



# Deanwood Dispatch

At Deanwood we want our children to be  
"Happy, Successful & Safe"



Term 2 – December 2021

## CLASS NEWS – TERM 2

### Deanwood Nursery

Hello from Deanwood Nursery!

This term we have been fascinated by the Tom Fletcher series 'There's a \_\_\_\_\_ in your book'. We have loved reading all about the monster, the witch, the unicorn and most recently the dragon!



We even saw the dragon in our outside area and he set fire to the trees – we had to put the fires out with hoses!

We have been focusing on our fine motor control this term. This means we have done lots of mark making, manipulating playdough, and hand-eye coordination activities. In particular the children loved making cheerio towers on the spaghetti!



We have also enjoyed using the scissors. We have learnt how to keep our hands



safe when we carry them and use them. The children enjoyed snipping paper and cutting along the lines too.

### Pine Class

Another exciting term in Pine Class! We have been completing our learning based on stories and the children's interests. We have enjoyed completing activities based on 'The Room on the Broom' and 'The Wizard and the Princess'. We especially enjoyed making our own potions for the wizard to use. We used a variety of ingredients such as spiders, unicorn diamonds and fairy dust. Our most recent story was 'Stickman' which related quite nicely to our Christmas topic. We had to complete lots of challenges for Stickman and had a lot of fun!

In phonics we have learnt all of the phase 2 phonemes and have been practicing sounding out and blending words. We have also looked at real and nonsense words and have played games based on this.

In maths, we have been learning in the phase of 'light and dark' and have been learning about numbers to 5. We have completed various activities surrounding these numbers.

Our Christmas show went incredibly well and we are all very proud of ourselves! It has been a great second term of learning and we are looking forward to a lovely Winter break!



## Maple Class

This term, Maple Class have been learning about famous artists throughout history and have had a lot of fun creating their own artist inspired artwork!

In Science, we have been learning about scientists and inventors. We learnt about the inventors who invented Lego and zoos, and the scientists who discovered our senses and materials that keep us warm.

In Art we looked at the skills used in Art and Design. We have been introduced to sketchbooks and have filled these with lots artwork. We have printed with Lego, colour mixed to create shades of colour and used shapes to create our own pictures.

In English we have been looking at Moths and found out all about them and how they are different to butterflies! We had to read and follow instructions to make a Moth feeder. We then had a go at writing our own instructions to make porridge after reading Goldilocks and the Three Bears.



Maple Class really enjoyed Christmas jumper day and performing the KS1 Nativity!



We have been very busy in Year 1 this term and we look forward to finding out what our new topic will be in the New Year. Have a lovely Christmas and stay safe Maple Class!

## Oak Class

This term, our topic in Year 2 was 'The Great Fire of London'. We have enjoyed learning about life in 1666, how the great fire started, spread and stopped as well as what changed in London afterwards. It has been really interesting going back in time and realising just how different things were back then.

In Maths, we are now much more secure in our understanding of place value and have moved onto learning how to add and subtract numbers. We have also been spending more time on Times Tables Rockstars, securing our multiplication and division facts!

Our story 'The Dark' by Lemony Snicket left us all feeling a little bit scared in English but it led us onto some interesting pieces of work, including poetry, stories, descriptive writing, role play, persuasive writing, responding to music through art, story mapping, instructions and explanation writing. All of this and we are still practicing how to write in full sentences but we are now beginning to include commas, question marks, apostrophes and exclamation marks in our writing!

In Art, we created some amazing pictures of the 'Great Fire of London' using pastels for the fire and black paper to create a silhouette of the London skyline in 1666. We have also created some detailed pictures of King Charles II and Samuel Pepys.

Finally, we have been very busy preparing for the filming of the Christmas Nativity 'It's a Party'. We would like to say a big thank you to parents/carers for helping children to learn their lines and prepare for the show. Even though it won't be quite the same as usual this year, we are looking forward to you enjoying the show from the comfort of your home whilst snuggled up on the sofa with a cup of tea. We hope that you enjoy watching your child making some precious Christmas memories.



## Cedar Class

What an interesting term we have had in Year 3! We have been continuing our journey through history moving from the Iron Age to the age of the Romans.

It has been interesting to read different books based within the Roman period such as *Bacillus* and *the Beastly Bath* which helped us learn the different types of baths the Romans used (even how they used to go to the toilet all in the same room!). We have also read the story of a Roman slave and about the Celts in Roman Britain.

