Duncombe Primary School Newsletter

2nd October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another wonderful and busy time in school, and I continue to be incredibly proud of the fantastic learning taking place across all year groups.

As I walk around the school each day, it is a real pleasure to see our children so engaged and enthusiastic about their learning. Whether they are tackling a challenging piece of work, sharing their ideas with others, being creative, or supporting a friend, there is always something to celebrate.

What stands out to me most is the way our children continue to demonstrate our ASPIRE values in everything they do. I see ambition in the way they strive to achieve their very best, independence as they take increasing responsibility for their own learning, and perseverance when they keep going, even when learning becomes challenging. It is wonderful to see these values coming to life in our classrooms, corridors and playground every day.

Our classrooms are full of curiosity, creativity and purposeful learning, and this is only possible because of the hard work and commitment of our children and staff. I would like to thank our whole staff team for the care, energy and enthusiasm they bring to school each day.

I would also like to say a very big thank you to all of our parents and carers for your continued support. The partnership between home and school plays such an important part in helping our children to flourish. Your encouragement, involvement and support make a real difference to the children and to our wider school community.

Thank you, as always, for being such an important part of our school community.

Warmest wishes,

Katija Ali

Coffee Morning:

Dates to be announced soon

Important Dates

Wed 7th Oct - Yr 5/6 Girls Football Tournament - 09.45-12.00

Wed 7th Oct - Reception Tours (if you have a child due to start Reception in September)

Thursday 8th - School Journey Meeting for Yr 6 parents - 3.45-16.15

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

School Attendance

Julia Donaldson **97%**	**Maya AngeLou** 92%
Eric Carle **78%**	**William Shakespeare** **99%**
Judith Kerr **98%**	**Emmeline Pankhurst** **96%**
Greta Thunberg: **92%**	**Martin Luther King** **92%**
Florence Nightingale **94%**	**Marcus Rashford** **97%**
Marie Curie **96%**	**Nelson Mandela** **93%**
Isaac Newton **96%**	

Whole School Attendance this week = 94%

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: Inaya
For settling in so well and showing great enthusiasm in exploring the nursery. Well done.

Eric Carle 3YO: Sidrah
For showing all the ASPIRE values - being so determined with what you set out to do showing real enthusiasm and perseverance.

Judith Kerr Reception : Zainab
For always being ready to learn, being respectful and safe. You are a fabulous role model for 'The'Duncombe Way'!

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Medina
For trying her very best in writing. Medina was using her fred talk to sound out words independently. Well done Medina, keep up the excellent work!

Florence Nightingale Year 1/2: Taylor
For your kindness and enthusiasm this week! I am so impressed by how you always join in with our lessons and are always willing to help your friends. Keep up the fantastic work!

Marie Curie Year 2: Bushra
For always being ready, respectful, and safe, and for always trying her best, even when she finds the work challenging. She consistently gives her all and is always a star pupil!

Isaac Newton Year 3:! Mia
For your kindness and enthusiasm this week! I am so impressed by how you always join in with our lessons and are always willing to help your friends. Keep up the fantastic work!

William Shakespeare Year 4: Mohammed
For his effort and enthusiasm in English. He worked independently to write his own narrative for The Iron Man. Well done!

Maya Angelou Year 4: Stanislava
For your kindness and enthusiasm this week! I am so impressed by how you always join in with our lessons and are always willing to help your friends. Keep up the fantastic work!

Martin Luther King Year 5: Naba
Naba you thoroughly deserve the celebration award for this week. You embody all of the Duncombe ASPIRE values all of the time, and this week you have especially impressed with your use of ambitious vocabulary in your writing, borrowed from our reading lessons. You make MLK a great place to learn. Keep it up!

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Cassius
Well done Cassius. He has shown excellent participation and enthusiasm in maths. Your positive attitude and willingness to get involved in lessons has been fantastic to see. Good job!

Marcus Rashford: Year 6: Yasmin
For consistently demonstrating exceptional manners; treating peers and teachers with the utmost respect and enriching our classroom with thoughtful, insightful contributions during class discussions. Your positive attitude makes our classroom a better place to learn!

