



Deanwood Dispatch

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



Term 5 - May 2022

CLASS NEWS – TERM 5

Deanwood Nursery

This term the children in Nursery have really engaged with bug hunting, we have found lots of spiders, snails and other insects under our outside logs. The children have shown curiosity in the different sizes and number of legs that each creature had and were gentle when holding or moving the creatures to our insect viewers.



Continuing with our fine motor skills development, the outside area has been used for lots of mark making with different materials. The children have really enjoyed painting on a larger scale using brushes and rollers on a large piece of paper against the side of the shed, we have also used the cars to observe the different patterns that were made on the paper. Using the outside environment has also provided a good opportunity to look at the patterns, by using crayons on paper against the floor mats some lovely bumpy pictures were formed.

Size has also been investigated this term, we have looked at the height of each other against the wall on our height chart, to see who was the tallest or smallest in our nursery. We have continued this interest in the outside area, taking turns to draw around each other using chalk, then comparing the different size outlines.

Construction has been of interest this term too; the children have worked together to build dens and collaborative building projects outside, communicating their thoughts and ideas to make some wonderful creations using the planks of wood and blocks. Inside we have used the Lego to build some amazing houses and castles. We have even had a try at building some towers, using our skills to carefully position the bricks on top of each other without making them topple over.

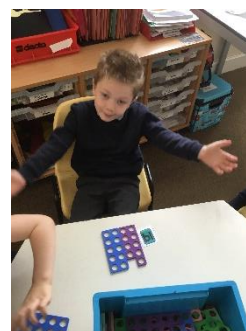
Pine Class

Pine class have worked really hard this term. Our topic was focussed on 'People who help us'. We have learnt lots of things about a lot of different occupations. Our role play area was transformed into a hospital, opticians and a post office. We enjoyed taking on different roles and completing different tasks.

In phonics, we have been continuing to learn our phase 3 sounds and have been practicing sounding out and blending words. We have also moved onto phase 4. This has involved reading longer, trickier words and also learning some new tricky words. The children have tried really hard in phonics and should be proud of themselves.

In maths we have started our new phase of 'to 20 and beyond'. We have been learning to recognise, represent and order numbers to 20. We have also been estimating amounts and checking these by counting correctly.

Overall, we have had a fun term, learning lots of new and exciting things. We are looking forward to our final term in Reception Class learning about plants and minibeasts.



Making numbers to 20.

Maple Class

During term 5, Maple Class have enjoyed learning about fairy tales. We have been looking at the story of Little Red Riding Hood and have used elements from the Writing Rainbow to enhance our writing.

In science, we have learnt about plants. We spoke about what plants need to survive, and we set up an experiment to see how the plants would grow with or without water and sunlight.

We have been on lots of walks around the school grounds to see if we could find different garden and wild plants – even deciduous and evergreen trees! We have also looked at the different parts of a plant, then made and labelled our own plant.



We have planted our own mystery seed and predicted what we think might grow!

Maple Class have enjoyed learning about moving story books in DT. We have discussed how we could make objects and images move, and we have explored and built our own sliders.



In English, we have been reading a book called “The Secret Sky Garden”. This story has taught us a lot about the environment and how we can look after it. We have enjoyed making our own posters to inform people about the dangers of not looking after the environment.

Maple Class have worked hard this term in Maths as we looked at weight, mass, volume and capacity. We have started to look at multiplying and dividing!

Have a lovely half term and we look forward to welcoming you all back for Term 6 😊

Oak Class

This term Oak Class have been learning all about the history of ‘Significant Explorers’. We have worked together to discover what makes an explorer and their explorations significant i.e. whether they explored unknown parts of the world, travelled into space or explored alone.

In RE and PSHE, we have learnt about what a ceremony is and begun to understand common features of religious and non-religious ceremonies. We have explored what happens at an Aqiqah, a Bar and Bat Mitzvah, a Dastar Bandi and a Hindu wedding. Crucially, we have considered how people feel at these important ceremonies and discussed similarities and differences between them.

Our English lessons have enabled us to carry on these subjects through cross-curricular links to space exploration with our text ‘The Man on the Moon’. Oak class have been remarkably busy writing character descriptions using adjectives, composing questions for Bob, writing letters to astronauts and developing their stamina for writing by creating their own narratives.

Finally, the children have explored how to keep themselves safe online as well as when to ask for permission from others. We have explored art through human form by: creating a human alphabet with our bodies, designing human skulls and learning to create self-portraits in the style of Julian Opie.

Thank you, once again, to all parents for your support through SATs and term 5 in general. Unbelievably, next term is your child’s last one as a KS1 pupil, so here’s to celebrating the progress they have already made and the amazing memories we can make together across Term 6.



Cedar Class

It has been another great term in Cedar class!

We have enjoyed finishing off our Disney topic by learning about Africa. The children had a challenging puzzle map of Africa to complete as part of their learning and it certainly made us think! We used atlas work to label countries within the continent of Africa and also researched famous people from the continent.

