



# Durants News

## A note from the Headteacher

### Dear Parents/Carers

This half term has been a time when classes have been working hard. We have been focusing on ensuring that we are supporting all our pupils to be as independent as possible. For some of our pupils this may be eating their lunch without support rather than having lots of help, whilst for others we have been expecting them to make their own way to the Durants shop rather than having a member of staff walking with them.

I would ask that at home you work with your young people to ensure they can do everyday things as independently as they possibly can.

If you want some ideas or support please ask your child's classteacher.

## Pupils absent from school

Thank you to all Parents/Carers who call first thing in the morning to report their child being absent.

There has been a massive improvement in Parents doing this, thus saving the office staff a lot of time.

**Keep up the good work!!!!!!**



### E-Safety

Using computers, laptops and accessing the Internet are very popular with almost all the pupils at Durants. They all benefit from using technology to learn. I would, however, urge all parents to supervise your children well when they are using the Internet. Many pupils are very independent which, whilst good in some respects, also means they may be able to access unsuitable material.

For advice and support with this you can visit the CEOP website which offers parents lots of advice and tips.

You can access this site from the link on the home page on the Durants website.

Have a good Easter break.

## March 2014

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## Golf Taster Sessions

The four pupils based at the ARP Unit at Winchmore School have just completed a six week series of golf sessions at Bush Hill Park Golf Club. We walked along to the club on Thursday mornings with six Winchmore students, and had a 45 minute session of golf.

They did some sessions on the range, on the course and on the putting green. Everyone really enjoyed the sessions and learned all about the different strokes and irons, and to round off the lessons there was a fun session where we did some golf games.

We had a super coach, and we are looking forward to doing some more golf if the opportunity arises.



## Gardening at Winchmore

The four pupils at the ARP unit at Winchmore School have acquired a plot of land at Woodcroft Outdoor Centre in Winchmore Hill.

We have been planting and growing seeds in class, and we recently made our first visit to plant the seeds, and also plant some bulbs.

We are looking forward to seeing the results when we return after the Easter holidays, and we hope to do some work on the plot in the summer term.



## Trees from the Woodland Trust

Silver class have planted some cherry trees outside the Art Room.

The trees were from The Woodland Trust and we are looking forward to seeing them grow.

Silver Class worked really well together to plant the trees and enjoyed being out in the sunshine.



## Dance Festival

Two Glee groups took part in the Annual Enfield Dance Festival at the Millfield Theatre on Monday 31 March and Tuesday 1 April 2014.

The Girls' group danced to 'Wings of the Dawn' and the Boys' group danced to 'Dear Darlin'.

All the pupils were absolutely fantastic and the parents and staff were extremely proud to see all the pupils perform on stage. We were able to showcase the talent of the pupils at Durants School. It was a wonderful night's entertainment, enjoyed by all.

A big thank you to all the staff and parents who supported the event to make it a success.



## British Museum

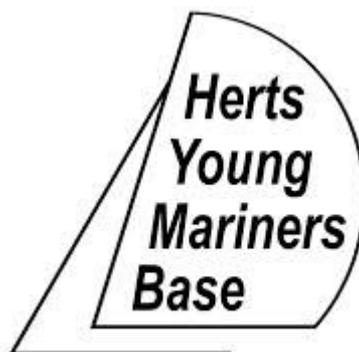


Silver Class went into central London to visit the British Museum. We used trains, tubes and buses to travel there and back. At the museum, the pupils saw wonders from around the world, including ancient forms of writing and weapons through the ages. A particular favourite were the Egyptian Mummies! After enjoying some time in the museum, we walked to Russell Square Gardens for lunch in the open air, before making our way back to school. The pupils behaved excellently throughout the visit and really enjoyed their day out in London.

## Young Herts Mariners Base

Another successful term at Herts Young Mariners Base (Cheshunt); Gold Class have participated in six different activities and shown staff how well they engage in activities which are challenging and new. Climbing and Caving were enjoyed by all and water activities such as Bell Boating, Canoeing, Kayaking and Raft building proved to be fun as well as confidence boosting. All the pupils found the experience to be really exciting and everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves—even the staff.

**WELL DONE EVERYONE!**



## Siblings Group

On Thursday 3 April 2014, Siblings group are getting together for a party at Krispy Kreme. The plan is to have a tour of the building, enjoy some games and eat lots and lots of doughnuts! I am sure everyone will be able to manage that!!!!

Please take a look at the website next week for photos of the party!



## Easter Holiday

This is to remind you that the Easter holiday commences Monday 7 April to Monday 21 April 2014.

**School re-opens for all pupils on Tuesday 22 April 2014.**

**School will finish at the normal time of 3.00pm on Friday 4 April 2014.**

**Enjoy the Easter holiday.**

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## Communication Tip from S&L Therapist

In school we have been thinking about how we use prompting to help the pupils. We want everyone to be as independent as possible, so we are working on giving all the pupils more time to think before we prompt. **TOP TIP** when you give an instruction or ask a question, count to ten slowly in your head to give your son/daughter time to think.

