



Durants News



December 2013

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come towards Christmas I am pleased to report that this has been an excellent term at Durants. We are very pleased with all our Year 7 pupils who have settled very well and clearly enjoy being at Durants.

Treasureland, our shop, continues to flourish and is providing valuable work and social experiences for lots of pupils. If you have any stock for us after Christmas please bring it into Durants. All contributions are gratefully received.

The New Year will see us having our National Autistic Society Accreditation Inspection. The NAS will spend 3 days with us in January ensuring that we continue to offer the best possible autism specific education to our young people. Thank you to everyone who

completed and returned the recent questionnaire.

Partnership Working Update

As I mentioned in the last newsletter we are looking into the possibility of more joint working with Russet House to build a strong educational organisation for all pupils with autism in Enfield. The staff from both schools held a joint INSET day in November to begin looking at what would be involved. The Governors will be looking at proposals in more detail in the spring and will be consulting fully with both parents and staff before making any decisions.

I hope you all have a good Christmas. Have a good break and I look forward to seeing you all early next year.

Best wishes - Peter De Rosa

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Somali Coffee Morning

On Thursday 28 November 2013, Bridget Thorn from the Enfield Carers Centre hosted a very successful Somali coffee morning. Somali parents from Durants and Waverley came together and discussed relevant topics of interest. There were plenty of biscuits going around and plans were put into action for another get together. One parent said she 'felt very refreshed' as she left.

Thank you to all the parents that attended and to Bridget for organising the morning.



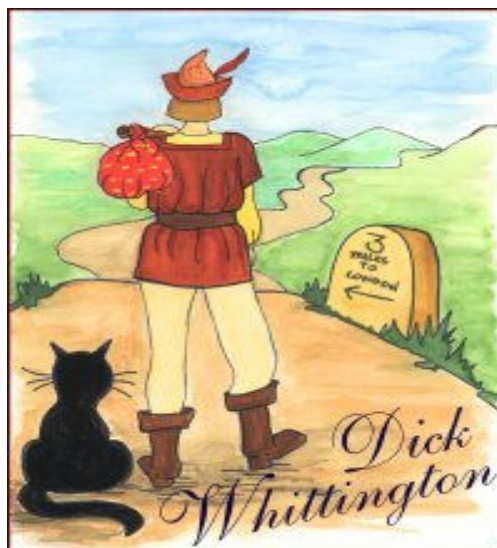
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Dick Whittington Pantomime

On Monday 2 December 2013 most pupils from Durants attended the Dick Whittington pantomime at the Millfield Theatre. This was funded by the charity 'Happy Days' who also paid for transport to and from the venue for the whole school. All the pupils that attended the show were very well behaved and really enjoyed themselves, especially singing along to all the songs and shouting out **"He's behind you!"**

Durants would like to say a massive **THANK YOU** to HAPPYS DAYS charity for their kind generosity, all the pupils for their excellent behaviour and all the support from the staff!



Siblings Group



Siblings group had an eerie evening when they got together for Halloween on Thursday 24 October 2013. We watched the Adams Family Reunion, spooky but funny! Everyone had pizza, popcorn and lots of sweets and all enjoyed themselves. We even had time for some dancing at the end where everyone did the Harlem Shake! Well done to all the guys who made a fantastic effort with your costumes, very scary!!!!

It was the Christmas get together for Siblings group on Thursday 12 December. We had a very festive evening with lots of things to make and do, present giving and plenty of chocolate was had by all!! The evening finished off with a group soft play session which I think was the highlight for most! Have a very Merry Christmas guys and best wishes for the coming year.

Please take a look at the photos on the Durants School website.

Attendance at Durants

Congratulations to all of our families and pupils. The attendance at our school is excellent and for this year currently stands at 96%. On one day recently every pupil was in school. 100% attendance is outstanding on any day and this is the second time this has happened. Please keep this up as statistics show that pupils who have good attendance at school do best!

Please keep this up!



Upper Dept. Reviews Treasureland

The Review process in the Upper Department is in full swing. We have already completed the reviews for the leavers in July 2014 (scary thought) and are now looking forward for those students in Years 12 and 13.

For all our leavers we intend to have two further meetings (one each term) to ensure a smooth transition to their next placement, whether it is college, residential or day opportunities. For parents we know, it can be a very anxious time, especially as some students have been at Durants a long time. However, with a structured plan in place, we aim to enable all our young people a successful transition. I can't promise it won't be stress free, but what I can promise is that as a staff we want to keep all lines of communication open to help with the process.

CALLING ALL READERS, Treasureland welcomes you to come and look! The Treasureland shop in Hertford Road is working extremely well. At least five classes in the Upper and Middle departments are represented with two or three students from a class (and a member of staff) having a weekly work experience opportunity.

Nazire, the Shop Manager, has streamlined the shop and goods on offer; we have a range of clothing for ladies, men and children, super jewellery pieces and bric-a-brac that could suit all styles, all at very reasonable prices.

So, make it your New Year resolution to take time to visit 528 Hertford Road, Enfield.

Enfield Gymnastics Festival



Red Class represented the school at this year's Enfield Gymnastics Festival.

They competed in floor routines and vault against the other special schools in the borough.

All pupils won medals and certificates.

Beige Class

Beige Class have made real progress in some key life skills this term. We have had several really successful shopping trips, where members of the public have always had a positive and supportive response to our pupils. We have also been doing lots of cooking and several pupils have been able to carry out tasks with increasing independence.

The class team and all really proud of how Beige Class have been doing this term—well done everyone!

'Wear it Pink'

On Friday 8 November we held a **'Wear It Pink'** day in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness. It was a non uniform day and the pupils and staff took part in various activities such as colouring competitions, 'Hunt the Pink Ribbons', Pink quizzes and 'Guess the Cake Crusader.' Cakes and biscuits were also on sale throughout the day.

We raised **£136.39**. A big thank you to all pupils and staff who took part!!!

Eden Vale Centre

Red and Orange Classes were invited to the Eden Vale Centre to perform some Christmas carols for them. We sang, danced and enjoyed the party.

We even got to meet Father Christmas and he gave us some presents!



The D Factor

December 12th saw Durants School Christmas Production. This year's theme was based on the popular TV programme 'The X Factor.'

All the pupils participated and the parents were thrilled with the talent and fun that came from 'The D Factor.'

Miss Briers (Teacher) raised the bar and created an enthusiastic and exciting production.

The event was extremely well supported by Parents/Carers. Thank you to all who attended.

Parents said 'best production so far.'

End of Term Arrangements

School will finish for the Christmas holiday on **THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER 2013** at the normal time of 3.00pm.

School will re-open for all pupils at the normal time of 8.50am on **MONDAY 6 JANUARY 2014**

