Duncombe Primary School Newsletter

9th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Celebrating Black History Month (BHM)

We are excited to be celebrating Black History Month across our school, with a fantastic range of activities and opportunities for our children to learn, reflect and be inspired. As part of our celebrations, the children attended the **Black History Month Primary School Live Assembly**, where they learnt about notable figures whose achievements have changed the course of history. Throughout the month, we have a wonderful variety of workshops, guest speakers and celebrations planned to deepen the children's understanding of Black history, celebrate diversity and recognise the contributions of Black individuals and communities. We are also looking forward to our own **Black History Month Assembly on 23rd October**, and warmly invite parents and carers to join us for this special celebration.

Football Events

A huge well done to our Year 5 and 6 girls who took part in a football tournament this week, demonstrating fantastic resilience, skill and ambition while representing our school with pride! It is wonderful to see our pupils challenging themselves, supporting one another and embracing opportunities to grow both on and off the pitch. Yesterday our Year 5 and 6 boys won their football match against St Mark's Primary with a 3-1 result; we are super proud of their team work and effort.

A Special Treat at After-School Club!

The children attending after-school club were in for a real treat this week, as they had the exciting opportunity to visit the cinema! There were plenty of smiles and excitement, and we are so grateful to Linda for providing the children with such a lovely experience. Thank you, Linda, for helping to create these special memories for our children. I can't wait to see where their next adventure takes them!

Kelly

Assistant Headteacher

Parents: Please see back pages for some free holiday activities. If applicable for your child, Just scan the QR codes.

Important Dates

Fri 16th Oct
09.00-10.00 Food Bank

Wed 21st October
Flu Vaccine catch up (2nd visit)

Fri 23rd October
BHM assembly
Years 1-3 in Top Hall 2-2:25pm:
Years 4-6 in Top Hall 2:40-3:10pm.
All Parents welcome

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.

School Attendance

Julia Donaldson **100%**	**Maya AngeLou** 97%
Eric Carle: **90%**	**William Shakespeare** **94%**
Judith Kerr **88%**	**Emmeline Pankhurst** **97%**
Greta Thunberg: **93%**	**Martin Luther King** **95%**
Florence Nightingale **94%**	**Marcus Rashford** **95%**
Marie Curie **99%**	**Nelson Mandela** **95%**
Isaac Newton **98%**	
Whole School Attendance this week = 95%	

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: Ayyub
You are becoming more confident around others and you are starting to interact more. You are also becoming more independent with toileting. Well done!

Eric Carle 3YO: Zain
Zain has become so much more confident in nursery, we love hearing your voice and seeing you excited by all the stories we read together.

Judith Kerr Reception : Atarah
We are so fortunate to have you join our class. You have brought so much kindness and enthusiasm for learning, and you are always keen to contribute your ideas. Your writing and phonics sound recall are brilliant. Well done!

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Adam M
For working so hard in maths this week! Adam always perseveres and shows lots of enthusiasm during lessons. Keep up the fantastic attitude!

Florence Nightingale Year 1/2: Laylah
For showing independence this week! You have been working hard on your own in lessons and becoming more independent with your routines. I am so proud of you! Keep up the fantastic work!

Marie Curie Year 2: Aaliyah
For her wonderful perseverance in writing and for always trying her best. She works hard, stays determined, and continues to try even when she finds things difficult. Well done and keep it up!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Amara
She is someone who is always respectful, safe, and ready to learn. Her positive attitude, enthusiasm, and effort in every lesson make her a brilliant example to others in the class. Keep it up Amara!

William Shakespeare Year 4: Amira
For her fantastic effort and independence in English. She has shown confidence and creativity in her writing this week. Keep up the great work!

Maya Angelou Year 4: Carolina
Carolina produced an exciting, suspenseful narrative inspired by Ted Hughes' *The Iron Man*..She created her own brilliant fictional character and used a fantastic range of expanded noun phrases and onomatopoeia to elevate her writing. We are incredibly proud of your hard work—keep it up!

