



Deanwood Dispatch

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



Term 3 - February 2022

CLASS NEWS – TERM 3

Deanwood Nursery

This has been a rather unique term for Nursery but we have had lots of fun learning experiences regardless! We have had some new friends join us which has been lovely and they are already bonding with staff and peers alike!



This term we have taken an interest in bears and have enjoyed painting bears; exploring



photos of bears and enjoying many bear stories.

We have also seen some great role play this term! The children have made all sorts from offices to

campfires and enjoyed collecting resources to support their play and engaging cooperatively with their peers.



The children have particularly enjoyed some sensory messy play this term such as shaving foam painting and bubble wrap painting! They loved painting their hands and making marks

and shapes. It was very tickly!

Well done Nursery! Have a relaxing and safe break and we will see you all soon 😊

Pine Class

In Pine class we have been learning about 'Winter'. We have completed lots of fun activities based on this topic. We designed some new winter clothes, explored what happens during this season and completed some lovely pieces of artwork. We have also been learning about the polar regions, discovering what animals live there and we have learnt some interesting facts about the Arctic and Antarctic.

In phonics we have been learning some phase 3 phonemes and tricky words. We have also been practicing our blending skills by completing some fun games and activities.

In maths, we have been learning in the phase of 'alive in 5' and have been learning how to compare numbers to 5, composition of 4 and 5 and we have also been learning about mass and capacity. We have completed lots of activities based on this.

Overall, we have had a lovely term in Pine class learning lots of new and exciting things. We are looking forward to the adventures that await us in term 4.



Making 5



Measuring capacity

Maple Class

This term, Maple Class have been learning about the Polar Regions. We have learnt about The Arctic and The Antarctic. We looked at the polar animals and had a visit from Chilly the Polar Bear, who had left us a note asking for some information about the North Pole.

In Science, we have been learning about seasonal changes from Autumn to Winter. We have identified changes in seasons, went for an Autumn walk to see what seasonal changes we could find in the school grounds, and made rain gauges to track rainfall.



In Art we created some polar inspired artwork. We drew an arctic landscape, painted finger-paint penguins, and made fake snow to make our own snowmen.



In English we have been reading a book called 'The Emperors Egg'. This book has taught us lots about Emperor penguins. Maple Class have created our own class poem about penguins!

Maple Class have really enjoyed learning about the Polar Regions this term and have worked extremely hard!

We have been very busy in Year 1 this term and we look forward to discovering what our next topic will be next term 😊

Oak Class

This term, Oak Class have been learning all about countries, continents and oceans in their topic 'Around the World'. They have learnt about journey lines and found out about different climates across the world and how these are different based on where they are in the world in relation to the equator.

In RE, we have also been going around the world, visiting different places of worship including mosques, gurdwaras and Buddhist temples.

Our English lessons have focussed mainly on our book 'Claude in the City. The children have really enjoyed going on an adventure with Claude, plotting maps of the city, writing postcards and creating our own adventures. We have continued to develop our drafting and editing processes by making simple additions, revisions and spell checks.

Finally, the children had a lot of fun designing their own inventions by applying their knowledge of inputs and outputs while showing their understanding of how computers work.

The children in Oak Class have settled into having a new class teacher and a fabulous new teaching assistant with confidence and courage. Thank you from me, to all of our amazing parents for their kind welcome and support.



Cedar Class

Year 3 have had a fantastic topic to study this term. We have begun a topic based around Disney. Every two weeks, we have been looking at a different country which has inspired a Disney character. So far this term, we have looked at Moana and from this studied a Polynesian location – Tonga. We learnt about the physical geography of the area. We also learnt a Haka during our PE lesson which was inspired by Fiji.

Next, we moved over to China where the original story of Mulan comes from. Whilst studying China, we learnt about some of the landscapes we would see if we were to visit. We also compared our locality to cities in China to see what the similarities and differences were. It was fascinating to see another lifestyle. Did you know, in China they bow to their teachers on the way into school? As well as geography, we have created some shadow puppet art.



In Science, we have been learning about scientists and the countries they come from. To begin with, we thought about what we thought a scientist looks like and what they do – we had lots of different ideas. Next, we studied two Chinese scientists. The first one was Wang Zhenyi who was a female astronomer. We had a go at recreating constellations using art straws and tissue paper. After that, we learnt about Tu Youyou who studied medicine and created a medicine to cure malaria.

