



Durants News

October 2013

A letter from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

The first half term at Durants has gone really well. We are very pleased at how well our 14 new pupils have settled in and the vast majority of those pupils at Durants last year have transitioned well into their new classes.

The four pupils and two staff who have moved to the new satellite provision based at Winchmore School have also made a fantastic start to this new venture.

In addition our new school shop has opened. It is a 5 minute walk from Durants along the Hertford Road and is providing a realistic work experience environment for our pupils to use. We already have two Durants' parents volunteering and supporting Nazire, the Shop Manager. If you would like to help

please ring and speak to Karly Barker.

Partnership Working

As most of you will be aware Durants has strong links with Russet House School and we work closely together in the best interests of children and young people with autism. The Governors at both schools have decided, having met, that they would like to look at strengthening these links further by forming a Partnership or Federation. Staff will be looking at this on the INSET Day on 4 November. The Governors will also be seeking the views of Parents in the near future.

Enjoy the half term break.

Peter De Rosa

Headteacher

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Holiday Requests

PLEASE NOTE

As from September 2013 the law has changed regarding requests to take pupils out of school for a holiday during term time.

Headteachers are now no longer able to authorise parents to take their son/daughter out of school.

I regret that from now on we will not be able to deal with any further requests for pupils to be granted authorised leave during term time.

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Treasureland

After a very successful grand opening on Tuesday 1 October at noon, by the Mayor of Enfield, Treasureland is now open for business. Already some pupils have begun their work experience at the shop, helping Nazire, the Manager, with labelling, pricing and sizing the clothes. Some pupils have even managed to use the till to sell items to members of the public.

Pupils in both the Upper and Middle Departments will be accessing the shop for work experience. Usually two or three pupils will visit at each session with a member of staff supporting. On some occasions there will also be pupils from Waverley so it is really good for our pupils to have a chance to mix with new peers.

Please come along and support this brilliant venture. Treasureland will be open daily (Monday to Friday) to members of the public from 10am–4pm. Any contributions/donations for the shop will be greatly appreciated.



Open Evening

We would like to thank all Parents/Carers who attended the Open Evening on Tuesday 22 October to discuss their child's progress and to see their work.

We had an absolutely amazing turnout from Parents/Carers which made the afternoon/evening extremely worthwhile for everyone..



Benefits Coffee Morning

A big thank you to Karen Grimes who recently delivered a very informative coffee morning for both Waverley and Durants parents on benefits and the up and coming welfare reform.

Karen is part of the Enfield Disability Information and Advice Project at Enfield Disability Action, more information can be found at www.e-d-a.org.uk

Attendance

As I am sure you will appreciate pupil attendance is extremely important to their learning and I would 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.

Our pupil attendance since the beginning of September 2013 is 96.54% which is excellent.

Siblings Group

Siblings group are hoping for an eerie evening this week when they get together for Halloween. A spooky film is at the ready and pizza is on speed dial. Hopefully a few witches and ghosts turn up! Watch out for some pictures of the evening on our website.



Jeans for Genes Day

Blue Class were involved in organising the Jeans for Genes day and we raised £189.00.

The pupils designed their own t-shirts, we had a cake sale and non school uniform day.

We would like to thank everyone who supported this worthwhile event.



Diwali

Blue Class have been learning about the Hindu Festival Diwali. They enjoyed making Divas and Rangoli patterns in class. Blue Class would like to wish everyone a Happy Diwali.



Black History Month



A big thank you to everyone that came to our Black History Month celebrations!

Everyone had a fantastic time tasting the great food prepared by parents, listening to music, dancing and participating in our African drumming session.

The Hoffman Foundation for Autism Art Exhibition

Last term some paintings were selected to be entered into the Hoffman Foundation for Autism Art Exhibition and Competition.

Artwork from Gold and Amber classes (2012-2013) is being exhibited.

The exhibition opened on 3 October and it will remain open until 22 December at Bruce Castle Museum and Gallery, Lordship Lane, Tottenham, London N17 8NU.

I am hoping you will take this opportunity to view the children's artwork and celebrate their fantastic achievements.



Get fit for Autumn/Winter 2013

The Enfield Everybody Active Team have a wide variety of courses across the borough for all ages and abilities. Activities include Gymnastics, Trampolining, Tennis and much more to get you active and taking part in sport and physical activity. If you would like to learn more about how to get active and join one of our sessions please contact the Sports Booking Team on 020 8379 3762 or visit www.enfield.gov.uk/sport



Half Term

Half Term break commences on:

Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November 2013.

School will finish at the normal time of 3.00pm on Friday 25 October.

An Inset Day has been arranged for Monday 4 November and school will be closed to all pupils on this day.

School re-opens for all pupils on:

TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER at the normal time of 8.50am.

COMPLEMENTARY THERAPY

Reflexology, Reiki, Holistic Massage

FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

Independently run sessions on Fridays from 12.00 to 3.00 hosted at:-

**Park Avenue Disability Resource Centre
65c Park Avenue
Bush Hill Park
Enfield EN1 2BA**

**Price:- £18.00 for 30 minutes
 £35.00 for one hour**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK, CONTACT JUDY RIGBY

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