

F DUNCOMBE'S FOOTPRINTS



Julia, Hayley & Ali

We sadly say goodbye to three outstandingly caring and talented members of staff this Christmas.

Julia Sahling has been a really exceptional teacher at Duncombe and not only been a superb teacher but also an outstanding curriculum and phase leader. She is most fortunate to be moving to Mexico.

Hayley Eaton is probably Islington's most outstanding SENCO. She has been a wonderful and caring teacher and now SENCO for many years. Her great talent and experience have led to her being snapped up by the Islington Virtual School. She will be working supporting those very precious Islington children who are in care.

Finally, Ali Ozguven also leaves us this term. He is our longest serving teacher, over thirty-seven years at Duncombe School. He is a gentleman – nothing else needs to be said. His retirement is very well earned.

We hope to regularly see Hayley and Ali, but Julia will find it a little harder to visit from the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. We wish them all the very best and I am deeply grateful for all they have done for our children, parents and for me personally.

End of Term

We break up for our Christmas break today at the earlier time of 1.30pm; we have been celebrating Christmas, which is one of the most important festivals of the

year. As you are aware, we try to celebrate most major festivals; Islamic, Hindu, Jewish and Christian. An understanding and appreciation of our children's cultures and beliefs helps us to celebrate the community of nations that is Duncombe Primary School. Our aim is to help our children to show an understanding and appreciation of all that which different cultures and religions have to offer



Christmas Nativity

This year we had an excellent Christmas Nativity play performed

by our Early Years and children in Key Stage 1. The children and staff have put a huge effort into the quality of singing, sets, music and the dialogue. It was enormously rewarding to see how fruitful their efforts were. It was a wonderful performance with just the right balance of humour and respect. There was considerable staff involvement, but we are clear that only with your support and encouragement could our children have achieved so much. There were a very impressive number of parents and their relatives for the performance, who were suitably moved by the children's production and highly respectful towards the theme.

School Money System for Payments Online

A reminder that after Christmas, Duncombe School will be a completely cashless school. Parents will have to make all payments online for school activities such as school trips, school uniform and after school clubs. With

the exception of Tuck Shop, parents will no longer have to find the correct change or having to write cheques out. To ensure we experience the maximum benefit from this service, we are requesting that all parents notify the school office of any changes to their mobile numbers or email addresses.

School Uniform Reminder!

We will be focusing heavily on children wearing the correct uniform to school. Your child may be sent home from school if they are not wearing the appropriate uniform.

Trainers or boots are not allowed; plain black shoes must be worn. We have attached a copy of our uniform list for you to refer to. Please also remember that only sensible haircuts are permitted at Duncombe. **NO** cut out designs, Mohawks or coloured hair are allowed. Jewellery must not be worn to school, with the exception of small stud earrings.

Uniform Shop

The next uniform shop will be held on **Wednesday 10th January 2018** from 9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m. We are indebted to Kerry and Tammy for the smooth running of our shop. **Please note:** we no longer accept cash for uniform purchased, all orders must be made online prior to collecting the uniform on the above date.

Tesco Uniform Service

Please find attached a flyer with details on how you can order your child's uniform directly from Tesco. Please note, uniform purchased from them cannot be exchanged or returned at Duncombe.

Charities

Our Carol Singing at Victoria Station in aid of the Stroke Association was highly successful; **we raised a total of £788.63**. This is a great way of promoting an excellent charity and our school in the community, as well as giving a lot of fun and satisfaction to our children and staff. Well done to everyone

who participated and many thanks go to our friends, governors and parents who came along to support us.

Father Christmas

Many thanks go to Father Christmas and his beautiful Elves who visited our children; Santa has never failed to arrive at Duncombe to deliver Christmas presents on the children's party day. Santa visited every class and had a school dinner with his elves on the school roof!

Reception Class Place September 2018

Final Reminder – All parents of children born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 must apply for a place in our Reception class for September 2018 by 15th January 2018. We have organised a parent workshop for Friday 12th January 2018 from 9:00am – 10:30am in our Data Base, Islington staff will be on hand to assist parents with their applications. All applications must be made online

www.islington.gov.uk/admissions

Christmas Disco

Many thanks to Parents Supporting Duncombe (PSD) and the staff volunteers who supported the wonderful Christmas disco. All our children had a wonderful time.

Things to do!

The question is always the same, "What can I do in London over the Christmas holidays with the children?"

We have included some links below of the best things to do over the festive period, including family friendly theatre shows, park events and activities at museums. Happy holidays!

<http://metro.co.uk/2017/12/10/christmas-2017-10-activities-that-cost-under-10-to-do-with-the-kids-this-christmas-holidays-in-london-7116169/>
<https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/whats-on/christmas/101-things-to-do-in-london-this-christmas#TbAirfV2KMT1yLBf.97>

Birthday Treats

We have decided that it is no longer safe for children to walk around school to share sweets and chocolate with staff and other year groups. They are still allowed to bring in sweets, cake and chocolates but we must now confine all edible treats to the classroom only and they should only be brought into school if the Class teacher has given consent.

Unfortunately, many children in the school have allergies, some of which are severe. Seeking consent prior to bringing goodies into school should prevent any accidents occurring as the teacher is able to assess the health needs of all children in their class. Please ensure you always discuss this matter with your child's teacher before considering giving any food items to your child to bring into school.

Late Fines at Duncombe

Would parents and carers please note the charges for our late fines: If children are not collected by 3:45pm a £5.00 per child fine continues from

3.45pm – 4.30pm.
However, if a child is still not collected between 4.30pm – 5.30pm the charge per child increases to £7.50 and if still uncollected between 5.30pm – 6.00pm, £10.00 will be charged. In the unlikely event any child is still not collected by this time and their parents have not been contactable they will be taken to Islington Social Services.

Holiday Reading

Please encourage your child to read every day of the holiday and keep a record of their reading in their reading diary. Once again, all consistent readers will be rewarded with a special Duncombe prize on our return from the holiday. Reading is both the easiest and most effective support that you can give your child. Please read with your child every day.

Vacancies

We have a few spaces become available in some of our year groups. If you have any friends or families who would be interested in transferring

their children to Duncombe or are seeking a new place, please ask them to collect an application form from the school office.

Half Term Holiday

Advance notification that children break up for the half term holiday on Friday 9th February 2018 and return to school on Monday 19th February 2018.

Returning to School

Children return to school on **Thursday 4th January 2018** at the usual time of 8.55 a.m. for juniors and 9.00 a.m. for the infants. Please ensure that your children arrive on time for school, wearing the correct school uniform with plain black shoes, no boots or trainers please.

All the staff and children at Duncombe would like to wish all our parents a very happy and holy Christmas.

