



Newsletter

11/09/2020

Message from the headteacher:

Dear parents and carers,

It has been so fantastic to welcome all of the children back to Duncombe this week. The children have been brilliant at meeting their new teachers, getting used to the new routines and washing their hands regularly. Understandably, many of you felt nervous at the thought of sending your children back to school but I hope you are all feeling more confident now. You may have noticed that the SLT are wearing masks in the playground, that is because we are aware that we are talking to lots of adults and we want to keep you all safe.

As you will know, we were lucky to appoint some fantastic new teachers and TA's this year. We are planning to let parents come into school in small groups of no more than six, to visit the classroom and watch your children learning. We will be sending out more information about this next week. On this page is some information about our new Assistant Head, Caroline Haydon. Caroline was the senior maths consultant for the whole of Islington primary schools so we feel very lucky to have appointed her.

Next week is forecast to be very hot so please send your child in with sunscreen on and a hat. Every child should also be bringing in a water bottle to fill in the classrooms as our water fountains are shut for hygiene reasons at the moment.

Finally, I am delighted that we have a new website that launched yesterday. Please click on the link below to see all the exciting news and useful information that the new Duncombe website contains. <https://www.duncombepimary.co.uk/>

Wishing you a happy Friday and lovely weekend,

Helen



Happy children lining up in the morning.

New routines:

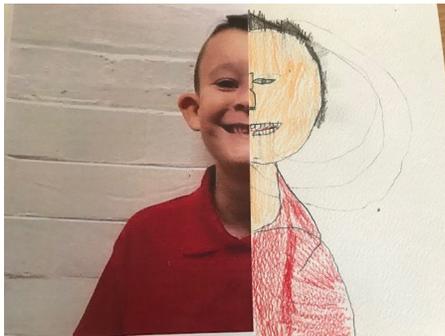
The children have quickly adapted to the new school routines. Children are washing their hands at regular intervals which is allowing the children to stay in school and get back to their learning. We are grateful to parents for dropping children off at the right time and for standing back to allow us to dismiss the children safely.

Portrait Project and Identity Boxes:

This week, we have welcomed the children back by running two projects to celebrate the identities of our children and their families. Children shared precious items with us and it has been lovely to hear the stories behind them. The children also worked incredibly hard on our school-wide Portrait Project. They studied the work of Frida Kahlo and planned self-portraits in their sketchbooks. They used objects from their identity boxes as inspiration for the background of their artwork. The children learnt many new skills from how to draw a face to mixing skin tone from paint.

We are so proud of the results. Look out for your picture soon in our online gallery:

<https://artatduncombe.wordpress.com/our-portrait-project-september-2020/>



New staff member of the week:



Hello, my name is Caroline Haydon. I am very excited to be the new assistant headteacher at Duncombe and I have already been made to feel so welcome by all the staff, parents and pupils. It really is a fantastic school to be a part of.

I've been teaching for over ten years in Islington, Haringey and Dorset! For the past year I was working as part of the school improvement team for Islington Council. I still do this job one day a week. This means I get to visit other schools and take all the great practice I see from across Islington and help to make Duncombe even more successful than it is already. My big focus area is maths! I love it now, but this wasn't always the case and it often made me feel quite anxious. My mission is to make every child at Duncombe love maths as much as I do now, and make sure they make the best progress they possibly can. If I haven't met you already, I look forward to seeing you on the gate in the mornings and afternoons, albeit through a mask for now!

Important Messages:

Lost Property- Please ensure children's coats and jumpers are labeled with their names to ensure we can return them to them or they can be found in lost property.

Medication -If you still need to bring in any medication for your child it is vital that you do this as soon as possible. Take it to the office so you can sign the relevant forms

New playground equipment - It has been wonderful to see the children playing on our new playground equipment. They're really enjoying it. Please encourage your child not to play on it at the end of the day as if there is an accident there may not be a qualified first aider around to help.