Duncombe Primary School Newsletter

25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Families,

We have had many highlights this week at Duncombe. One of which was welcoming an Olympic gymnast into school to work with the children. They thoroughly enjoyed the sessions with Saffron Severn, showing great enthusiasm, determination and resilience. The sessions linked beautifully with our Aspire Values, encouraging children to challenge themselves and believe in what they can achieve. Thank you for sponsoring your children to raise funds for more sports equipment for the children to enjoy.

We are also incredibly proud of our Year 5 and 6 football team, who represented our school so well, demonstrating fantastic teamwork, commitment and sportsmanship.

I want to acknowledge that September can be a tricky time for children as they settle into new year groups, build new relationships with staff and classmates, and get used to new routines. We are incredibly proud of the progress the children have made and the positive way they have embraced their new classes.

We are grateful for the excellent communication and support from parents, which has helped us respond quickly whenever children have needed additional support to settle into their new classes. Early communication has been key to us making sure we support your child in the right way. I know September can be an anxious time for parents as well as you build relationships with new staff and understand new time tables! Lastly, thank you to all our Duncombe staff for the care, encouragement and dedication they have shown throughout this important first month. They have prioritised and continue to prioritise getting to know your children and building relationships to ensure children are safe, happy and learning at Duncombe.

Katija Ali

Coffee Morning:

Dates to be announced in September

Important Dates

Tuesday 29th Sept - Flu Vaccination in school (Rec - Y6)
(For children whose parents have consented)

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

School Attendance

Julia Donaldson **98%**	**Maya Angelou** **92%**
Eric Carle **94%**	**William Shakespeare** **100%**
Judith Kerr **93%**	**Emmeline Pankhurst** **90%**
Greta Thunberg **88%**	**Martin Luther King** **92%**
Florence Nightingale **94%**	**Marcus Rashford** **94%**
Marie Curie **90%**	**Nelson Mandela** **94%**
Isaac Newton **97%**	

Whole School Attendance this week = 93.05%

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: Muhamed
You are showing great persistency in your writing skills. You are able to draw shapes and name them, you are starting to form letters for your name and now starting to become more independent with toileting.

Eric Carle 3YO: Delina
For showing all our ASPIRE values, trying your best and joining in with all activities. It is lovely hearing your voice so much more.

Judith Kerr Reception Levi
For being a fantastic role model by using timers to support fair turn-taking. You have shown great patience and helped others to take turns fairly. Well done!

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Jannah
For setting an excellent example in class. She shows enthusiasm is all that she does. Jannah always models being ready, respectful and safe. Keep up the great work!

Florence Nightingale Year 1/2: Uzair
You have been trying so hard with your learning this week! I am so impressed by how hard you have been working in Phonics every day. Keep up the good work!

Marie Curie Year 2: Ismaeel
For always demonstrating excellent behaviour and a positive attitude towards learning. He consistently tries his best, shows great effort, and actively takes part in his learning. Well done and keep up the fantastic work!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Henry
He has been showing a lot of enthusiasm in lessons and participating in class discussions. He really shows that he thinks hard about the things being taught and loves to ask questions. Keep up this great attitude towards learning Henry!

William Shakespeare Year 4: Saliim
You have been showing great Duncombe values this week. I love how you are always ready, respectful, and safe. You always use a speaking thumb and have been a fantastic role model to your peers. Keep up the great work!

Maya Angelou Year 4: Emily
She has been working extremely hard across all areas of her learning and continues to show a wonderful attitude towards her work. It has been lovely to see her becoming more confident in class, beginning to put her hand up more often and contributing to class discussions.Well done, Emily — keep up the fantastic work!

Martin Luther King Year 5: Mason
Mason, you have been absolutely incredible this week! You successfully cracked a cipher in record time during computing, but, even more so, I have been blown away by your writing this week. You showed oodles of ambition, making sure you met every part of our success criteria, and you persevered to make sure your handwriting was its absolute best. Keep it up!

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Lianne
Well done, Lianne! I love how you use your speaking thumb to participate in lessons and how you always follow the rules by being ready, respectful, and safe. Keep up the fantastic work!

Marcus Rashford: Year 6: Adam A
For showing great ambition and perseverance with your handwriting. Adam has made a conscious effort to think about his presentation in all subjects and letter formation. He thoroughly deserves his handwriting pen. Well done, keep up the hard work!

