



# Deanwood Dispatch

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



Term 1 – October 2022

## CLASS NEWS – TERM 1

### Deanwood Nursery

This term, Deanwood nursery have prioritised supporting the children to settle back in and meeting new adults and peers. It has been a wonderful start to a brand-new year.

We have also delved in to our topic 'All About Me' and have used this as an opportunity to encourage conversations about the children and their families and pets, things they like and dislike and what our homes look like. We have also used opportunities in our play to observe our names, faces, hands and shoe size to learn a little bit more about ourselves.

Tapestry is now back up and running so please keep an eye out for observations of your children's learning, and thank you for your patience while we set this up.

A reminder as the weather turns colder that our provision engages children in outdoor play all year round. Your child will need a change of named clothes and underwear available, as well as welly boots and appropriate outerwear. Next term we will be taking a look at fairytales, so please see if you can support your child by looking at a few classics like *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.



### Pine Class

This term Pine class have been settling in to Reception and building relationships with their familiar adults and new peers. We have achieved a great deal over such a short space of time and it has been wonderful getting to meet all of the grown ups too. The class are successfully joining in with some daily carpet sessions and we are just starting our journey into phonics too, so thank you to everyone who managed to come to the workshop!

All children have completed the Reception Baseline Assessment, which helps give the adults a better idea of everyone's starting points so we can effectively plan how to support your child to grow and learn during their time with us.

We have also been very busy exploring *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson, and have even made some Gruffalo crumble. Yum!

Children in Pine class have been developing their gross motor skills by using the climbing apparatus, exploring the outdoor area and moving around safely on the bikes. Fine motor skills are being built upon for children that are ready and some of us are managing to form the letters in their names. I look forward to seeing how our learning grows next term, too!



## Maple Class

This term, Maple Class have been learning about themselves. We have looked at photos of us from when we were babies and compared them to how we have changed over time - especially the transition from Yr R to Yr 1.

In Science, we have been learning about parts of the body and our 5 senses. We investigated how we use these senses to understand the world around us. We have used our eyes to complete observational drawings, our mouths to taste lots of yummy healthy food, and we used our hands to find out what was in the box! We used our noses to match the scents and our ears to identify different sounds.



In Art we looked at exploring lines and experimenting with different media. We used a variety of lines to create line art in the style of Bridget Riley and we used shapes to create abstract art in the style of Kandinsky.

In English we have been writing all about ourselves. We looked at pictures of ourselves to describe what we look like. We wrote about the people we live with. We have written about our favourite things. We used this to write a letter to a pen pal, telling them all about us. We have been busy using capital letters, finger spaces, full stops and adjectives.



We had an amazing time attending our very first school disco!

And we were very generous with our Harvest collection!



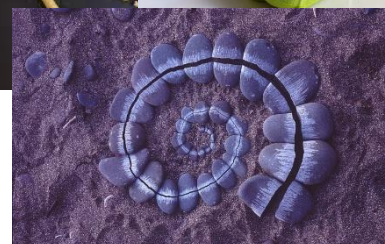
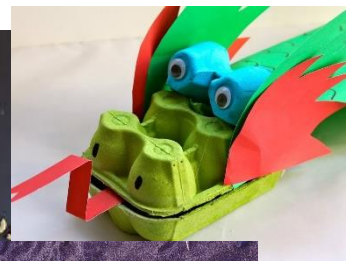
We have been very busy in Year 1 this term learning all about ourselves and we are looking forward to finding out what our new topic will be next term.