Nelson Mandela Year 6: Mascuud
For showing perseverance in our missing numbers and word problems lessons in maths. You showed super listening and kept practicing using different operations. Keep it up Mascuud!

Orchard Room: Kylan
Well done Kylan for all your hard work and enthusiasm this week! It was lovely seeing you say you new sound in phonics and listening to instructions and sharing in PE.

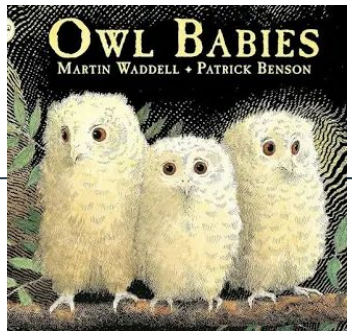
Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

2YO Nursery -

Little nursery is still getting the hang of our routines. They are starting to show great independents and perseverance when tackering new activities or tasks.

We have been loving our core book 'Owl babies'. They have been dressing up and make our own mask to bring the story to life. The children are starting to recall the book in their own words.

"They flying" "i want my mummy" "Bill sad mummy come" "mummy owl look" "babies owl" "they took the baby owl"



3YO Nursery

Nursery have been learning to take turns and follow the rules of a game - they can roll the dice, find the matching colour monkey to add to their board. We are loving our cooking Wednesdays, last week we made sandwiches and this week we made fruit kebabs - delicious!

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

Reception

We have been learning the sounds t, i, n and p. We have also started blending by saying the individual sounds and then putting them together to read the word.

In literacy, we are learning to retell our own version of *Owl Babies*, focusing on the owlets' emotions at the beginning, middle and end of the story.

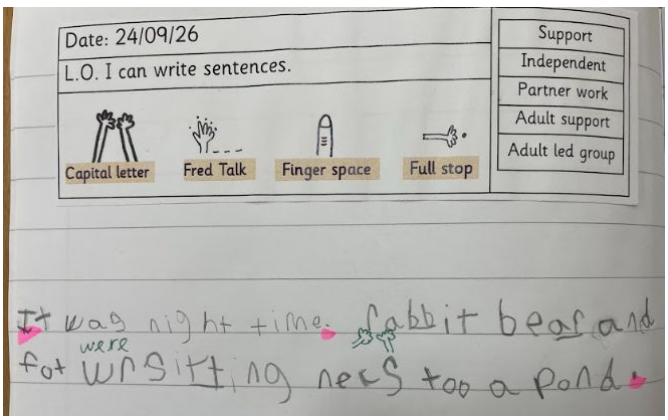
In maths, we have been making sure that we all know how to count carefully and accurately. Counting each object once and only once, making sure that we do not miss any objects or count the same object twice.

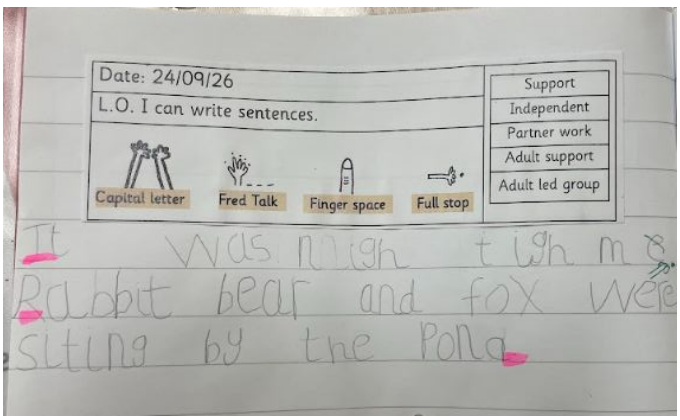
We also had our first PE and Forest school sessions.

Year 1

In English we have been learning about the book 'The Moon in the Pond'. THe children have started to write the story and we have been focussing on using our fred talk to write our story!

Keep up the excellent work!



