

05.12.2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well. This week was assessment week, and the children worked incredibly hard. We are very proud of their efforts. They demonstrated our Duncombe values throughout the week by showing ambition in their learning, persevering when tasks were challenging, and working with growing independence. Their mature attitude made this a very successful and positive week.

A group of children who attend the Music Hub at AMSI on Monday afternoons also took part in a concert at St Mark's Church. They performed alongside other primary schools and represented Duncombe with confidence and enthusiasm. It was wonderful to see their musical progress.

As the weather is becoming colder, please ensure your child comes to school with a warm coat, and remember to label all belongings.

A reminder that our Winter Fair is next Thursday. Raffle tickets and tokens are available to buy on School Money and in the Family Room from 8:30am every morning and from 3pm every afternoon.

Thank you for your continued support.

Katija Ali

Head of School

Meet Lee...

Hi everyone! I'm Lee, your new Premises Manager here at Duncombe Primary School. I'm really excited to be part of the team and help keep everything running smoothly and safely. If you see me around, feel free to say hello. Looking forward to meeting you all!



Important Dates

Monday 8th December
Flu vaccination catch-up

Tuesday 9th December
Year 1 Local Church Visit

Thursday 11th December
Year 5 Science Museum Space Trip

Thursday 11th December
Winter Fair - 3:45pm
See poster below

Friday 12th December
Year 5 Poetry Assembly

Monday 15th December
EYFS Winter Show

**Tuesday 16th &
Wednesday 17th December**
Parents Evening

Wednesday 17th December
Early Reading and Writing Coffee
Morning - 9am
(please note this date has been changed)

Thursday 18th December
KS1 Winter Show

Friday 19th December
Last day of term - 1:30pm finish

Tuesday 6th January 2026
Children return to school
(Nursery Classes closed)

Wednesday 7th January 2026
Nursery children return to school

YOU ARE INVITED TO DUNCOMBE'S WINTER FAIR!

DATE; THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2025

TIME; 3.45PM - 5.00PM

TO ENJOY THE GAMES AND ACTIVITIES ON THE DAY, CHILDREN WILL NEED TOKENS, WHICH CAN BE PURCHASED IN BUNDLES OF 10 TOKENS FOR £5.25.

THIS EVENT IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR DUNCOMBE CHILDREN TO HAVE FUN WHILE HELPING TO FUNDRAISE FOR OUR SCHOOL.

Activity / Event	Cost / Tokens	Activity / Event	Cost / Tokens
Guess the weight of the cake	2 Token	Penalty shoot out	1 Token
Face Painting	3 Tokens	Pin the Nose on the Reindeer	1 Token
1 Plate of Food 1 Dilute Juice *Water available throughout	5 Tokens	Christmas Photo booth	1 Tokens
Nail Painting	1 Token	Guess the sweets in the jar	2 Token
Cake Sale	2 Token	Chocolate Tombola	1 Token
Craft Room 1	1 Token	Toys, Books and More Stall	Depends on Toy 1 - 3 Tokens
Craft Room 2	1 Token	Raffle - Called at 4.40pm	£5.25 a strip *£10.25 - Worn Saka Training kit per entry
Santa's Grotto - 2min with Santa Photo on parents phone	4 Tokens 10 Tokens for 3+ siblings		

We kindly ask parents for donations of new toys, cakes, and chocolates for the event.

If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Sabrina, our Child and Family Support Worker.

Tokens and raffle tickets can be bought on School Money or from the family room at 8:30am and 3pm every day.



School Attendance



Julia Donaldson

70%

Eric Carle

82%

Judith Kerr

95%

Tony Ross

78%

Greta Thunberg

90%

Harriet Tubman

96%

Florence Nightingale

92%

Marie Curie

92%

Isaac Newton

94%

Michael Faraday

96%

Maya Angelou

85%

William Shakespeare

97%

Benjamin Zephaniah

86%

Emmeline Pankhurst

94%

Martin Luther King

85%

Marcus Rashford

93%

Nelson Mandela

96%

The whole school's attendance for this week is **93.9%**

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.



