

03.11.2023

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is great to see all of the children back after the half-term break. They have come back refreshed and ready to learn.

At this time of year in school, all classes are focussed on improving their reading, writing and maths. As part of our school development plan, the priority this term is for teachers to think about how we stretch our most able pupils, this includes at Duncombe, all subject areas. For example, if your child is talented at PE, Ellis will be planning how to extend this ability in his classes. In Maths, all teachers have recently been trained on Maths mastery through the Camden Maths Hub led by our brilliant Year 6 teacher, Jessie.

Across the school, children have been busy publishing their writing. I have been so impressed by Year 4's work on the Ted Hughes book, The Iron Man. Year 1 have written some lovely work on The Cat in the Hat and Year 5 and 6 have written some lovely reports on Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks.

Parental support is proven to make a huge difference to children's education. Please read with your child every day and ensure that they are learning their times tables! It makes such a difference. Homework club starts up again next week.

Finally, we know that many in our school community will be really hurting due to the conflict in Palestine. Duncombe has a proud and long tradition of being a truly inclusive school and we send a message of peace and support to the Jewish and Muslim families in Duncombe, affected by the conflict. On Tuesday, I did an assembly about Peace for all of KS2 and we will continue to support children in their anxieties that war produces.

In the newsletter you will find specific guidance, written by our school counsellor, John Collins, about how to talk to children in an appropriate way about conflict and war.

Have a peaceful weekend,

Heben

Important messages:

JustGiving™

Donate to Duncombe Food Bank
<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/duncombeprimaryschool>

REMINDER: Please do not leave children unattended in the playground before 8:30am. For their safety, they will be taken to Breakfast Club and a charge will be applied to their account.

Important dates:

Year 6 SATs & Boosters
Parents meeting
Wednesday 8th November
3:30pm

Parents Evening
Tuesday 12th & 13th December
(details to be given at a later date)

Last day of term
1:45pm finish
Thursday 21st December

**See more important dates
for this term below.**

Message from John Collins, School Therapist:

Talking to children about war and conflict

When war or conflict is in the news, it can cause feelings such as fear, sadness and anxiety for children and adults.

As teachers, parents and carers, it is impossible to protect children from frightening and confusing world events, such as war and conflict. We can, however:

- Create a sense of safety at home and school
- Find ways to cope together with uncertainty
- Be hopeful for peace and safety for all
- Be compassionate
- Look after our own wellbeing and seek support as we support others

When talking to children about war, it is important to take into account their age, stage of development and whether they have special educational needs, additional support needs or other needs that may make them more vulnerable.

Here are some things you may find helpful:

- Try to find out what your children already know about the situation, and how they found out about it. Reinforce the importance of getting their news from a reputable source. You could look at reliable news sources, such as CBBC's Newsround, together.
- Protect children from overexposure to news.
- Children may be exposed to explicit images that can trigger fear responses. Let them know that you are open to talking about what they have seen or heard.
- Be open to talking with children about the war, but say that you may not have all the answers. If you are unsure, say that you don't know. Acknowledge uncertainty and validate the feelings that arise from uncertainty. For example, "It sounds like you are unsure and are worried about what could happen next".
- Young children may not talk directly about war, but their fears might come out in play. You can join their play to help them explore their feelings.
- Ask children about their feelings about the war. For example, they may feel worried, frightened, angry or confused or a whole range of other emotions. Listen to their feelings and acknowledge them as valid, rather than minimising them.
- At the same time, reassure your child that parents and carers at home, and teachers at school, are there to keep them safe and that many people around the world are working hard to try to resolve the conflict.
- Encourage children to think about the things they can be more certain about and influence, and to look after their own wellbeing. For example, they can still play, learn, be with their friends, listen to music, play sport etc.

Children's ability to cope is influenced by their teachers, parents, carers and other important adults in their lives. It is important that these adults look after their own mental health and seek support if they feel overwhelmed. The School website has a list of services offering mental health support in our community, click on **Parents - Family Support - Support Services for Parents/Carers**.