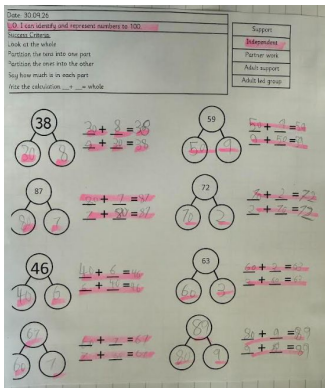


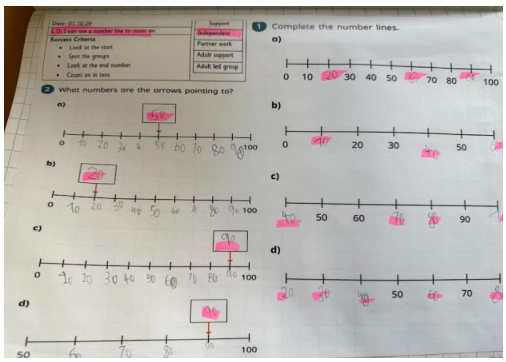
Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

Year 2

Year 2 have been busy developing their understanding of number and place value! They have explored partitioning numbers into tens and ones, using practical resources and representations to solve calculations and explain their thinking.

They have also been practising counting forwards and backwards in tens and using labelled number lines to find numbers and solve problems. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and mathematical vocabulary grow as they tackle new challenges with enthusiasm!





Year 3

Year 3 have been exploring landscape art, developing their drawing and colouring skills. They have been learning how to use soft pastels to create different textures, blend colours and use light and dark shades to add depth to their work. Inspired by a beautiful riverside landscape, the children have been carefully recreating the scene, experimenting with colours and adding their own artistic details. Have a look at the wonderful artwork they have produced!

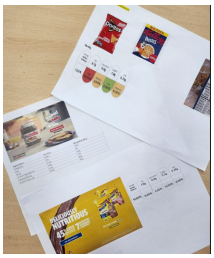
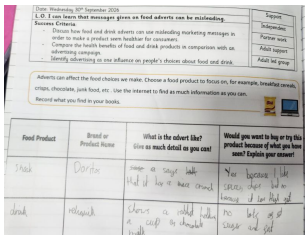
Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

Year 4

Year 4 have been learning all about the different states of water: solid, liquid and gas. They explored how water changes state through melting, freezing, evaporation and condensation. The children investigated how ice melts and used mirrors to observe condensation, developing their understanding through practical experiments.

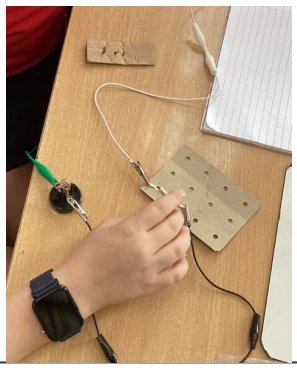
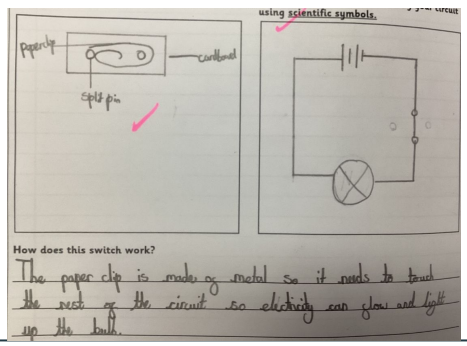
Year 5-

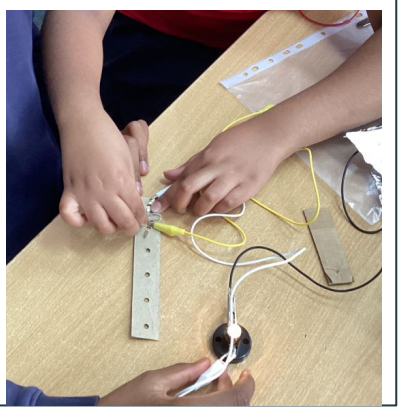
This week in PSHE Year 5 learnt about healthy choices and adverts. Pupils considered the different ways in which companies try to get you to buy their products, whether they are healthy or not! By comparing adverts of food items to their corresponding nutritional labels, pupils were able to work out if adverts were being helpful or misleading.

