



Durants News

February

A note from the Headteacher

Hopefully the dark nights and cold weather of winter will soon be behind us. We all know how hard it is to get up on dark mornings. All credit to all our pupils, as well as the staff, who yet again have been working extremely hard since coming back in January.

Our attendance has remained very good and I would again urge you not to keep your son/daughter at home unless they are too unwell to come in.

Similarly I would also ask that if you feel your child is too unwell to learn or will pass germs to others then please keep them at home until they are better.

This is all a fine balance but hopefully this will ensure all our pupils will be able to make the best of their learning opportunities.

Leading Parent Partnership –LPPA

We have been awarded an external accreditation for our work with families (LPPA).

We have been working on the Leading Parent Partnership Award for the last year and our final assessment was on Monday 30 January 2012.

The Assessor made her decision after a gruelling day interviewing our School

We will only ever contact you if we feel your child is too unwell to learn or will pass germs onto other pupils and staff.

New Governor

We are pleased to announce that Sophie Castell has joined the Governing Body as a Community Governor. Sophie is a prominent member of the Enfield Branch of the National Autistic Society and we are sure that her appointment will ensure very close co-operation between Durants and ENAS for the benefit of all young people with autism and their families.

We have a vacancy for a Parent/Governor and two Parents have put their names forward. We will be holding an election after half term.

Peter De Rosa, Headteacher

Council, Parents, Staff and Governors.

An enormous thank you to everyone who spoke so highly of the work we do with our young people and their families.

The assessor said 'I am really impressed with the work you do here. I would grant you this award 25 times over.'

WELL DONE EVERYONE!

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Inside this issue:

A note from the Head-teacher. **1**

Leading Parent Partnership **1**

Goalball Workshop
School Council **2**

Drake Music Project **2**

Imperial War Museum
Soda Bread Making **3**

The National Autistic
Society—Survey **4**

Half Term
Arrangements **4**

Goalball Workshop

In light of the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games, Durants School hosted a very successful Goalball workshop and mini tournament, which was planned by our Competition Co-Ordinator Marion Coram Ware. Thank you Marion.

School participated in visual improvement games, Goalball skills and practice drills.

The day included schools from St George's, The Vale and Eastfield, plus two teams from Durants School—Blue and Amber.

Well done to all the children and thank you to all the staff.



School Council

The School Council this year consists of all the pupils in Silver Class. Each School Council member has a constituency class that they have to get to know, so on Monday lunch times the representative spends time getting to know the likes and dislikes of the pupils in that class.

We are hoping that Silver Class will be able to support developments in the school and give all our pupils a real voice in making this school an even better place to learn, achieve and be successful.

Drake Music Project

Durants are embarking on an exciting new project with Drake Music and the Enfield Arts Support Service.

Drake Music's main focus is on nurturing creativity through exploring music and technology in imaginative ways. Silver Class will be working with Drake Music for a ten week project, creating music together with Ipad's!

We are looking forward to this project immensely!

A Big Thank you

Friends of Durants would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to Mr and Mrs Wise for the money which they donated to us in memory of Mr John Wise. This money is very much appreciated and will go towards special trips for our pupils.



Imperial War Museum

On Wednesday 1 February, Amber Class and Silver Class went on a trip to London to visit the Imperial War Museum. The pupils enjoyed the experience of travelling on the train and the underground and were beautifully behaved—a credit to their class team.

All the pupils were able to visualise what life was like during the Second World War; the uniforms worn by both the British and the German Soldiers; see photographs of both Adolf Hitler and Winston Churchill; look at the weapons used by both sides and see life-size tanks, large guns, war planes; jeeps and submarines.

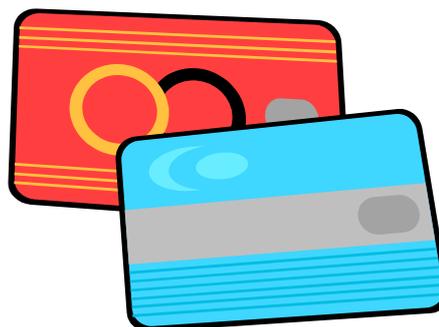
It was a very exciting place to be, enjoyed by all.



Cashless system

Please remember that as from April 2012 the school will be implementing a cashless payments system for school meals.

We are in the process of developing this new system and further communication about this project will be sent to you shortly.



Silver Class — Soda Bread Lesson

On Thursday 2 February our Chair of Governors, Sylvia Hart, came and taught Silver Class how to make soda bread. Everyone had a fantastic time mixing the ingredients and getting covered in flour. The end result was perfectly cooked soda bread loaves. The students, and staff, tasted the lovely warm bread with some butter and all agreed it was delicious, so much so that Silver Class would like to make a loaf for every class.

Sylvia had a great time working hands on with the students and said how polite they all were. Silver Class would like to thank Sylvia for sharing her spare time with them.



The National Autistic Society – Survey

The National Autistic Society are conducting a survey to mark their 50th birthday. We would be grateful if our parents could support them by completing the online survey. The results from the survey will help the society gather the most recent up-to-date information which will support their continual hard work for families and schools.

To find the survey please go to www.autism.org.uk and in the right hand column there will be a tab to click 'tell us about your experience of autism'. Here is where you can complete the survey. Thank you for your support!



Drumming

For the last few weeks Red and Blue Classes have been attending drumming sessions at the Prince of Wales School. They have been having a thoroughly enjoyable time drumming and making new friends. The drumming sessions will resume again after Easter.



Half Term Break

Half Term commences Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February 2012.

School will finish at the normal time of 3.00pm on Friday 10 February 2012.

One INSET DAY has been arranged for Monday 20 February and school will be closed to all pupils on this day.

School re-opens for all pupils on TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2012 at 8.50am.

Parents Comment Slip

Please use this slip to send a comment into school. It can be your thoughts on the newsletter or on any other matter related to the school.

Name:

Comment:
