

12/02/2021

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

We reach the end of another half-term in lockdown. It is hard to believe that it is nearly a year since we went through the first lockdown, this time feels tougher and colder. However, a number of staff have already been vaccinated and we are looking forward to the day when all of our staff and Duncombe parents have received the vaccination.

On February 22nd, the Prime Minister will let us know the plan for re-opening schools. I am very hopeful that we will see all of your children again in March but as ever, we will have to wait and see. As soon as any announcement is made, I will write to all of you confirming the plan. Watch this space!

All the staff at Duncombe have worked incredibly hard in very challenging circumstances this half term. I know that you will all join me (virtually) in thanking them for their commitment to online learning and Lockdown School. They have, in effect, been working in two schools all term, a virtual school and in school and this does add to the overall stress of the job. So, I hope the staff all have a well-deserved break too. Next term is going to be very busy...

Have a lovely half-term and stay safe.

Best wishes,

Helen



Celebration Awards



Julia Donaldson 2 year olds: Sonaii

For settling into nursery really well. For having an amazing, funny character and for being a great hide and seeker. (It took me 5 minutes to find him.) You are amazing and I can't wait to get to know you even better. Well done.

Eric Carle Nursery: Ivy-Rose

For a positive and hardworking attitude to her home learning. Ivy-Rose always uploads maths work. Well done, my little star!

Tony Ross: Anas

For his dedication to online learning every day this half term. He has made fantastic progress and we are so proud of him!

Judith Kerr Reception: Ayub

For working hard every day to produce brilliant work. We can't wait to see his progress when he comes back to school!

Ernest Shackleton Year 1: Atnatwos

For settling well into Duncombe and making new friends. He has been working very hard in his writing and has creative ideas that he shares very enthusiastically. Well done, you are a star!

Francis Drake Year 1: Micah

For producing beautiful writing in his English this week. He has been trying so hard and this has shown in his work. He has even been helping other children in class. Well done Micah, keep up the amazing work!

Martin Luther King Year 5: Khadijah

She has been completing all her tasks at home. Even when she finds her work tricky, she asks for help and keeps trying. We are very proud of her.

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Mahamed

For his dedication to his home learning and for the impressive effort he has put into this week's writing task. We're very impressed with the progress he is making.

Nelson Mandela Year 6: Ifrah

She works diligently from home, completing all her work to a high standard. She signs in punctually every day, taking responsibility for her learning. At this rate she will be well-prepared to pick up lessons quickly when classes resume.

Winston Churchill Year 6: Sami

Sami has been working so hard on his home learning. He shows resilience and a 'can do' attitude and will work through his home learning tasks to the best of his ability. Keep up the hard work Sami. We are all very proud!

Florence Nightingale Year 2: Muna

For working excellently in Maths and focusing on her handwriting and pace in English lessons. Muna's knowledge in RE lessons when discussing Islam was amazing to hear!

Marie Curie Year 2: Abrar

Well done Abrar for putting in lots of effort in every lesson. Abrar's work in both maths and English has been fantastic and her knowledge of Islam in RE was also brilliant! Well done.

Isaac Newton Year 3: Murat

Murat has worked incredibly hard from home this half term and Year 3 are very proud of him. He works hard every day in every subject and is a very dedicated young man with a great attitude!

Michael Faraday Year 3: Benjamin

Benjamin has been a star all term, always trying his hardest on Google Classroom and producing wonderful work. Emily, Tarcan, Roxy, Alex and Jamie really look forward to seeing his work every day. Well done Benjamin.