It has been a really fascinating topic so far! We can't wait to learn more next term!

Willow Class

This term, Year 4 have been learning all about Europe. We have learnt about the names of the countries in Europe, what the flags look like and even wrote our own stories about travelling across Europe, making sure we use lots of accurate facts too.

In Science, we have been learning about living things and their habitats. We have spent lots of time on the field looking for invertebrates, surveying the dangers in the natural environment and making classification keys in class.



We have been really busy in PE this term. We have been playing lots of Speed Stackers, and competing in stacking competitions. Someone managed to stack 6 cups in 3.4 seconds! We have also learnt how to complete tension and balance poses in gymnastics, allowing us to make poses in groups of 5.



In Art, we have been recreating the work of artists to create images that tell a story. We have created portraits of our parents, made a collage of children's games and even completed a still life drawing and made a huge arch in the classroom.



We have also welcomed Mrs Russell into our classroom with open arms 😊

Have a fantastic break!

Hawthorn Class

In year 5 this term, we have been learning about Space. We have incorporated this theme into our Science, writing and topic lessons. The children seemed to have really enjoyed learning about the solar system, planets, moon phases and constellations. We learnt a mnemonic to help us remember the order of the planets from the Sun, but I think one of the biggest highlights of the term has been the visit from the Astrodome. The children absolutely adored the astrodome and they were just in awe of everything. Some of their questions about space were phenomenal and it was just a brilliant experience for both myself and the children. Our journey into space continued, by reading the captivating book Cosmic. At times this had us on the edge of our seats.

In Dance, the children were taught what a motif is. Then they were given a simple motif and asked to extend the motif to create a routine. Each week a new element was added and performed. The children created some amazing performances.

Finally, in Maths we looked at how to multiply up to a 4-digit number by a 2-digit number and divide 4-digit numbers by a 1-digit number using a variety of ways.

I can't believe we have reached the half way point of the year so quickly!!



Thank you again for your continued support, it really does make my job so much easier. Enjoy the half term break and I will see you all on Tuesday
22nd February 2022. 😊

Elm Class

We have started our WW2 topic this term. First of all, we began by looking at WW1 – we studied how it started, what life was like for soldiers during the war and then how it ended. Next, we looked at the causes of WW2, and how it is linked to WW1.

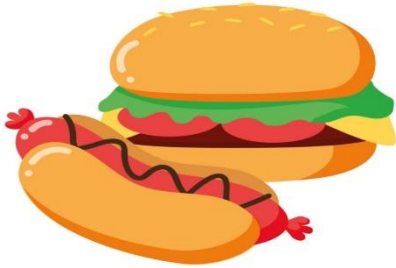
After that, we learnt about Operation Dynamo – the daring rescue operation which involved hundreds of boats sailing across the Channel to save nearly 400,000 trapped soldiers on the beaches of Dunkirk. We made posters, persuading ships and sailors to join the fight and rescue our men from the invading German forces. Next, we looked at how the Blitz was an important historical event in our history, and why it was so important in WW2. We listened to real news footage from 1940 which gave us an idea of how harrowing the Blitz was.

Our book this term has been Goodnight Mr Tom; we have loved it! We have learnt about the adventures of William Beech, an evacuee or was sent to a country village called Little Wierold to stay with a rather grumpy old man called Mr Tom. So far, we have seen how William and Tom become close friends and help each other overcome their troubles – there are even more good bits to come!



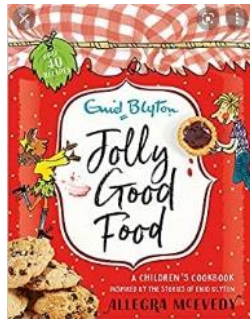
Lunchtime

This term has certainly been an eventful one, the children have adapted very well to being back in their class bubbles on the playgrounds. The children on the KS1 playground have enjoyed having the play equipment out, taking turns and sharing wonderfully.