Attendance Matters





Celebration Awards



Julia Donaldson 2YO: Idris

For settling in well. His starting to be more independent which has helped his confidence in exploring nursery and interacting with his peers and staff.

Eric Carle 3YO: Lily

Lily has started to show so much confidence in Nursery. She has started to make more friends and overcome some struggles she had at the beginning. Well done!

Tony Ross Reception: Muaaz

For your increased English speaking this term, you are making really good progress, well done!

Judith Kerr Reception: Salma

For your enthusiasm for our maths repeating pattern topic. We've been proud of how you've explored this in choosing time as well as in the lessons.

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Zeliha

For always listening attentively, following instructions carefully, and treating everyone with genuine politeness. We are so proud of your positive attitude and thoughtful behaviour — keep up the amazing work!

Harriet Tubman Year 1: Bushra

For always being ready, respectful and safe. You have shown enthusiasm in your work and are always approaching learning with a positive attitude. Keep it up!

Florence Nightingale Year 2: Henry

For showing enthusiasm in Maths. Henry has worked extremely hard in learning the properties of 3D shapes. Keep up the excellent work Henry!

Marie Curie Year 2: Sophia

For always being ready, respectful and safe. You are an excellent role model to your peers and your enthusiasm for learning is infectious. Keep up the brilliant work!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Mohammed

Mohammed worked incredibly hard during assessment week. During the test, he put in his full effort and showed great resilience. We are really proud of the progress he has made. Well done, Mohammed — a fantastic achievement!

Michael Faraday Year 3: Ibrahim

For his excellent progress in maths, writing and reading. He has persevered and tried his best in all areas of all his learning and has worked extremely hard. His effort is evident and we are very proud. Well done!

William Shakespeare Year 4: Triko

For an improvement in his reading. Triko has persevered this week and shown courage. I am really proud that he listened to feedback and made the effort in his reading. Well done!

Maya Angelou Year 4: Ibraaheem

He is someone that really impressed me with their progress in writing. He has been thinking hard about high level vocabulary and using great description techniques in his writing assessment and it has been great to see his enthusiasm in writing lessons. Keep up this great attitude Ibraaheem!

Benjamin Zephaniah Year 5: Ludovica

We have been so impressed with your positive attitude towards your learning. Your determination and ambition has really paid off and you have taken huge strides with your confidence and achievements! Keep up the excellent work!

Martin Luther King Year 5: Sophia

Well done, Sophia! You have worked really hard this week and it has been wonderful to see the effort you have put into your learning, especially your writing. Your determination is really shining through and you should feel proud of yourself. Keep going because you are making fantastic progress!

Marcus Rashford Year 6: Uliana

Uliana, you have been brilliant all week. You were ambitious in the choices you made during our independent write based on Charles Darwin. You also showed care in helping a fellow classmate to catch up on missed learning when they were planning their own write. These are great values to have. Well done, Uliana!