Nelson Mandela Year 6: Anayah
Well done for showing self-esteem by volunteering thoughtful answers during writing. You also always take pride in your work and make a fantastic effort to present it neatly.

Orchard Room: Clayton
Well done Clayton for having such a fantastic week! We're all so proud of you for being a helpful friend and for the progress you have made so far this year, we can't wait to see what comes next!

Great Athletes

Scan to sponsor
Search our school

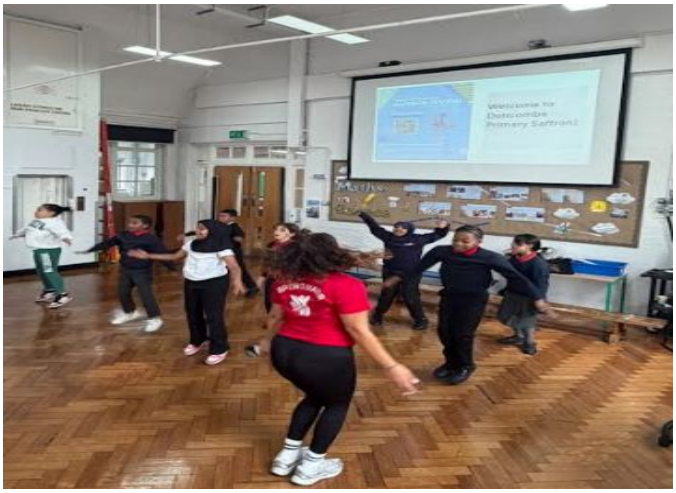
Yesterday we had the pleasure of **GB gymnast Saffron Severn** visiting our school. The long awaited and highly anticipated fitness circuit was in full swing and it's safe to say that the children had a challenging workout- see the photos. The morning was a great success which ended with the Q&A session with Saffron. The children learnt some really interesting facts about her career and understood the importance of being *resilient, strong and brave*.

A huge thank you to all the children who have been working hard behind the scenes setting up their fundraising page. So far we have raised an **impressive £435.50**. There is still time for you to collect sponsorship money. Remember the money raised goes towards new Sports equipment for the school- see QR code in top right hand corner.

Some children were so inspired by Saffron that they expressed interest in joining a gymnastics club. See the link to a gymnastic club which Saffron is associated with- https://www.rhythmicexcellence.london/.

For those children who have raised money, they will receive their gifts in 2 weeks time after the fundraising page has closed.

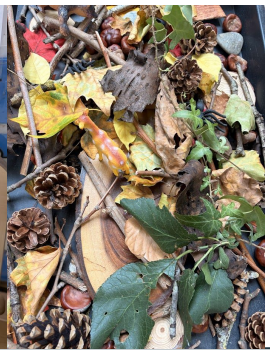
Thanks for all your support.



Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

2YO Nursery -

We have been exploring Autumn. The children and their families were ask to hunt for autumn things on their travels over the weekends.
We had some get things that come back like different coloured leafs, conkers, sticks, feathers and more. Thank you so much for your help. Now we are exploring with them in our play.



3YO Nursery
Nursery have been amazing staff with their sorting and counting. grouping animals together and saying how many in each group. We started cooking this week and have also made cucumber and cheese sandwiches, make sure to ask your child if they enjoyed eating them!

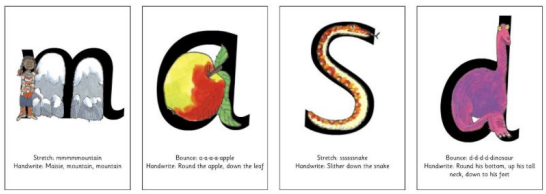
Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

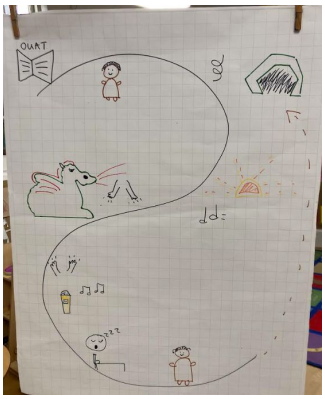
Reception

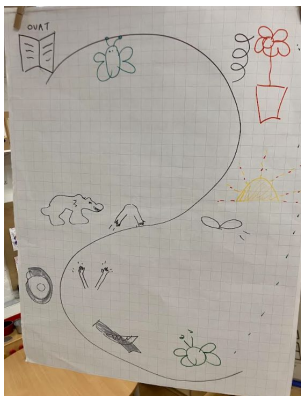
This week we started phonics. We have learnt the sounds 'm', 'a', 's' and 'd'. Please use the QR codes on the homework sheet to listen to the sounds with your child over the weekend.

