



Durants News

May 2015

A letter from the Head Teacher

Welcome

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter. As we move into summer I am able to tell you about two new promotions to Durants.

John Ryan is confirmed as the permanent Head of the Middle Department and Daniela Barzanti has been appointed as the New Head of the Lower Department. We wish them well in their new posts.

I am also pleased to tell you that we have appointed two new teachers who will be joining us in September.

We would like to welcome one new pupil, Louis, to Durants. We hope Louis settles down quickly with us.

New Staff

New Staff

We would like to welcome Gemma Kennard, who is joining us as music therapist after the half term in June.

Gemma will be with us for a year covering Emily's maternity leave.

Gemma has lots of previous experience working with young

Minchenden Site Update

The Local Authority is currently negotiating the purchase of the Minchenden site in Southgate which will be used to extend Durants.

The anticipated timescale now for when we are expecting the building to be ready is September 2017.

Currently the Local Authority is commissioning architects to undertake the design of the building. We will, of course, keep you updated on progress.

Important Dates

Wednesday 8 July: Sports Day

Thursday 9 July: Parents Evening

Enjoy the Half Term break!
Best wishes — Peter De Rosa

adults with Autism and we hope she enjoys her time at Durants School.



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It's A Boy!

It's A Boy!

Congratulations to our Assistant Head Teacher Ann O'Hagan, who recently gave birth to a baby boy named Thomas.

Mum and baby are doing fabulously well!



Adoption Leave!

Adoption Leave!

Congratulations to Gold Class Teacher Donna Latimer, who has recently adopted a gorgeous baby boy who she has named Errol.

We wish Donna the best of luck on her wonderful news!



Step Into Dance

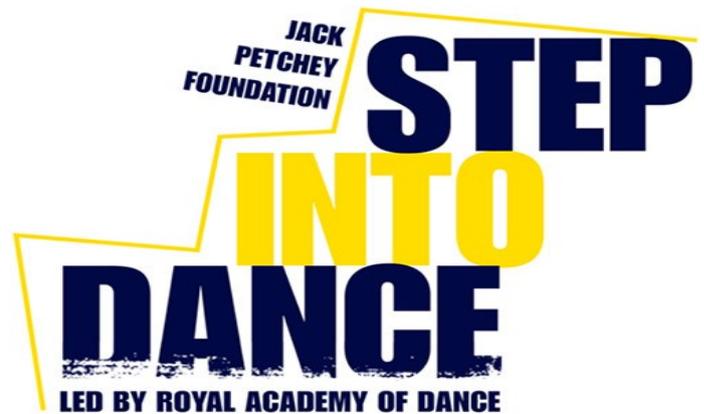
Step Into Dance

Durants School recently performed at Aylward School as part of Step Into Dance.

We had a lovely time and other schools commented on how well we did.

Thanks to all staff and pupils who participated!

Caroline Pursell



Wize Room

Wize Room

As part of the ICT Grant, we were fortunate to receive a Wize Room! www.wizefloor.com

The WizeFloor is an award winning interactive floor, focusing on learning and physical activity.



Here are some wonderful reviews:

"The WizeFloor has been a huge success! It is easy to access and suitable for a range of different abilities. The games support communication, fine and gross motor skills as well as social interaction with peers. It allows pupils to play simple cause and effect activities as well as designing their own games and quizzes. Best of all, the WizeFloor is FUN! (Daniela Barzanti – Red Class Teacher Durants School)"

"Silver Class have really enjoyed using the WizeFloor – especially the football game. All students are motivated and actively participating in sessions. They have had the opportunity to utilise their skills of turn taking and working as a team with many of the team games – and look forward to creating their own games. The WizeFloor has great curriculum links and we look forward to using these on a more regular basis. (Kay Khing – Silver Class Teacher Durants School)"

Silver Class Trip-Bank of England Museum

Silver Class Trip-Bank of England Museum

On Friday 15 May, Silver Class paid a visit to the Bank of England Museum as part of their life skills / numeracy units.

They learnt about the history of money and how the Bank of England was established.

They also went on a virtual tour inside the famous vaults and enjoyed handling a genuine gold bar!

They all had a lovely day!



Red Class Trip-Natural History Museum



Red Class Trip-Natural History Museum

Red class went on a trip to the Natural History Museum to see the coral reefs exhibition to link with their work on coastal regions in geography and art. They used buses, trains and the tube to get there and back.

They all had a lovely time and really enjoyed the interactive installations and the large tank filled with coral and colourful fish!

Golden Spoon Award!

Golden Spoon Award!

Gemma Hilmi our Let's get Cooking co-ordinator has been awarded the Golden Spoon Award for successfully running the Let's get Cooking Club. The award was presented for making an outstanding contribution and showing an exceptional level of commitment.

The club takes place every Thursday after school. It gives pupils the opportunity to develop their life skills in the kitchen, and enables them to build up

their independence in a supervised setting.

Over the year they have made a range of scrumptious dishes which they have taken home to share with their family. The club has been so successful that there is a waiting list of pupils wanting to take part.

Let's get
COOKing



Summer Transition

Summer Transition

The summer transition for our new pupils who will be joining us in September 2015 has begun.

Our new year 7 pupils will be attending different lessons and will be experiencing some of the different sessions Durants has to offer. They include sensory room, PE, Cooking, Glee, and Art.

We look forward to welcoming them to Durants in September 2015.



Half Term

Half Term break commences on:

**Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May
2015**

**School will finish at the normal time
of 3.00pm on
Friday 22 May 2015**

School Re-Opens

School re-opens for all pupils on:

**Monday 1 June 2015 at the normal
time of 8.50am.**

Enjoy the Half Term!

Parent Council Coffee Morning

Parent Council Coffee Morning

Our first Parent/Carers Council Coffee Morning was launched on the 15 May 2015, which was a huge success. Parents/Carers got the opportunity to meet with other parents to share their personal stories and to listen to others with similar stories. It was a relaxed and very friendly atmosphere that saw many parents bonding and being able to relate to one another. Not only were parents able to share their personal experiences and stories, but were able to see that they were not alone in their own struggles in bringing up an autistic child/children. The stories were heartfelt and very touching, which again highlighted the importance of being able to share with others that truly understand.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday 12 June 2015 at 9.30am to 12 noon. The group is very friendly, relaxed and highly enjoyable to be around. There is tea/coffee and cakes available and most importantly there is no set time limit, so if anyone needs/wants to leave early it's absolutely fine.

We are also hoping to hold a therapeutic art session at this next meeting purely for fun, so no one needs to question their artist skills to join in!

We hope you will join us and we look forward to meeting many more parents!

Parent Council Group

Coffee Morning

Everyone Welcome