Year 6 -

Year 6 have been put to the test as electrical investigators! The children experimented with everyday materials to test which made effective conductors before using their findings to build working switches for their circuits. They then drew precise technical circuit diagrams using official scientific symbols. Great work, Year 6!



School Lunch Menu

Menu

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mains Happy Tums	Barbeque Chicken Pizza Slice **(G,Mk)**	Beef Mince and Vegetable Cottage Pie with Potato and Parsnip Mash served with Gravy **(Mk)**	Sticky Jerk Chicken with Jerk Gravy	Pasta Bar: Wholemeal Penne **(G)** Beef and Lentil Bolognaise **(G)** Tomato Sauce Cheddar Cheese and Leek Sauce **(G,Mk)**	Breaded Pollock Fillets **(F,E)** Served with Tartar Sauce **(Mu)**
Veggie Meat Free Mains	Margherita Pizza Slice **(G,Mk)**	Vegan Mince and Vegetable Cottage Pie with Potato and Parsnip Mash served with Gravy **(Mk,So)**	Jerk Vegetables with Jerk Gravy	Pasta Bar: Wholemeal Penne **(G)** Pesto Sauce Tomato Sauce Cheddar and Leek Sauce **(G,Mk)**	Curried Carrot and Chickpea Patty **(G,Mk)**
Veg Extra Good	Celeriac Coleslaw **(C,E,Mu,So,Su)** Broccoli with Edamame Beans **(So)**	Mixed Vegetables	Roasted Carrots Broad Beans	Cabbage and Kale Sweetcorn	Peas Baked Beans
Carbs Fuel Food	Potato Wedges	Select from our delicious Salad Bar	50/50 Rice and Peas	Potato and Turmeric Focaccia **(G)**	Chips
Jackets/ Pasta	Wholemeal Pasta in Tomato Sauce with Cheese **(G,Mk)**	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Toppings **(Mk,F)**	Wholemeal Pasta with Pesto Sauce and Cheese **(G,Mk)**	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Toppings **(Mk,F)**	Wholemeal Pasta in Tomato Sauce with Cheese **(G,Mk)**
Dessert Something Sweet	Yoghurt Topped with Berry Puree **(Mk,So)**	Pear and Vanilla Topsy Turvey Cake with Custard **(G,E,Mk,So)**	Fruit Jelly	Ginger and Sunflower Seed Flapjack **(G)**	Italian Lemon Cookie **(G,E,Mk)**

Salad Bar, Cold Desserts and Fresh Fruit available daily.

Week 1
31/08/26, 28/09/26, 19/10/26, 16/11/26, 07/12/26

Allergens Please note the allergens shown within these menus are subject to change.

Ce = Celery	**F** = Fish	**L** = Lupin	**Mu** = Mustard	**Se** = Sesame Seeds
Cr = Crustacean	**G** = Cereals containing Gluten	**Mk** = Milk	**N** = Nuts	**So** = Soya
E = Eggs		**Mo** = Molluscs	**P** = Peanuts	**Su** = Sulphur Dioxide

Autumn **Rooting for Our Planet**

From root to tip we're using every part of our root vegetables in Captain Earth's recipes, to make them good for you and the planet.

Look for this logo to find Captain Earth's tasty dishes!

