

28.11.2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderfully busy week it's been in school, full of learning, creativity and excitement! As we head towards December, the countdown to Christmas will officially begin on **Monday 1st December**, and the children are already buzzing with festive cheer.

A huge *well done* to our school choir for their beautiful singing at the Archway Christmas Lights switch-on. They represented our school brilliantly, and we are all very proud of them.

The next three weeks promise to be especially busy, so please make sure to check the dates for your diary in this newsletter to keep up with all the upcoming events.

Just a reminder that we are holding a **Parent Workshop on Keeping Families Safe** on **Wednesday 3rd December**, and we warmly invite all parents and carers to attend.

Finally, we are delighted to share some good news — we will be **restarting our school food bank** very soon. Please keep an eye out for more information on how you can get involved or access support.

Ms Braithwaite

Executive Head



Autumn Lunch Menu

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



Next week is Week 1.



Important Dates

Wednesday 3rd December
'Keeping Families Safe' workshop

Tuesday 9th December
Year 1 Local Church Visit

Thursday 11th December
Year 5 Science Museum Space Trip

Thursday 11th December
Winter Fair - 3:45pm
See poster below

Friday 12th December
Year 5 Poetry Assembly

Monday 15th December
EYFS Winter Show

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

Wednesday 17th December
Early Reading and Writing Coffee
Morning - 9am
(please note this date has been changed)

Thursday 18th December
KS1 Winter Show

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

Tuesday 6th January 2026
Children return to school

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

Jeremy Corbyn visits Duncombe

Last Thursday we had the pleasure of Jeremy Corbyn, Islington North's MP, visiting us. He is a friend of the school and often takes the time out to visit us to check on our learning. During his visit, the school ambassadors greeted him, told him about their roles and then accompanied him on a tour around some classes.

Lianne Yahia (Year 4 ambassador) has reflected on the visit and summarised what she learnt from the Question and Answer session led by the ambassadors:

1) His biggest achievement was helping with the housing crisis

2) He became an MP in 1983 and people had to vote for him based on what he believed in. He was about the people and worked hard in his role.

3) As an ambassador, I was honoured to meet him. He explained how he became an MP and told us about his day to day responsibilities. I was really impressed with his down to earth nature and felt really lucky to meet him.



Winter Fair Activities and Cost

Activity / Event	Cost / Tokens
Guess the weight of the cake	2 Token
Face Painting	3 Tokens
1 Plate of Food 1 Dilute Juice	5 Tokens
Water available throughout	
Nail Painting	1 Token
Cake Sale	2 Token
Craft Room 1	1 Token
Craft Room 2	1 Token
Santa's Grotto - 2min with Santa Photo on parents phone	4 Tokens 10 Tokens for 3+ siblings
Penalty shoot out	1 Token
Pin the Nose on the Reindeer	1 Token
Christmas Photo booth	1 Tokens
Guess the sweets in the jar	2 Token
Chocolate Tombola	1 Token
Toys, Books and More Stall	Depends on Toy 1 - 3 Tokens
Raffle - Called at 4.40pm	£5.25 a strip

You will receive a Text and Email letting you know when you can buy your Tokens and Raffle Tickets.

Please buy your Tokens and Raffle Tickets when advised to.

Tokens and Raffle tickets will not be sold on the day of the Winter Fair.



YOU ARE INVITED TO DUNCOMBE'S WINTER FAIR!

DATE; THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2025

TIME; 3.45PM - 5.00PM

TO ENJOY THE GAMES AND ACTIVITIES ON THE DAY, CHILDREN |
WILL NEED TOKENS, WHICH CAN BE PURCHASED IN BUNDLES OF
10 TOKENS FOR £5.25.

THIS EVENT IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR DUNCOMBE
CHILDREN TO HAVE FUN WHILE HELPING TO FUNDRAISE FOR OUR

PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR A TEXT MESSAGE AND EMAIL DURING THE
WEEK BEGINNING 1ST DECEMBER WITH INFORMATION ON WHEN
AND HOW TO BUY YOUR TOKENS.

