

09.01.2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

Welcome back to a new term and a new year. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break and are feeling refreshed for the months ahead.

We began the week with whole-school training, ensuring that all staff are fully prepared and equipped to provide the very best for each and every child in our care. We have also been carrying out home visits for our new families joining the school, which has been a wonderful opportunity to build positive relationships from the very start.

Over the coming weeks, classes will begin visiting the library as part of our continued focus on reading. Reading is a vital skill that underpins all learning, and we are committed to fostering a love of reading/books and stories across the school.

As always, we value our strong partnership with parents and carers. If you have any concerns or would like to discuss your child's progress, please contact the school office to make an appointment.

Wishing everyone a productive and successful year ahead. We look forward to all that we will achieve together.

Ms Braithwaite

Executive Head

Spring Lunch Menu

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



Next week is Week 2.



Coffee Morning



Tuesday 13th January

Welcome back & Parent Reps

Coffee mornings will be held on **Tuesdays** this term. More information will be available soon.

Important Dates

**Monday 16th –
Friday 20th February**
Half term

Friday 27th March
Last day of term
1:30pm finish

**Monday 30th March –
Friday 10th April**
Spring Holiday

Monday 13th April
INSET day
School Closed

Tuesday 14th April
Children return to school
Nursery Closed

**Monday 25th –
Friday 29th May**
Half term

Friday 17th July
Last day of term
1:30pm finish



School Attendance



Julia Donaldson

56%

Eric Carle

79%

Judith Kerr

94%

Tony Ross

89%

Greta Thunberg

91%

Harriet Tubman

86%

Florence Nightingale

95%

Marie Curie

93%

Isaac Newton

86%

Michael Faraday

88%

Maya Angelou

94%

William Shakespeare

90%

Benjamin Zephaniah

95%

Emmeline Pankhurst

92%

Martin Luther King

92%

Marcus Rashford

99%

Nelson Mandela

95%

The whole school's attendance for this week is **93.2%**

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: Maisie-Mae

For always coming into nursery with so much enthusiasm. She is independent and keen to learn new things. Well done, Maisie-Mae.

Eric Carle 3YO: Deniro

We have noticed Deniro has got so much better at using his indoor voice this week and has got right back into Nursery routines brilliantly. Well done, Deniro, keep it up!

Tony Ross Reception: Jamilla

For your great start back this term, such focus and kindness to your classmates. You show all the Duncombe values.

Judith Kerr Reception: Frankie

For showing that you are always ready to learn and for being determined in your holiday recount writing.

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Ayman

For settling into the new term so calmly. Ayman has been so motivated and so ready to learn every day! We are so proud of him. Keep it up!

Harriet Tubman Year 1: Clayton

For showing independence this week and perseverance in your learning. We are so proud of your progress. Keep up the hard work.

Florence Nightingale Year 2: Anaiiah

For showing enthusiasm in her learning. Anaiiah has come back to school with determination to make progress. Well done! keep up the excellent work.

Marie Curie Year 2: Adam S.

Well done for an excellent first week back. You have shown so much enthusiasm through your speech. We are so proud of you! Keep shining.

Isaac Newton Year 3: Nafi

For being a positive role model who consistently shows respect, kindness, and dedication, alongside a strong work ethic and commitment to producing high-quality work. Well done! Keep it up!

Michael Faraday Year 3: Farahmand

For making a great start to the term. He has consistently demonstrated that he is ready, respectful, and safe. He shows fantastic ambition, has improved his focus in class, and always tries his best to support his peers in Writing and Maths.

William Shakespeare Year 4: Ayaz

For settling into the new term really well. He has returned with enthusiasm and a positive attitude towards his learning. Ayaz has also persevered through challenging moments. Well done!

Maya Angelou Year 4: Rania

Has had a great start to the term. She shows fantastic ambition and enthusiasm in every lesson. She always tries her best and shows a wonderful attitude to learning. She is also kind and helpful to both adults and other children. Keep it up Rania!

Benjamin Zephaniah Year 5: Amira

For having an excellent start to the term! We have been really impressed with her focus and efforts to follow all the Duncombe rules. She has been trying hard with all her work and shown a very positive attitude towards her learning. Keep it up!

Martin Luther King Year 5: Cleo

Cleo, this week you have made a lovely start. You have come in ready to learn and prepared for the new year ahead. Well done for beginning so positively and showing such a great attitude! Well done!

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Aiden

Well done Aiden for consistently starting the term with a positive attitude, following classroom expectations, and helping create a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment for everyone.

Marcus Rashford Year 6: Lamar

Lamar, I have been really impressed with the start you have made to the new term. You have shown lots of enthusiasm by producing and sharing some incredible writing as well as making an effort to contribute more in class discussions. Well done, Lamar! Keep it up.

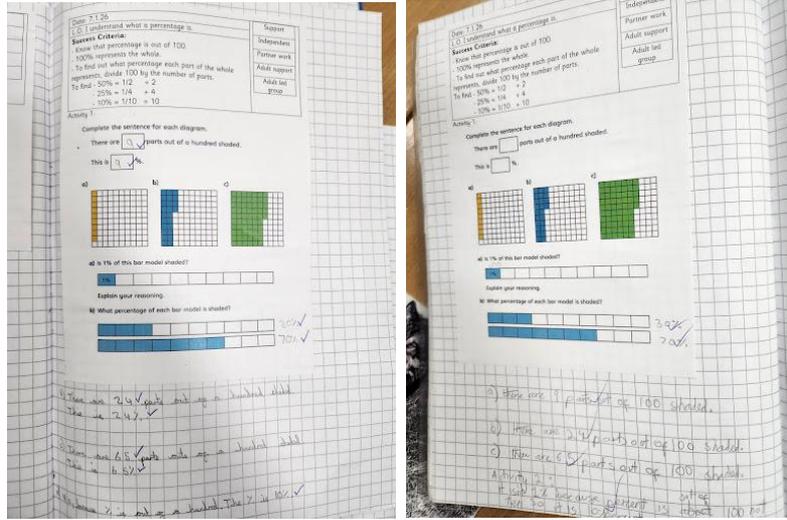
Nelson Mandela Year 6: O'Mari

O'Mari has had a positive start to the new term. He has contributed during lesson time and persevered with his learning. He has also shown enthusiasm throughout the week. Well done - keep it up!

