

Deanwood Dispatch

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



Term 4 - March 2022

CLASS NEWS – TERM 4

Deanwood Nursery

We have had another busy term in Nursery! With the improving weather, we have been able to spend more time outside and have enjoyed bug hunts, lots of water play and more!

Number has been a real interest this term and we have focused on making number lines, looking at number formation, counting rhymes and matching

numeral to quantity. We have even enjoyed shop role play with real money!

As always, craft is a firm favourite in our classroom, and this term has been no different.



Recently, we introduced some observational painting of daffodils which the children loved! By limiting the colours and using smaller brushes, we were able to create some detailed and beautiful pieces of art!

An ongoing focus is our children's development of their fine motor control skills which supports them when learning to write. This term we have used lots of chalk, crayons, water and much more to make marks with. Using different materials allows us to apply different amounts of pressure and achieve a different result – it's been very interesting!



Pine Class

We have had a busy yet exciting term in Pine Class. Our topic this term was focussed on 'Space'. We have really enjoyed learning about this topic and had fun exploring the space station in the home corner. We have learnt a lot of facts about the moon and the other planets in our solar system. For reading week, we completed lots of fun and exciting activities linked to our favourite story of 'Aliens love underpants'. We made potato aliens, playdough aliens, designed our own spacesuits and created our own underpants for the aliens to wear. We have also completed some amazing writing this term linked to our topic.

In phonics, we have been continuing to learn our phase 3 sounds and have been practicing sounding out and blending words. We have also been learning how to read the phase 2 and phase 3 tricky words and will look at some new one's next term.

In maths we have completed our phase of growing 6, 7, 8. We have been learning how to represent and sort these numbers, find one more and one less, match pairs of cards and combine two groups to find the total. We have also completed activities that involved comparing height and length, the days of the week and measuring time. Next term, we will continue with our new phase of building 9 and 10.

Overall, we have had a lovely few weeks in Pine class and are looking forward to the adventures that await us in term 5.



Maple Class

During term 4, Maple Class have enjoyed learning about London. We have learnt about the four countries of the UK in more detail and explored London landmarks.

We read Paddington during reading week and had a great time making maps of London, designing Paddington a new outfit, writing instructions on how to make a sandwich, building Paddington his very own London taxi, and making (and eating) our own marmalade sandwiches 😊 We also wrote a postcard to Aunt Lucy about a trip to London!

We dressed up as our favourite characters for World Book Day and dressed as superheroes and key workers for Red Nose Day!



In science, we have learnt about seasonal changes from Spring to Summer. We have identified the changes in seasons, went for a Spring walk to see what seasonal changes we could find in the school grounds, and discussed how we can stay safe in the sun.

Maple Class have enjoyed learning about vehicles that move in DT. We have discussed how wheels move, designed and built our own vehicles, and ended the term with a wacky race!

In English, we have been reading a book called "If all the world were...". This story has taught us a lot about the four seasons and has touched upon loss and remembering those dear to us, who may no longer be with us. We have spent lots of time writing in role – pretending to be the characters within this story and trying to understand how they may be feeling.

Maple Class have worked hard this term in Maths as we started to learn how to count in 2s and 5s!

Have an egg-cellent Easter!

Stay safe and we look forward finding out what our topic next term will be 😊

Oak Class

This term Oak Class have been learning all about the history of travel and transport. We have worked together to discover how the first car was engineered, as well as studying the ways in which transport has changed over time from Viking longboats to the first railway locomotive and the Wright Brothers' invention of the aeroplane.

In RE and PSHE, we have focused on rules and routines, as well as our rights and responsibilities, with an emphasis on ways we can be inclusive, considerate citizens.

Our English lessons have enabled us to carry on these subjects through cross-curricular links to caring for our planet as we studied '10 Things I Can Do To Help My World'. Oak class have been remarkably busy writing persuasive letters to Mrs Wright about conservation, creating poems about protection and management of our planet, forming instructions on how to make bird feeders and using the internet to safely research charities and projects based on their own interests around saving our planet. Finally, the children had a lot of fun designing their own toys using recycled materials.