On Thursday the 20th of January Chartwells had a special 'Burgers and Dogs'

themed menu, the children were very excited to try the burgers and hot dogs with a yummy chocolate orange drizzle cake for pudding. Chartwells also ran a golden ticket competition this day with the winner receiving an Allegro McEvedy cookbook – well done to Jamie in year 4.



Just a reminder that home packed lunches should follow the schools healthy eating policy and not include chocolate, cakes or sweets. The midday meal supervisors will help children to ensure that they can eat all their lunch and we will let you know if they are struggling. Also, if you have any concerns then please raise them with your child's teacher and they will pass any messages onto us.

We hope you all enjoy your half-term and we look forward to welcoming you all back after the break.

Extended Services

Breakfast & After Schools Club

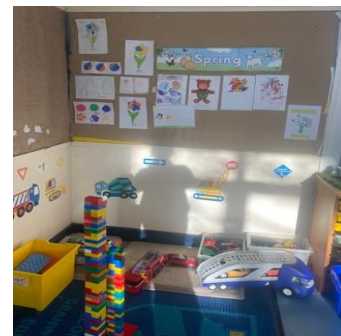
Breakfast club runs from 7:30am till 8:30am Monday to Friday and after school is running between 3:30pm till 6pm Monday to Thursday and we still have spaces for both KS1 and KS2 groups.

We collect the children from their classrooms.

This term we have been working on bringing a bit of colour into the building with our colouring and card making. Whilst also making tents and dens.

We are currently collecting recycling materials so we can do junk modelling so if you have anything at home and would like to donate to us that would be appreciated.

We are looking forward to the warmer weather so we can get out and enjoy the fresh air and have some more fun.



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

Head of School's Review of Term

As we come to the end of another busy term, I once again want to thank all members of our school community for their continued hard work and support. Like many other local schools, we have seen an increase in the number of children and staff testing positive for COVID in recent weeks. Whilst this has been challenging for us all, I have been overwhelmed by the resilience and adaptability of the school community and, despite some occasional disruption, we have seen many children making some quite significant progress with their learning this term. This has been great to see!

In January, we were joined by two new members of staff. Miss White has started as Year 2 teacher and Key Stage 1 Lead and Mrs Russell (not the school's SENCo!) has joined us as a Teaching Assistant. Although she is largely based in KS2, she has also had the opportunity to support in a number of other classes across the school this term. I know that they are both enjoying getting to know the children, staff and parents.

In other news, some of you may already be aware that Miss Webber (EYFS Lead and Nursery teacher) is pregnant and will be leaving us to go on maternity leave at the end of next term. I am sure you would like to join me in congratulating Miss Webber and her partner on this exciting news. We are currently recruiting for a Nursery teacher to cover Miss Webber's maternity leave and will update you once we have any additional information to share. During Miss Webber's maternity leave, Miss White will take on the additional responsibility of EYFS Lead, meaning that she will have an overview of Nursery and Year R as well as KS1. Miss Webber and Miss White will be meeting next term in order to ensure that there is a smooth handover.

I am pleased to report that, following a recruitment process, Mrs Collier has been appointed to the post of part-time Administrative Assistant and will be working alongside Mrs Simmonds in the school office. Some of you may already know Mrs Collier as she is currently one of our Midday Meal Supervisors. I am sure you would like to join me in congratulating Mrs Collier on her appointment. Due to the change in the office structure, I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that the school office is open at the following times:

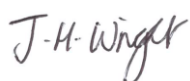
Monday to Thursday 8am – 4pm and Friday 8am – 3:30pm

As you are hopefully aware, we now have a 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.

As always, I am sure you would like to join me in thanking all of our school staff for their continued hard work. No matter what their role, everyone has played a part in ensuring the continued smooth running of the school and the safety of our school community. I wish them all a well-earned rest.

I hope that you and your families have an enjoyable Half Term break. Once again, I urge you all to continue to exercise caution when out and about and would encourage as many members of the school community as possible to take a lateral flow test before returning to school on **Tuesday 22nd February**. An increasing number of children in school are presenting as being asymptomatic when they test positive. Regular lateral flow testing of the whole family will help to ensure that we keep numbers low amongst the school community and therefore help us to have a smooth (and healthy!) return to school on **Tuesday 22nd February**.

Mrs J. Wright



Head of School