Martin Luther King Year 5: Manal
Manal, I have been so impressed with how much you have grown in confidence since the start of the term. You are a brilliant classmate for others. Your enthusiasm for your learning, your patience and kindness and the respect you constantly show towards others is commendable. Keep it up!

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Ayla
I love how enthusiastic and confident you are about maths. You always show such a positive attitude towards your learning. I love how you take part in discussions, challenge yourself, and keep working things out even when you come across something tricky. You are not afraid to have a go, explain your thinking, and learn from your mistakes. Well done!

Marcus Rashford Year 6: Alexia
For a fantastic start at Duncombe! She has settled in exceptionally well this week, consistently demonstrating the Duncombe values and bringing a wonderfully positive attitude to her learning. Her insightful contributions during poetry discussions and her beautiful written work have made her an absolute pleasure to teach. Keep up the brilliant effort!

Nelson Mandela Year 6: Yusra
You showed ambition in writing, thought carefully about your sentence structure and thoughtfully edited after feedback. Well done and keep up the positive attitude to learning!

Orchard Room: Ameerah
Well done for making a fantastic start of the school year!You have been doing a great job with your writing you should be proud of yourself keep up the amazing work!

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

2YO Nursery -

Little nursery loves food especially fruit!!! So we made some fruit salad.

We used apples, oranges, grapes, strawberries and pineapple. Not forgetting using the juices from the pineapple and oranges.

The children done so well with the cropping and squeezing some couldn't wait to try some.

We had great fun.

3YO Nursery

We have been loving cooking Wednesdays and last week made fruit kebabps and this week cooked mini quiches. Our chopping skills and concentration are really growing, as well as a love of different foods and flavours. Our oracy is also boosted through talking about the method and ingredients as well as recalling what happened when looking through our floor book later in the week.

We also started our first core book - Brown Bear What do you see? Where we will learn to re-tell a story and know animal names and explore colours.

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

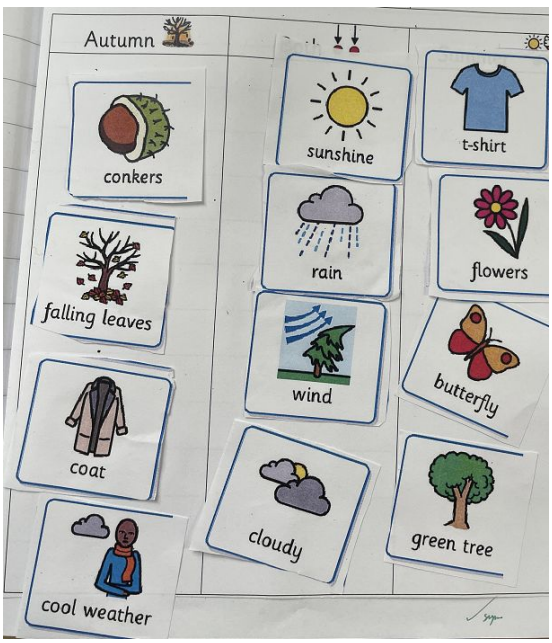
Reception

In phonics we continue to learn and recap our Set 1 sounds and practise blending. We have been enjoying playing splat games, which help us to quickly recognise and recall our sounds.

In Literacy, we are writing our own version of *Owl Babies* and making a book to share with our younger friends in Nursery. We have been crafting and drawing owls and practising our illustration skills to create pictures for our stories.

In Maths, we are learning about the composition of numbers — the “numbers hidden inside numbers”. We have been using *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* to explore how numbers can be made up of smaller numbers. For example, 3 can be made of 1 and 1 and 1, or 2 and 1.

