

12.12.2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As our countdown to Christmas begins, it's hard to believe that Christmas Day is just two weeks away—especially with the mild weather trying its best to convince us otherwise! Nevertheless, the school has been buzzing with preparation for our Winter Fair. My thanks go to Sabrina and all the staff involved for their hard work and creativity; your efforts brought a wonderful sense of excitement to the school.

Despite the approaching holidays, the children remain focused and fully engaged in their learning, with several classes enjoying exciting trips this week that have enriched their curriculum experiences. Christmas Jumper Day arrived under a beautifully bright blue sky, and the cheerful colours and patterns certainly lifted everyone's spirits.

A special congratulations to our Year 5 pupils who took part in the poetry assembly. Their presentation skills, clear delivery, and expressive intonation were truly impressive—a delightful way to round off the week.

Wishing everyone a pleasant and restful weekend ahead.

Ms Braithwaite

Executive Head

Autumn Lunch Menu

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



Next week is Week 3.



**A special Christmas lunch will be served on
Wednesday 17th December**

Important Dates

Monday 15th December
EYFS Winter Show

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

Wednesday 17th December
Early Reading and Writing Coffee
Morning - 9am

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

Message for parents

It would be greatly appreciated if adults could avoid smoking outside of the school building at drop off and pick up time.

Parents do not like their children being exposed to cigarettes or vapes due to health concerns.

Thank you for your support in keeping our children safe.



School Attendance



Julia Donaldson

70%

Eric Carle

79%

Judith Kerr

95%

Tony Ross

81%

Greta Thunberg

91%

Harriet Tubman

92%

Florence Nightingale

93%

Marie Curie

92%

Isaac Newton

93%

Michael Faraday

92%

Maya Angelou

89%

William Shakespeare

95%

Benjamin Zephaniah

90%

Emmeline Pankhurst

89%

Martin Luther King

91%

Marcus Rashford

92%

Nelson Mandela

97%

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



Celebration Awards



Julia Donaldson 2YO: Zain

For settling well into little nursery. Zain has started to explore more of nursery and getting involved in more activities while making new friends. Well done, Zain.

Eric Carle 3YO: Safa

Safa has been amazing at coming into the classroom without her dad these past few weeks. She walks straight in and hangs her coat up, ready for the day. Good job Safa.

Tony Ross Reception: Sami

For your amazing phonics, you have made fantastic progress this term and are reading CVC words independently. WOW.

Judith Kerr Reception: Jemima

For helping the whole class learn the signs to accompany 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'. Your enthusiasm is joyful!

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Nevaeh

For showing enthusiasm and ambition for our winter show this week! You have tried so hard with all the actions and the lyrics. It makes us so proud to see you enjoy the songs so much! Keep shining!

Harriet Tubman Year 1: Myles

For showing perseverance all week. It has been lovely to see you come into school with a smile and engage in your learning with enthusiasm. We are so proud of your hard work and commitment to coming to school every day. Keep up the great work!

Florence Nightingale Year 2: Yusuf

Yusuf shows great enthusiasm for maths and approaches every challenge with confidence. He consistently engages with his maths learning and enjoys explaining his ideas.

Marie Curie Year 2: Yasmin

Yasmin, you are an amazing role model for your class and school. We are always so impressed by your enthusiasm and ambition. Keep up the hard work!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Ambra

Ambra is always ready to contribute to class discussions and does this with great confidence, demonstrating genuine enthusiasm for learning. Well done Ambra and keep it up!

Michael Faraday Year 3: Salma

For always showing enthusiasm in her learning and being a helpful friend to those in her class. She tries her best to engage and contribute in class discussions and has persevered. Well done!

William Shakespeare Year 4: Adna

Adna has shown enthusiasm for learning this term. She has worked really hard in English where she has used her persuasive writing skills to encourage her friend to visit London. Adna has listened to feedback and persevered this term. Well done!

Maya Angelou Year 4: Layla

She has come a long way in maths since the start of the year! She is focussed, has learnt the different methods and goes out of her way to help others and explains answers very clearly! Well done Layla, you would make a great teacher one day!

Benjamin Zephaniah Year 5: Ava

Well done Ava. You have been working so hard at school and at home with your maths. You have also been fantastic at learning your poetry lines. Your positive attitude and ambition has helped you make excellent progress! We are all very proud of you.

Martin Luther King Year 5: Asli

Well done, Asli. This week your effort has been brilliant and during our Science trip your curiosity truly came alive. The questions you asked showed how much you enjoy discovering new things. Keep that spark shining and stay wonderfully curious.

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Youssef

Amazing work, Youssef. You've shown real enthusiasm in English, demonstrated a clear, confident understanding of poetry, and performed the poem really well. Keep shining!

Marcus Rashford Year 6: Alex

Alex, we were all absolutely blown away by your performance last week in assembly. You showed an incredible amount of confidence and creativity in performing your own song. Through this you have shown independence, perseverance and, most of all, ambition! You were incredible. Perhaps one day we'll hear your songs on the radio, and we'll think about how lucky we are to have heard you in a Duncombe assembly!

Nelson Mandela Year 6: Harmony

Harmony, you have consistently shown enthusiasm for learning. You have shown perseverance in maths and laid out calculations neatly. You also shared thoughtful ideas in writing. Keep up the fantastic work Harmony!