We began our history lessons learning about Romulus and Remus and the legend of how Rome was founded – did you know it is said that Romulus killed his brother, Remus, and named the city after himself? As we learnt more about the Romans, we discovered they could be quite violent! The Roman army was legendary not to mention the Colosseum and its gladiators.

We did learn that it wasn't all swords and fighting for the Romans though, we also learnt about how many new innovations they brought to Britain, such as roads and bath houses. We also discovered that they created wonderful art

in the form of mosaics. In class, we had a go at creating our own mosaics – it's harder than it looks!



We are currently enjoying learning about the eruption at Pompeii and using the story 'Escape from Pompeii' as inspiration for our own stories.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and carers who have supported us with our learning so far this year. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all for a Happy New Year.

## Willow Class

Year 4 have had a fun term learning about Ancient Egypt. We have spent time learning about Egyptian gods and goddesses, studying hieroglyphs and making our own cartouche out of clay and completing an information double-page spread all about Tutankhamun! We also mummified Dave, our class mummy and some tomatoes (they really stink!)



In Science, we have been studying the digestive system and our teeth. We had a go at making our own toothpaste, labelling our digestive system and looking at what types of teeth we had. We made models of the mouth using mini marshmallows to do this!

We have been working really hard in DT this term and have made our own Egyptian Death Masks inspired by Tutankhamun's. We first designed them in our art books, then cut out the nemous using thick card, added papier mâché to thicken them up, then we painted them in our design. We had a lot of fun!



As the children may have told you, Miss Gannon is going to be leaving Willow Class at the end of this term. Willow Class have loved having Miss Gannon and they are going to be really sad that she has left. I would like to thank her for all the work she has done with the children.

We hope you have a fantastic Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you in the new year!



## Hawthorn Class

This term we have been learning all about global warming. We have been studying plastic pollution and waste. The children have been working towards creating items out of waste and turning them into reusable items such as clothing or everyday items. The end of term "Trash ion Show" is nearly upon us and the children's ideas are looking wonderful.

In Maths, we started this term by studying addition and subtraction. The children worked hard with this and are now able to use column methods to add and subtract 5-digit numbers. Moving on from this, the children have learnt about factors, multiples, square numbers, cube numbers and also how to multiply and divide numbers by 10, 100 and 1000.

In Science, we have been looking at living things. We have investigated the life cycles of insects and amphibians. Researched how plants and mammals reproduce and finally looked at different types of metamorphosis in some animals.

Hawthorn class have really enjoyed our DT project this term which has been creating a structure of a bridge. We have looked at many different bridge designs, beam, arch and truss. We then carried out an investigation to see which design of bridge would hold the most weight. From this we created a bridge made out of spaghetti before moving onto making our final design out of wood. All of the children realised that the truss bridge was one of the strongest designs with a triangular shape. We really have packed a lot of learning into this term and both I and Mrs Down hope that you have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!



## Elm Class

This term we have been studying Nelson Mandela. We read a fantastic biography about his life and then wrote our own one after using internet and reading skills to research about him. As part of our topic, we learnt about the Apartheid and how racial discrimination was rife in South African during the 1940s-80s. In fact, it didn't end until 1994! We discovered that Nelson Mandela became a civil rights activist, which closely linked to our school assemblies last term during Black History Month where we learnt about Rosa Parks. Once we had finished writing, we began to take pride in our work and publish it, so they can go up on display for everyone to see next term. The biographies which the children wrote were fantastic – it is clear they have learnt a lot about Nelson Mandela this term!



## **Lunchtime**

What a lovely term we have had, the children have all been very excited with the run up to Christmas. On December 9th lunchtime was very special as it was our Christmas lunch. The children excitedly entered the Main hall with their lunches while Christmas music played and ate at decorated tables. This was the first time both Pine and Maple Classes had experienced this.

We have welcomed 3 new MDMS this term, Mrs Collier, Mrs Player and Mrs Jaffrey all of whom have settled into their new roles wonderfully.

We always encourage the children to eat as much as they can at lunchtimes and will inform your child's teacher if they are struggling, please also let us know if you have any concerns.

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas break and look forward to welcoming the children back in the new year.

*Merry  
Christmas*



## **Extended Services**

### **Breakfast & After Schools Club**

Breakfast Club currently operates from 7.30-8.30 and costs £5 per session and Kids Club currently runs from 3.15 until either 4pm or 5pm (depending on your needs!) and costs £5.50 or £7. Children are accompanied to or collected from their classrooms.

If you require the service, please email [deanwood.extended.services@gmail.com](mailto:deanwood.extended.services@gmail.com) as soon as possible. Places are currently limited to 15 children per key stage.