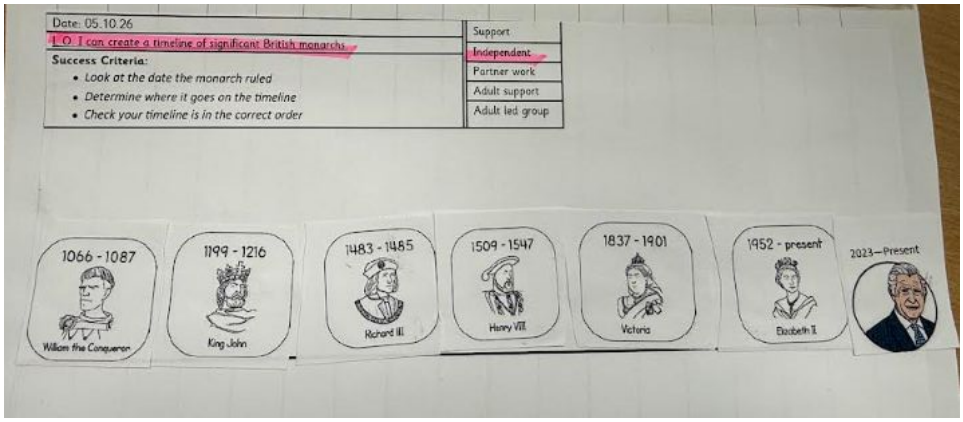
Year 1 - This week, we compared two seasons and talked about what they have in common. We noticed that Autumn can be cold, so people wear jackets, while Summer is warmer and we can see butterflies and flowers. We also noticed that it can be sunny and windy in both seasons.



Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

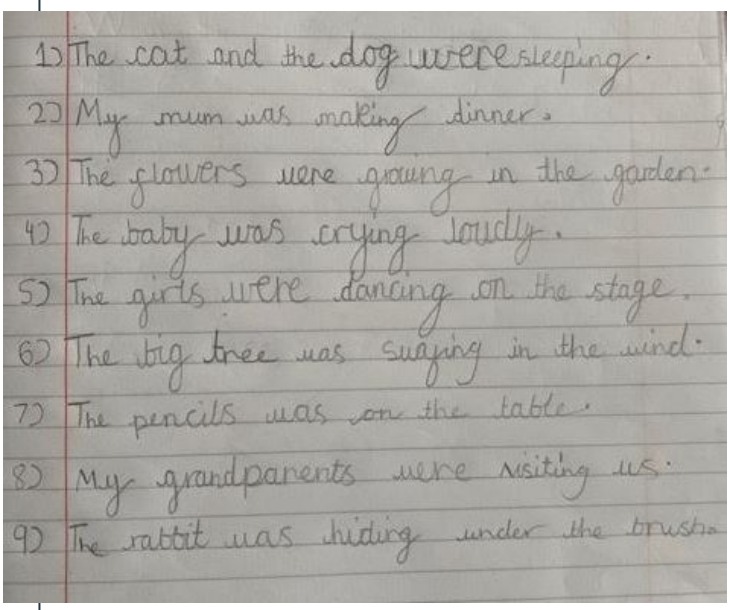
Year 2

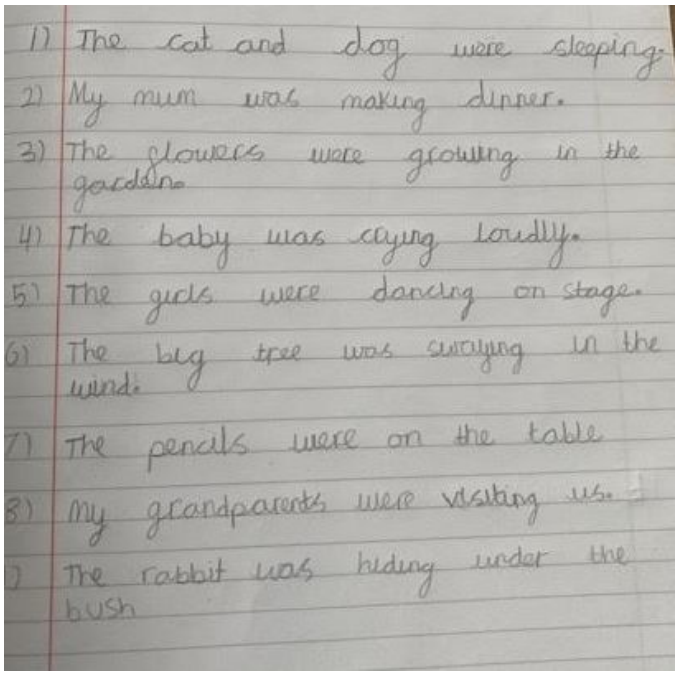
Year 2 explored the timelines of monarchs who ruled England. They learnt how to order different periods of history and created their own timelines showing when each monarch ruled the country.



