

21.12.2023

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic last week of term we have had at Duncombe! The children and staff feasted on a huge Christmas lunch on Tuesday, dressed in our smartest clothes. Reception and nursery wowed the audience with their Winter Show performance. KS1's Nativity Show was one of the best I have ever seen and KS2 children performed a wonderful music assembly. I am so proud of all of the children; the talent and enthusiasm are so inspiring.

At the end of term, we also say goodbye to two members of staff. Ailsa, our attendance and admissions officer is moving back to her home town of Brighton. Thank you, Ailsa, for driving attendance and admissions and for your cheerful, can do attitude. Ben, our Year 3 teacher, has also made the decision to leave and focus on other projects. Ben has been with us for four and a half years and during that time has taught many of the children in the school. Thank you, Ben, for all of your hard work and good luck in the future!

Finally, thanks to all of you. For your support, ideas, challenge and trusting Duncombe with your lovely and amazing children. Have a wonderful holiday and see you in 2024!

Relax and enjoy,

*Helen*

### Important dates:

**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

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February** – Half Term



#### School Attendance



**Julia Donaldson**

**80%**

**Eric Carle**

**81%**

**Tony Ross**

**86%**

**Harriet Tubman**

**77%**

**Greta Thunberg**

**77%**

**Florence Nightingale**

**92%**

**Marie Curie**

**91%**

**Isaac Newton**

**96%**

**Michael Faraday**

**88%**

**Charlotte Bronte**

**86%**

**William Shakespeare**

**96%**

**Emmeline Pankhurst**

**88%**

**Martin Luther King**

**89%**

**Marcus Rashford**

**92%**

**Nelson Mandela**

**86%**

The whole school's attendance for this week is **89%**



## Celebration Awards



### **Julia Donaldson 2YO Nursery: Danni-Rae**

Thank you for making us laugh, you have been working really hard in all areas of development. We wish you well in the big Nursery.

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

For practising and writing her name on her work. So independent Poppy! Keep it up!

### **Tony Ross Reception: Mia**

For your hard work and learning this term. You are now also able to share all this knowledge with us which is amazing - well done!

### **Harriet Tubman Year 1: Kayson**

For working so hard during the phonics sessions and handwriting sessions. Well done, Kayson!

### **Greta Thunberg Year 1: Faizah**

For showing enthusiasm and respect during our winter concert performance. Keep it up Faizah, you are a star.

### **Florence Nightingale Year 2: Elma**

For becoming so independent and trying her best in all lesson. Elma is a great role model, she is always ready, respectful and safe. Keep up the hard work!

### **Marie Curie Year 2: Treiko**

For his brilliant writing. Treiko writes extended pieces with great ideas and description. Well done Treiko!

### **Isaac Newton Year 3: Yasmin**

For being ready at all times. She is positive and shows perseverance when encountering a challenge. She is becoming a very independent learner!

### **Michael Faraday Year 3: Junainah**

Junainah has been focused and motivated this week. She worked hard to edit her English work and published her work in neat joined handwriting. I am very proud of you!

### **William Shakespeare Year 4: Arthur**

This week, Arthur has shown good manners and listening. He has also shown self-esteem by taking pride in his presentation and putting energy into his work.  
Well done Arthur!

### **Charlotte Bronte Year 4: Leo**

He has shown self esteem and independence by volunteering ideas and answers in class. He also adds thoughtful perspectives to class discussions. Keep it up Leo!

### **Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Lisa**

Lisa is hardworking and puts a huge amount of effort into her work as well as her home learning. The work she has produced really demonstrates her enthusiasm and positive attitude towards her learning. Well done and keep up the good work.

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

Talha shows such an enthusiasm for reading which means that he made terrific progress on his Star Reader quiz this week. His reading also impacts the word choices he uses in writing. He wrote a fantastic story independently using his own ideas.

### **Marcus Rashford Year 6: Bemir**

For showing enthusiasm in every lesson and having a positive end to the term. Bemir always wants to share his ideas with the class and I can always rely on him to think carefully about his vocabulary choices and sentence structure. He is always looking for ways to improve his work. Great job Bemir.

### **Nelson Mandela Year 6: Elio**

Elio has really thrown himself into our writing task the last couple of weeks. His ideas and language are ambitious and original and he has produced an excellent story. Elio always has a positive attitude towards all his learning – we are really proud of you!

## Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe this week:

### Year 6

A special celebratory message to Dila in MR (Yr6) who won the poetry competition across the whole of Islington!! This is a huge achievement and you should be extremely proud of yourself! Well done.

#### PERSEVERANCE

In a realm of strength and will,  
There's a person persevering still.  
Through the trials of life, they stride,  
With an unwavering spirit, they won't hide,  
In the face of adversity, they stand tall,  
Their determination never falters, never falls.  
With each setback, they find a way,  
To rise above and seize the day.  
They battle against storms that rage,  
With resilience that knows no age.  
Their heart, a beacon, shining bright,  
Guiding them through the darkest night.  
When obstacles block their path ahead,  
They find the courage to push ahead.  
Through tears and doubts, they press on,  
With faith that their journey is not done.  
They learn to dance amidst life's rain,  
Turning pain into growth, transforming the strain.  
For every stumble, they gain wisdom anew,  
And uncover strengths they never knew.  
With unwavering grit, they forge ahead,  
Fuelled by dreams that fill their head.  
They build bridges where there were none,  
In the pursuit of goals yet to be won.  
And when the world tries to bring them down,  
They rise above, wearing perseverance like a crown.  
For in their spirit, a flame does burn,  
A testament to their will to learn.  
So here's to the person who perseveres,  
Their story inspiring, wiping away our fears.  
May their journey inspire us all,  
To rise above. To stand tall.

by Dila

### Update from Fiona, UKS2 Phase lead:

What a fantastic term it has been! Our Year 5 and 6 children have worked incredibly hard this term and we are all very proud of the progress they have made so far. Well done! We were also very happy to share this with you all at our recent parents meeting so thank you to everyone who attended and for your ongoing support.

Thank you to our lovely Year 6 children who led the last phase assembly of 2023. What fantastic role models you have been this term!

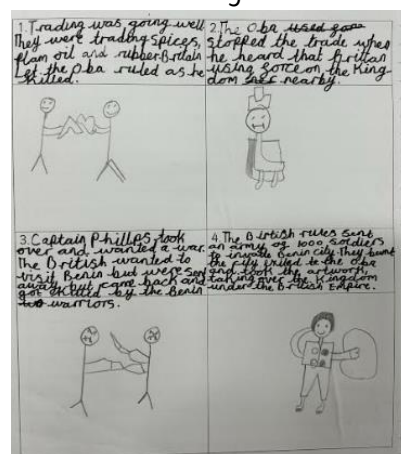
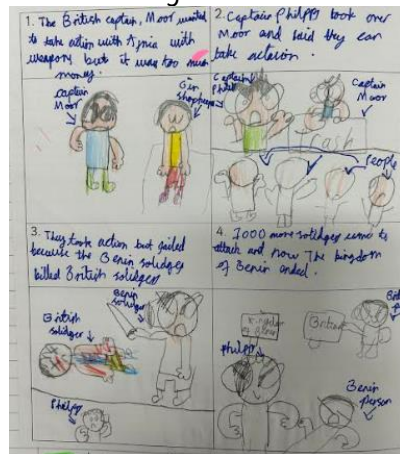
Many of our Yr5 children have taken part in Action Tutoring where they have received extra learning in Maths. Well done for completing your first term of tutoring and for persevering each week.

To all of our Year 5 and 6 fantastic teaching team: Dan, Caroline and Jessie and our wonderful support staff: Liam, Alice, Jerome, Reem and Stuart. I would like to personally thank you for your team spirit, your hard work, your dedication and commitment to our children.

Finally, the team and I would like to wish all the families at Duncombe a great and restful Christmas break. We look forward to seeing you in 2024!

### Year 4

Year 4 concluded their learning about the Kingdom of Benin by using drama to understand the events that led to the end of the Kingdom of Benin. They used their learning to draw storyboards.



### Year 3

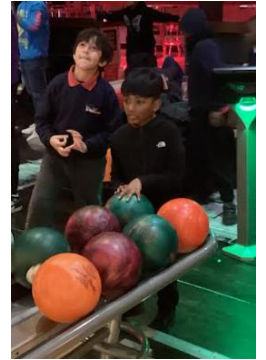
Year 3 had a fantastic presentation by Louise who works in The British Museum. We learned so much about the mummification process, It was amazing hearing about the advancement in technology used in current times to look into the tombs and find out more about the customs, the methods and the people mummified. Thank you Louise for visiting us and sharing your insightful knowledge!



