

15.12.2023

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy week at Duncombe draws to a close. It has been fantastic seeing so many of you attending parents' evenings this week. Thank you so much for the positive feedback that the teachers and SLT received about our provision at Duncombe. We really appreciate it!

We want our children to get a wide variety of experiences, and so we try to make sure that every class takes at least one trip per half term, whether local or further afield. Year 3 and 4 had a great time at the Science Museum on Monday, they came back fizzing with information about the solar system, electricity and chemical reactions. Year 2 visited the wonderful Tower of London today and enjoyed the amazing history of this wonderful building. Year 5 and 6 had an informative assembly from the curator of The Courtauld Institute. The Courtauld is home to one of the world's great art collections located in the magnificent historical setting of Somerset House in Central London. Finally, William Shakespeare class won the 'class points' prize this term and enjoyed a bowling session at Rowans.

Next week is the last week before the Christmas break - it will certainly be a fun filled week, so please make a note of what is happening each day and come and join us if you can. We finish at 1.30pm on THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER.

Stay warm this weekend,

Heben

Important dates:



Tuesday 19th December – Christmas Lunch (non-uniform)



Tuesday 19th December – Reception class Nativity 2:30pm

Wednesday 20th December – KS1 Christmas Concert 10am



Thursday 21st December – Christmas parties (non-uniform)



Thursday 21st December – Last day of term (1:30pm 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

92%

Isaac Newton

95%

Eric Carle

71%

Michael Faraday

98%

Tony Ross

84%

Charlotte Bronte

90%

Harriet Tubman

94%

William Shakespeare

96%

Greta Thunberg

85%

Emmeline Pankhurst

96%

Florence Nightingale

93%

Martin Luther King

93%

Marie Curie

88%

Marcus Rashford

95%

Nelson Mandela

90%

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

In keeping with our attendance policy, next week every child with attendance of 96% or more will be entered into a raffle with the chance to win a £20 gift voucher.

There will be one KS1 winner and one KS2 winner and the prizes will be handed out in assembly next week.

Thank you to all parents/carers who have played a vital role in maintaining great attendance so far this year.





Celebration Awards



Julia Donaldson 2YO Nursery: Medina

For showing more independence in nursery and for using his words when talking to you. Well done, Seth.

Eric Carle 3YO Nursery: Chimamanda

For settling in really well. She is growing in confidence in exploring nursery with her new friends. What a star!

Tony Ross Reception: Yasmin

For your wonderful progress in phonics, your independent writing is wonderful.

Harriet Tubman Year 1: Alice

For settling so quickly in her new class and for working so hard during the phonics sessions.
What a star! Keep it up!

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Rayyan

For showing ambition to blend new words. Keep up the excellent work!

Florence Nightingale Year 2: Wassim

For always being so enthusiastic during his learning. Wassim is a great mathematician and is always eager to share his knowledge. Well done Wassim, keep up the great work!

Marie Curie Year 2: Zunairah

For her brilliant writing. Zunairah expresses herself well, and writes extended pieces. Well done Zunairah!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Sophia

Sophia has been challenging herself in English with a range of complex sentence structures and impressive adjectives. She also made an amazing model of the solar system for her Science project!

Michael Faraday Year 3: Abdi

Abdi was an amazing role model on our trip to the Science Museum. He showed respect and listened carefully to instructions. Well done Abdi!

William Shakespeare Year 4: Isa

Isa has shown enthusiasm this week. He has asked and answered questions and put energy into all his work.
Well done Isa!

Charlotte Bronte Year 4: Nicolas

He has been persevering in maths and working so hard to learn his times tables. He has been trying different methods to learn his 9s this week and has found one that helps him a lot!
Keep trying and keep up the good work Nicolas!

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Naeem

Naeem has created a wonderful animation for his Science project linked to our unit on Earth and Space. I was truly blown away by your animation and the huge efforts you have put into this. It really shows your enthusiasm towards the subject and you have captured a lot of the learning we have covered in Science and more! Well done!

Martin Luther King Year 5: Maalik

Maalik has been demonstrating our rules of ready, respectful and safe. He has shown kindness to many members of MLK this half term and we are really proud of him. Keep it up Maalik!

Marcus Rashford Year 6: Rayyan

For showing enthusiasm in all lessons. He has impressed me with his enthusiasm in our reading and writing lessons. He has planned an excellent narrative which we can't wait to read. Keep up the good work.