Year 3

In year 3, we have been working hard on handwriting and our joins. Some children have been working extremely hard and consistently been joining their handwriting and maintaining a high standard. They earned some well handwriting pens today! Have a look at some great examples.





Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

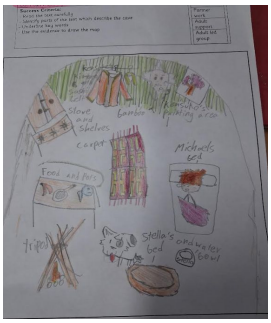
Year 4

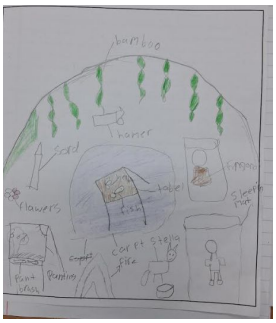
This week, Year 4 explored changes in states of matter by investigating which type of chocolate melts the fastest: dark, milk, or white.

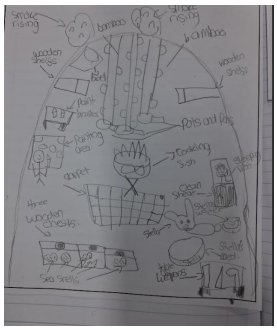
The children made their own predictions and gave brilliant scientific reasons for them. It was wonderful to watch their expressions as their theories came to life! Despite the delicious temptation, our fantastic young scientists remained completely professional and did not eat any of the ingredients. Well done, Year 4!

Year 5-

In Reading, we explored the story of *Kensuke's Kingdom* and learned more about Kensuke and Michael. Using evidence from the text, we created a detailed picture of Kensuke's cave, imagining its appearance and considering how the two characters lived there.

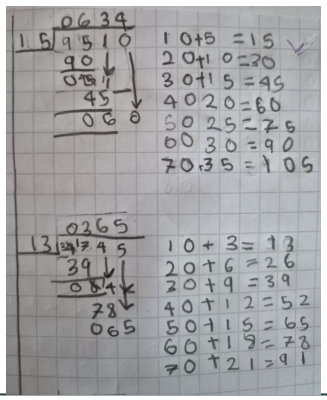


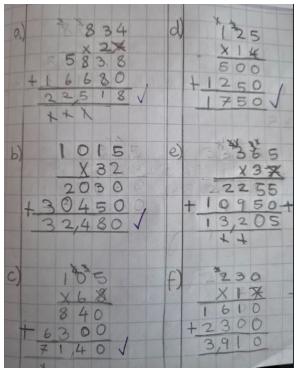


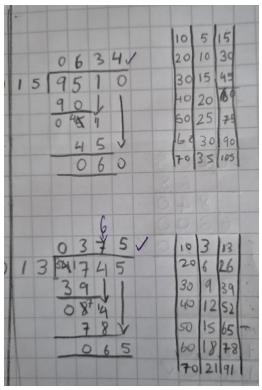


Year 6

This week year 6 have been working on their formal written methods for maths calculations. We have been so impressed with the children's perseverance when working on some methods with a lot of steps where being systematic, precise and neat are key to success.