Menu

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mains Happy Tums	Beef Lasagne **(G, Mk)**	Chicken Enchilada Traybake in Tomato Sauce **(G,Mk)**	Roasted Sausage with Onion Gravy **(G,Su)**	Beef and Eat Curious Curry	Fish Fingers **(G,F,Mu)** Or Salmon Fish Fingers **(G,F)** with Tartar Sauce **(Mu)**
Veggie Meat Free Mains	Vegan Lasagne **(G, So, Ce)**	Tex Mex Smokey Bean and Vegetable Enchilada in a Tomato Sauce **(G)**	Vegetable Sausage with Onion Gravy **(So)**	Vegan Mince and Eat Curious Curry **(So)**	Vegetable Fingers **(G)** with Tartar Sauce **(Mu)**
Veg Extra Good	Cauliflower Green Beans	Mexican Sweetcorn Green Beans	Carrots Cauliflower	Roasted Corn Broad Beans	Peas Baked Beans
Carbs Fuel Food	Garlic and Herb Focaccia **(G)**	Paprika Potato Wedges	Mashed Potato **(Mk)**	50/50 Rice	Chips
Jackets/ Pasta	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Toppings **(Mk,F)**	Wholemeal Pasta In Tomato Sauce with Cheese **(G,Mk)**	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Toppings **(Mk,F)**	Wholemeal Pasta with Pesto Sauce and Cheese **(G,Mk)**	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Toppings **(Mk,F)**
Dessert Something Sweet	Yoghurt with Mango Puree **(Mk,So)**	Orange Drop Cookie **(G,E,Mk)**	Fruit Jelly	Beetroot and Red Velvet Cake **(G,E,Mk)**	Vanilla Ice Cream **(Mk)**

Salad Bar, Cold Desserts and Fresh Fruit available daily.

Week 2
07/09/26, 05/10/26, 02/11/26, 23/11/26, 14/12/26

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Menu

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mains Happy Tums	Pepperoni Pizza Slice **(G,Mk,Mu,So)**	Beef Mince and Eat Curious Curry	Accent Baked Chicken with Gravy	Lamb Mince and Bean Tacos	Pollock Fillets **(F,E)** with Tartar Sauce **(Mu)**
Veggie Meat Free Mains	Margherita Pizza with Roasted Peppers **(G,Mk)**	Root Vegetable and Chickpea Curry	Cheesy Baked Quinoa and Broccoli Bites **(G,E,Mk)**	Vegan Mince and Bean Tacos Topped with Cheese **(Mk,So)**	Green Onion, Vegetable and Chickpea Bubble and Squeak
Veg Extra Good	Coleslaw **(E)** Roasted Broccoli	Carrots Green Beans	Honey Parsnips Cauliflower Florets	Choose from our delicious Salad Bar	Peas Baked Beans
Carbs Fuel Food	Potato Wedges	50/50 Rice	New Potatoes	Beetroot and Garlic Focaccia **(G)**	Chips
Jackets/ Pasta	Wholemeal Pasta in Tomato Sauce with Cheese **(G,Mk)**	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Toppings **(Mk,F)**	Wholemeal Pasta with Pesto Sauce and Cheese **(G,Mk)**	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Toppings **(Mk,F)**	Wholemeal Pasta in Tomato Sauce with Cheese **(G,Mk)**
Dessert Something Sweet	Yoghurt Topped with Berry Puree **(Mk,So)**	Oat Cookie **(G,E,Mk)**	Fruit Jelly	Apple Cake with Custard **(G,E,Mk)**	Berry Flapjack **(G)**

Salad Bar, Cold Desserts and Fresh Fruit available daily.

Week 3
14/09/26, 12/10/26, 09/11/26, 30/11/26

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FREE SWIMMING LESSONS IN ISLINGTON

Throughout the school holidays and in partnership with Islington Council, we are proud to be able to offer a variety of free swimming lessons for children and families. Lessons will run during Easter, May Half Term, Summer and October Half Term. Sessions include:

- Adult and child swimming lessons: 6-week course for under 3's *Summer holiday only
- Swimming lessons for 4 -13-year-olds, intensive lessons, Monday - Friday for 1 or 2 weeks
- Teen swimming lessons 13 -16-year-olds, intensive lessons, Monday - Friday for 1 or 2 weeks
- Family swimming lessons, 6-week course for up to 2 adults and 2 children to learn to swim together and enjoy the pool together *Summer holiday only

To apply please scan **QR code** or visit website at **better.org.uk/free-swimming-lessons**

You can email for more information at **summer.lessons@gll.org**

BETTER

ISLINGTON
For a more equal future

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