In literacy we have crafted class stories using prop baskets to support idea generation. We created some fabulous original stories. Please ask your child about the little baby and butterfly's adventures.

In maths we have been learning to subitise, recognising how many in a small group without needing to count.

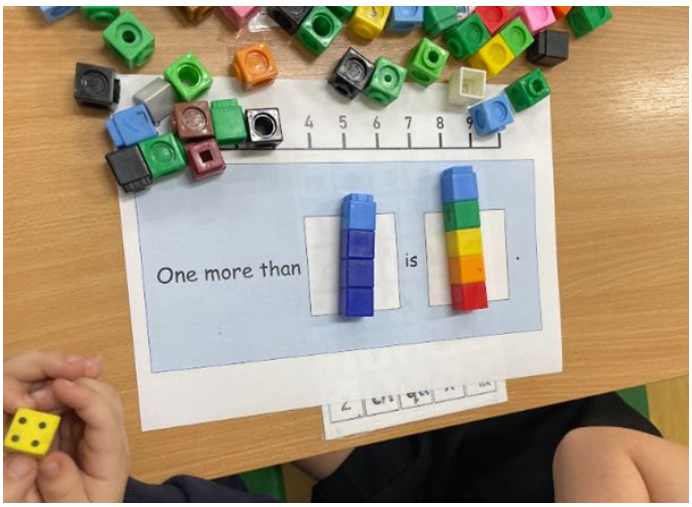


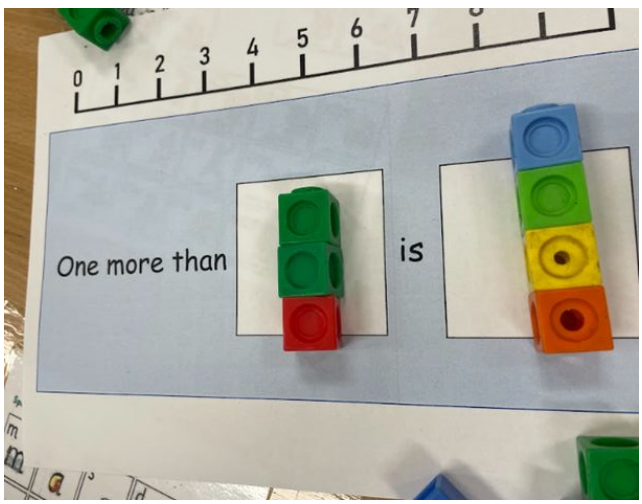




Year 1

In Year 1, the children learnt about finding one more than a given number. They used cubes to build towers and then added one more cube to find the new number. The children practised completing sentences such as 'One more than ___ is ___.' Many children also found the number track helpful when finding one more.

