

07.11.2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We had a wonderful first half term at Duncombe! The children have settled brilliantly into school life, are familiar with the routines and expectations for learning, and are showing great enthusiasm in all they do.

This half term, our focus is on making progress and getting ready for the end-of-term assessments. We are putting a big emphasis on times tables and spelling this term.

We recently held an exciting launch assembly for Google Spell, where children explored the engaging online activities they can use to practise their spellings. Children can log in using the same details as for Doodle Maths — just remember to download the app on your tablet or phone so they can practise at home.

We are also having a big push on 'Mad Minutes', where children are tested on their number facts each week. KS2 are tested on their times tables and KS1 are tested on their addition and subtraction number facts. Please continue to support your child by practising with them regularly at home. Please ask your child's teacher if you are not sure which number facts your child is practising.

Finally, don't forget our weekly parent coffee mornings — a great opportunity to learn how to support your child at home. For those unable to attend, the slides from each session are uploaded to our school website every week, just click the parent tab.

Thank you for your continued support. We're looking forward to another fantastic half term of learning and progress.

Have a lovely weekend!

Warm regards,

Katija Ali

Head of School



Coffee Mornings this term



We are excited to be hosting these coffee mornings this term.

You will receive a text reminder if the coffee morning is relevant to you and your family.

Wednesday 12th November
Bright Start 0 - 5 years
Bright Futures 5 – 19 years

Wednesday 19th November
SEN morning meeting with professionals

Wednesday 26th November
Behaviour

Wednesday 3rd December
'Keeping families safe'
parent/carer workshop

Wednesday 10th December
Early reading and writing

Speak to Sabrina or the school office if you have any questions.

Find information from previous Coffee Mornings [here](#).

Autumn Lunch Menu

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



Next week is Week 2.

Important Dates

Monday 10th November – Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying week

Wednesday 12th November - Bright Start & Bright Futures Coffee Morning - 9am

Friday 14th November – Year 6 Poetry Assembly – 2:40pm

Wednesday 19th November - SEN Coffee Morning with professionals - 9am

Thursday 20th November – 2YO (pm) trip to North Library

Friday 21st November – Year 4 Assembly – 2:40pm

Monday 24th – Thursday 27th November – 2YO parent meetings

Wednesday 26th November - Behaviour Coffee Morning - 9am

Wednesday 3rd December - 'Keeping Families Safe' workshop

Friday 5th December – Year 4 Music Assembly

Wednesday 10th December - Early Reading and Writing Coffee Morning - 9am

Thursday 11th December - Year 5 Science Museum Space Trip

Friday 12th December – Year 5 Poetry Assembly

Thursday 11th December - Winter Fair - 3:45pm

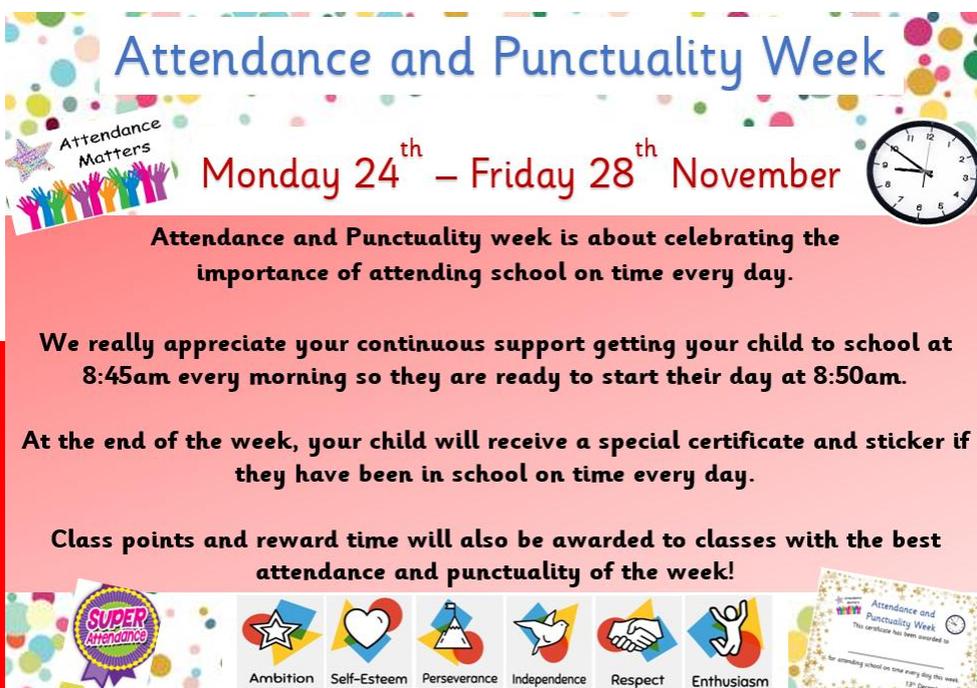
Monday 15th December - EYFS Winter Show

Tuesday 16th December - Parents Evening

Thursday 18th December - KS1 Winter Show

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

Tuesday 6th January 2026 – Children return to school



Attendance and Punctuality Week

Attendance Matters

Monday 24th – Friday 28th November

Attendance and Punctuality week is about celebrating the importance of attending school on time every day.

