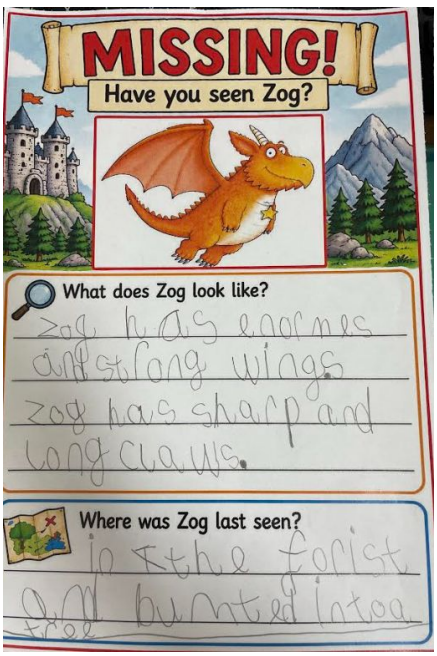
We visited the post office to send our question letters to the zookeeper. We weighed our letters, bought stamps at the counter and found the postbox to send our letters.

As part of Duncombe's Black History Month celebrations, we made delicious Jollof rice, created colourful prints inspired by the pioneering Trinidadian-British textile designer Althea McNish and applied our learning about Garrett Morgan's traffic light system to our PE warm-up.

What a wonderful week of learning, creativity and discovery!

Year 1 - This week, Year 1 finished writing their missing posters for Zog! We used exciting adjectives to describe what he looks like and included important information to help people find him. We hope Zog will be found soon!

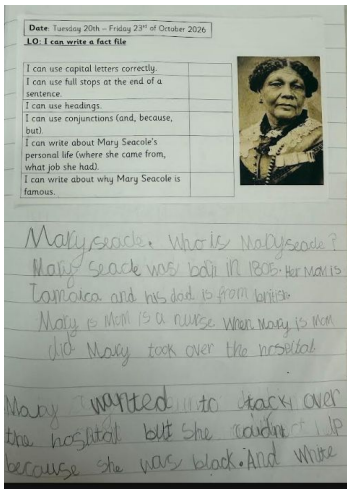




Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

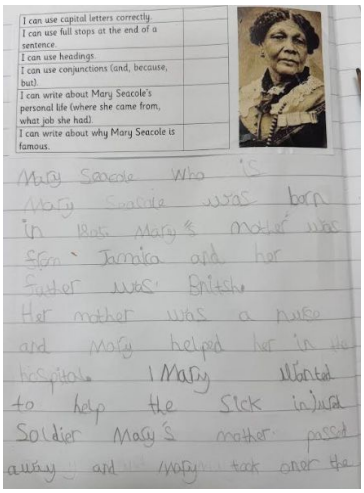
Year 2

Year 2 have been working hard to write fantastic fact files about Mary Seacole's life and why she was such an important historical figure. They included interesting facts about her early life and highlighted the amazing things she did to care for injured soldiers during the Crimean War. The children have worked hard to share their knowledge and celebrate Mary Seacole's bravery, kindness and determination.


Date: Tuesday 20th – Friday 23rd of October 2026
LO: I can write a fact file

I can use capital letters correctly.	
I can use full stops at the end of a sentence.	
I can use headings.	
I can use conjunctions (and, because, but).	
I can write about Mary Seacole's personal life (where she came from, what job she had).	
I can write about why Mary Seacole is famous.	

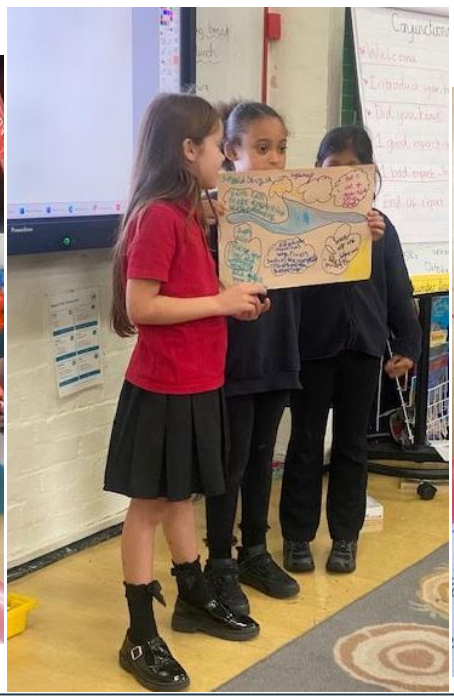
Mary seacole. Who is Mary seacole?
Mary seacole was born in 1805. Her mom is Jamaica and his dad is from britain.
Mary is Mom is a nurse. When Mary is mom did Mary took over the hospital.
Mary wanted to stay over the hospital but she couldn't up because she was black. And white


I can use capital letters correctly.
I can use full stops at the end of a sentence.
I can use headings.
I can use conjunctions (and, because, but).
I can write about Mary Seacole's personal life (where she came from, what job she had).
I can write about why Mary Seacole is famous.