Important Dates

Wednesday 8th November – Year 6 SATs & Boosters parents meeting 3:30pm

Friday 24th November – Year 5 trip to Harry Potter World

Monday 27th November – Friday 1st December –

Year 4 swimming (class TBC)

Monday 4th December – Friday 8th December – Year 4 swimming (class TBC)

Tuesday 5th December – Year 6 trip to the Natural History Museum

Tuesday 12th December – Parents Evening 3:30pm – 7pm

Wednesday 13th December – Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6pm

Tuesday 19th December – Reception class Nativity

Thursday 21st December – Last day of term (1:45pm finish)

Monday 8th January – INSET day (school closed)

Tuesday 9th January – Nursery (EC & JD class) closed

Tuesday 9th January – Reception – Y6 children back to school





School Attendance



Julia Donaldson

83%

Isaac Newton

91%

Eric Carle

85%

Michael Faraday

93%

Tony Ross

96%

Charlotte Bronte

97%

Harriet Tubman

92%

William Shakespeare

94%

Greta Thunberg

89%

Emmeline Pankhurst

92%

Florence Nightingale

89%

Martin Luther King

99%

Marie Curie

98%

Marcus Rashford

94%

Nelson Mandela

94%

The whole school's attendance for this week is **93%**



Celebration Awards



Julia Donaldson 2YO Nursery: Laylah

For being a great member to little nursery. She is independent, helpful, respectful, keen to learn and she loves looking after others including the babies.
Well done Laylah.

Eric Carle 3YO Nursery: Nevaeh

For settling into full time nursery so well. You are so kind and caring Nevaeh!

Tony Ross Reception: Mariam

For your approach to learning and effort with your writing, you are a great role model in our class.

Harriet Tubman Year 1: Carolina

For demonstrating excellent learning behaviour. She follows the school behaviour rules and has started to use her speaking thumb during the lesson. Well done, Carolina!

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Luul

This week Luul has been working hard to use actions to retell our class story. We are so proud of you - Keep it up.

Florence Nightingale Year 2: Kumsal

For being enthusiastic and independent in maths this week. Kumsal is always kind and caring towards the adults and children in the class. Keep up the positive attitude!

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Najma

Najma always comes into school ready to learn. She is focused, engaged and always on task.
Well done Najma!

Martin Luther King Year 5: Abrar

Abrar has had a fantastic start to the half term. She shows ambition with her learning and is always on task, working well independently.

Marcus Rashford Year 6: Mohsin

Mohsin has had an excellent first week back. He has followed all of the Duncombe rules and has put 100% effort into all his work. He has been engaged in our class discussions and listened respectfully to others. Great job Mohsin!

Nelson Mandela Year 6: Zehra

Zehra has had an excellent start to this half term. She has continued to push herself and always focuses in class. Zehra is becoming more confident contributing her ideas in class and always has interesting things to say. Keep it up Zehra!

Marie Curie Year 2: Sami

Sami challenges himself in mathematics lessons. He is hardworking and enthusiastic. Well done Sami - you are a star!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Jacob

For his considerate and kind behaviour towards other pupils. He has shown a positive attitude towards his learning this week and has always been ready!

Michael Faraday Year 3: Rosa-May

Rosa-May is an absolute delight to teach! She listens actively, is always ready and shows enthusiasm for learning new things every single day. Amazing traits Rosa-May!

William Shakespeare Year 4: Mustafa

Mustafa has shown good manners. He has also shown a positive attitude to learning and produced good work in maths. Well done Mustafa!

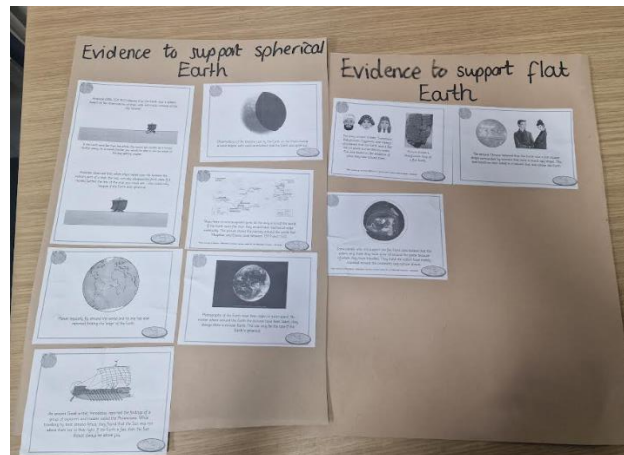
Charlotte Bronte Year 4: Kyra

Kyra has come back from half term with a really positive attitude and a lot of enthusiasm. She is always ready to learn, engaged and tries to do her best in all lessons. Keep it up Kyra!