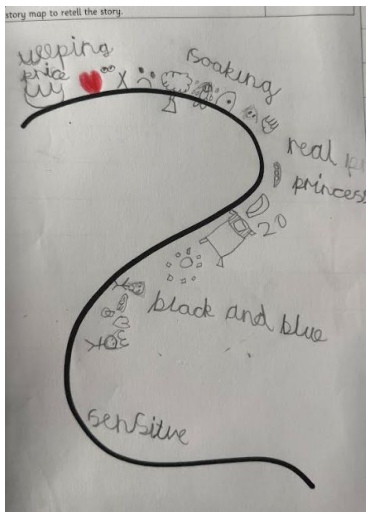


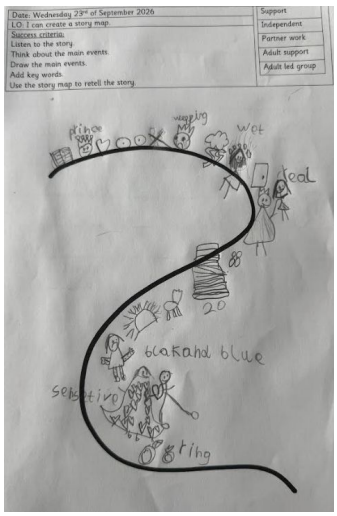


Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

Year 2

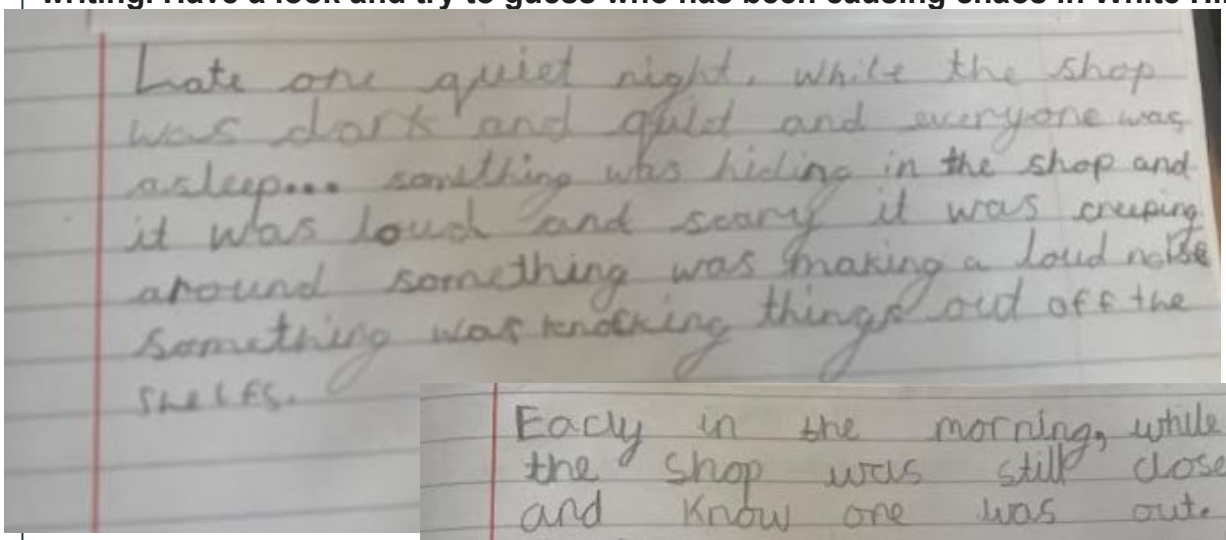
Year 2 brought The Princess and the Pea to life! They retold the classic fairy tale and then got creative, designing their very own story maps using key words, pictures and symbols to capture the important events. The children showed fantastic imagination as they sequenced the story and brought their ideas to life!

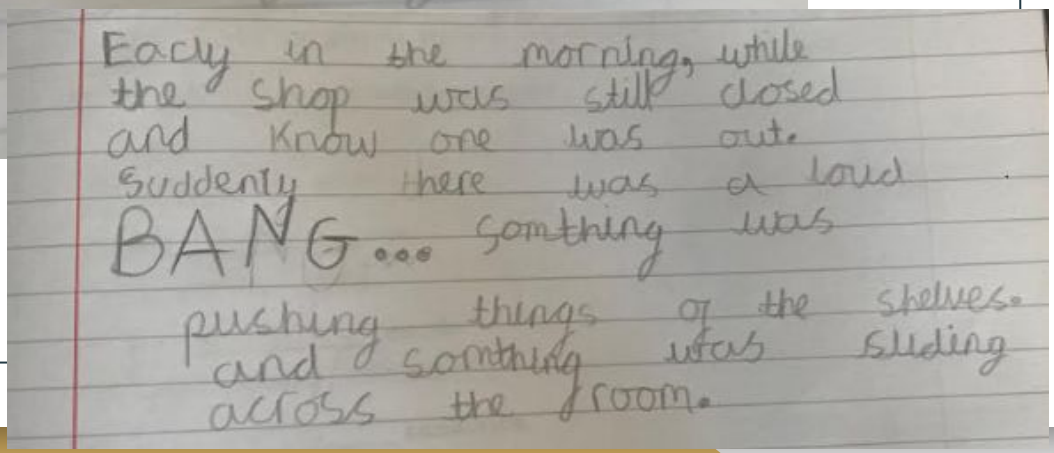




Year 3

Year 3 have been working really hard on their writing this week. We have been looking at the fantastic book Supertato and coming up with our own ideas to create suspense in our writing. Have a look and try to guess who has been causing chaos in White Hill Stores!