We have been incredible programmers and coders too, this term, with the use of ScratchJr. Everyone was confident planning and using code to create an algorithm in order to write a computer programme.

Thank you again to all parents for your support throughout a chaotic term, with Covid still rearing its ugly head. It was wonderful to properly meet you all at parents evening and to know what caring and encouraging parents you all are.



Cedar Class

This term seems to have whizzed by but the children have been working hard and enjoying their learning.

In Maths, we have worked hard learning about money, length and times tables. The children have worked very hard and it is so lovely to see such confidence in our Maths lessons. In Literacy, we have carried on our journey across the world with Disney - learning a great deal about North America and the Middle East. We have been reading Philip Pullman's Aladdin which the children have thoroughly enjoyed basing their own stories on.

Reading week was also a huge success. This year we focused on a variety of books which the children really enjoyed. They loved learning about Olympic medallist Ibtihaj Muhammad who wrote the 'Proudest Blue' and award-winning actress, Lupita Nyong who wrote 'Sulwe'. In addition to this, we focused on, 'The Invisible,' 'Julian is a mermaid' and 'the black book of colours.'

In addition to this, the children really enjoyed our trip to the library. Not only were we lucky enough to be read stories we were able to explore all the amazing books our local library had to offer. Many children enjoyed borrowing books – I hope visits to the library become a regular family outing in your household!

Last but not least, thank you to all the parents and carers who helped us support Comic Relief! As always, the children looked amazing dressed up in their costumes.



I hope you all have a well-deserved break and wish you all a very happy Easter and look forward to seeing you all refreshed in Term 5!

Willow Class

We have had a really busy term in Willow Class. We have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in Topic this term and linked our Book Week activities to Norse Mythology. We learned all about Thor, Loki and Odin from different myths about them. We also loved dressing up in our Book Day costumes.



We have also been making Viking themed models in DT this term. We first planned and created a Viking rune stone using runes from the Futhark (Norse Alphabet). We made them using air-drying clay, carved them with a toothpick and then painted using classic Viking colours. They looked amazing!



Our brilliant rune stones!

In Science, we have studied scientists and inventors. We created information posters about Alexander Graham Bell, learned all about Lord Kelvin and converting temperatures, how Garrett Morgan created the traffic light (we had a go at lighting one ourselves) and we built and tested solar ovens like Maria Telkes!



Our solar ovens, made with a box, tin foil, black paper and cling film. Some of them reached temperatures above 50°C!

Mrs Russell and I hope you have a fantastic Easter; we look forward to seeing you in April!

Hawthorn Class

This Term has been full of exciting things. We have learnt about The Aztecs and Mayans and of course my favourite thing our class made chocolate.

In Maths we have explored fractions looking at improper and mixed numbers and adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator.

It has been nice to venture back outside into the sunshine for PE this term and the children have been strengthening their multi skills. The class have enjoyed creating obstacle courses and challenging each other on who could achieve the quickest times. The children have developed their hopping, running and ball skills.

During this term we had an amazing book week. We looked at books by the author Anthony Browne and the children wrote some amazing poetry.

Our class text has been Stormbreaker and the children have seemed to enjoy learning about how to become a secret agent! You never know, you could be raising the next 007!

Hawthorn Class also won the Walk on Wednesday challenge, we received the prize of some seeds and a gardening book. We will enjoy having a go at planting this next term. I just want to thank you all for your continued support. Enjoy the Half term break and I will see you in Term 5.



Elm Class

We have continued our World War 2 topic this term, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed it. We started the term by looking at evacuation, and what life was like for evacuees during the war. After that, we studied what rationing was like and how people managed to live on just the basics.

Next, we turned our attention to the Battle of Britain. After looking at what the Battle of Britain was and how it is an important event in our history, we listened to some radio news footage from the war. We then used a program called SoundTrap to record our own radio news broadcast about a Battle of Britain dogfight, add music and sound effects – it was really enjoyable and the work which the children produced was fantastic!

Finally, we looked at how the events of D-Day helped the Allies to win the war. We analysed the invasion of France to see if it was a total success for the Allies, or if they achieved all of their objectives.