We have since moved on to our new topic which is Extreme Earth! It is a fascinating topic about the extreme conditions, weathers and phenomena on our planet. We have begun by learning all about volcanoes!

Volcanoes, we have learnt, occur where magma pushes through Earth's crust. We put a lot of effort into making our own volcanoes using cardboard, plastic bottles and paper mâché. After this, we learnt the required instructions to explode the volcanoes then set them off on the playground. Although they didn't all go to plan, we had a great time trying!



As well as making volcanoes in our DT time, we have also been learning to sew! We learnt the cross stitch, running stitch and the blanket stitch over a series of weeks. Once we had practised the stitches, we tried to create our own sewn patterns. It wasn't always easy and we had to really concentrate but we're really proud of our work!



We would like to give special thanks to Mr Daniels who has been helping us once a week especially with our sewing!

We can't wait for our final term in Year 3!

Willow Class

We have had a busy term in Willow Class and have been learning all about extreme conditions in our Topic and Writing. We have written non-chronological reports about avalanches, letters to President Masisi about drought solutions and made posters about animals that had adapted to the deep-sea pressures!

In RE, we have been studying Buddhism and have learned the story of the Buddha. We were interested to find that the Buddha isn't a god but is in fact a normal person like you and me who wanted to teach others about enlightenment! We also made Wesak lanterns to celebrate the Buddha's birthday.



In Science, we have been learning about states of matter and got to find the melting point of chocolate, the speed of evaporation and learned about how condensation is formed. We have also been learning how to write up a formal experiment using all of the correct headings.

In Art, we have been practicing our art skills and have produced lots of stamps. We made some out of poly-clay, some from polystyrene boards and then produced patterns using a compass and pencil. Our favourite to make was a repeating pattern. We drew a shell, traced a part of it and then created a flip pattern that was symmetrical!



We hope you have a lovely week off school and we can't wait to see you for our final term together! Miss Peake and Mrs Russell 😊

Hawthorn Class

Year 5 have again had an eventful term. We went back to the Tudor times and have learnt all about Henry VIII and his wives. The children had a go at making honey flatbreads during our themed day and designed a tour for their own Tudor house.

In maths, we have been learning about fractions. This unit has been vast and the children have learnt to compare and order fractions, subtract and add fractions by an integer as well as converting mixed numbers to improper fractions.

The class have enjoyed being able to stretch their legs up on the school field during PE this term as we have been learning about Athletics. We have been very fortunate to have had the expertise of Mr Harvey from the Howard School to assist us during this and I know the children have learnt amazing skills from him. In writing we have been reading the book *Treason*. This has complimented our topic nicely. The children seem to have liked it, but I don't think they would argue with me after learning about the punishments during these times!

Mrs Downs and I would again like to thank you all for your continued support as we enter our last term together. 😊



Elm Class

We have been studying the Shang Dynasty in Year 6 this term. We began by looking at how ancient China is similar and different to China today; did you know that they still use some of the same letter symbols as they did over 2000 years ago! Next, we looked at the hierarchy system in the Shang, and how the royal family sits at the top, all the way down to the slaves at the bottom. Finally, we studied Lady Fu Hao; she was the King's wife and one of the most feared and respected warriors of her generation – in fact, she had many talents which meant she was given jobs which we typically only given to men.

In art, we looked at Chinese art and made our own dragon eyes out of clay. First, we began by sketching out our designs and looked at some of the different styles of dragon and dragon eyes which exist in China. Once we had made our sculptures, we painted them, trying to get them to look realistic. Also, we use water colours to create a Chinese tree design and then wrote using Chinese symbols.

Most of this term has been taken up with SATs preparation; we used the time before the exams to go over any areas which the children felt less comfortable in, splitting our Maths classes into small groups in order to give more targeted support in different areas. Once the tests finally came, the children all did brilliantly throughout the week. Despite the pressure and the challenge, they coped fantastically and all tried their best, something which we are extremely proud of. Well done Year 6!



Lunchtime



This term has certainly flown by, the lovely warm weather we've been having has meant the KS2 children have been eating their lunch up on the field which they have thoroughly enjoyed.

Throughout May our caterers Chartwells have been running a 'Golden Ticket' Competition once a week, giving prizes to the children that find a Golden Ticket sticker on their lunch tray or lunch bag – the children have been very excited and it's been lovely to see their faces light up when they win.



This term we welcomed Mrs Hough to the MDMS team, she has settled in wonderfully and the children have enjoyed getting to know her.

Miss Shepherd will be leaving us to start her maternity leave at the end of this term, we wish her all the best. Mrs Collier will be covering Miss Shepherd's absence.

Can we ask parents to help your children to be more confident at lunchtimes in the dinner hall by going through the lunch menu with them to help make their choices, showing them how to use a knife, fork and spoon correctly at home and encouraging them to eat their main dinner before eating their pudding.



