

27.02.2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone – we hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half term break. It has been wonderful to see the children returning to school refreshed and ready to learn. As we move through this important time of year, we recognise that many of our families are observing **Lent** and **Ramadan**, with some fasting or giving something up. We appreciate the reflection, self-discipline and kindness that this season encourages, and we are mindful and supportive of all children and families who are observing.

We were certainly blessed with beautiful sunshine on Wednesday – what a difference it made! The smiles on the playground said it all, and it was lovely to see everyone enjoying a little taste of spring.

It has already been a very busy first week back. Year 3 have been out and about taking part in Bikeability, building their confidence and road safety skills. Year 2 enjoyed a memorable visit to St Paul's Cathedral, bringing their learning to life. Year 5 have begun their exciting work with Arsenal, and Year 6 are very much heads down as they prepare carefully and confidently for their SATs.

A gentle reminder about the importance of good attendance: being in school every day really does make a difference to children's progress and wellbeing. If your child is unwell or unable to attend, please ensure you contact the school office as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday as we head into March – how the year is flying by! Wishing you all a peaceful and restful weekend.

Kind regards,

Ms Braithwaite

Spring Lunch Menu

Click on the link to view our lunch menu for the
Spring term.
Next week is Week 4.



[Accent Catering Newsletter](#)

Coffee Morning

Tuesday 3rd March – 9am

Attendance Coffee Morning



Important Dates

Thursday 5th March

World Book Day

Tuesday 10th March

Maths Coffee Morning Years 1 & 2

Tuesday 17th March

PSHE Coffee Morning

Tuesday 20th March

Year 3 Poetry Assembly – 2:40pm

**Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th
March**

Parents' Evening

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



School Attendance



Julia Donaldson

74%

Eric Carle

88%

Judith Kerr

94%

Tony Ross

94%

Greta Thunberg

92%

Harriet Tubman

90%

Florence Nightingale

90%

Marie Curie

97%

Isaac Newton

95%

Michael Faraday

92%

Maya Angelou

94%

William Shakespeare

95%

Benjamin Zephaniah

99%

Emmeline Pankhurst

86%

Martin Luther King

95%

Marcus Rashford

95%

Nelson Mandela

95%

The whole school's attendance for this week is **93.3%**

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

For growing in confidence each week. This has helped with her interactions with others and exploring more activities.

Well done, Hannah.

Eric Carle 3YO: Arisha

For always being the first on the carpet and being ready to get involved in our carpet sessions.

Tony Ross Reception: Naira

For your great progress in phonics, you have put in a lot of effort and we are very proud of you.

Judith Kerr Reception: Ameer

For working hard at blending and writing on the line using finger spaces.

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Alfred

For showing perseverance and courage in maths this week! You have not given up a single time with addition, even if you found it tricky. Keep it up!

Harriet Tubman Year 1: Nevaeh

For displaying independence and perseverance this week. You have shown a dedication to completing your work to a high standard and are carefully listening to feedback. Keep it up!

Florence Nightingale Year 2: Salwa

For always trying her best in her learning. Salwa is a resilient member of Florence Nightingale, she sets an excellent example for the rest of her peers. Well done Salwa!

Marie Curie Year 2: Mia

You always set an excellent example for the whole school! You are respectful, resilient and enthusiastic. Keep up the hard work!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Ahmedin

For your excellent effort during our poetry lessons this week. You showed great focus and understanding when reading and exploring different poems. You shared thoughtful ideas and worked hard to understand the language and meaning. Keep up the great effort, Ahmedin — you are making wonderful progress!

Michael Faraday Year 3: Poppy

For her excellent work and positive attitude towards learning. She always tries her best and shows great resilience, even when she finds things challenging. Well done and keep it up!

William Shakespeare Year 4: Zunairah

For her effort and enthusiasm in English. She has shown active participation in class discussions and independence this week. Well done!

Maya Angelou Year 4: Tyler

I am really impressed with the fantastic progress he has made in his writing. He has worked hard to improve his handwriting and comes up with great, original ideas. It is wonderful to see his enthusiasm and ambition for writing. Keep it up Tyler!

