

F DUNCOMBE'S FOOTPRINTS



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 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 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.

Charities

Our Carol Singing at Victoria Station in aid of the Stroke Association was highly successful; **we raised a total of £1220.30**. 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 Elf 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 elf on the school roof!

Reception Class Place September 2017

Final Reminder - All parents of children born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013 must apply for a place in our Reception class for September 2017 by 13th January 2017. 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 the children had a great time.

Breakfast Club

From January 2017 the charge for Breakfast club will increase to £2.00 per child per day. This is enormously good value for up to one and half hours child care. All children should bring their reading books or homework to occupy themselves when they have finished breakfast. Our breakfast consists of cereal, fruit juices and toasted bagels with a variety of spreads. Norma-Jean and Geraldine look after the children, Mr O'Shea and school staff always lends their support if required.

SWES Price Increase January 2017

Since we started SWES ten years ago we have been

fortunate to be aided with a grant from Islington Council of £22,000.00 a year to help us meet our costs. This is a grant from the Home Office. The Home Office have now cut the grant and there is no further source of funding available. We will have no option but to think very carefully about the future of SWES if we are to keep it going in an acceptable form, charges will have to rise over the next six months. This will be gradual and the first stage will be when we return in January. As with other Islington schools we will no longer be able to give discounts for paying half a term ahead. You will still need to pay in advance but the charge of **£7.50 a night** will stand for children attending for the full 3.30pm - 5.55pm session and **£5.00** for the 3.30pm - 5.00pm session. It will no longer be possible to offer a discount for parents who are not working; the same charge will have to apply to all. Please be notified that there will be a further increase in both April and next September until we are matching the charges levied by other extended schools in the Borough of Islington. Duncombe and St. Marks School currently subsidise SWES at £7,500.00 each year even with the grant from the Home Office. This we will continue but cannot afford to increase.

Late Fines at Duncombe

Would parents and carers please note that we have had to increase our late fine if children are not collected by 4.30pm. The £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.

Christmas Tree & Crib

Our parents and community support staff have made a wonderful effort to set up the nativity crib and to decorate our Christmas tree in the school atrium. It is the most mementos effort. All the decorations are home made through recycled articles.

Cars Waiting Outside the School

Please could you remember to switch off your engine and turn your music down while waiting outside the school or on Hatchard Road. The fumes and noise were very worrying yesterday and could have an adverse effect on our children. Thank you for being considerate.

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.

Outstanding Achievers Awards

We have attached a list of our Outstanding Achievers Award winners. Many congratulations go to all the children who are listed.

Uniform Shop

The next uniform shop will be held on **Wednesday 4th January 2017** from 9.00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m. We are indebted to Joyce Forbes for the smooth running of the shop.

Attendance

Our overall attendance this term was 96.4%. As you know, our target is for 97%. As is typical for this time of year, there has been a lot of sickness to contend with so we hope to make up our percentage in 2017. Please ensure your child attends school every day, whenever possible. We will be sending letters home after the holidays to inform you of your child's attendance and punctuality and we will be running our movie reward afternoon on 9th January 2017 for the "100% ers". This term 37 penalty notice letters have been sent to parents at Duncombe whose

child's attendance is very poor. These carry a fine of £60.00 per child per parent in the first instance, which increase to £120.00 for a delayed payment. Non payment results in a court appearance. Attendance at school is vital!

Half Term Holiday

Advance notification that children break up for the half term holiday on Friday 10th February 2017 and return to school on Tuesday 23rd February 2017.

Returning to School

Children return to school on **Wednesday 4th January 2017** 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 please.

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

Barrie O'Shea

