

06/11/2020

Messages from the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers,

I write this as we are entering the second day of lockdown, something no one wanted but is clearly a necessity. It is fantastic that schools are being allowed to stay open, as we know that there is a very low risk of a child becoming ill with Coronavirus. As a school, we have reviewed our risk assessment and you can find an up-to-date copy on the website.

All the children were happy to be back at school this week. Teachers have been looking at the assessment results from the tests and we will be meeting next week to identify those children who need extra help to catch-up. You should also have a letter next week telling you about parent's evenings. Obviously, these cannot be face to face, but we are still intending to provide you with all of the information that you need about your child's progress via zoom or on the phone.

Many parents have been in contact regarding food vouchers that Islington council thankfully supplied to all children eligible for FSM. Islington are still in the process of setting up school accounts, however all eligible children will receive vouchers as soon as possible. Please contact Nicky or Monique in the office if you need to apply for free school meals. If you need emergency food support then please contact: [We Are Islington 02075278222](https://www.weareislington.gov.uk) or [weareislington.gov.uk](https://www.weareislington.gov.uk)

We have a month lockdown ahead. I hope that you will continue to trust our processes at school and keep sending your children in. Routine, learning and contact with friends will help your children through these difficult days by making everything as 'normal' as possible. However, if any families have particular circumstances that make it difficult to come to school during lockdown then please contact me at school.

Wishing you a safe and happy weekend,

New staff member of the week



Hi everyone, my name is Will Weeks and I am a new teacher. I have the pleasure of working across the school at the moment and have enjoyed meeting all the children so far. I was born in Bristol and retain my lovely accent but I have lived in London for 12 years. I have a degree in Primary Education from Kingston University - unfortunately, London not Jamaica! I have been a primary school teacher for a number of years just over the border in Haringey and I am really looking forward to helping the school and your children over the year. In my spare time (!), I like to cycle, play 5-a-side football and climb both walls and hills. An interesting fact about me is that I was once chased in the Amazon rainforest by a swarm of bees!



Children in Need

Next week we are supporting Children in Need by dressing up in fancy dress on Friday 13 November 2020, we are asking children to bring in a £1 donation to school on the day! We are very excited!

Home Learning

So far, we have been very lucky to have nearly all pupils in school but we are aware that it is likely that we will need to close some bubbles at some point during this year. We would like you to know that we are preparing for this carefully to ensure your children and our teachers are prepared for learning to continue as usual.

We have:

- Written new home learning guidance for staff and parents in line with government guidance
- Set up new google classrooms for this academic year to ensure we are prepared if a bubble needs to learn from home.
- Given extra training on google classroom and exciting ways to use technology to teach your children.
- Organised a session for every year group to log into google classroom and learn how to access and submit their work.
- Ensured all pupils have their google classroom login details in their reading diaries and have signed our google classroom user agreement.

Enrichment Activities and Afterschool Club

We are so excited at the number of pupils that have signed up to new activities after school, please do sign up if you are able to, there is lots on offer! For queries, listings and prices please email schoolbusinessmanager@duncombeprimary.co.uk

Duncombe Car boot Market – postponed

Due to current restrictions announced, we will be rescheduling the car boot sale, hopefully we can run it sometime in December – watch this space!

However, please do email Duncombecarbootn19@gmail.com or speak to Monique in the school office if you would like a £5 pitch.

School Attendance:

Our goal is 96.5%

Currently at: 94.3%

Nelson Mandela – 96%

Winston Churchill – 95.1%

Emmeline Pankhurst – 93.7%

Martin Luther King – 94.4%

Charlotte Bronte – 94.1%

William Shakespeare - 95.3%

Michael Faraday - 100%

Isaac Newton - 98.8%

Marie Curie – 92.4%

Florence Nightingale - 92%

Francis Drake – 95.3%

Ernest Shackleton – 96.5%

Tony Ross – 94.7%

Judith Kerr – 96.3%

Julia Donaldson - 75%

Eric Carle - 83.8%



Celebration Awards



Eric Carle Nursery: Marwa

For always being extremely kind to her classmates. She contributes positively to discussions and has a great attitude towards learning. Well done Marwa, keep it up!
You are a little star!

Tony Ross: Omer

For working so hard learning his sounds, well done!

Judith Kerr Reception: Henley

Henley is very kind to everybody in the class. He has also been working with Mum over half term learning to count objects. Great work Henley!