Benjamin Zephaniah Year 5: Elif

For being such a positive role model for our class. You always make time to help and support others and do it with kindness and a smile. You put in great effort towards your work and it shows with the progress you are making! We are all very proud of you.

Martin Luther King Year 5: Allina

Allina has worked really well this week, especially when practising and remembering her lines for the assembly. She remembered a large section and even added her own actions, which was fantastic to see. She showed independence, focus and great enthusiasm throughout. Well done Allina! Keep up the amazing effort and enthusiasm.

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Leo

Well done, Leo. He is always following the school rules of being ready, respectful, and safe. He has shown great enthusiasm and has been using his speaking thumb to contribute in lessons.

Nelson Mandela Year 6: Jeremiah

Jeremiah had a fantastic start to the half term. He has contributed thoughtful ideas in our reading and writing lessons and consistently shows enthusiasm for learning by working hard. Well done Jeremiah!

Marcus Rashford Year 6: Abdi

You have started the new half term really well, Abdi. You are showing perseverance by building up your Doodle Maths streak. You also did some arithmetic practice over break, and I have noticed how you have already started improving in some question types. Be proud of your hard work. Keep it up, Abdi!

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe this week:



Year 6

This week in RE, we had our final lesson all about Islam and Christianity. We learned how both religions encourage people to give to others and how kindness can come back to you. We used chromebooks to research different charities and then created colourful mind maps to show everything we discovered. It was a really interesting way to finish our topic!



Year 5

This week Year 5 have been publishing their emails based on their class text, The Boy in the Girls' Bathroom. They used formal language to address the unfair treatment of the student Bradley. Their use of persuasive and emotive language was extremely effective!

To:

From:

Subject:

To:

From:

Subject:

Dear Redhill Staff,

I am writing to express my growing concern about the treatment of a child that many of us know | Bradley Chalkers. The way we are treating Bradley needs to be reflected on and we have to be careful with our actions. Have you ever asked yourself how Bradley feels? Does Bradley feel respected, safe and valued in our school community? These two questions need to be reflected. As educators, we have to treat everyone with trust and respect.

Firstly, without fairness and trust how can you expect a child to change if they are not given a proper chance? Every day, many staff members believe Bradley is breaking the rules before he can even speak, how brutal! This is completely unfair and totally unacceptable. On one occasion, when he asked for a hall pass to try to visit me, staff believed he wanted to leave the classroom for the wrong reason. On another occasion, he has been assuming he is going to cause trouble in the library, it is accused he isn't even allowed to borrow books! Because of this Bradley is so frequently assumed he doesn't even care anymore!

I am writing this email because I am extremely worried about Bradley Chalker's treatment in Miss Ebbel's class. I am shocked you could treat a child this way in your class. Just think about what you are doing to Bradley. He is a lovely boy so treat him the way you treat others. I think he is truly putting the effort to succeed in his learning.

Firstly, just think about Bradley - how could he change if you don't give him a second chance? All the staff in this school assume Bradley did something bad before he even takes a breath. He gets told off for being bad or misbehaving in class. Why do you not trust him? He is a nice person. How would you feel if you were treated this way every day? When Mrs. Ebbel gives him a hall pass, why does the teacher always stop him from going to the library in the school if nobody is allowed to go there? What an impossible situation he is in!

Secondly, I am furious with your unfair treatment of Bradley. It is unacceptable to stop children from sitting next to Bradley, what message does that send? The staff are treating him unkindly and he is aware of that, as a result he has no support system at school. Expensive lunch time by himself. Your staff have allowed this humiliating and heartbreaking experience every single day? If adults do not show kindness how can children be expected to.

Year 4

This week, the children in Year 4 have been exploring the theme of confidence. As part of their learning, they took part in an exciting and engaging drama workshop delivered by The Young Actors Theatre Islington. Through a range of fun activities and performance exercises, the children developed their self-belief, teamwork skills and ability to express themselves with confidence.