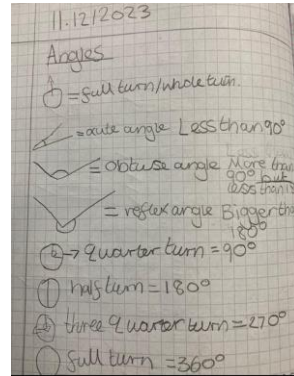
Nelson Mandela Year 6: Mahir

He is making excellent progress in maths and reading and he is trying hard to concentrate in lessons. He has shown perseverance and self-esteem this week.

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe this week:

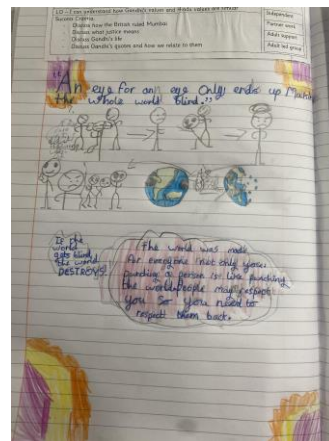
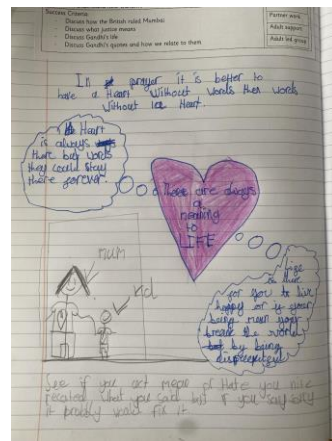
Year 6

Year 6 have been learning how to take notes and then refer to them when they need reminders and to help with their learning. Some excellent strategies to support independence and retrieval.



Year 4

Year 4 have been learning about Gandhi and Hindu values in RE. They chose a quote by Gandhi and drew and wrote about what it meant to them.



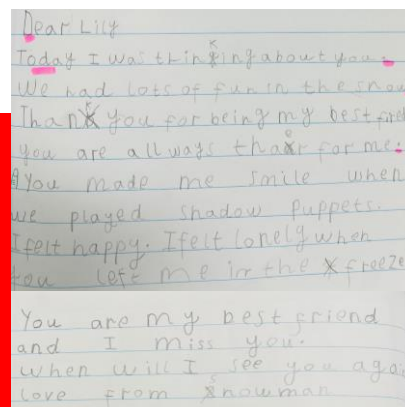
Year 2

This week in year two, we have been making arrays to support our understanding of multiplication.



Year 1

Year 1 have been learning about Lily and the Snowman. This week the children have been writing letters as the snowman. We are so proud of the progress they made this term!



Update from Nazia, LKS2 Phase lead:

Update from Fiona & Nazia, KS2 Phase leads:

This week, Annabel Johnson, an educator from the Courtauld Museum, came to speak to our KS2 children. During the assembly, she spoke about

- Careers in galleries – including curators, visitor experience, conservation, accountants, facilities, educators.
- What students study at The Courtauld Institute – art history and conservation.
- Career options for people who study art – art historians, artists, art teacher, educator, designers, architecture etc.

The children then had the opportunity to ask her questions about her role as an educator and about her work. We hope that this inspired many of the children to hopefully visit the museum or even be interested in studying art one day.



Inclusion update from SENDCo:

Tip of the week: Helping Children Think and Talk

Sometimes, children who need more time to think can feel a bit lost in busy places. As parents, we can support them by giving them time to talk. Just wait patiently for their answers, encourage them to share their thoughts, and let others know we're waiting for our child to speak because they probably have something interesting to say.

For example, if your child is taking a moment to answer a question, you can patiently wait and say, "Let's give them a moment. I'm sure they have something interesting to share." This helps them feel more comfortable expressing their thoughts.

Reception

What amazing patterns you have all been making, whether on your room chain decorations, with blocks or paint.



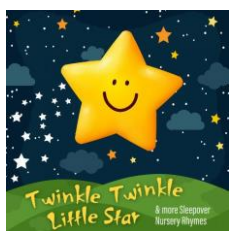
Nursery

We have been busy getting all festive by making our christmas cards and our decorations.



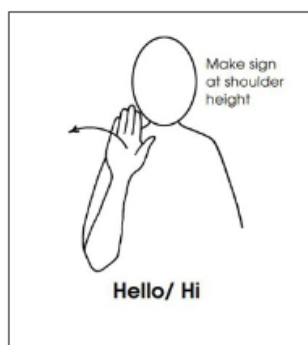
2YO

We have been getting in the festival spirit with lots of singing. Little nursery has been getting ready for our songs to show the parents. Look out for it on Tapestry.



Update from Anca, EYFS Phase lead:

In nursery classes, children learn a Makaton sign weekly. Here is an example:



To say hello, move your hand from one side to the other once at shoulder height.

In reception, the children learnt about some people and countries that celebrate Christmas and wrote some cvc words related to Christmas using their phonics knowledge.