

DUNCOMBE'S FOOTPRINTS



International Evening



What a wonderful evening and what a wonderful group of parents and staff we have at Duncombe. The way you supported our talented children was an example to all schools of what a fine school community can achieve. Many thanks to you all.

Welcome Back

Welcome to another year at Duncombe Primary School. We have had a really marvelous start for all our children and staff. The children have arrived beautifully turned out; they are a real credit to you all as their parents. Please remember to insist on black shoes when you purchase new footwear

for your children. There is the likelihood of confusion with some footwear as to whether it is a shoe or a trainer.

New Staff

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new members of staff; we have two new teachers, Natalee Spencer and Will Kirk both teaching in Year 2. We also have three new Graduate Teaching Assistants in Years 6, 4 and 1, Sonal Patel, Georgia Johnson and Jessica Jackson-Virk. I am sure you will join me in welcoming them all to Duncombe Primary School.

Reporting Absences

If your child is going to be absent from school, for any reason, please telephone the school office **on 020 7272 5620 option 1** to report the absence. There is a facility for a message to be left on an answer phone if you are unable to speak directly to a member of the office

staff. You can also email the school office on attendance@duncombepri mary.co.uk to report an absence.

Children who are Unwell

If your child is unwell please do not send them into school, if they do come into school they will be expected to participate in all the curriculum activities that their class is taking that day i.e. PE, swimming etc. There have been occasions recently where children have come into school and their parents have said their child is unwell and told the office to phone if they felt ill again. Needless to say all these children come to complain about being ill, **it would be easier for all if you only send your child in to school if they are well and capable of partaking in the entire curriculum.**

Doctor/Dentist Appointments

We are once again experiencing a high volume of appointments

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being taken during the school day. Please ensure that you make any appointments for your child to visit their Doctor/Dentist, Optician etc. after school or during school holidays, unless it is an absolute emergency. It is very disruptive for the child and the class when a child either arrives late for school or is collected early to attend an appointment. Remember if your child is registered in the morning they will not be marked absent as long as they return to school. Leaving for an afternoon appointment after registration at 1.30pm will also ensure they do not have any absence mark against them. Our attendance is higher than it has ever been before – over 96%. We aim to achieve this school target in July. Well done to all.

Parent email Addresses

We are trying very hard to reduce the amount of paper we use within the school. Since January 2016, we have been emailing parents our letters and newsletters, so if you have not yet advised us of your email address, please do so as a matter of priority. Sending letters electronically is also a more reliable way of ensuring parents

receive them. A few paper copies of the newsletters and letters will be available for parents to collect from the school reception, but this will be your responsibility to do so.

Text Messaging Service

If you are not receiving texts from the school, can you please call into the school office as a matter of priority to update your child's contact details.

Start of the School Day

Please be aware that the school cannot be held responsible for children left in the playground before the start of the school day. It is the parent responsibility to ensure that their children are supervised until the start of school. **No Infant child should ever be left in the playground unsupervised.** An adult will be in the junior playground from 8.50am, children arriving before this time should either be supervised by their parents or go to Breakfast Club. Breakfast Club starts at 7.30am and costs £1.00 per day, per child and is available for all Duncombe children.

Children Collected Late from School

The school day finishes at 3.30 p.m. which is when parents should be in the playground ready to collect their children. As has long been the tradition and rule at Duncombe, any child not collected by **3.45 p.m. at the latest will be issued with a £5.00 fine (per child).** This process is closely monitored and any parents who are found to be collecting their children late on a regular basis will be referred to the Education Welfare Department.

Parking near Duncombe

Please be aware of our neighbours' need to be able to exit Jutland Close or the driveways of their homes in Hatchard Road when parking. Please be considerate and do not block their driveways or the entrance to Jutland Close.

GCSE Results

Many congratulations go to Hasret Yaldir who achieved an A and Serdil Karakuyu, Rodin Parlak and Ismail Iyigüven, who all achieved a B in their Turkish GCSE's. This puts Duncombe top of the GCSE league table

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for Islington. Thank you to Ali and Semra their excellent teachers.

Secondary School Applications

If your child was born between 1st September 2005 and 31st August 2006 and is currently in Year 6 at Duncombe School, they will due to start secondary school in September 2017. You will need to apply for a place for your child by 31st October 2016. All applications have to be completed online. If you do not have access to the internet at home, free internet access can be found at any Islington Library. If you would like to use the school computers to apply for your child's place, we have organised a parent workshop on **Friday 14th October 2016 between 9.00am and 10.30am** in the Data Base at Duncombe School. Staff will be on hand to assist you with the application

Reception Intake September 2017

If you have a child born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013 (our current

Nursery) then your child could start in our Reception class in September 2017. As with the secondary school application, all application forms for Reception places have to be completed online. Once again, if you would like to use the school computers to apply, we have organised a parent workshop for **Friday 6th January 2017 between 9.00am and 11.00am** in the Data Base at Duncombe School.

Daily Home Reading

Please remember to mark your child's exciting new reading diary **every day**. We have very few children at Duncombe whose parents forget to read with their children and sign their diaries every day. Reading is the key to Literacy and success in life! Please insist your child reads before watching television or playing computer games in the evening. If you do ever forget, then please read with them in the morning **before** your child goes to school. When reading changes from a challenge to an enjoyable experience they have cracked it! Let's try & get all our children up to the

enjoying reading experience.

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. 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.

PE Kits

We are reminding all parents that there is a compulsory PE kit at Duncombe School, a plain white T-shirt and navy blue shorts. These can be purchased from the uniform shop in a useful drawstring bag for £7.00. As they are identical, it is very important to write your child's name inside. Plain blue tracksuit bottoms or navy blue leggings may be worn. All children will do PE regardless if they are well enough to come to school.

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Uniform Shop

Our next uniform shop will be held on Wednesday 5th October 2016 from 9.00 a.m. until 10.00 a.m. Please note, the school office is no longer permitted to take orders from parents unable to attend the shop, please arrange for friends or a family member to purchase the uniform on your behalf.

Children's Names in Uniform

Please ensure that all items of your child's school uniform are clearly labelled with their name written in them. The school cannot be held responsible for items of school uniform that have been lost or taken. Any items of lost property are placed under the sheds in both the Infant and Junior playgrounds.

Change

The school office **does not** have the facility to give change out to parents for tuck shop or any other activities that may be taking place within the school. Please ensure you always have

the correct money for any activities that you may have to pay for.

Term Dates

Please find attached our term dates for this academic year. Please keep them in a safe place to enable you to refer to them during the school year.

Parents Evening

On Wednesday 9th November 2016, we will be holding our first Parents Evening of the new school year. The evening will run from 3.45 until 7.45 p.m. that gives us 8 minutes for each meeting. We hope that every child is represented by a parent or responsible adult. We would rather see an elder brother or sister of 17 years or over rather than no one if you really cannot come. Although we will be discussing your child's academic progress, our priority this term will be to talk about your child's ambition and how we need to work together - parent-child and school in order for them to achieve them. All appointments will be limited strictly to ten

minutes; please do not hold others up by staying over your time. Reception parents will not be seen on this evening as we have a regular programme of visits already in place.

Half Term

We break up for the half term holiday on Friday 21st October 2016 and children return to school on **Monday 31st October 2016.**