Year 3

This week, Year 3 have been exploring poetry. We read and enjoyed a range of poems by **Valerie Bloom**, focusing on the rhythm, expression, and meaning within each piece. The children discussed their favourite parts, identified interesting words and phrases, and explored how poets use language to create images and feelings. We also practised reading poems aloud, thinking carefully about expression and performance. Year 3 showed great enthusiasm and confidence, and it has been wonderful to see them engage thoughtfully with poetry.

I Asked the River

'Why do you run?' I asked the river,
'So fast I can't compete'
'I run,' the river said, 'because
I have some streams to meet.'

'Where do you go?' I asked the river,
'And what do you do there?'
'I go to the valley,' the river said,
'Where I wash the rushes' hair.'

'Why do you sing?' I asked the river,
'Such a sweet and happy tune?'
'Because,' the river smiled,
'I'm having lunch with the sea at noon.'

'Why do you laugh?' I asked the river,
'You'll share the joke I suppose?'
'I woke the mountain,' the river grinned,
'By tickling his toes.'

Then the river shuddered, groaned
and sighed,
The song of the streams and the
laughter died,
And it whispered sadly, 'I can't, I
can't,'
As it limped along like an ancient
aunt.

'Now why do you wait?' I asked
the river,
'And why is your current so slow?'
'Something holds me back,' it said.
Its voice was faint and low.

'And is that why you're getting
small?'
Is that why you sigh?
'I sigh,' the river said, 'because
I know that soon I'll die.'

'Why don't you fight for your life?'
I asked,
'You only foam and seethe.'
'My lungs are clogged,' the river
moaned,
'And I can hardly breathe.'

'Perhaps a rest,' I told the river,
'Would help to clear your head.'
'I cannot rest,' the river said,
'There's garbage in my bed.'
'What's this garbage,' I asked,
disturbed,
'Which is clogging up your sand?'
'Poisonous waste and wrappers like
this,
Which just fell from your hand.'

By Valerie Bloom



Year 3 also had the opportunity to learn and develop their bike riding skills with Islington's Bikeability team. They all thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and have grown in confidence while learning this important and practical life skill. Well done, Year 3!



Year 2

On Monday, Year 2 went to St Pauls Cathedral. They had a great time! During the visit, they had a tour of the Cathedral and how told about how it was rebuilt after The Great Fire of London.



Year 1

Year 1 have started their new book in literacy, Handa's surprise. We read the story and identified the fruits and animals in it. We then made a fruit salad including grapes, oranges, kiwi and banana. We tried a new exotic fruit called pomelo which tasted similar to a grapefruit.



Reception

Reception have loved baking their bread this week, as the hook for their new text 'Little Red Hen'. Please talk to your children about what they did, the ingredients used and what the yeast's purpose is. Hopefully they can tell you, "the yeast makes it rise".



3YO Nursery

A fun and messy welcome back. We are so happy to welcome children back to Nursery, we thought we would make the most of the sun and get them out in the garden drawing shapes in the shaving foam! They had so much fun although they did get very wet! We will be doing more of this as the weather warms up, please make sure they bring in their spare clothes.



2YO Nursery

Welcome back everyone.

Little nursery have been exploring the Chinese New Year, The Year of the Horse. We have been trying to write numbers in Chinese. We made some Chinese drums and we made some yummy stir fry. What a busy first week back.



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@duncombepprimary.co.uk



Performing Arts Academy N19

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
	COMING SOON	MUSICAL THEATRE L2-L3 16:30-17:30 5-11yo *WAITING LIST	BALLET L2 16:30-17:30 4-10yo
BREAK DANCE L2-L3 17:00-18:00 5-11yo	STREET DANCE L2-L3 17:15-18:15 5-12yo		COMING SOON
	CONTEMPORARY DANCE L3 18:30-19:30 7-12yo		



Whittington Park Community Centre
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Academy parent, Google Review



www.movingwaves.org
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info@movingwaves.org

“ I cannot recommend Moving Waves highly enough. My daughter loves her teachers and the classes. The whole team is so passionate about their work and dedicated to children's learning and their holistic development (physical, social, emotional).”

Academy parent, Google Review