Enjoy a restful half term 😊

## Oak Class

This term Oak class have been learning all about dinosaurs, fossils and Mary Anning as part of their 'Dinosaurs' topic. We have looked at different dinosaurs from prehistoric periods, explored whether they were carnivores, herbivores or omnivores and even made our own dinosaur skeletons from pasta shells. During our English lessons, we have studied a text called '*The Adventures of Eggbox Dragon*' and have designed, labelled and created our own Eggbox Dragons, role played scenes from the book and written letters to Eggbox Dragon to ask for his help with our own lost items. Throughout our maths lessons, we have learnt all about place value: identifying tens and ones, finding different ways to represent numbers to 100, comparing objects and ordering numbers, too. We will be moving on to our 2, 5 and 10-times tables when beginning our 'Addition and Subtraction' unit, so please continue to support your child with Times Tables Rockstars so their automaticity of multiplications is successful. Throughout our curriculum subjects, Oak class have continued to develop their artistic skills by producing natural sculptures in the style of Andy Goldsworthy and have been on hunts around the school for natural objects, as well as exploring micro-habitats for our science lessons.

As we plan ahead for our journey through Year 2, I ask that you continue to support your child with their phonics and reading by encouraging your child to read daily and to practice their spellings each week for Friday's spelling test. Thank you for all your amazing support and kindness this term, it has been a wonderful start to the year.

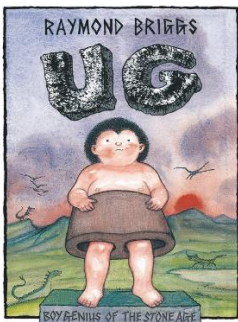


## Cedar Class

Wow! What an excellent start to the Year we have had in Cedar Class. The children have settled really well into Year 3 now and are getting to grips with being in Key Stage 2.

We have been learning all about numbers in our Maths work and have been trying hard to make sure we are confident counters! We have been making sure that we can count on in 10s and 1s from any number to 100 and now even up to 1000. We have also been working on recognising 100s and counting using 100s. The children have enjoyed using base 10 to support them in their learning.

In our Literacy, we read the story of UG – Genius of the Stone Age. In UG's world, everything was made of stone – of course we knew that everything wasn't made of stone in the Stone Age. UG was always inventing things but sadly his family thought he was mad! We tried to help UG by coming up with some of our own inventions to make life in the Stone Age easier.



Speaking of the Stone Age, we have been learning all about it in our Topic lessons. We have learnt about different types of housing, tools and weapons. We have also learnt about features such as Stonehenge. Lots of the children in Year 3 have made amazing models as part of their homework to support their learning.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents in supporting their children at home with their reading, spellings and maths. We can't wait for next term!

## Willow Class

Year 4 have made a fantastic start to this academic year and have settled in very well.

In Science we have been learning about sound. We have explored how sound travels, by measuring the distance in steps, when listening to what our peers had said. The children also created some beautiful homemade shoe-box guitars and in class they experimented with yoghurt pots and elastic

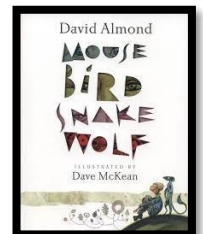


bands, by watching the vibrations and listening to the pitch. The class has had fun



finding out that it is not the ear that actually hears the sound. Ask them to explain how hearing works.

In Literacy we have been reading the story 'Mouse Bird Snake Wolf' - A mysterious world, where there are gaps and holes of missing creations. We explored this world from Little Ben's perspective, using our skills with senses, alliteration and onomatopoeia to write about it.



In Maths we have learned about place value to support counting on and reasoning, when problem solving numbers to 10,000.

Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting your children with their beautiful homework based around our topic Route 66. Please do continue to read and practise the timestables on a daily basis, as this will improve, both, your child's Writing and Maths skills throughout.





## Hawthorn Class

This term our topic was Victorians. We had an amazing Victorians Day where the children dressed up and spent the day experiencing the delights and horrors of a typical Victorian school day. Mrs Smith and Mrs Downs were both impressed by the fantastic costumes. In the morning, the children had the opportunity to taste gruel and listened to some Bible stories. The boys did a construction lesson whilst the girls made peg dolls. Behaviour was an important part of the day and a few of the children ended up wearing the dunce hat!! In the afternoon, the children got to make the traditional Victorian toy the thaumatrope. Our writing this term has also been based around the Victorians. The text was called Street Child.

