

13.03.2026

Dear Parents and Families,

After the excitement of last week's fantastic World Book Day celebrations, it has been a return to normal routines across the school. Our Eco Warriors have already met and begun planning their next mission to help make our school even greener.

Year 5 have been working with Arsenal this week—let's hope our end-of-year results are just as strong as theirs! We also marked International Women's Day with a special assembly, where children shared the names of many inspirational women, including some of my own "sheroes."

The term is certainly flying by. With just two weeks left, there is still plenty to look forward to, including parents' evening and our very exciting Eid celebration.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Warm regards,

Ms Braithwaite

[Spring Lunch Menu](#)

Click on the link to view our lunch menu for the Spring term.
Next week is Week 2.



[Accent Catering Newsletter](#)

Coffee Morning



Tuesday 17th March -
PSHE Coffee Morning

Important Dates

**Tuesday 24th & Wednesday
25th March**
Parents' Evening

Thursday 26th March
Eid Celebration - 3:30pm

Friday 27th March
Last day of term
1:30pm finish

Friday 27th March
3YO nursery closed

**Monday 30th March –
Friday 10th April**
Spring Holiday

Monday 13th April
INSET day
School Closed

Tuesday 14th April
Children return to school
2YO Nursery closed



School Attendance



Julia Donaldson 72%	Isaac Newton 96%
Eric Carle 89%	Michael Faraday 88%
Judith Kerr 95%	Maya Angelou 93%
Tony Ross 89%	William Shakespeare 96%
Greta Thunberg 93%	Benjamin Zephaniah 96%
Harriet Tubman 92%	Emmeline Pankhurst 95%
Florence Nightingale 94%	Martin Luther King 97%
Marie Curie 98%	Marcus Rashford 96%
	Nelson Mandela 98%
The whole school's attendance for this week is 93.4%	

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 have settled really well into little Nursery. You have started exploring the environment on your own and is loving the outdoors. Keep it up.

Michael Faraday Year 3: Hediye

For fantastic effort in her writing. She has used conjunctions, adjectives, and similes beautifully. She always tries her best and works hard, even when she finds the work challenging. Her dedication is wonderful to see. Well done—keep it up!

Eric Carle 3YO: Penny

Penny has settled in so well in Nursery! She has made lots of new friends and has started to express her love for outside play and the art table which we are very happy to see!

William Shakespeare Year 4: Zunairah

For her independence and great participation in her English lesson.

Tony Ross Reception: Tuba

For being a great role model, so kind and hardworking, always showing the Duncombe Values.

Maya Angelou Year 4: Trey

He has shown a lot of progress this year and become a lot more independent in maths. He has a lot of enthusiasm in maths, participates in class discussion and helps others with formal methods. Keep it up Trey!

Judith Kerr Reception: Ava

For your excellent work in our maths measure topic. Your positive attitude when trying activities in choosing time and your enthusiasm during lessons has been infectious!

Benjamin Zephaniah Year 5: Yusra

For your impressive focus and dedication to improving your writing. You have created an engaging story and worked really hard to include the features we have been learning. I have also been so impressed with how supportive you have been to your partner. Well done!

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Sajida

For showing great independence and focus all week! I have been so impressed to see you trying so hard in writing this week! Keep shining!

Martin Luther King Year 5: Mukhtar

For working incredibly hard on his writing this week and it has been wonderful to see. I have been impressed with both the effort he has shown and the creative ideas he has brought to his work. Well done!

Harriet Tubman Year 1: Ismaeel

For showing a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and respect in every lesson. You have been so motivated to learn and challenge yourself. Keep it up!

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Flick

Well done, Flick! She has made amazing progress in reading and shows great enthusiasm in every lesson. Keep up the fantastic work!

Florence Nightingale Year 2: Najwa

For always persevering in her learning. Najwa is a great role model to the class, she demonstrates the ASPIRE values at all times. We are always so proud of her, well done!

Nelson Mandela Year 6: Harmony

For working incredibly hard on her writing this week. Harmony has used ambitious vocabulary and varied sentence structures. Her work was a pleasure to read. Well done Harmony!

Marie Curie Year 2: Rachell

For your perseverance throughout assessment week. You have worked incredibly hard especially on your writing piece. Well done!

Marcus Rashford Year 6: Cairo

Well done this week, Cairo! After lots of hard work and practice you have earned your pen license. Likewise, your hard work in maths is starting to pay off. Keep it up, Cairo. We are all really proud of you.