During reading week, we studied the graphic novels of Alex Rider; after reading through a few examples, we created our own graphic novels, trying to copy the Manga style art work of comics in Japan.



Lunchtime



What a lovely term this has been, it's been great to see the children enjoying mixing on the playgrounds again.

The KS1 children have really enjoyed having the Year 6 playleaders back on their playground, it's been fantastic to see them building relationships.

This term we have said goodbye to our Midday Meals Supervisor Miss Bissenden and have welcomed Mrs Davies to team, whom some of you will know from being a long-standing member of our PTA. She has settled into her new role wonderfully and many of the children have enjoyed getting to know her.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely Easter and will see you all soon.



Extended Services

Breakfast & After Schools Club

Breakfast club runs from 7:30am till 8:30am Monday to Friday and we will take the children to their classrooms. 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 the children have been engaged in Mother's Day, Easter decoration and junk modelling activities.

With the weather now improving there has been more opportunities for the children to burn off some energy with some energetic outside activities.



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

Polite reminder please to take care when parking near the school and ensure gates and public footpaths are not blocked in anyway.

Please take note of the no stopping signs outside the school which includes **NO DROPPING** at any time to ensure your children remain safe. You may notice the local mobile enforcement team in the area in the near future. We appreciate your support.

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.

Head of School's Review of Term

As we approach the Easter break, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been another successful term at Deanwood.

Although we have had to tighten our COVID measures over the last couple of weeks due to increasing infection rates, we were able to move away from class "bubbles" across the school for a few weeks at least. This allowed me to do some of my weekly assemblies in the hall once again. I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to interact with the children in a larger group and, judging by the number of children who regularly ask me when they will next be coming to the hall for assembly, I know they have been enjoying it just as much as me. Infection rates allowing, I hope to be able to resume assemblies in the hall again after the Easter break.

A highlight for me was our annual Reading Week. This is always a very popular week with the whole school community and I was particularly pleased to be able to welcome the PTA back into the school for the first time since the start of the pandemic. They were overwhelmed by the popularity of their Book Shop and commented on how well behaved all of the children were when they came to browse the books. As always, staff and students alike pulled out all the stops for World Book Day. It was lovely to see so many members of the school community dressed up and talking in such an animated way about their favourite books. I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive "well done" and "thank you" to everyone for all of their efforts with the sponsored reading event. I was totally speechless when Mr Slack told me the fantastic amount of money that had been raised and am looking forward to seeing all of the new books that we will be able to buy for the school.

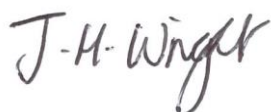
We were pleased to be able to host face-to-face parent consultations again this term. I know that staff found these meetings really useful and I have also had some very positive feedback from parents and carers. Thank you to those of you who attended and followed the guidelines given so that we were able to ensure the continued safety of our whole school community.

In staffing news, Miss Bissenden has left her role as Midday Meal Supervisor so that she is able to concentrate her efforts on Kids Club. Although Mrs Collier will be continuing her office admin role, she will be stepping down from her Midday Meal Supervisor role at the end of this term. We would like to thank Miss Bissenden and Mrs Collier for the part that they have played in helping to ensure the smooth running of our lunchtimes. We are pleased to report that we have successfully recruited to both of these posts. Mrs Davies has already joined the lunchtime team and she will be joined by Mrs Hough after the Easter break. We would like to wish them all the best in their new roles.

I would also like to welcome Carrie to the Nursery team. Carrie will be working in the Nursery in the mornings where her time is largely spent supporting individuals and small groups. We will also be saying a temporary "goodbye" to Miss Webber at the end of this term as she begins her maternity leave. We would like to wish Miss Webber and her partner all the best and cannot wait to see pictures of the new baby when she arrives. Miss White will be taking on the additional responsibility of EYFS Lead during Miss Webber's absence. Mrs Taylor will be joining us as Nursery Lead to cover Miss Webber's maternity leave. Mrs Taylor has already spent a week in the setting getting to know the children and staff and I know she is really excited to start her role properly after the Easter break.

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 19th April**.

Mrs J. Wright



Head of School