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe this week:

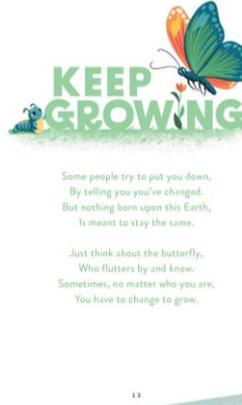
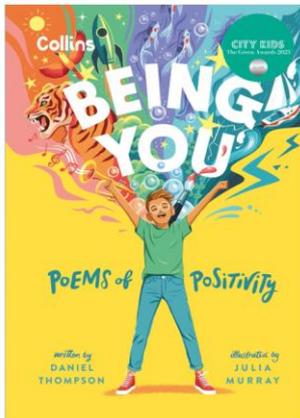
Year 6

Year 6 visited the Arts and Media School in Islington. They became architects and engineers when they took part in the 2025 AMSI Straw Tower Challenge. First, making a plan and then using only 10 straws, pupils were able to build self-standing structures that reached over 150 cm tall.



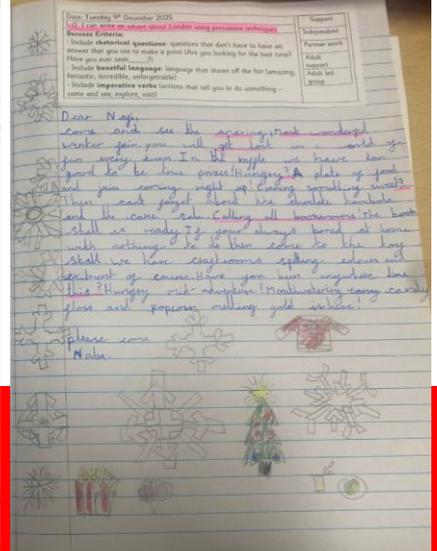
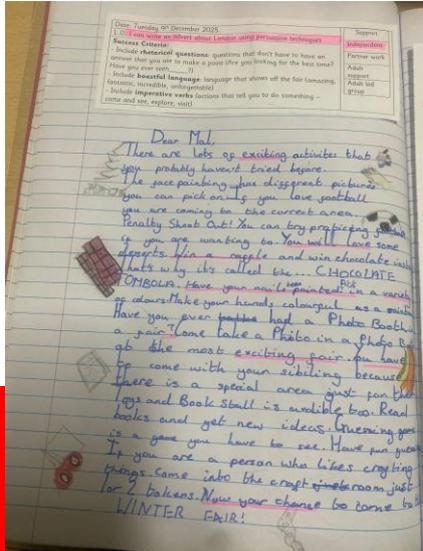
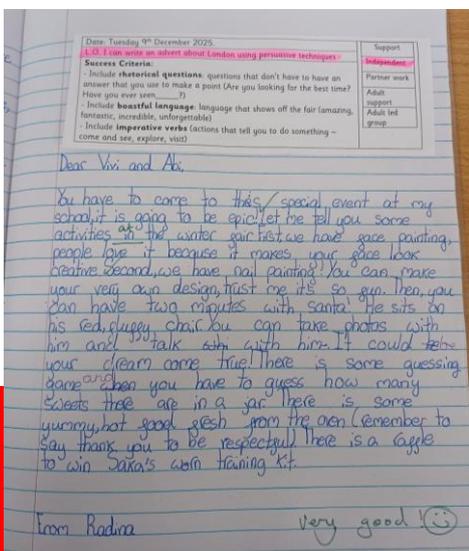
Year 5

Year 5 has been working beautifully this week as we learned our poems about positivity. We've explored how small acts of kindness can make a big difference, how we can accept losses with courage and why we should never give up. We want to make sure that everyone at Duncombe hears our message and feels inspired by it.



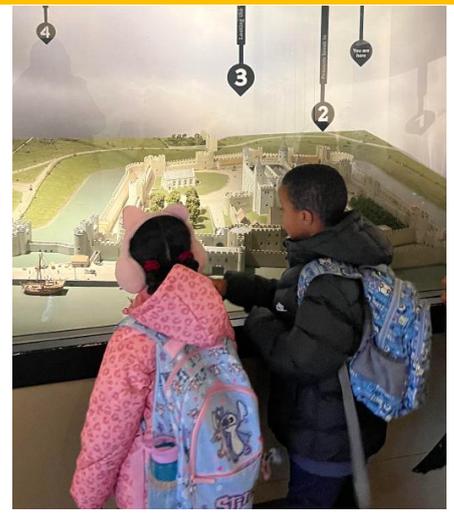
Year 4

This week, our Year 4 pupils have been busy crafting persuasive letters to encourage everyone to attend the school's Christmas Fair. They confidently used imperative verbs, boastful language, and rhetorical questions to make their writing truly stand out. The children worked with great enthusiasm.



Year 2

Year 2 were very lucky to visit the Tower of London. They saw the sparkly Crown Jewels, guards armour and even the King's bedroom! We had a really good time.

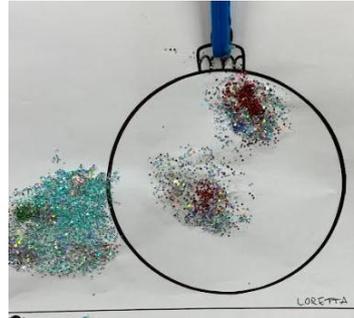


Year 1

This week Y1 took an exciting trip to St Saviours Church. We took part in songs, dances and games that taught us about the importance of God for Christians.

3YO Nursery

To get nursery into the Christmas spirit we have been decorating our own Christmas baubles! We have even decorated and put up our own class Christmas tree. Next week we are going to continue the Christmas celebration, getting ready for the holiday!



2YO Nursery

2 Year Olds this week have been exploring fake snow with all our arctic animals. Thank you for all the children that came in with their Christmas jumpers.