Isaac Newton Year 3: Nafi

For trying so hard during assessment week, especially during the writing assessment. You showed great focus, determination and a positive attitude towards your learning. Well done and keep up the fantastic effort!



Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe



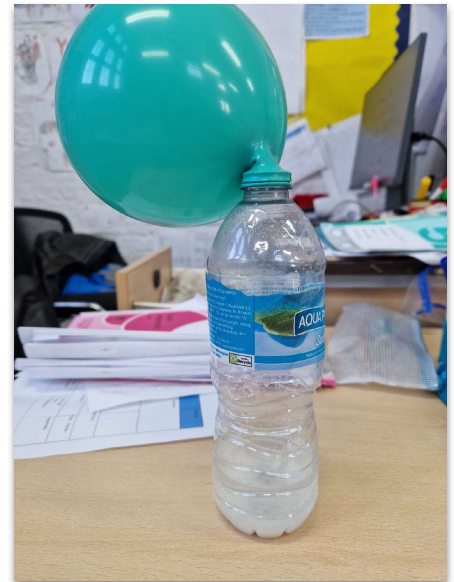
Year 6: In History, Year 6 used a Victorian lens to investigate, discuss and debate the advantages and disadvantages of 'railways'. By collecting arguments from both sides (and noticing that similar debates are still happening today!), pupils assumed the personas of famous Victorians like William Wordsworth and John J. Sainsbury to engage in a class debate.

advantages of the railway	disadvantages of the railway
- Railways provided jobs for men.	- Railways cut through beautiful countryside.
- People could travel to football matches.	- Coaching inns were put out of business.
- People could now eat fresh food.	- Canals were put out of business.
- Seaside resorts became very popular.	- Railways brought noise and pollution to the countryside.
- Iron and steel industries did very well.	
- People could travel by train so they didn't need to live in the middle of cities.	
- Farmers could make money by selling fresh food.	

Advantages for railways	disadvantages for railways
- People can receive fresh good faster.	- It will spoil the country side.
- Farmers could make more money.	- It will bring noise and pollution.
- People could travel to watch matches.	- Coaching inns were put out of business.
- Railways provide jobs for thousands of men.	- Canals were no longer used.
- You can be able to travel to the seaside.	- It will destroy the wild life.
- People can travel faster for work.	- They cut through countryside.
- You can make more profit.	- People won't use horse drawn coaches.
	- The trains are dangerous.

Year 5:

Year 5 concluded their topic on the properties and changing of materials with an excellent experiment using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar to create a gas which blew up a balloon! This was an excellent demonstration to help us understand irreversible changes.



Year 4: Year 4 have been looking at environmental issues our planet is facing and how we can help the planet in our Geography topic "Love Our Earth". In our next writing unit, we will be writing a letter to the Earth to show our curiosity and gratitude. This week, we spent some time outside, thinking about questions we have for the Earth.



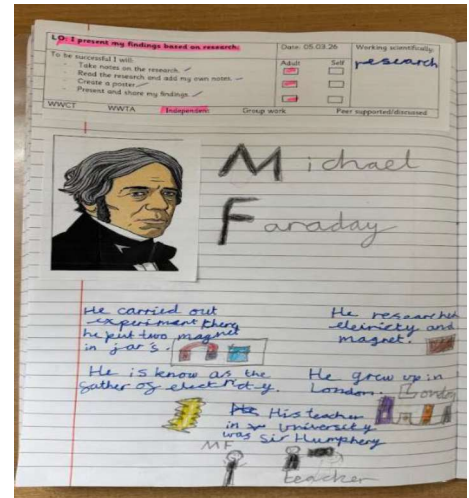
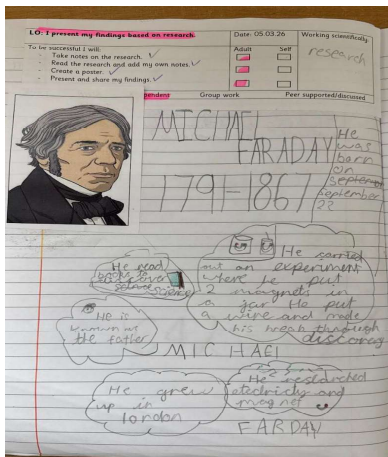
How long have you been alive?
 Do you like being the Earth?
 Do you have a heart like me?
 When did you become the Earth?
 Do you hate when people put rubbish in you?
 How did you become Earth?
 Did you ever run before?
 Can you see us and do you watch us?
 Do you want to be the Earth?
 How is it like having water on you?
 How did you get here?
 How long did you have been Earth?
 Do you ever get tired of spinning?
 Will you always be here for us?



