

20.10.2023

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe how quickly the first half-term at Duncombe has gone! We started in September in brilliant sunshine and are now wrapping up in jumpers and coats in typical Autumn weather.

As ever, all of your children continue to inspire the staff at Duncombe to do their very best for them every day. The progress and attainment across the school is really strong and most importantly, the majority of children love to learn.

We had a lovely celebration of Black History Month in assembly today, where the children shared their research and writing on Saluting our Sisters. Well done to Noah, Juwariah, Aakif, Shucayb and Victoria for leading the assembly and to all the children across the school who completed such amazing work.

Duncombe was alive with the sounds of the drumming club on Wednesday! The drumming club, led by Norris, played an amazing array of music from West Africa. Meanwhile, parents in the hall enjoyed sharing a lunch with their children. Elsie, our school chef and her team cooked up a storm to celebrate Afro-Caribbean food culture. A total of 700 children and parents ate together. Thank you to Elsie and Norris for making the event a truly memorable one.

Finally, our Year 3 and 4 girls football team today reached the Islington Finals. As I write this, we do not know the result but huge congratulations to all of the girls for getting this far. We are so proud of you.

Have a lovely week off. Children return to school on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 8.40am.

Best wishes

*Helen*

### Important messages:

Please make non-urgent medical appointments for your child outside of school hours to avoid disruption to your child's learning.

**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:

#### **Half Term**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October

#### **INSET Day (school closed)**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October

#### **Children return to school**

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October

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

## **Important Dates**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October** – Half Term

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October** – INSET day (school closed)

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October** – Children back to school

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November** – Year 6 SATs & Boosters parents meeting 3:30pm

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November** – Year 5 trip to Harry Potter World

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** –

Year 4 swimming (class TBC)

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** – Year 4 swimming (class TBC)

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December** – Year 6 trip to the Natural History Museum

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** – Parents Evening 3:30pm – 7pm

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** – Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6pm

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** – Reception class Nativity

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December** – Last day of term (1:45pm finish)

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January** – INSET day (school closed)

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January** – Nursery (EC & JD class) closed

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January** – Reception – Y6 children back to school



## School Attendance



**Julia Donaldson**

**80%**

**Isaac Newton**

**91%**

**Eric Carle**

**85%**

**Michael Faraday**

**95%**

**Tony Ross**

**97%**

**Charlotte Bronte**

**91%**

**Harriet Tubman**

**93%**

**William Shakespeare**

**96%**

**Greta Thunberg**

**91%**

**Emmeline Pankhurst**

**95%**

**Florence Nightingale**

**97%**

**Martin Luther King**

**93%**

**Marie Curie**

**98%**

**Marcus Rashford**

**95%**

**Nelson Mandela**

**92%**

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



## Celebration Awards



### **Julia Donaldson 2YO Nursery: Alma**

For always doing the right thing. She is growing independent and she is a great member to little nursery. Well done, Alma.

### **Eric Carle 3YO Nursery: Juweriyah**

For always being so kind and caring towards her peers. You are a great example to everyone around you Juweriyah!

### **Tony Ross Reception: Maliyah**

For your amazing blending in phonics, you are making such great progress and being a wonderful role model to your friends.

### **Harriet Tubman Year 1: Eliza**

For her brilliant focus during English this week. Eliza worked very hard to complete her piece of writing and I was very impressed by the quality of her work. Well done Eliza!

### **Greta Thunberg Year 1: Dre**

For showing independence in maths when learning new ideas and showing enthusiasm when faced with a challenge. You make us smile everyday - keep it up Dre!

### **Florence Nightingale Year 2: Lara**

For showing great perseverance when she finds things hard. Lara has started to try her best in all subjects and I am very proud of her. Well done!

### **Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Amanda**

Amanda always comes into school with such a positive attitude. She is ready to learn and demonstrates her resilience when faced with a challenge. During our maths lessons, her confidence has grown and she engages with great enthusiasm. Well done!

### **Martin Luther King Year 5: Marieme**

Marieme consistently shows a brilliant, positive attitude in school. She strives to improve her English every day and confronts challenges with resilience and determination. Well done Mariam.

### **Marcus Rashford Year 6: Rumaysa**

Rumaysa has had a fantastic first term in Year 6. She is kind and supportive to her peers, and is always respectful to the adults she works with. We have been particularly impressed with the way she supports the different children she works with. Great job Rumaysa - we are so proud!

### **Nelson Mandela Year 6: Gaby**

Gaby has a superb attitude to both her learning and relationships in school. She is kind and helpful, always working well with others and supporting her peers. Gaby has been pushing herself to improve in all her learning and has made excellent progress this half term! We are all really proud of you - well done!

### **Marie Curie Year 2: Troy**

Troy is ready, respectful and safe at all times. He is a role model to his peers. Well done Troy - you are a star!