Drama- Year 3 pupils

Are you looking for a drama based after school club for your child? If so, ***Angel Shed theatre*** have some free spaces in their weekly after school drama club for **Year 3 pupils who are from a Global Majority background.**

Children's Theatre sessions take place on **Mondays 5.30-7.00pm** at Angel Shed (based in Capital City College Holloway centre).

If you think your child/children might be interested, please use this link and complete the sign-up form: Angel Shed Membership Form – Fill out form

As a reminder, Angel Shed is an Islington based inclusive performing arts charity for children and young people. Spaces are pay-what-you-can and you are welcome to join for free. We are youth led, everyone is welcome, there are no auditions and no experience is needed! Watch this short video to see what we're like.

After School Club go to the Cinema

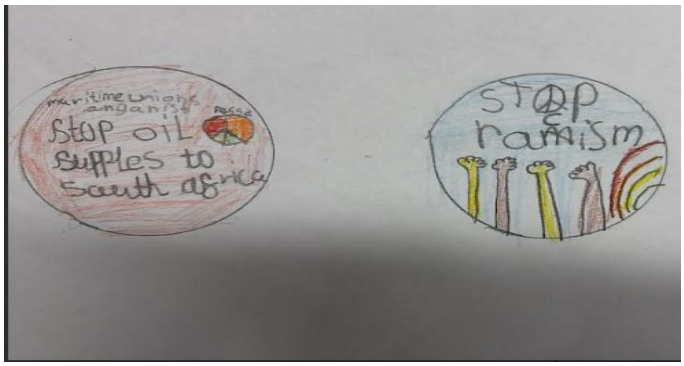
Linda, our amazing after school club manager, kindly organised a trip for the children to attend a screening of *'Shaun the Sheep'.* To say the children were excited was an understatement- their bellies were filled with popcorn as they sat down to their very own private screening. They had a fantastic time and look forward to their next excursion.

Did you know?

The colours in the South African flag represents Europe meeting Africa?

The Anti-Apartheid Legacy Trust visit Duncombe Primary

Today, pupils in Year 5 had the pleasure of participating in a workshop where they learnt about: Apartheid, Nelson Mandela, the significance of protest and they had some insightful discussions about the importance of equality. As part of the session, they had the chance to make badges to represent a cause they care deeply about; they thought about the significance of colours and symbols.



ARSENAL IN THE COMMUNITY

FREE YEAR 3/4 DOUBLE CLUB CAMP

FREE **DOUBLE CLUB** CAMP FOR **YEAR 3 AND 4** CHILDREN

AT **THE ARSENAL HUB**, N7 7BY

MONDAY 26TH TO FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER

DAILY FROM **9.30AM TO 12.30PM**

FOOTBALL, WELLBEING AND READING ACTIVITIES

SIGN UP HERE:

EMAIL HENRY MILTON AT HMILTON@ARSENAL.CO.UK FOR DETAILS

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

Better is a registered trademark and trading name of GLL (Greenwich Leisure Limited), a charitable social enterprise and registered society under the Co-operative & Community Benefit & Societies Act 2014 registration no. 27793R. Registered office: Middlegate House, The Royal Arsenal, London, SE18 6SX. Inland Revenue Charity no: XR43398

Adult Learning & Skills
Family Learning

TGC

Family forest school sessions

Explore nature and build confidence

Learn new skills and get creative

Enjoy quality time together

All sessions are 10-12pm on Saturdays

Autumn Term:
17th October 2026
14th November 2026

Spring/Summer Term:
20th March 2027
17th April 2027
15th May 2027
19th June 2027
3rd July 2027

Join us in Barnsbury Wood for free, fun, nature filled activities in the woods. All children must be accompanied by an Adult aged 19+. Scan the QR code to view available Saturday dates & sign up online.

SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON

ISLINGTON
For a more equal future