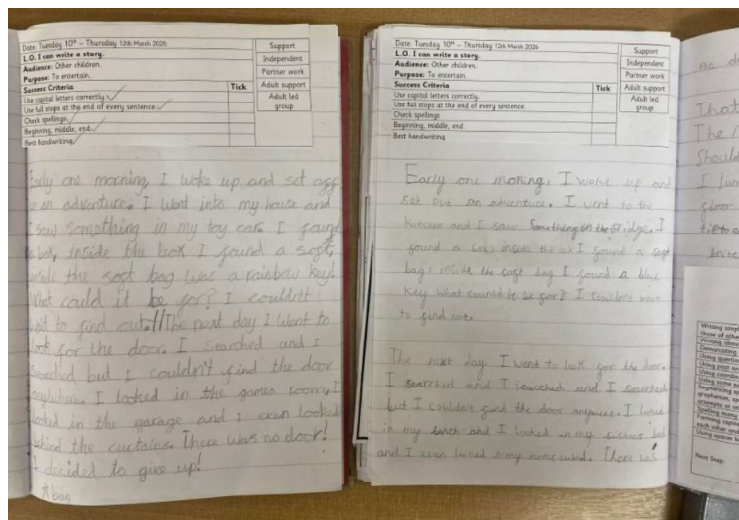
Do you think there are enough trees?
 Are you grateful for Earth?
 Are you aware of climate and pollution?
 How do you feel about people cutting down trees?
 Have you seen the wildfires?
 Do you think Earth will ever change?
 Do you want Earth to change?

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

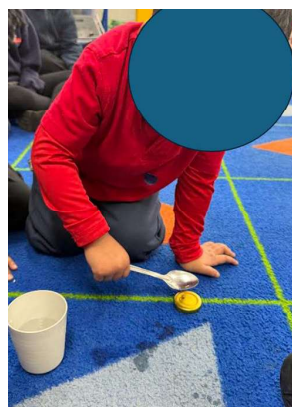
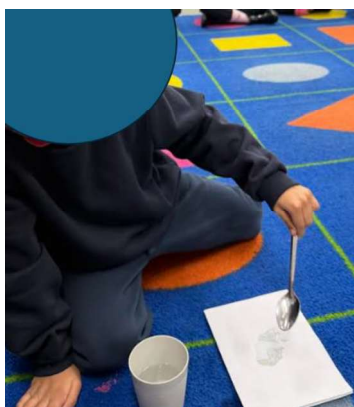
Year 3: In Year 3, in Science this week, we learned about Michael Faraday. We made posters with facts about his life and his discoveries. Our question for you is: Why was Michael Faraday important to science?



Year 2: In Year 2 we have been writing innovated narratives of *The Key*.



Year 1: Year 1 have been investigating about absorbent materials. We tested metal, cotton, paper, plastic and fabric to see which is absorbent. We know if something is absorbent if it soaks up the water poured onto it.



Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe

Reception:

Reception have had a fantastic week of learning - they are so confident with numbers 1-9 now.

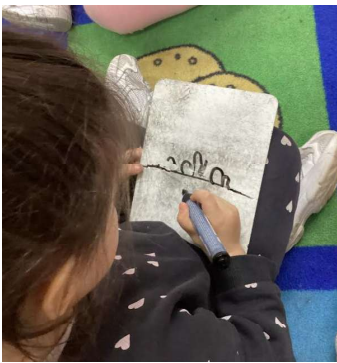
This week's focus number 9 as showcased lots of great sentences of "___ and ___ make 9".

See how many your child can show or tell you!



3YO Nursery:

We have been really practicing our writing this week in Nursery! Our focus sound for this week was the letter 'm' for mummy! Nursery have been great at having a go at writing, they have been showing us their fabulous pencil grip. Well done Nursery, I am so impressed :)



2YO Nursery:

We have been making some special gifts for our mummy's and other special women in our lives.

Thank you for all you do for us!
We love you loads.