### Update from Nazia, LKS2 Phase lead:

A huge well done to Year 3 for their hard work this term. We have visited stunning museums, had amazing visitors, written detailed letters in character, learned about Benin, China and Ancient Egypt all just in the Autumn term.

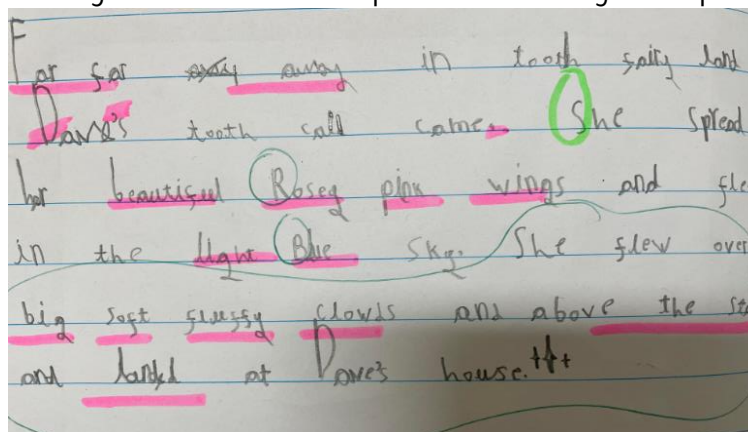
Duncombe Primary School ensures amazing behaviour is celebrated and this term, William Shakespeare won the class points! They were over the moon and chose to go bowling. You can see the focus on their faces as they all were hoping to win! They had an amazing time.



Finally, a huge thank you to all of Middle Phase for their hard work. Also a huge thank you to parents and carers for your support. I hope you all have a restful break and a very happy new year to everyone.

## Year 2

Children in year 2 have completed an extended retelling of *Dave and the Tooth Fairy* by Verna Wilkins. Here is a section from Sophie's retelling. We love her description and the way she expresses herself.



## Year 1

The children in year 1 gave a Winter concert performance to their families and friends on Wednesday morning. They successfully performed a set of modern songs that tell the Christmas story. Great singing year 1!

### Update from Saffa, KS1 Phase lead:

KS1 have had such a great term! They've been busy writing letters, retelling stories and working extra hard in their phonics. We had our winter concert and the children performed the songs they had been learning with Lena over the last half term. We are so incredibly proud of all the children, they sounded like professionals! Their smiles, voices and actions left us all with the Christmas spirit that is always needed.

None of this is possible without the support and dedication from our KS1 team. Thank you to Anca, Ellie, Ruth, Debbie, Dina, Yasemin and Lisa for their hard work over the last half term. It does not go unnoticed!

Finally, thank you to the parents for your continued support in making sure the children are making progress. We hope you all have a restful break and we look forward to seeing you on the New Year!



## Reception

Aside from our amazing show performance, reception have still been busy learning and making super sums with magnetic numbers.



## Nursery



Nursery children have enjoyed celebrating Christmas, making hats, cards and decorations to take home as well as singing Christmas songs (which have been uploaded on Tapestry). The full-time children enjoyed their Christmas lunch on Tuesday and on Wednesday all the children had a fab time at our class Christmas party! Have a lovely holiday everyone, see you all in the new year!

## 2YO

What a busy week we have had. We would like to thank all our parents for your support this term and would like to say goodbye to some of our children going up to nursery in January. Have a lovely break and we will see you in the new year!



### Update from Anca, EYFS Phase lead:

It has been lovely to welcome so many of you to the amazing show performance, I spy Christmas that the reception children delivered for Nativity. The children were so happy to perform in front of you and we were so proud of their performance.

The end of a long term has arrived! It's been a fantastic term in EYFS with so much going on, but I think everyone is now ready for a well-deserved break. Thank you for partnering with us to help your child learn, thrive and succeed. We all hope you have a wonderful, relaxing, enjoyable winter break and a peaceful start to the New Year.

### Inclusion update from SENDCo:

**Tip of the week:** With the holidays, children can find change of routine tricky. Make sure you explain clearly and repeatedly what will happen that day. Use a calendar to show when they will come back to school, crossing off the days perhaps at night.