### **Isaac Newton Year 3: Bayyinah**

For her phenomenal presentation in English. She is always ready to learn and is a great example to her peers. Well done Bayyinah!

### **Michael Faraday Year 3: Amaya**

Amaya has worked extra hard to understand column addition with exchange. She persevered through tricky questions and kept smiling through challenges. Super work Amaya!

### **William Shakespeare Year 4: Zeeshan**

Zeeshan has shown independence and developed his own ideas in writing which were so lovely to read. He has shown a positive attitude to learning. Well done Zeeshan!

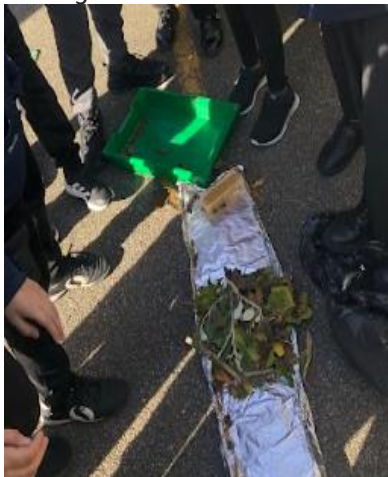
### **Charlotte Bronte Year 4: Aamin**

Aamin has been working really hard and producing great work in her writing and has persevered and improved her handwriting so much this half term. Well done Aamin and keep it up!

## Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe this week:

### Year 6

Year 6 have been learning about rivers in geography. After learning about the purposes of dams, Year 6 were challenged to make their own dams using sticks, leaves and clay.



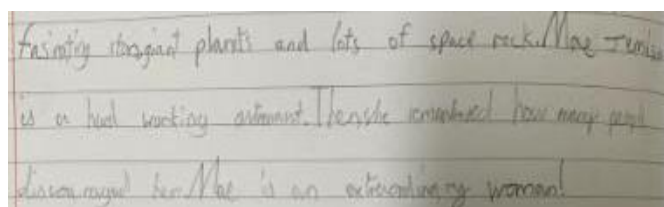
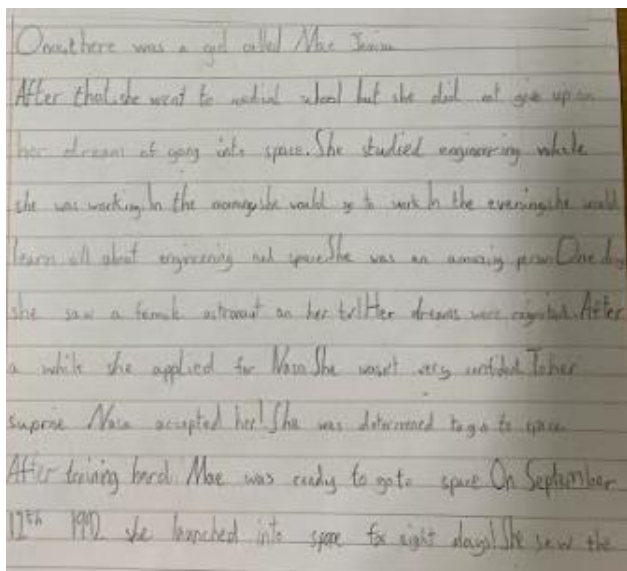
### Year 4

Year 4 showed off their fantastic writing and read their own published books with Year 3. Year 3 gave wonderful feedback and asked questions.



### Reception

Muaz wrote a beautifully written and presented piece about Mae Jemison for Black History Month. Well done Muaz!





## Reception

Reception had a great time this week, writing to an inspirational person, then posting our letters when we went to the Post Office to get our stamps. Lots of us decided to write to Lashana Lynch, actress from Matilda as one of the people we have looked at for Black History Month.



## Nursery

Nursery has enjoyed reading stories this week about what makes us unique! They loved 'Same Difference' and 'My Hair' and enjoyed talking about what they like about themselves. Our full time children also enjoyed our Black History Month lunch with their parents. We watched the drumming club from our classroom and enjoyed dancing to the beat of the drum!

## 2YO

Little Nursery has been exploring lots of new things. We have been dressing up and getting our babies ready. We have been reading new stories with our new friends. We have also been finding out about ourselves and that we are all different.



23 October - 27 October



# OCTOBER HALF TERM SPORTS



**FREE-OF-CHARGE**

The Access to Sports Project are offering a range of summer Sports Activities for young people aged 5 - 19

## Activities include:

- Multi sports camps
- Tennis, basketball & roller skating
- Coaching & leadership courses
- Events & competitions

## Locations Include:

- Finsbury Leisure Centre
- Sue Davis Pitch
- Elthorne Park
- Rosebowl
- Mayville & More!

For more information and Book Online: [www.accesstosports.org.uk/bookings](http://www.accesstosports.org.uk/bookings)



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