

# DUNCOMBE'S FOOTPRINTS



## Ofsted Visit

All parents will by now have received our Ofsted Report. We are delighted to have done so well. Duncombe's success is a reflection on our wonderful team of children, parents and staff at Duncombe Primary School.

## Investors in People

We are very proud to inform parents that we have not only met the appropriate standard for Investors in People but have become one of a very, very few employers to reach the Gold Standard. This is a really rare achievement. Investors in People have also notified us that we are a finalist in the Gold National Award Competition. Our staff are a huge investment to us and the reason why this is such a great school.

## Celebrations in School

Duncombe's community and its celebration of Christian, Jewish, Muslim and many other religious festivals is a leading light in Islington. The way our parents and children from all different backgrounds come together at these festivals to share an understanding and celebrate this diversity is

quite inspirational. There is an expectation on all of us that we partake in these celebrations; it is not possible to pick and choose. For instance one cannot opt out of our Christmas celebration of the nativity and then expect to be included in the celebration of Christmas in a party. I would like to make it very clear that we will expect you to collect your child from school when these events go on if you are making the decision to opt out, as everyone will be involved and there will not be staff available to mind individual children. To ensure that our community at Duncombe is truly multicultural and tolerant please encourage your child to join in the full range of both religious and non religious celebrations at our school.

## Christmas Events

Please find attached a copy of the events taking place during December at Duncombe. Please note concerts for Year groups 3, 4, 5 and 6 will take place during the Spring and Summer terms.

## Coats and Jackets

It is extremely worrying that some children are still arriving at school without a suitable winter jacket or coat. With the weather getting colder and wetter, please make sure your child comes into school with a coat. Also, if your child is wearing boots to school, please ensure they have their black school shoes to get changed into on arrival.

## Reception Intake September 2018

If you have a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 (our current Nursery) then your child could start our Reception class in September 2018. All applications must be completed online by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2018**. If you would like to use the school computers to apply, we have organised a parent workshop on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 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. Please inform the school office if you would like to attend this session. Also, please bear in mind that

Duncombe is always oversubscribed.

### **School Money**

We would like to thank all our parents for their help in ensuring all payments for school activities now go through the Duncombe School Money System. If you have forgotten your access code, please pop in to the school office for them to send you a reminder.

### **Absent From School for Over Five Days**

All parents need to be aware that absences over five days will need to be covered by medical evidence. This could be a letter from your Doctor or Consultant or a normal medical certificate.

### **SWES**

We have enclosed our latest SWES for the first half of the Spring Term. I hope parents like the new format. Please remember all payments are to be made through our School Money system. Please speak to either Tina, Nicky or Kerry in the office, if you have problems logging on. A saving of between £1.00 and £2.50 per day will be made if paying in advance. Alternatively, there is a daily drop in charge of £11.00 per day per child, regardless of finishing time (5:00pm or 5:55pm).

### **Christmas Dinner**

The school traditional Christmas dinner for children will be on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and the American Diner style lunch will be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017. If your child usually has a packed lunch and you would like them to have either or both of the above then please inform Nicky in the school office ASAP. If you have not completed an application form to receive free school meals, the charge will be £2.85 per child, per meal.

### **World Mathletics Competition**

The week of 20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November is World Mathletics Competition, all week the points will be added and children will have a chance to win prizes.

### **Squadram Music Groups**

Please see attached a flyer with regards to a local Children's String Orchestra. If you are interested please use the contact details given. This group is not connected to Duncombe School, so please contact them directly.

### **Uniform Shop**

Our next uniform shop will be held on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017** from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

### **Christmas Break**

Advanced notification that we break up for the Christmas holiday on

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017 at the earlier time of 1:30pm.**

Children will return to school on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018** at the usual times of 8:55am for juniors and 9:00am for infants.