

Duncombe Newsletter 1

19th January 2020

Dear Parents, Grandparents and Carers

Happy New Year! I hope you had a lovely holiday and are glad to be back in the routine of school. It is wonderful to see all of the children back and we have had a very positive start to the term.

New Staff:

I was delighted to be able to appoint Jane Carrington as an Associate Strategic Lead for two terms. Jane has a wealth of experience as deputy in another Islington School and Head of School in an academy chain. Jane is leading on SEN children's progress in class, EYFS and on behaviour across the school. Kerry Baines is our new reception teacher and Tarjan is a specialist SEN TA, working in year 2. We also welcome Rianne who has joined our admin team in the office.

This term the staff are going to focus on the *school development plan* in more detail:

To improve the outcomes for all pupils at the end of each key stage

To implement a knowledge and skills based curriculum

To develop Duncombe ethos and values

To improve attendance to at least 96.5%

To develop the playgrounds

Please do come and discuss any improvements or changes that you think the school should be implementing in at my 'drop in surgery', *every Monday morning between 9-10am*. Working parents should email me directly.

Finally, thank you to the many who sent personal messages and spoke to me before the end of term. Your support means a lot.

Best wishes

Helen

Parent Coffee Morning Friday

This week Caroline will be leading a session on 'How We Teach Phonics' at Duncombe. We have recently started a new phonics programme called 'Read, Write, Inc'. The coffee morning is open to reception, year 1 and year 2 parents - bottom hall at 9am on 24th January.

Social Media warning

Unfortunately, a significant number of children in KS2, have been found to have opened social media accounts on platforms such as Instagram and Tik Tok. Last week all of KS2 participated in on-line training workshops from Islington LEA Computing specialists to explain the danger of on-line sites. Please discuss with your child how to

use the internet safely and check that they have not registered on to social media. Quite simply, primary age children are too young to navigate the complex world of social media. See your class teacher if you have any concerns.

Sports Clubs

A new girls netball club started last Friday, open to girls in year 5 and 6.

Active Sport at 8.30 am on Monday morning

Running club starts Friday 24th at 12.45- letters will be issued to years 3-6.

Football training Thursday after school 3.30-4.30pm

We will be releasing a timetable of new after school clubs in the next couple of weeks. Watch this space!

Holiday Dates

Monday 6 January 2020 - Friday 3 April 2020

- **Half term: Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February 2020**
- **Good Friday: Friday 10 April 2020**
- **Easter Monday: Monday 13 April 2020**

Summer Term :**Monday 20 April 2020 - Friday 17th July**

- **Half term: Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May 2020**
- **May Bank holiday: Friday 8 May 2020**
- **Spring Bank holiday: Monday 25 May 2020**

Autumn Term 2020

Monday 8th September - Friday 18th December (teachers return Wednesday 3rd Sept for 3 days INSET)

- **Half term: Monday 26 October - Friday 30 October**
- **Tuesday 5th January 2021 – Wednesday, 31 March 2021 (teachers return Monday 4th Jan for 1 day of INSET)**