

23/10/2020

Messages from the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers,

Well, we nearly got to half term without a single case of Covid and then I was informed late last night that a member of staff in the year 3 bubble had tested positive. Luckily, his symptoms are very mild and he is recovering well. Sadly, this is our 'new normal' but I was pleased that Public Health said that the school had responded well. Children and teachers in year 3 are now self-isolating and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on November 3rd.

We have had a brilliant eight weeks here at Duncombe and we would like to thank everyone for all of your support. It has been amazing to see how positive and enthusiastic the children are to be back at school and learning well. All week the teachers have been assessing their classes so that we can identify what children know and what gaps we need to fill.

This year more than ever is the time to remind all of you to stay safe and well.

Happy half term! Helen and staff.

Home Learning over half term:

Since the children have been back at school, we have noticed the difference working at home has made to their learning. Pupils who completed home learning work and read regularly in lockdown have done very well in assessment week and we are very proud of their progress. It is important children are in the habit of working from home so this half term; we would like to encourage families to:

- read everyday
- use doodle maths, mathletics or hit the button to keep working on those maths skills.
- complete any holiday homework they receive.

New staff member of the week



My name's Pavan and I teach in Year 2 - Florence Nightingale class. I am from Southampton and moved to Islington during the summer. I am a big football fan supporting my painfully average local team Southampton FC. Being at a school like Duncombe is the reason why I got into teaching, as it is a real pleasure to teach children from a range of different backgrounds and cultures. In addition, I am really enjoying this part of London, mainly because of the great Turkish food!

Toilet Twinning

Thank you to everybody who contributed to our toilet twinning fundraiser we raised £100 to help to build a toilet in Malawi. Did you know that over 2 billion people in the world do not have a toilet? Because of this, millions of children fall sick, miss class – and fail their exams.



Black History Month

This week the children found out about John Blanke. Do you know who he was?



John Blanke was a royal trumpeter in the courts of Henry VII and Henry VIII, and remains the only black Tudor for whom we have an identifiable image. While serving two kings, he bore witness to some of the great moments in England's history and contributed to some of the greatest spectacles of the Tudor age.

Enrichment Activities and Afterschool Club

Thank you to all our parents and carers who took part in the recent survey focusing on our extended day provision at Duncombe. Following some very helpful feedback, we will be introducing a brand new timetable of enrichment activities as well as an open access afterschool club. Please note enrichment activities are charged separately to afterschool club, Full details will be sent home with the children today. If you have any questions please email schoolbusinessmanager@duncombepimary.co.uk

School Attendance:

Our goal is 96.5%

Currently at: 94.4%

Nelson Mandela - 98.2%

Winston Churchill - 94.6%

Emmeline Pankhurst - 92.9%

Martin Luther King - 96.7%

Charlotte Bronte - 92.6%

William Shakespeare - 92.7%

Michael Faraday - 97.6%

Isaac Newton - 98.4%

Marie Curie - 94.1%

Florence Nightingale - 97.9%

Francis Drake - 87.5%

Ernest Shackleton - 98.2%

Tony Ross - 92.2%

Judith Kerr - 92.7%

Julia Donaldson - 84.7%

Eric Carle - 83.8%

Important Messages

Several parents have expressed concern over a rise in the amount of unsociable behaviour in the local community which our children can be exposed to at drop off and pick up. We have informed the local police who will do some additional walks and have passed the message on to the safer neighbourhood teams.

Duncombe Car boot Market

Duncombe will be launching our very own car boot market on Sunday November 15th from 8.30am to 12.30pm for buyers.

Pitches for parents start from just £5, if you would like to hold a stall please email Duncombecarbootn19@gmail.com or speak to Monique in the school office.



Celebration Awards



Eric Carle Nursery: Kayan

For retelling by heart the story 'We're going on a bear hunt'. Well done, Kayan! You are a little star!

Tony Ross: Fidel

For his great work thinking of rhyming words, well done for working so hard!

Judith Kerr Reception: Jesse

He has been the perfect role model, always trying his hardest and being a great friend to everyone in the class.

Ernest Shackleton Year 1: Eren

Eren has been working extremely hard in all lessons! He is always eager to share during carpet discussions. Keep being amazing!

Francis Drake Year 1: Nazifah

Nazifah has produced some beautiful English writing and even got writer of the week too. She is always ready to learn and extremely helpful in class. Well done Nazifah!

Florence Nightingale Year 2: Muna

For always trying her best, putting her hand up and making me laugh! Well done Muna you superstar!

Marie Curie Year 2: Yusra

A huge well done to Yusra this week. She has been such a positive light to have in our class. She is always working hard and trying her best. Well done!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Hamida

For being respectful, ready and safe. Hamida is a very kind and caring girl. She has been working particularly hard on her writing this week, making sure her sentences make sense and have a capital letter and full stop. Well done! You are a star!

Michael Faraday Year 3: Mysie

Mysie has shared some exciting ideas in her writing work this week and has been wonderfully behaved. She has also been very kind to her classmates. Well done Mysie!

Charlotte Bronte Year 4: Dee Dee

For contributing interesting ideas to class discussions.

William Shakespeare Year 4: Savanna

Savanna has made an excellent start to Duncombe and has become a very valued member of William Shakespeare. She is enthusiastic and ready to learn. Well done!

Martin Luther King Year 5: Mya

Mya has been working so hard on her English story this week. She is listening carefully to feedback and applies this to improve her work. We are very proud of Mya. Keep up the hard work!

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Abdi

Abdi has worked very hard this week; he has concentrated on all his assessments and listened carefully to the teachers instructions, being respectful to those students who are still working. An excellent end to the term, keep up the hard work Abdi!

Nelson Mandela Year 6: Yaqub

Yaqub often has to strive harder than others to achieve his goals but he never complains, or uses this as an excuse! I am impressed with his perseverance and he sets a good example to others.

Winston Churchill Year 6: Ayaan

For excellent work in English. His writing is exceptional and he has made a huge progress so far. Well done!

Competition Time

Do you remember our interview with Yvonne Conolly?

We would like you to write a short story about Yvonne from what you learnt which you can watch again on the Duncombe Website.

The winner will receive a £10 book voucher to spend at New Beacon bookshop, which was the UK's first black publisher here in North London.