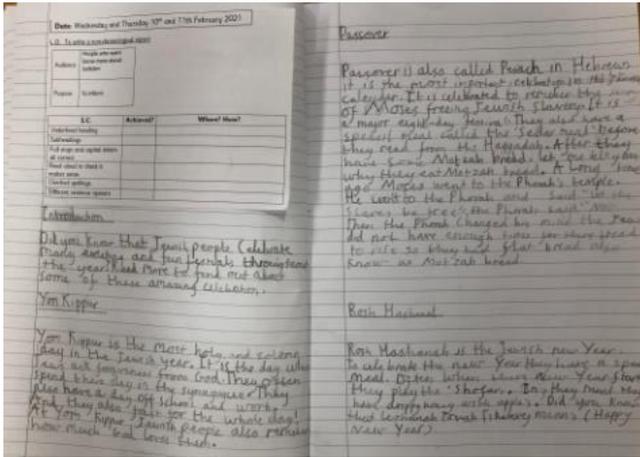
Charlotte Bronte Year 4: Eren

He consistently uploads thoughtful and detailed pieces, in all subjects. Well done Eren.

William Shakespeare Year 4: Aaron

Aaron consistently tries his best and gets back up when he is knocked down. He takes interests in lots of different topics at home and brings it to the classroom through writing stories and informing us with special facts! What a great learner!

Year 3



Mahdi has written a fantastic non chronological report on Jewish festivals.

Year 2



The children in Y2 have been learning to tell the time in different ways.

Year 1



Y1 have created some wonderful story plans at home. Look at these ones from Amirah, Natalia and Kyra!



Reception



Sophia has been drawing pictures of the snow.

Nursery



He went on a scavenger hunt around his house. He found a given number of objects. A great example of how maths is useful in everyday life!

2 YO



Ayaz has been having fun in the snow.

Well-being tip of the week:

Sometimes the most productive thing you can do is rest.

Taking a break is often easier said than done but can do wonders to clear your head and rebuild your resilience and energy. Have a bath or shower, read a book or magazine, sit and listen to the radio, a playlist or a podcast. It is important to resist feelings of guilt that you should be busy – this does not help the rest!

Watch this video for some relaxation tips: <https://youtu.be/cyEdZ23Cp1E>

Important Messages

Paper Dolls last call!

Thank you to those who have been posting their dolls into the post box by the office. Remember that a **template** of the Dolls has been printed and is available for families to collect from the school office. After half term the dolls will start their journey in Duncombe.



Half Term Ideas

- Days are getting Longer, snowdrops spotted in Finsbury Park, Nature Ideas for February Half Term <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/february-half-term-for-all-the-family>
- 10 fun ways to entertain kids over [half-term](#)
- And Big Birdwatch, record results any time until 22 February <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch>
- Plus [BBC Lockdown Learning Summary](#) and BBC Radio [Home Learning History](#) – all brilliantly produced, fun content
- A virtual visit to Chester Zoo maybe? <https://www.chesterzoo.org/virtual-zoo-2>

Parent Workshops

Thank you to all the parents that attended the two recent workshops about understanding and managing your child's anxieties. If you missed them, you can watch a pre-record of both sessions. Part 1:

<https://youtu.be/gbMCKwC9igc>

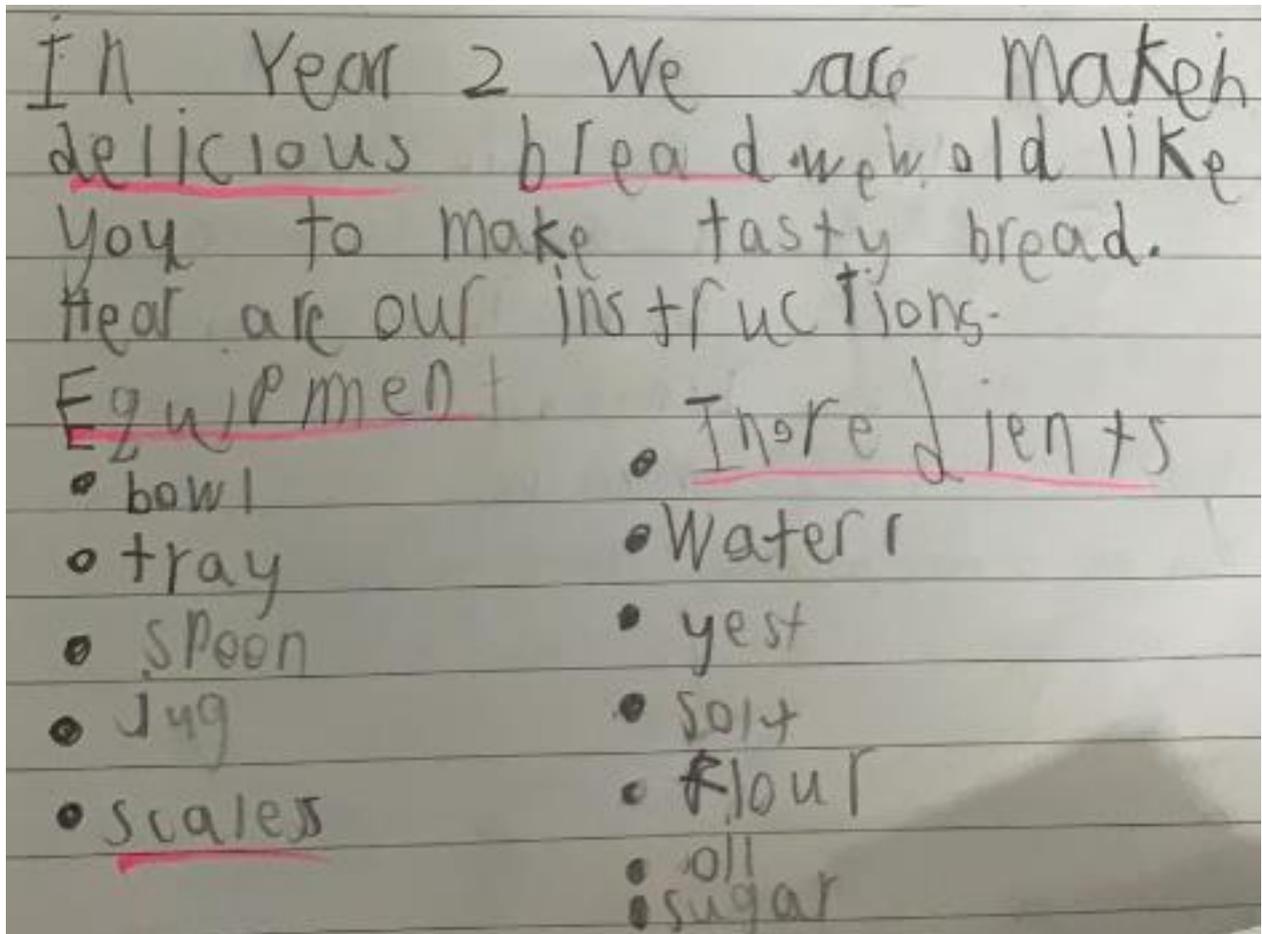
Part 2: <https://youtu.be/wSjXt73LvpE>

We are holding another virtual workshop for parents after half term. This will be about home learning, with practical tips for managing the demands it can bring, especially after doing it for so long. A flyer has been emailed to parents and is on the school website (see Letters to Parents and Carers page). For more information and to sign up, please email islccg.sws@nhs.net. The workshop is on Tuesday 23rd February 3:30pm-4:30pm.

Activity at Home

This week, we have another recipe to share which you can try at home as a family. This time it has been written by a Year 2 child! Don't forget to send us a photo of your finished dish!

If you have a recipe you would like to share here another week, please email success@duncombeprimary.co.uk Help Duncombe stay connected in lockdown!



1. First Wash your hands thoroughly.

2. Grab all your ingredients..

3. Put all your ingredients in the bowl and stir the ingredients.

Carefully.

4. First stir the mix.

5. Make a well in the middle then pour warm water and pour oil.

6. Take the dough out of the bowl then knead the dough for 5-10 minutes.

7. Gently shape the dough Put it in a warm place to rise.

8. Put it in the hot oven.

9. Now you have some delicious bread.