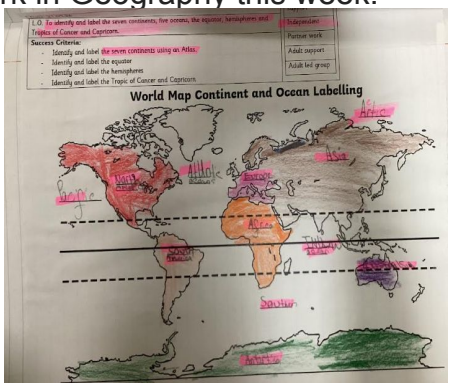

Late one quiet night, while the shop was dark and quiet and everyone was asleep... something was hiding in the shop and it was loud and scary it was creeping around something was making a loud noise something was knocking things out off the shelfs.


Eacly in the morning, while the shop was still closed and know one was out. Suddenly there was a loud BANG... Somthing was pushing things of the shelves. and somthing was sliding across the room.

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

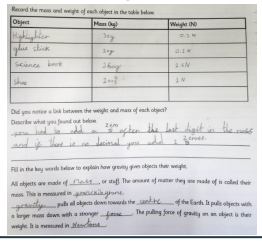
Year 4

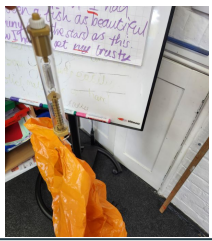
In Geography this week, the children have been learning to name and locate the seven continents and five oceans of the world. They have been developing their geographical knowledge by using maps, atlases and globes to identify different countries and geographical features. The children have enjoyed building their confidence with geographical vocabulary and identifying where different continents and oceans are located.Well done everyone for your fantastic enthusiasm and hard work in Geography this week!



Year 5-

In science, we did an experiment about gravity. We measured different objects using a force meter. We recorded the force of each object in newtons (N). We found that heavier objects had a greater force because gravity pulls them down.





Year 6 -

Year 6 had a wonderful time participating in the "Great Athletes" session this week with British gymnast Saffron Severn! We were so inspired by Saffron, who shared her journey as an athlete and gave a truly motivating talk about dedication, resilience, and following your dreams. Prior to the talk, the children took part in a series of challenging physical circuits. We are very proud of how the children took part. They showed fantastic determination, cheered each other on, and pushed through every activity with smiles.

Rocksteady

Rock and Pop Band Lessons with Rocksteady

We are excited to be exploring the opportunity to offer **Rocksteady Music School** rock and pop band lessons at Duncombe Primary, subject to sufficient interest from families.

These weekly music lessons would take place **during the school day** and are led by professional musicians who make learning music fun. Children learn as part of a band, developing their musical skills while also building confidence, teamwork and social skills.

Here's what you need to know:

- No previous musical experience is necessary and **all instruments are provided**.
- Children learn and perform songs they love as part of their own band.
- Children take part in **end-of-term concerts**, giving families the opportunity to see their progress.
- Children can learn up to **300 instrument, band and performance skills**.
- Children can work towards an **Ofqual-regulated music qualification accredited by Trinity College London**, without having to take an exam.
- Parents receive regular progress updates, including photos and videos.
- Rocksteady offers a **money-back guarantee for the first month**, and parents can cancel at any time.

Places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Sufficient interest will be needed for Rocksteady lessons to run at the school.

Parents can find out more and register their interest through the Rocksteady parent website: rocksteadymusicschool.com/parents

For any questions about Rocksteady, parents can contact Rocksteady directly on **0330 113 0330** (Monday–Thursday 8am–8pm, Friday 8am–6pm) or email **info@rocksteadymusicschool.com**.

Lena (Music Specialist)

HIGHBURY FIELDS SCHOOL

We are a community in which everyone enjoys academic and social success

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Highbury Fields School is hosting the following open events for students starting secondary school in September 2027

Open Mornings

Tuesday, 29th September
Tuesday, 6th October
Wednesday, 7th October
9:20am - 10:30am

Open Evening

Wednesday, 30th September
5pm – 7pm

Headteacher's speech
5:30pm & 6:30pm

Please book your visit via the school website

We look forward to welcoming all potential students and parents
If you are unable to attend these Open Events, please contact the school office to arrange a tour of the school

Highbury Hill | Islington | N5 1AR | 020 7288 1888 www.highburyfields.islington.sch.uk

Busy Things

How to log in at home:
1. Go to www.busythings.co.uk/play
2. Use the login details below*
3. Start exploring the wonderful world of Busy Things together!

Note: Busy Things can't be used on a mobile phone, but it works perfectly on iPads, tablets, laptops, Chromebooks, and desktop computers.

Shared pupil login

To access Busy Things, go to busythings.co.uk and click 'LOG IN'.

Username:
duncombe22

Password:
duncombe22

Busy Things

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