Our mobile number is 07821 643519 for any cancellations.

## Website

Please visit our new website [www.deanwood-that.org.uk](http://www.deanwood-that.org.uk) for information on events happening at the school and any letters that have been sent home. If your child is absent from school please check the website for any letters or latest news you may have missed.



## Safeguarding

At Deanwood Primary School, we recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have concerns about a child, please ask at reception for a one-to-one discussion with:



Mrs J Wright  
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mr O Slack



Mrs E Russell

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

## School Office Hours

The school office is open between the hours stated below, if telephoning the office or dropping something in, it can only be done between the office hours.

Monday	8am – 4pm
Tuesday	8am – 4pm
Wednesday	8am – 4pm
Thursday	8am – 4pm
Friday	8am – 3:30pm



## Messages

If you would like to pass a message to a member of the teaching team, you can speak with them briefly at drop off / pick up time (maintaining social distancing) or can request a phone call via the school office.

If you need to contact the school office, we politely request that you do so via phone or the office email address ([office@deanwood.medway.sch.uk](mailto:office@deanwood.medway.sch.uk)) if at all possible

Thank you for your continued support

## Head of School's Review of Term 2 – 2021

I continue to be amazed by the resilience of the whole school community. Despite us having to tighten COVID measures in recent weeks, the children continue to put their best efforts into all that they do. It has been great to meet with teachers over the last couple of weeks and to hear about the fantastic progress that the children have been making with their learning.

I enjoyed seeing EYFS and KS1 preparing for their Christmas performances and getting excited to be on the stage, wearing their costumes. Whilst I know that it was disappointing that we were unable to invite parents in to watch, I would like to thank those parents who have taken the time to contact me personally to show their support for the school's decision. I really hope that those of you who have requested a copy of the DVD will enjoy being able to watch it with your children and families over the festive period.

A particular highlight for me was the school Christmas lunch which took place last week. There was a real sense of community amongst the whole school with the children enjoying sitting with their friends, wearing Christmas jumpers, eating a lovely Christmas dinner and listening to their favourite Christmas songs. I would like to thank Mrs Hastings-Thorpe and her team of Midday Meal Supervisors for helping to make this a memorable experience for all.

This term, Miss Toombs has joined us as a Teaching Assistant. Although she is largely based in Year 2, she has spent some time in other classes around the school. We have also been joined by three new Midday Meal Supervisors – Mrs Collier, Mrs Player and Mrs Jaffry. I know that the children and staff have been enjoying getting to know them all.

As we approach the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to Miss Thornton, Miss Gannon, Miss Cox, Mrs Knight and Jade Ryan. However, I am pleased to report that Miss White will be joining us as Year 2 teacher and KS1 Lead, Mrs Russell (not the school's SENCo!) will be joining us as a KS2 Teaching Assistant and Miss Bissenden will be taking over the role of Extended Services Lead for Kids Club. I am sure you would like to join me in thanking the staff that are leaving for all of their hard work and wishing them well in their future endeavours.

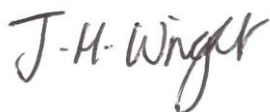
We will also be saying goodbye to two long-serving members of office staff. Miss Clark and Mrs Beavington have both been successfully appointed to new roles at schools in Kent. I am sure that you would like to join me in thanking them for all they have done at Deanwood and wishing them well for the future. We are currently seeking to appoint a new member of office staff so please be aware that office capacity will be limited until a new appointment has been made. From January, the school office will be open at the following times:

- Monday to Thursday – 8a.m. – 4p.m.
- Friday – 8a.m. – 3:30p.m.

We now have a new phone system in place which gives parents the option to report their child's absence by leaving a voicemail. In order to help the smooth running of the school office, if you are calling to report that your child is unwell, please do so by choosing Option 1 rather than asking to come through to the office. Office staff tell me that they have seen a significant increase in the volume of calls received to the school office during the day. The majority of these calls relate to the collection of children at the end of the day. Whilst we do understand that last minute changes of circumstances can occur, could we politely request that any known changes to collections prior to the start of the school day are recorded in your child's contact book and that your child is aware who will be collecting them that day.

I would like to end by taking this opportunity to thank all of our staff for their continued hard work throughout this term. I wish them all a well-deserved rest!

And finally, whilst I hope you will have the opportunity to spend some quality time with loved ones over the Christmas period, I would urge you all to follow the government guidelines over this period so that we are all able to return to school safely on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January**.



Mrs J. Wright  
Head of School