If you have any worries or concerns for your child regarding lunchtime please inform the class teacher or the school office.

Wishing you all a lovely break and look forward to welcoming you back in Term 6.

Extended Services

Breakfast & After Schools Club

Breakfast club runs from 7:30am till 8:30am Monday to Friday with children receiving a healthy breakfast if required before they are taken to their classrooms.

The After-School Club is open Monday to Thursday from 3:30pm until 6pm when the school closes its main gates.

Bookings for either club can be made online via your child's Arbor account.

Regrettably we can only offer places to school aged children.

This term the children have been working hard to make Jubilee Crowns and Flags to commemorate the day along with team building activities, playing games, arts and crafts.



Website

Please visit our new website 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) if at all possible

Thank you for your continued support

School Uniform

Maintaining a high standard of appearance through the wearing of uniform is a crucial element of our school. Uniform gives children pride in the school, puts them in the right frame of mind for work and makes them feel part of our community. Elements of our uniform which incorporate the school emblem are available to purchase via www.myclothing.com. Alternatively, non-school emblem uniform can be purchased at any clothing store. Our uniform is as follows:

- Navy blue sweatshirt/cardigan with or without logo
- Pale blue polo shirt with or without logo
- Black, navy blue or grey trousers, skirt or pinafore
- Socks – white, grey or navy blue



NB: In the summer, children are welcome to wear a pale blue or navy blue school summer check dress or black, navy blue or grey school long shorts.

PE and Games Kit:

Children will require an appropriate PE kit for PE and games activities. Plimsolls will be worn for inside games, or they may be bare foot. Trainers can be worn for outdoor PE. PE kit should consist of a round neck plain t-shirt in white and PE shorts in navy blue or black. Plain navy blue or black tracksuit bottoms and jumpers are permitted in the winter.

Footwear:

We require all children to wear black school shoes - no trainers, no heels and no boots. Flashing lights on shoes are not acceptable as they can be distracting.

Hair styles:

Children's hairstyles should be smart and appropriate for school. For the safety and welfare of the children, long hair should be tied back with a plain hair band.

Head of School's Review of Term

This term appears to have flown by in the blink of an eye! It seems like only yesterday that I was wishing you all a lovely Easter break. However, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been another successful term at Deanwood. The warmer weather has certainly helped and it has been great to see the children being able to take their learning outside and for the older children to be able to spend their lunchtimes on the school field.

A particular highlight for me was our Platinum Jubilee Week, culminating in our Jubilee Day yesterday. I know that the whole school community have enjoyed learning about the Queen and all of the events that have happened throughout her 70-year reign. During my teaching career, I have been fortunate enough to have been involved in Jubilee celebrations three times and I have to say that this year's celebrations were by far the best that I have experienced. I am sure you would like to join me in thanking Miss Rumjaun and the School Council for all of their hard work and organisation.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive "well done" to the students in Years 2 and 6 who have all approached their SATs tests with a positive attitude. We are proud of you all and know that each and every one of you tried your hardest. We can't ask for more! I would also like to thank all staff for the part that they have played in both the preparation for SATs and also the invigilation of tests. It was very much a team effort.

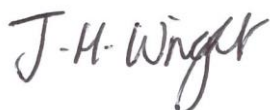
In staffing news, as some of you may be aware, Mrs Cook is pregnant and will be going on maternity leave in September. I am sure you would like to join me in congratulating Mrs Cook and her husband on this fantastic news. Miss Peake will be relocating in the next couple of months and has been successful in gaining a teaching post in Ashford from September. I know that she will be missed by parents, staff and children alike. I am pleased to report that we have appointed two members of staff to join the teaching team from September – Mrs Chapman has been appointed to the position of maternity cover Year R teacher and Mrs Turner has been appointed to the position of Year 4 teacher. Both Mrs Chapman and Mrs Turner are currently teaching in local primary schools. I know that both of them are looking forward to joining the staff team and are hopeful of being able to spend some time with us before the end of the academic year.

In other baby news, I am pleased to tell you that Miss Webber gave birth to a healthy baby girl on 28th April. The family are all doing well and settling into their new routines. As well as this, Miss Shepherd will be leaving us to go on maternity leave at the end of this term. I am sure you would like to join me in wishing her well as she prepares for the new arrival. Mrs Collier will be resuming her Midday Meal Supervisor role for the period of Miss Shepherd's maternity leave.

I would like to draw your attention to the previous page regarding school uniform expectations which has been taken directly from the school's prospectus. Recently, we have noticed that a number of children have been arriving at school in the incorrect PE kit. Please can I ask you to read the expectations carefully and ensure that your child arrives at school dressed appropriately. As well as this, I would like to remind you all that, for health and safety reasons, children should not be wearing any jewellery other than small, stud earrings and / or a watch.

As always, I am sure you would like to join me in thanking all of our school staff for their continued hard work this term and I look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school on **Tuesday 7th June**.

Mrs J. Wright



Mrs J. Wright
Head of School