The children have seemed to have really enjoyed reading it.

In Maths, we have covered place value and rounding numbers to a million. The children have learnt a little rhyme to help them with their rounding understanding. Please ask them to teach it to you.

In Science we have been learning about forces. We have been learning about gravity and air resistance. We made parachutes and then tested them to see which material would be the best for air resistance. To our surprise, it was the kitchen towel that won, so remember to always have some handy!

For PE, the children have been learning how to play basketball. Many games have been enjoying and it has been nice to see their competitive side shine!

The children have worked really hard this term and it has been lovely getting to know them all. Have a wonderful half term and we can't wait to see you all after the holidays.

From Mrs Smith and Mrs



## Elm Class

Our book for this term has been the London Eye Mystery. We started by writing a piece of descriptive writing, describing a journey up to the top of the London Eye and the back down again, focusing on all of the sights and sounds we could see and hear in London. The writing was fantastic! Next we used our Power of Reading scheme to write a Police report about the missing boy in the book, Salim. The children tried hard to write in a formal style, like Police officers do. The children have been really enjoying hearing about Ted's investigation into the disappearance of his cousin, Salim, and they can't wait to continue to the book next term.

In PE, the children have been learning handball. We began by learning about the different types of passing, before moving onto dribbling. Finally, we looked how to score and defend. The children have shown excellent handball and PE skills, showing good sportsmanship skills and more importantly, had fun.

In geography, our topic has been called 'Our United Kingdom'. We started by locating the UK on various maps, and then we looked more closely at the UK. The children were able to label the countries which make up the UK and their capital cities. We then looked at the physical geography of the UK; this including naming and labelling the seas and oceans which surround us, the highest mountains and the longest rivers. The children then looked more closely at the features of rivers, in particular the River Thames. We are looking forward to continuing this topic next term.

For our Harvest celebration, we created soup cans in the pop art style of Andy Warhol.



## Lunchtime



What a wonderful start to the school year we have had, it's been lovely seeing all the children at lunchtimes and our new Reception class have settled into the dinner hall beautifully.

Our new year 6 playleaders have been doing a great job organising activities and game for the KS1 children.

This term we said goodbye to MDMS Mrs Jaffry and have welcomed back familiar face Mrs Knight who a lot of the children have been very excited to see again.



Now the colder months are creeping back can we please remind parents to send their children in with a named coat or jacket as we try to get out onto the playground in all weather.

The MDMS team have also noticed a rise in the amount of cakes, biscuits and chocolate in some of the children's home packed lunches and would like to remind parents that although these are allowed they should be part of a healthy, balanced meal.

We have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming the children back and wish you all a lovely half term break.



## 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.

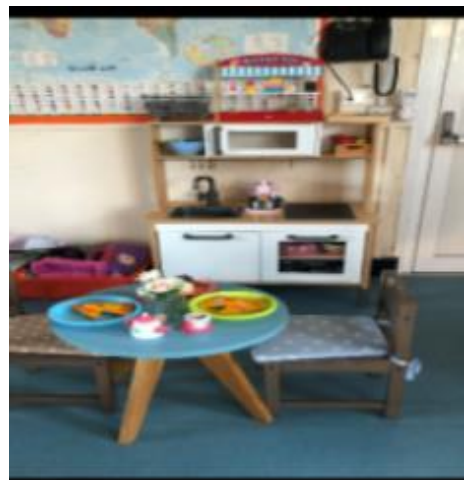
The After-School Club is open Monday to Thursday from 3:30pm until 6pm when the school closes its main gates.

The children also receive a snack when entering kids club and a light tea around 4:30pm and pudding if they choose.

Bookings for either club can be made online via your child's Arbor account and regrettably we can only offer places to school aged children.

This term we have been doing lots of painting, making Halloween masks, role plays, hand and eye coordination games out in the playground.

We wish to say a massive thank you to one of parents for this beautiful kitchen and dining set which the children are loving and having so much fun with so again thank you, for your donation.



