

19.12.2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a fantastic final week of term, full of learning, fun and celebration. The children have enjoyed many festive opportunities while continuing to focus on their learning right up until the end of term, which we have been very proud of.

We were delighted to share two brilliant performances this week. Our Early Years Winter Show was a joy to watch, and the KS1 Winter Show was equally impressive. A huge thank you to all the pupils and staff for their hard work and enthusiasm, and to the many parents and carers who were able to come along and support the children – your presence made these events extra special.

We also held Parents' Evening this week and were pleased so many parents and carers were able to attend. It was lovely to meet so many of you and to have the opportunity to talk about pupils' progress and their next steps in learning.

As we come to the end of term, I would like to thank everyone in our school community for their continued support. We wish you all a restful winter break and a very happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on January 6th 2026!

Katija Ali

Head of School

Important Dates

Monday 5th January 2026

INSET day

School Closed

Tuesday 6th January 2026

Children return to school

(Nursery Classes closed)

Wednesday 7th January 2026

Nursery children return to school

Monday 16th – Friday 20th

February 2026

Half term

Monday 30th March –

Friday 10th April 2026

Spring Holiday

Monday 13th April 2026

INSET day

School Closed

Coffee mornings will be held on
Tuesdays next term. More
information will be given in January.



Winter Fair



Thank you to all our parents/carers for their incredible generosity and support. We are so grateful for all the donations given for the Winter Fair, which helped make the event such a success. Thanks to you, we raised approximately £1,600, which is a fantastic achievement.

The funds raised will be used towards supporting school resources and events, helping to benefit all our pupils.

Your continued support truly makes a difference, and we really appreciate everything you do for our school community. We wish you all a restful and festive break.



Sabrina — Child and Family Support Worker



School Attendance



Julia Donaldson

63%

Eric Carle

76%

Judith Kerr

88%

Tony Ross

70%

Greta Thunberg

84%

Harriet Tubman

89%

Florence Nightingale

87%

Marie Curie

83%

Isaac Newton

94%

Michael Faraday

92%

Maya Angelou

92%

William Shakespeare

93%

Benjamin Zephaniah

88%

Emmeline Pankhurst

89%

Martin Luther King

89%

Marcus Rashford

88%

Nelson Mandela

97%

The whole school's attendance for this week is **93.6%**

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: Tarek

Tarek has been showing good listening and has been sharing toys with his friends. You have been coming in with a big smile ready to play and learn. Keep up the good work!

Eric Carle 3YO: Levi

He sang so beautifully in the Christmas show! He remembered to do all the actions and he really shone like a star. Well done, Levi.

Tony Ross Reception: Saba

For stepping into an additional role in our Winter Show so brilliantly. You are a real superstar and made for the stage Saba!

Judith Kerr Reception: Laylah

For being such an enthusiastic member of the class, for always trying hard in everything that you do. Your attitude to learning is infectious!

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Pison

For showing great listening and independence all week. You have become so independent at putting away your jacket and pack lunch. Your bright smile makes everyone so happy! Keep it up, Pison!

Harriet Tubman Year 1: Mateo

For showing brilliant enthusiasm and perseverance all week. You have been so focused all week on your learning and are showing pride in your work. You are working so hard on your handwriting and we are so proud of you. Keep it up!

Florence Nightingale Year 2: Aliyah

She is an exemplary student - always ready, respectful and safe. She is kind, helpful and always looks out for the adults and the children.

Marie Curie Year 2: Seyyid

Well done for working hard this week in English. Your imaginative ideas are impressive. Keep up the hard work!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Amelia

Amelia has been working hard in maths and is making great progress. She works well with her partner, showing good cooperation. During teaching input on the carpet, she engages well and contributes thoughtfully to discussions.

Keep up the great effort, Amelia!

Michael Faraday Year 3: Eliza

For an improvement in her behaviour and her engagement in class. She has tried her best to stay focused and has persevered in her Writing and Maths. Well done!

William Shakespeare Year 4: Musab

For an improvement in his behaviour. He has shown resilience and good listening skills this week. Well done! Keep up the good behaviour.

Maya Angelou Year 4: Arijon

He has shown great ambition writing this term and really tried to make his work the best it can be. He listens to feedback to improve his spelling and sentences. Keep up this great attitude to learning Arijon!

Benjamin Zephaniah Year 5: Leena

Leena has shown great enthusiasm for her writing and maths which has helped her produce a fantastic piece of writing and make great progress with her maths skills. I have been really impressed with her positive attitude and focus! Well done, Leena.

Martin Luther King Year 5: Mila

Mila has been making a wonderful effort all week. Well done for working so hard and always doing your best. You are such a fantastic role model to others and you should be very proud of yourself. Keep shining and moving forward.

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Abdi

Abdi consistently follows the rules of being ready, respectful, and safe. They come prepared to learn, treat others with kindness, and make responsible choices every day.

Marcus Rashford Year 6: Nazifah

Nazifah, you embody so many of Duncombe's values. You are always respectful, you persevere when things get difficult and you show enthusiasm for your learning. This week, I have noticed you trying to be more and more confident in answering questions and helping others. I'm proud of you. Keep this up, Nazifah!