Mary Seacole Who is Mary Seacole was born in 1805. Mary's mother was from Jamica and her Father was British. Her mother was a nurse and Mary helped her in the hospital. Mary Wanted to help the Sick injured Soldier Mary's mother passed away and Mary took over the

Year 3

Year 3 have been learning about Asia and focussing on China this half term. To finish off the topic, they did some research about the positive and negative impacts of humans on some physical features of China and created posters collaboratively. They then presented their work to the class.

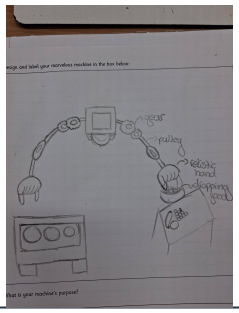


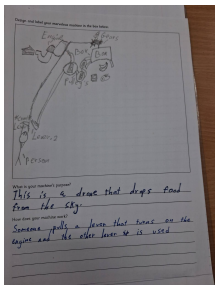
Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

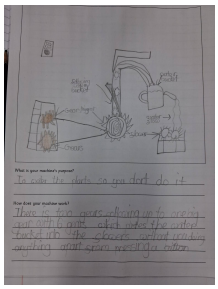
Year 4

Black History Month has been a wonderful opportunity for our Year 4 children to explore African and Caribbean cultures and their influence on Britain. We discovered the origins of Europe's largest street festival, the Notting Hill Carnival. To celebrate, the children designed and created vibrant masks and headdresses in preparation for our final Black History Month and Cultural Day assembly.

Year 5- In science, pupils have continued their investigations into forces by looking at 'mechanisms'. Pupils learnt about three of the most used mechanisms: levers, pulleys and gears. Applying this knowledge, pupils then came up with their own 'Magnificent Machines'.







Year 6

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed a visit to the Natural History Museum this weekt o kickstart their science topics for the year ahead. This hands-on educational experience truly brought our curriculum to life, directly supporting our upcoming units on evolution, inheritance, and the classification of living things.

Governors Visit Duncombe

On Tuesday, some of our School Ambassadors met the school governors who visited the school as part of their termly visits. They were really keen to find out what role they play as school governors and how they help the school to make progress. Below is a short account of what the ambassadors learnt during their meeting.

On Monday after half term we will have a book sale, selling books for just 20p so we can buy some bulbs to plant with the children to fill the planters with Spring flowers. Please bring your donations on Monday to buy books in the KS1 playground.

Putting Children First

Apply by 31 October 2026 for the best chance of a Year 7 place at your preferred school.

Apply now for Islington secondary schools

If your child was born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016, apply now for a secondary school place at **islington.gov.uk/admissions**

Sign up for email tips and deadline reminders at islington.gov.uk/stayupdated

Offer Code for School Uniform

DUNCOMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Safeguarding: As a parent or carer, you can play a vital role in helping us educate your children about staying safe. By acting on any concerns you may have about other children, you can help us safeguard all our pupils.

KEY INFORMATION

- We all have a role to play in protecting children and young people from child abuse and neglect.
- All children have a right to be safe and should be protected from all forms of abuse and neglect.
- Recent evidence suggests that a third of people who suspect child abuse do nothing. A number of people do not act on their suspicions because they're worried about being wrong. You don't have to be absolutely certain about your suspicions; if you have a feeling that something's not right, talk to the NSPCC, the school or your local children's social care team who can look into it.
- Information is usually gathered from many sources, and your report could form one part of a bigger picture.
- Every year more than 400,000 children in England are supported because someone notices they need help.

HELPFUL TOOLS & RESOURCES

The following tools will help you understand more about what abuse is, how to spot it and what to do if you have a concern:

What is child abuse and what are the signs?

Visit the NSPCC child abuse website for clear guidance and advice:
nspcc.org.uk

What can I do if I am concerned about a child?

You don't need to be sure - it's OK to report a suspicion. Call:

- **NSPCC Advice Line:** 0808 800 5000
- **Islington Social Care:** 020 7527 7400 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) or 020 7226 0992 (Out of hours)
- **Other Local Authorities: gov.uk/report-child-abuse**

What will happen after I report my concern?

You can call all the numbers above anonymously and simply seek advice. Find out more about what might happen after reporting on the NSPCC website.

How can I get help if I am a child?

Call **Childline on** 0800 1111.
Your call will not show up on your phone bill from a landline or on most mobile networks.

How can I keep my child safe on the internet? Go to the **LGFL Parentsafe website** or the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) **ThinkUKnow website**. Both have great advice.

How can Duncombe Primary School help?

If you have a concern about a child, even if they are not at our school, we can give you advice and help you report it. We will gladly see you in private if you want. Come into school and speak to our office or contact us via email or phone.