We really appreciate your continuous support getting your child to school at 8:45am every morning so they are ready to start their day at 8:50am.

At the end of the week, your child will receive a special certificate and sticker if they have been in school on time every day.

Class points and reward time will also be awarded to classes with the best attendance and punctuality of the week!

SUPER Attendance

Ambition Self-Esteem Perseverance Independence Respect Enthusiasm

Attendance and Punctuality Week
The calendar has been awarded to
for attending school on time every day this week
13th December 2025



This **ANTI-BULLYING WEEK** we are holding

ODD SOCKS DAY on
MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2025

Odd Socks Day Come to school wearing your odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique!

You can:

- Wear funky socks – be as bright and as different as you want!
- Wear 2 different socks!
- Wear socks pinned on your clothes!
- Be creative!

On Monday, wear your odd socks to show that being different is **AMAZING!**



School Attendance



Julia Donaldson

77%

Eric Carle

87%

Judith Kerr

97%

Tony Ross

92%

Greta Thunberg

96%

Harriet Tubman

94%

Florence Nightingale

100%

Marie Curie

96%

Isaac Newton

98%

Michael Faraday

98%

Maya Angelou

97%

William Shakespeare

99%

Benjamin Zephaniah

91%

Emmeline Pankhurst

98%

Martin Luther King

94%

Marcus Rashford

96%

Nelson Mandela

98%

The whole school's attendance for this week is **93.8%**

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: Hannah

You are showing great independence and it has been nice seeing you getting yourself involved in more activities. You are starting to communicate and express more with staff and your friends. Keep it up, Hannah and well done.

Eric Carle 3YO: Mase

For being super caring towards his friends! This week Mase has been helping his friends feel better when they are sad by giving them hugs and getting them tissues. We love having such a kind boy in the class, well done Mase!

Tony Ross Reception: Hafsa

For showing all the Duncombe rules of being ready, respectful and safe at school every day - what a great role model.

Judith Kerr Reception: Perseus

For walking safely around school, for working hard to stay on the carpet and showing enthusiasm for learning.

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Hamza

For his ambition in writing this week. He has been focused and determined to make his writing the best it can be. Keep up the hard work and enthusiasm, Hamza!

Harriet Tubman Year 1: Riley

For showing enthusiasm and respect all week. You have been on task for every lesson and showed a positive attitude to learning and becoming more independent with tricky pieces of work. Keep up the amazing work!

Florence Nightingale Year 2: Anaiah

Anaiah has started to become independent and take ownership of her learning. Her confidence is shining through in all subjects. We are very proud of you!

Marie Curie Year 2: Mia

For your enthusiastic approach to all learning, the perseverance you show in class and your positive respectful attitude. You are a valued member of our class and you strive for success always. Keep shining!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Faizah

We have seen a great improvement in Faizah's focus in class. She has also been engaging really well with her Doodle Maths, and we've noticed fantastic progress during her maths lessons. Well done!

Michael Faraday Year 3: Guadalupe

For her outstanding perseverance in maths and Writing, positive attitude, and consistent effort. She gives 100% every day and is an excellent role model. Well done and keep it up!

William Shakespeare Year 4: Havin K

For her contribution this week during lessons. She has gained the confidence to contribute more during class discussions. Havin has shown enthusiasm in reading. I am really proud of her effort this week.

Maya Angelou Year 4: Mumtaz

She has shown a lot of enthusiasm in writing this week. She has really thought about the different stages a firework goes through when writing her poem and used personification and expanded noun phrases to bring her ideas to life. Keep up the great work!

Benjamin Zephaniah Year 5: Leela

Leela has shown excellent learning and behaviour in school. She has made huge progress in her writing, including new features with enthusiasm and taking care with her presentation. She always sets a fantastic example to her peers with fabulous manners. We are proud of you, well done!

Martin Luther King Year 5: Mahnoor

Mahnoor, I'm really proud of your work, especially your biography about Martin Luther King. You wrote with such thought and care, showing a deep understanding of who he was and why his message still matters today. You worked so hard and your effort and pride in your writing truly shined through. Well done.

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Jesse

Jesse always follows the school rules and shows that he is ready, respectful, and safe. He listens carefully and gives his best effort in every lesson. In English, he created an excellent biography that showed great detail and effort. His work is thoughtful and well-presented.

Marcus Rashford Year 6: Sophia

Sophia demonstrates Duncombe values every day. In maths, she shows perseverance, ambition and respect. She takes her time and carefully considers her answers. We are so proud of her progress.

Nelson Mandela Year 6: Micah

Micah shared insightful comments in our poetry discussion this week. He also worked hard on writing his own poem, including features such as simile and personification. Well done, Micah!

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe this week:

Year 6

Year 6 have worked hard to develop their understanding of square and cube numbers this week. Pupils learnt that square and cube numbers can be used to simplify calculations and can also be used to represent the area of a square and the volume of a cube.