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe this week:

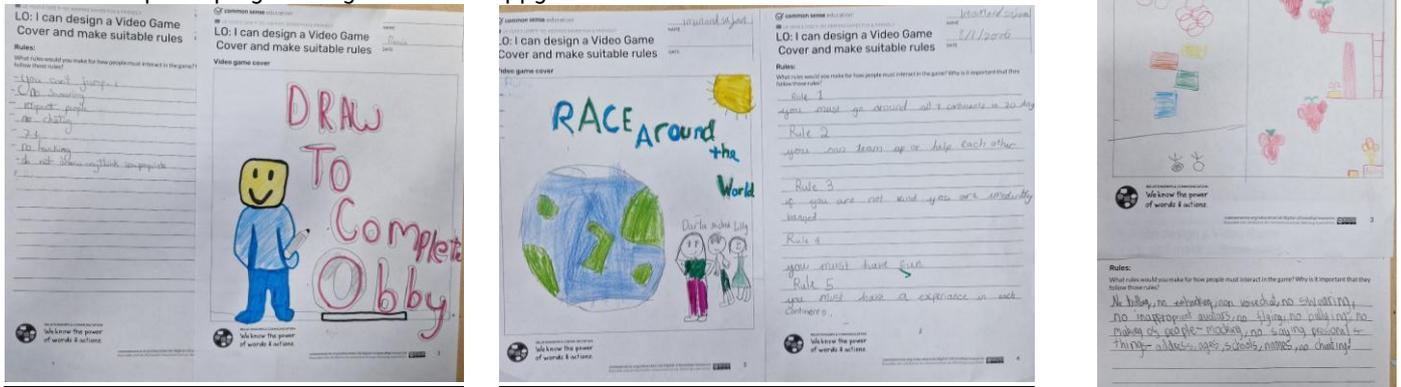
Year 6

This week, Year 6 began learning about percentages. From nutritional labels on crisp packets to the likelihood of rain on weather forecasts, percentages can be found all around us. Year 6 practised the skill and worked together to try and solve some tricky reasoning problems involving percentages!



Year 5

Year 5 were thinking about how to communicate and play safely online in our computing sessions this week. They designed their own games and then thought of suitable guidelines and rules to help the players stay safe and happy.



Year 4

This term the children have been learning about where food comes from. In Art, they researched the work of Giuseppe Archimboldo to create their own food portraits.



Year 3

Year 3 created their own cave art inspired by the Stone Age in history. They used chalk to outline their drawings and added texture and shadow to create their own versions of cave paintings. Their artwork tells us about what life was like for people in the Stone Age.



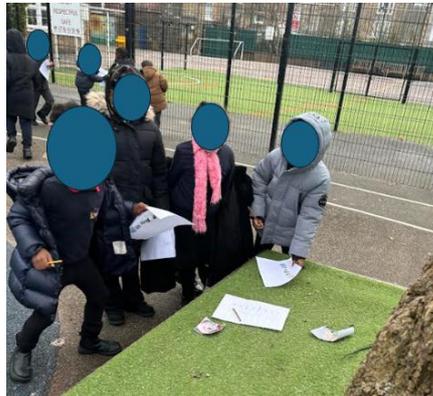
Year 2

In art, Y2 have used tissue and crepe paper to create different habitats, linking with our science topic living things and their habitats.



Year 1

After reading 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', year 1 went on an animal hunt in the playground. We have been looking for animals that live in the water and in forests.



Reception

Reception have come back to school brilliantly, such focus and a great attitude to sharing and play with their friends. We have started streaming into new phonics groups, and the children have settled well into this. Please keep up the reading at home with them to continue to help with this.

Read. sit	Color. sit
Color the letters. (b) (u) (t) (s) (i) (d)	Trace. _____ sit _____
Write. _____	_____
Please _____ here.	



3YO Nursery

The Nursery team were super happy to have the children back this week, they are settling back in amazingly! Well done Nursery!

We are starting our new topic: Transport! This week Nursery helped me organise our boxes of our trains and animals.

I had a few super stars who helped clean out the animal boxes and we counted how many animals we had! Our boxes are now super organised!

2YO Nursery

It has been lovely to see all the children back. This week we have been settling in and getting back into routine. We can't wait to meet our new friends starting next week.

Thank you for the continued support!

2-Year-Old and 3-Year-Old Nursery

Admissions

OPEN

2025 – 2026



Your child deserves the best start in education
Come and have a tour of our setting.

Please see the school office to make an appointment

Or to find out when the next tour dates are.



Duncombe Vision

'Duncombe supports children to learn and achieve in a supportive, high quality, aspirational environment, leading to a successful transition to secondary school. We are working together to continue to raise standards across the school, striving towards excellence. We have high expectations of all our learners. We develop our children's sense of purpose, understanding, motivation and ability to learn.'

All 2-Year-old and 3-year-old applications require a part-time or full-time code provided by the Local Authority. You can check your eligibility on the Islington website.

If you need more support please talk to the team.

 The School office – 0207 272 5620
 success@duncombprimary.co.uk