*WE KINDLY ASK PARENTS FOR DONATIONS OF NEW TOYS, CAKES,
AND CHOCOLATES FOR THE EVENT.*

*IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO HELP, PLEASE
CONTACT SABRINA, OUR CHILD AND FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER*



School Attendance



Julia Donaldson

56%

Eric Carle

79%

Judith Kerr

89%

Tony Ross

80%

Greta Thunberg

88%

Harriet Tubman

92%

Florence Nightingale

91%

Marie Curie

95%

Isaac Newton

95%

Michael Faraday

95%

Maya Angelou

94%

William Shakespeare

95%

Benjamin Zephaniah

91%

Emmeline Pankhurst

95%

Martin Luther King

93%

Marcus Rashford

94%

Nelson Mandela

97%

The whole school's attendance for this week is **94.1%**

Well done to all of the children who were awarded a certificate today for being in school on time every day this week.

Congratulations to Nelson Mandela for achieving the best attendance and punctuality of the week!




Attendance and Punctuality Week

Best Attendance & Punctuality

awarded to

Nelson Mandela class





Celebration Awards



Julia Donaldson 2YO: Aleia

You have settled really well, knowing it was hard to say goodbye to mum. You are starting to build your confidence and independence in little nursery by exploring and seeking adults when needed. Well done, Aleia.

Eric Carle 3YO: Mikel

Mikel has settled into nursery so well! He has started to make great friends and has shown how great of a listener he is. We are so pleased to have you in Eric Carle Nursery!

Tony Ross Reception: Emily S

For your amazing story innovation this week. You could remember the whole plot but changed the ending to a comical version.

Judith Kerr Reception: Aila

For your enthusiasm for our map topic and proudly sharing your learning with your family!

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Zeliha

For showing enthusiasm and ambition in Phonics this week! You are always a fantastic reading partner! Well done for trying so hard every day! Keep shining!

Harriet Tubman Year 1: Ameena

For showing enthusiasm all week. You have worked so hard in maths and writing and show such a positive attitude to learning. Keep it up!

Florence Nightingale Year 2: Sonaii

For showing perseverance and enthusiasm in his art lesson. Although he found sewing tricky, he kept going and didn't give up! Well done, Sonaii, keep it up!

Marie Curie Year 2: Jhenaiya

For your perseverance and enthusiasm at school this week. Well done for coming back with such a positive attitude and working so hard in your lessons!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Melanie

Melanie, you've been showing such great responsibility in your playground role. Your kindness and leadership make you a fantastic role model for others!

Michael Faraday Year 3: Lucas

For his effort and perseverance in all his assessments. He has tried his best and kept going even when he found the questions difficult. His can-do attitude has been evident throughout, and he should be proud of his progress.
Well done!

William Shakespeare Year 4: Cassius

For his effort and resilience in class. He has really thought hard about his ideas for his setting and character description. Cassius has shown enthusiasm and perseverance this week. Well done!

Maya Angelou Year 4: Kumsal

She is someone who always shows respect to adults and her peers and always tries to help others. She is a great role model to the class and the school, always showing the values of being ready, respectful and safe.
Keep it up Kumsal!

Benjamin Zephaniah Year 5: Minhaj

For showing ambition and motivation with her maths. I have been so impressed with how hard she is working to make excellent progress with her maths skills. Always an extremely positive attitude towards her learning!
Well done.

Martin Luther King Year 5: Allina

Allina has worked really hard throughout assessment week and I am incredibly proud of her. She approached every task with a positive attitude and a real determination to do her best. In particular, she showed impressive resilience during the maths paper where some questions were quite challenging. Instead of giving up, she took a deep breath, stayed focused and kept trying.

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Flick

Well done, Flick. She has shown brilliant enthusiasm in lessons and has a lovely, bright smile every day. She's always ready to learn and asks interesting questions in all lessons.

Marcus Rashford Year 6: Isa

Isa has been fantastic this week. I have been especially impressed with how Isa has used his learning from Geography and Science (and even home) to enrich his writing in the style of Charles Darwin. Isa now has some fantastic vocabulary in his writing, and he helped the rest of Rashford to improve theirs too!

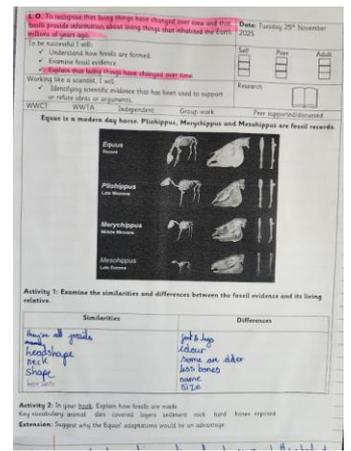
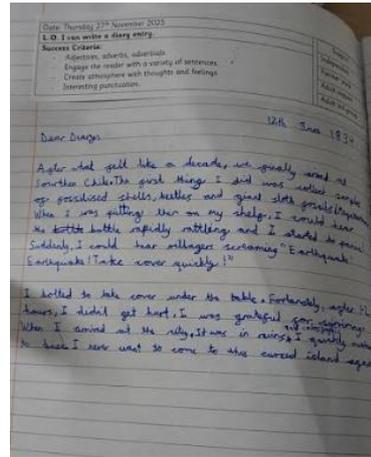
Nelson Mandela Year 6: Amin

In reading, Amin has consistently used wonderful expression and paid attention to punctuation, bringing the book we are reading to life. She has also shared thoughtful contributions. Keep it up Amin!

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe this week:

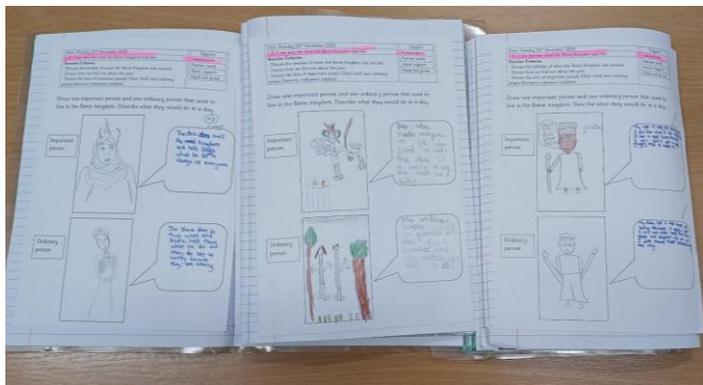
Year 6

Year 6 visited the Natural History Museum where they extended their understanding of their science topic (evolution) and their writing topic (Charles Darwin). Pupils took notes and completed diagrams as they went around, just as Charles Darwin would have done over a 60 years ago when he travelled the world!



Year 5

After working extremely hard on our assessments, we had an educational break to learn about the nutritional benefits of different fruit and vegetables. We learnt lots of interesting facts and why it is so important to eat as many colours as possible! Did you know that purple fruit and vegetables, like aubergine and red cabbage contain anthocyanins which help your brain, memory and protect your cells from damage!



Year 4

The children in Year 4 explored the roles of different people within the Benin Kingdom. They used their acting skills to express themselves.

Year 3

In our Recycling Runaround activity, the Year 3s worked with Sue, our link Islington Recycling Officer, to explore different areas of the playground marked as recycling, food waste, reduce, reuse, repair, and rubbish. As each item was shown, the children eagerly decided where it belonged and ran to the matching zone. They were enthusiastic and thoughtful in their choices, and afterwards we discussed why they chose each area. With Sue's guidance, the Year 3s learned more about recycling, reducing waste, and making responsible choices for the environment.



Year 2

This week Year 2 had the opportunity to participate in a taste the rainbow workshop. We learned about why eating a variety of fruits and vegetables is so important.



Year 1

Year 1 got to take part in the recycling workshop. We identified different types of waste and learned about the meaning of different coloured bins. We got to do some activities where we sorted objects into different groups depending on what they were.



Reception

Reception enjoyed making jam sandwiches, practicing spreading and using the mathematical language of half, parts and whole.

3YO Nursery

This week we were reading 'we are going on a bear hunt'. We went on some great bear adventures around the school, exploring the building and playgrounds. We even built our own cave in the nursery garden!