## Deanwood PTA



Finally, we are up and running again!

In September we had 'back to school' discos with some great dance moves in the dance competitions. 😊

Recently we held our annual Macmillan coffee afternoon. Thanks to all who supported this event, we raised a fantastic **£312.60** which has now been sent to Macmillan.

The children have created some wonderful Christmas designs for the Christmas Card Project. These are now being printed and will be sent back to school at the start of December.

We have some dates for your diary:

### **Term 2:**

- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Non-uniform day (in exchange for contributions for the fayre)
- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Bookshop and 2<sup>nd</sup> hand uniform shop at home time.



• **Christmas Fayre**  
**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December**  
**3:30 – 5pm**

- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
Children's Christmas Shop.
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas  
Discos



Details of events will be available nearer the time.

**Thank you all for your  
continuing support!**

## 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



Mr O Slack



Mrs E Russell

Designated Safeguarding Leads

## 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.



## School Office Hours

The school office is now only open between the following hours.



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

Contact by phone: 01634 231901 or  
Email: [office@deanwood.medway.sch.uk](mailto:office@deanwood.medway.sch.uk)

We will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support

## Head of School's Review of Term

As we come to the end of a busy start to the academic year, I wanted to reflect on all that has happened this term.

I have certainly enjoyed being able to return to some level of normality after the disruption of the last couple of years. In particular, it has been great to see the PTA coming into school again. The children (and staff!) thoroughly enjoyed the "Welcome Back" disco that took place at the end of September and it was also lovely to welcome families and friends in for our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon and the termly Achievement Assembly. Please remember that these events can only take place if the PTA have enough volunteers to run them. If you would be willing to help out at events such as these, please contact the PTA via the school office.

Thank you to those of you who attended a Parents' Evening appointment this week. Feedback from staff has been very positive and I hope that you found the meetings just as useful as they did.

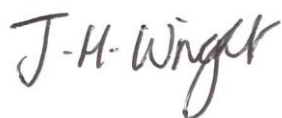
This term, we have welcomed new children into Year R and the Nursery. All of the children seem to have settled in really well to life at Deanwood. I was particularly pleased that Pine Class joined us in the hall for our Harvest Assembly. They did not seem to be phased by the number of unfamiliar faces and did a fantastic performance of "Dingle, Dangle Scarecrow" to the whole school. Well done, Pine Class!

As well as new children, we have also welcomed new staff to the team. Mrs Turner has joined us as the teacher in Year 4 and Mrs Chapman is teaching Year R this year whilst Mrs Cook is on maternity leave. We have also welcomed Mrs A. Knight to the team as the Teaching Assistant in Year 2. And finally, we have seen the return of a familiar face as Mrs S. Knight has returned to the Midday Meal Supervisor team. All staff report to me that they have been made to feel very welcome by the whole school community.

As we approach the end of this term, we say goodbye to Midday Meal Supervisor Mrs Jaffry and Carrie Wade from the Nursery. We would like to thank them for all they have done since joining us and wish them both well for the future.

And finally, I have some baby news to share with you all. Mrs Cook gave birth to a baby boy called Reuben on 9<sup>th</sup> September and Mr Slack's wife gave birth to a baby boy called Isaac on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. I am sure you would all like to join me in congratulating Mr and Mrs Cook and Mr and Mrs Slack on this exciting news.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a good break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October.



Mrs J. Wright  
Head of School

### **Parking Concerns**

*Following recent incidents, we have been made aware of a number of very near misses for the children at our school. Often this is caused by parents parking illegally on the pavements or yellow zig zags.*

*We have major concerns that it is only a matter of time before one of our children is hurt. We have again contacted Medway Council for their assistance and have been advised the camera car will be making an appearance in the near future.*

*We would urge you to take care when parking near school. We would like your help to support us in ensuring that not only are cars parked responsibly for residents but also that they don't cause accidents for our pupils and other parents and families.*