1. On your hundred square, circle the square number between 1-100 and underline the cube numbers between 1-100.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

2) Use <, > or = to make each number statement correct.

a) $2^2 < 2 \times 2$ ✓ b) $3^1 > 4^2$ ✓ c) $5 \times 5 < 5^2$ ✓

d) $36 = 6^2$ ✓ e) $7^2 < 5^2$ ✓ f) $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1^3$ ✓

3) Look at these numbers.

1	8	19	27	43	49	64	100
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a) Which numbers are square? 1 49 64 100 ✓

b) Which numbers are cube? 1 64 8 27 ✓

c) Which numbers are prime? 19 43 ✓

d) Which numbers are both square and cube? 64 1 ✓

Year 5

We celebrated finishing our incredible novel, Kensuke's Kingdom, by eating red bananas (inspired by the story!) and creating our own digital book reviews.



Characters

Michael (main character)
Stella (Michael's dog)
Kensuke (the person in the title)

Kensuke Kingdom



BY MICHAEL MORPURGO
(reviewed by Naeemah and Elif)



Year 4

Year 4 started our new history topic - The Benin Kingdom. We looked at some artifacts and tried to figure out what they were, what they were used for, what they were made from and what they could teach us about The Benin Kingdom.

Your challenge as a museum curator is to find a range of interesting items from the Kingdom of Benin for a new exhibition. Explore each artefact and answer the questions.

Artefact 1	Artefact 2	Artefact 3
What do you think the artefact is? I think it is a comb to clean using the dusty areas.	I think it is a drum that they used to use in the olden days.	I think it is a net used for fishing or for a net.
What do you think it was for? To clean dusty areas.	To play music.	To keep them warm.
What do you think it is made of? I think it's made out of wood.	I think it's made out of wood.	I think it's made out of fabric.
What do you think the artefact can teach us about the Kingdom of Benin culture? It teaches me that there are some old things that people still use.	It teaches me that even though it's old, it's still used in the world.	It teaches me that everybody has their own way of life.

Your challenge as a museum curator is to find a range of interesting items from the Kingdom of Benin for a new exhibition. Explore each artefact and answer the questions.

Artefact 1	Artefact 2	Artefact 3
What do you think the artefact is? A automatic robot instrument.	A Drum.	A net.
What do you think it was for? To play songs and give entertainment.	Songs.	To wrap you up and keep you warm.
What do you think it is made of? I think it is made of wood.	I think it's made up of wood and cow skin.	A net that's like a net.
What do you think the artefact can teach us about the Kingdom of Benin culture? People would entertain themselves with it as work.	People sang songs and used other instruments to enjoy themselves.	People were creative and through they had resources.

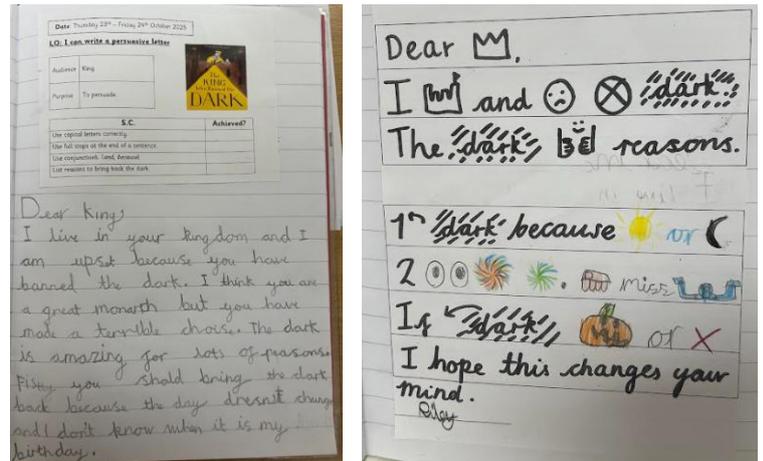
Year 3

As part of our Geography unit on Asia and China, Year 3 enjoyed a special workshop led by teachers from De Yin School. The children took part in mindful meditation, learned to say and write numbers 1–10 in Chinese calligraphy, and created beautiful designs through traditional paper cutting. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed exploring Chinese culture in such a fun, hands-on way!



Year 2

This week Year 2 have written persuasive letters to the king because he banned the dark. They have been giving him reasons as to why the dark is very important!



Year 1

This week in maths, year 1 have begun learning about subtraction. We started using cubes to split an amount in two to see how many are left when we take away a part. We then started crossing out amounts to subtract them, then used a number line to subtract using jumps.



Reception

We have loved all the leaves falling off the trees, it has inspired a lot of Autumn discussion! As part of our 'celebrations' work this term, we have been looking closely at Diwali and Bonfire night this week and making lovely paintings inspired by the bright lights.



3YO Nursery

This week Nursery has been celebrating fireworks night! We have been watching firework displays and talking about what colours we can see and what sounds we can hear. It is clear that Nursery knows their colours! They have also been painting their own fireworks on the art table. Our classroom is looking very colourful at the moment.



2YO Nursery

Welcome back and what a busy week already. The children have come back with so much enthusiasm and excitement. They are showing great independence, counting skills, sharing skills and talking skills.