Nelson Mandela Year 6: Reian

In reading, Reian contributed thoughtful answers to our class discussion, enriching the lesson. He always shows enthusiasm for learning and a positive attitude. Keep it up Reian!

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe this week:

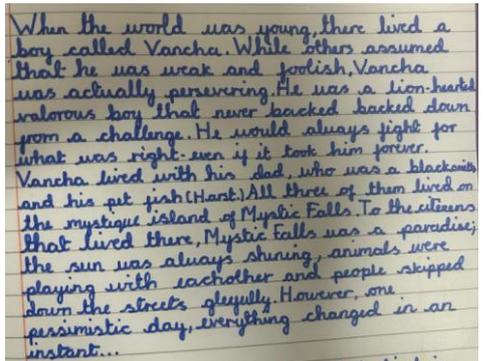
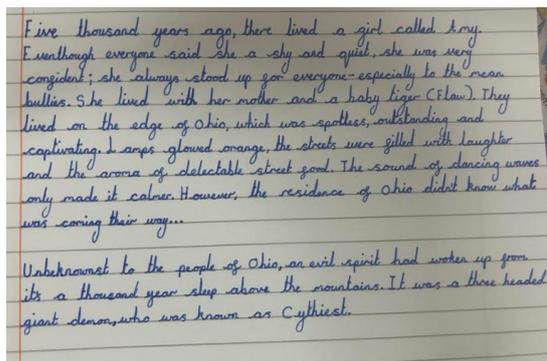
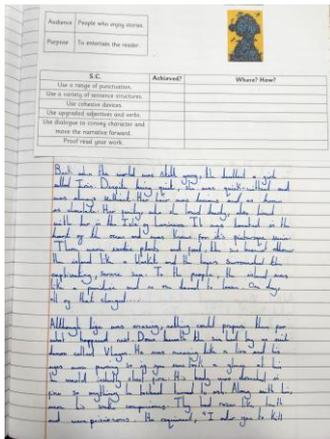
Winter Fair

Thank you to everyone who attended the Winter Fair. We hope you had as much fun as we did!



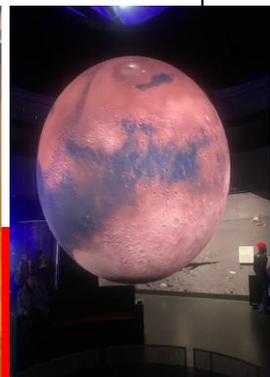
Year 6

Pupils have been reading, discussing and writing about Kiran Millwood's 'The Girl of Ink and Stars'. Pulling together and thinking about the mythical elements in this story, pupils were inspired to write their own myths in which good confronts and conquers evil. We have been really impressed with the ways in which pupils have developed cohesion through ambitious sentence types and developed description through ambitious choices in vocabulary.



Year 5

Year 5 went to the Science Museum and had a fantastic day. We explored the Wonderlab, where we saw amazing experiments in action and even went down the slides. We learned that gravity pulls us down the slide and friction between us and the slide slows us down, which made it even more exciting to try! We also visited the Space Gallery, where we learned more about the Moon and Mars. It was an exciting and fun-filled trip!



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.



Object	Weight (N)
Carrots	5N
Pencil case	9N
Book	8N
Jumper	5N
Headphones	2N

How do force meters work?

Force meters measure weight.
We measure weight in newtons.
Inside a force meter there is a spring.
Spring with weights to measure the weight of things.

Year 3

Year 3 measured the weight of different objects around the classroom using a force meter. They carefully observed the readings and recorded their results. Through this activity, they learned that weight is a type of force and that forces are measured in newtons (N). The children compared objects and discussed which were heavier or lighter based on the measurements.

Year 2

The children have been working really hard to practise for their winter show. Well done to all for their brilliant voices and actions!



Year 1

In year 1 we took a trip to Archway library to watch a performance of some brilliant Christmas stories. We got to sing along to some Christmas songs too!



Reception

Reception loved their Christmassy week, with the Winter show and getting to see another school's show. Party games, Christmas dinner and festive jumpers and stories in class also brought a lot of merriment. They managed to carry on with fantastic concentration and learning despite lots of fun, out of routine excitement.



3YO Nursery

Nursery had such a busy week celebrating Christmas. On Monday we had our Christmas show, Nursery did such a great job with their singing, dancing and they also sat so beautifully during the show! As a celebration for their hard work this term, we also had a Christmas party on Wednesday. We did loads of dancing and had lots of snacks (thank you parents). Santa even surprised us and handed out some little gifts. It has been such a busy term and Nursery deserves a good rest over the holidays. Well done, Nursery- enjoy the break.



2YO Nursery

This week 2YO had another busy week doing lots of festive activities. We also had our Christmas parties where the children did lots of dancing, singing and also ate lots of snacks. We were very lucky to have a surprise visit from Santa and his elf. Santa brought a present for all the children.