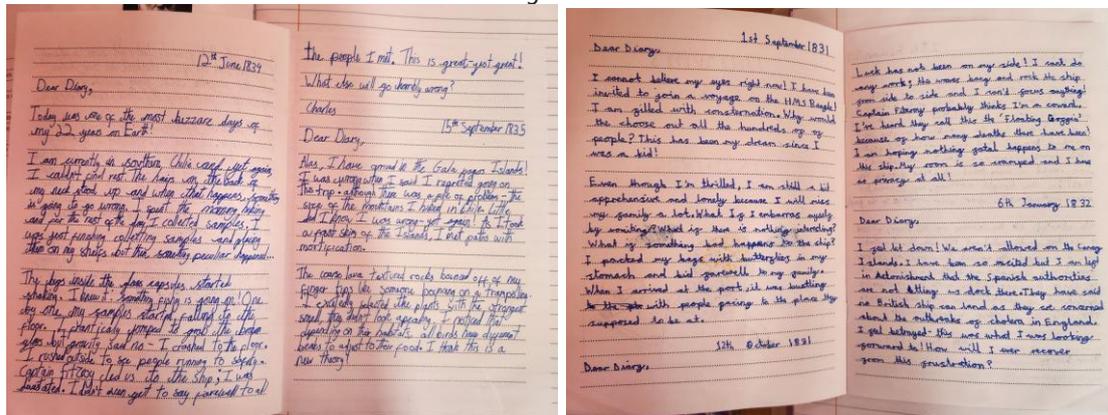
Nelson Mandela Year 6: Omotola

You have worked incredibly hard on your writing. Your diary entries had thoughtful ideas with ambitious vocabulary. You are also always such a pleasure to have in class. Well done Omotola!

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe this week:

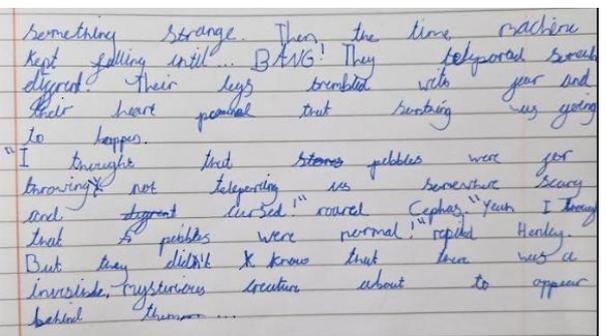
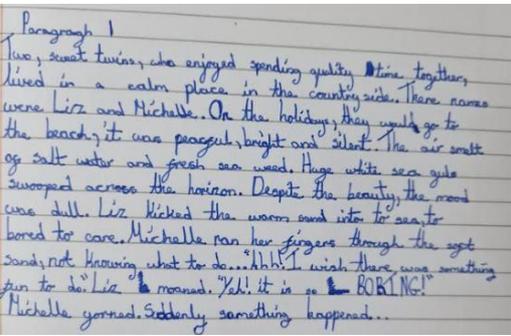
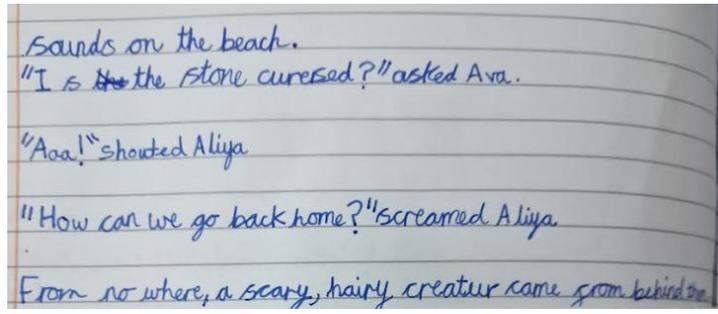
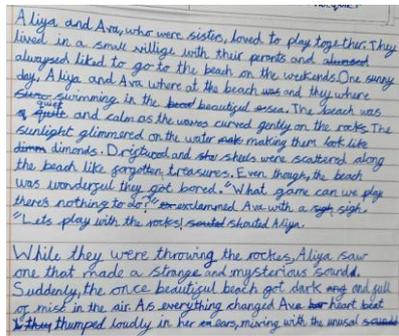
Year 6

Year 6 published their Charles Darwin diary entries this week. They took great care editing their writing from the past two weeks and made sure their presentation was of the highest standard. Imagining themselves to be Charles Darwin, they thought about Darwin's thoughts, feelings and the kinds of observations he would make on his journey around the globe!