Ernest Shackleton Year 1: Harmony

She has made excellent progress so far in Yr 1. She is always ready to learn and loves to participate in lessons. Keep up the amazing work Harmony!

Francis Drake Year 1: Isa

For always contributing to every lesson. He is always eager to learn and always contributes to every lesson. He impresses me with the interesting facts he shares in science about animals and is overall a very kind and caring person in the class. Well done Isa.

Florence Nightingale Year 2: Naeem

For always being full of energy, putting in lots of effort and

Marie Curie Year 2: Neriah

Neriah has started this term in the best way. She comes into school every day with a smile on her face and is always offering to help out in class. She has also been working really hard in her Phonics and Maths lessons. I have been so impressed with her. Keep it up!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Najma

For being a fabulous partner. Najma has been working with lots of children in year 3. She has been very kind and helpful. All the children said she was a super supporter. Great job Najma.

Michael Faraday Year 3: Chloe

For trying really hard and producing some excellent writing. Chloe is a kind, caring and compassionate classmate who always helps others when they need it.

Charlotte Bronte Year 4: Yahya

For his enthusiasm for learning - well done Yahya!

William Shakespeare Year 4: Salma

For a fantastic display of effort everyday. Salma has shown an ambitious attitude in her learning this week and should be really proud!

Martin Luther King Year 5: Shad

Shad is such a star. He is hardworking, kind and respectful. Shad is always ready to learn and he has already made fantastic progress in Year 5, particularly in maths. Well done Shad!

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Halima

Since returning after half term, Halima has shown a very positive attitude to learning by putting 100% effort into classwork and class discussion. Halima always uses her speaking thumb in class and never shouts out or interrupts her classmates; well done Halima, keep up the hard work!

Nelson Mandela Year 6: Suhaib

He has made dramatic improvements in all areas of learning. His behaviour is also very good indeed and I am so pleased with all his efforts.

Winston Churchill Year 6: Arian

For being an excellent example to the rest of the class. Arian has been working really hard to improve his writing, he is always in on time and always takes an active part in all lessons.

Anne Frank Workshops

Year 5 and 6 attended in-school workshops delivered by the Anne Frank Trust. In these sessions, they learnt about some of the experiences of Ann Frank and reflected on the importance of Anne today. They discussed the steps that lead to discrimination and prejudice. They discussed why it is important to learn about and challenge British history. They also learnt how to challenge racist views in a safe way. We were very proud of their hard work.



Fantastic Work

This is where my future could have been! How had I have given up so easily? This could have been me! Is only I was more obedient. That minute, I had been take back to a bright high-ceiling room with a piano, which had many keys. Back straight, my friend (called Oscar) had played elegant modern music. Mrs Twist (our music teacher) had her back towards us, gazing at the view of the countryside down below. When Oscar had finished, I had quickly started to play my jazz music (which made Mrs Twist heated. I had thought it was professional at that time, but now I always think about how unprofessional I had been. I was enjoying myself so much that blood was roaring in my ears.

Oscar's eyes had widened and I had grinned broadly - I always had a mischievous grin. My gloomy teacher had come up to me and hissed, "Young man! This is not the agreed style!" Oscar had moved beside me; I could hear his knees knocking together. I could tell he was grumpy. His eyes had been filled with horror. I had wanted to carry on playing. That had been my best piece (which I had taught myself in private. I had been dismal.

By Umayma in Winston Churchill Class

At that moment, I had been taken back to the bright, white, high ceiling room in the music school. Miss Twiss (who was our music teacher) standing still with her back facing us, gazing at the traffic lights below. Meanwhile, me and Oscar sitting on the piano chair. As I had watched him play the piano, I looked at Miss Twiss to see what she was doing. She looked like she was enjoying the music that Oscar was playing so I decided to show her what I'm at. I started to play some Jazz music (which was my most preferred type of music) but suddenly, Miss Twiss came snapping her baton on the side of the piano. I stopped playing the piano looking at her in her eyes. She didn't say anything to me, but as I looked at her in her eyes, I could see the internal anger. "That is not the style that we agreed on, young man!" Miss Twiss shouted. I was leaving as I knew that there is nothing that I could do to impress her, when I heard Oscar going back to playing the piano with Miss Twiss by his side. I thought that someone would follow me to tell me to come back, but I guess I was wrong.

By Milda in Winston Churchill Class