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe this week:

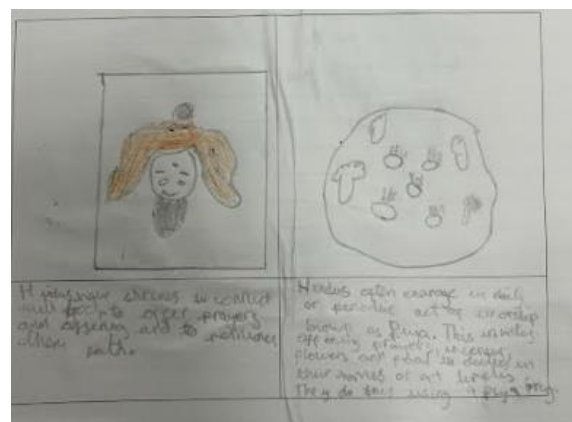
Year 5

Year 5s are learning about Earth and Space in Science. This week, the children were using evidence from the past and present to suggest whether the earth is flat or spherical!



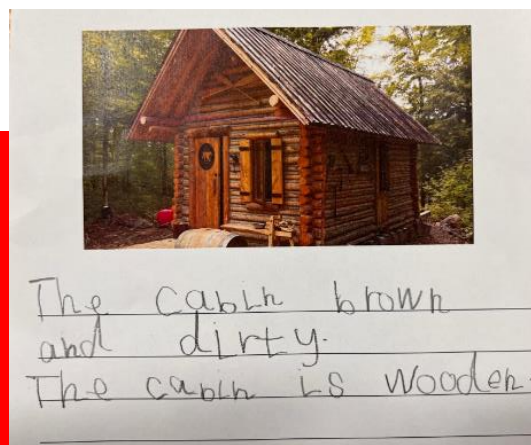
Year 4

Year 4 are learning about Hinduism. We discussed how Hindus show their faith and drew and labelled examples to show our understanding. Diana and Mohamed produced lovely work.



Year 1

This week, Year 1 have been learning about Goldilocks and the three bears. They learnt new describing words and used these words in a sentence to make their story more interesting.



Reception

This week, Reception have learnt about 2D shapes and were able to describe features of circles and triangles. We made a tally of how many of each shape we could find in the room.



Nursery

This week we have enjoyed getting into the Halloween spirit, dressing up in spooky costumes, learning about why people celebrate Halloween. The children enjoyed using their senses when carving pumpkins, talking about the feel and smell as they scooped out the seeds pretending to make pumpkin pie!



2YO

Welcome back and what a busy week.

We have been dressing up, collecting seeds and scooping out pumpkins, we had a Halloween tea party and decorated some biscuits. Please look on your child's Tapestry for more videos and photos.



Enrichment activities this half term

Monday 6th November - Wednesday 20th December 2023

Activity	Spaces	Run By	Day	Time	Price	Please Tick
Football Y5-Y6	14	Stuart	Monday	3.30-4.30	£17.50 for 7 weeks	
Ballet Rec -Y3	14	Dance & Arts	Monday	3.30-4.30	£35 for 7 weeks	
Ball Games Y3 – Y6	14	Roxy	Tuesday	3.30-4.30	£17.50 for 7 weeks	
Art Club Rec – Y2	12	Ana	Tuesday	3.30-4.30	£17.50 for 7 weeks	
Gymnastics Rec – Y3	14	Dance & Arts	Wednesday	3.30-4.30	£21 for 6 weeks (no session 13/12/23)	FULL
Football Y3 – Y4	15	Ellis	Wednesday	3.30-4.30	£17.50 for 7 weeks	
Art Club Y3 – Y6	14	Ana	Thursday	3.30-4.30	£15 for 6 weeks	
Mini Music Rec – Y2	12	Lena	Thursday	3.30-4.30	£15 for 6 weeks	



Monday evenings are just the beginning

Come and find out what we're getting up to at 19th/23rd Islington

Duncombe Primary School, Sussex Way, N19 4JA

Beavers (6 - 8): 18:30 - 19:30

Cubs (8 - 10½): 18:45 - 20:15

Scouts (10½ - 14): 18:45 - 20:15

Term time only

Contact us: 1923islington@gmail.com