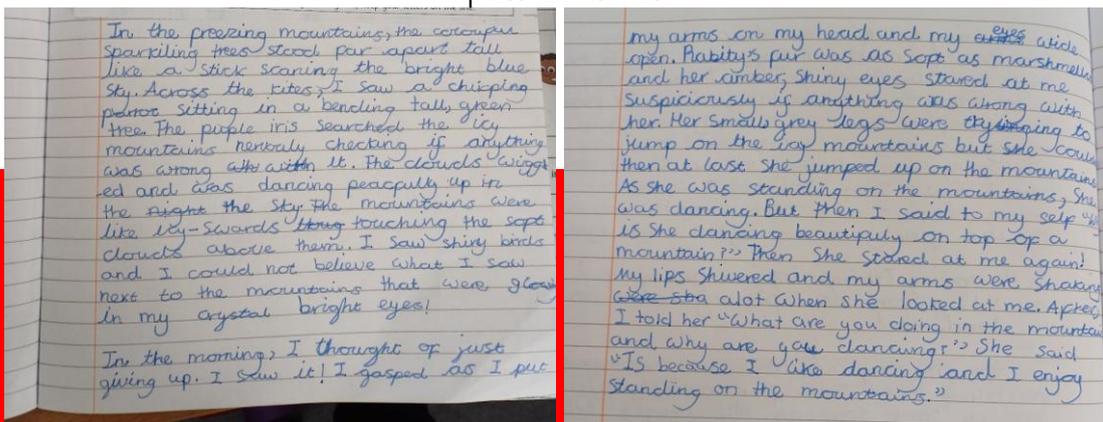
Year 5

Year 5 wrote some very creative stories about a mysterious pebble over the last two weeks. They worked hard to show up the new writing skills they have been working on this term and produced stories full of suspense and mystery!



Year 4

The children in Year 4 explored the roles of different people within the Benin Kingdom. They used their acting skills to express themselves.



Year 3

The Year 3s did an excellent job creating their own oracle bones as part of our Shang Dynasty unit. They showed great creativity and focus as they carved symbols and asked thoughtful questions.



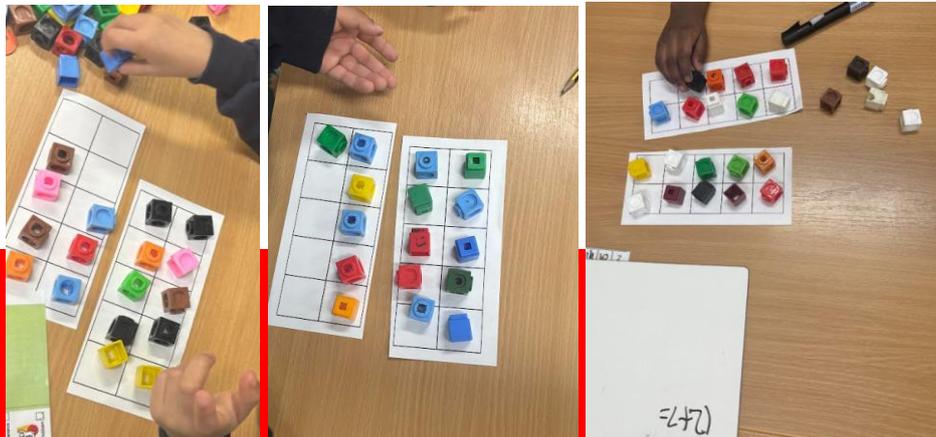
Year 2

In Year 2 we have been learning all about shape! We looked at the properties of a 3D shape and spotted how many edges, vertices and faces they have.



Year 1

In year 1 we have been using tens frames to make number bonds all the way up to 20. We used cubes to represent the numbers and then wrote the number sentences.





Reception

Reception had a wonderful trip to the library this term. Both classes got to go on different days and experience a library if they had not before. At our school we treasure story time and the children now have their own library cards which are kept at Archway Library for you to use any time.

3YO Nursery

The nursery did a lot of water work this week, we talked about what animals live in the water during our circle time and then made our own little water bath for our animals. Now our animals are sparkly clean!



2YO Nursery

What a busy week! Just want to thank our parents for attending our meetings last week. It was great to chat up and show you all how amazing your children are. This week we started a new topic... 'Winter'. We have been exploring arctic animals, making snowmen, decorating our class all festive and learning new songs and stories. With lots more to come!

Please add any photos or videos to your child's Tapestry.



Autumn Lunch Menu

Click on the link to view our lunch menu for the Autumn term.



Next week is Week 2.

