



# Deanwood Dispatch

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



Term 2 – December 2022

## CLASS NEWS – TERM 2

### Deanwood Nursery

This term, Deanwood nursery have been very busy exploring traditional tales. It has been a fantastic opportunity to support the children with retelling stories, joining in with repeated parts, recognising new characters and role playing.

As we grow and develop, we are noticing how many of your children are ready for the challenge of mark making and learning to write letters in their names. We provide lots of opportunities for mark making, and have also set up lots of chances to cut, draw, trace, stick and join.

We have also used opportunities in our play to observe the changes to our scenery: finding mushrooms and noticing the colours of fallen leaves.

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 *Winter Wonderland*, so please see if you can support your child by discussing the changes that occur during winter and any holidays you may celebrate over the winter break.



### Pine Class

Our topic this term has been about Fairy tales. We have retold, answered questions and written about 'The Gingerbread Man', 'Goldilocks', 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'Stickman'. We have also shared and discussed 'The Nativity' story and Diwali traditions. Pine Class have been learning through play and enjoying activities such as making puppet characters from these stories and writing graphemes using fairy wands and fairy dust! We have also made things such as drums to help us learn our phonemes.

In our maths sessions and in our play, we have compared and measured our feet and the giant's footprint and also discussed who had taller and shorter beanstalks. Alongside counting activities, we have talked about shape names and properties such as corners and sides and made fantastic printed wrapping paper with these shapes. When decorating our class for Christmas we made paperchains that had a repeating pattern. Even our Elf on the shelf has helped us learn positional language!

Daily we discuss the date, weather and season and in the outside area we notice seasonal changes and observe bugs and plant growth.

We have in addition to the above learned about our feelings and what to do if we have a problem and have had some fabulous philosophical conversations during P4C. During outside time and PE, we have practised our hopping, jumping, running, skipping and throwing and catching skills. We have also had some yoga and dance sessions and learned rhymes and songs that are connected to: our topic; our interests; the season or early phonics and maths development.

Next term our topic will be about Winter and we will be completing exciting science activities!



## 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 Art we looked at the skills used in Art and Design when painting and mixing. We have been introduced to sketchbooks and have filled these with lots artwork. We have printed with Lego, colour mixed to make tints and shades, used neutral, warm and cool colours, and have mixed primary colours to make secondary colours.

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 using bossy verbs!



Maple Class have really enjoyed rehearsing and performing the KS1 Nativity! We had a visit from the Elf on the Shelf and enjoyed the challenges and activities they brought us.

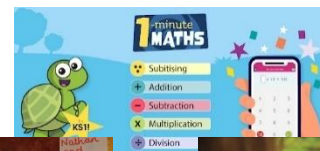
We have been very busy in Year 1 this term and we look forward to finding out what our new topic will be in the New Year.

Have a lovely Christmas and stay safe Maple Class!

## Oak Class

This term Oak class have been learning all about London: past and present, how we find out about the past and how to ask and answer appropriate questions during our Great Fire of London topic. We have looked at Samuel Pepys' diary, the fire breaking out in Pudding Lane and the materials used that led to the fire spreading so quickly. During our English lessons, we have studied a text called 'The Dark' and have responded to illustrations on the front cover, produced story maps and written our own stories from the perspective of the Dark. Throughout our maths lessons, we have learnt all about addition and subtraction: using number bonds to 20, adding and subtracting 10 and added 2-digit numbers while crossing 10 (exchanging). This is not an easy subject so please continue to support your child, using White Rose Maths videos and the app, as well as supporting your child to know their number bonds to 10 off by heart.

Throughout our curriculum subjects, Oak class have continued to develop their artistic skills by producing pastel skylines and used a range of methods to represent the Great Fire of London. We have also used the iPads to determine how to take a 'great' photo, using lights and effects as well as checking consent before taking photos of others. Finally, Oak class have discussed how we make others feel, what to do when someone appears to be left out, how to show kindness and how to solve problems or conflicts with others. Please continue to support your child by encouraging them to read daily, to practice their spellings each week for Friday's spelling test and to engage with both TT Rockstars and the one-minute maths app to promote their mathematics.



### Cedar Class

Another term completed in Cedar Class and what a term it has been! We have been very busy learning across the curriculum.

In our writing work this term, we have studied travel brochures, creating brochures for the city of Rome. We learnt about the many sites and experiences one might have in Rome and tried to persuade people they would love to go there. We have also been studying the book – Escape From Pompeii and learning about the devastating volcanic eruption that buried the city.

In Science, we have been studying forces and magnets. We have really enjoyed exploring magnetic force and finding out what magnets can do. In computing, we have been learning about stop-frame animation which we have discovered is a lot harder than it looks! We have continued to enjoy learning the recorder and are also learning songs about the Romans and some traditional Christmas songs. We have enjoyed creating clay tiles in art and our French vocabulary is improving!



We are very excited for Christmas. We have been studying the story of Jesus' birth in our RE lessons this term so we know where some traditions originated. We have had some visiting elves that decorated our classroom and we can't wait to see KS1's nativity!

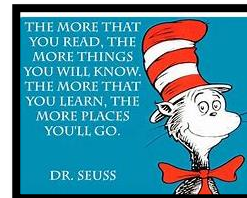
### Willow Class

This term Willow class has been improving their times tables skills and even participated in a few battles against other



classes. However, in order to win some battles, there is still much practise needed. Thank you for your continued support in letting your children access the site to achieve their best. In addition to TTR, we have looked at addition, subtraction, converting measurements and perimeter.

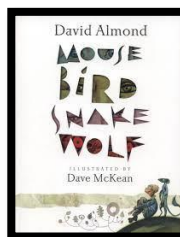
In Topic, we have learnt about Egypt, the pyramids and the discovery of Tutankhamun, made by Howard Carter. We created clay masks and learnt all about the mummification process (even the elves joined in).



Willow class has 'dropped everything and read', frequently and thoroughly enjoyed the variety of books Mrs Russell has brought in for them to access in class. Please continue to enthuse the

pleasure of reading in your children.

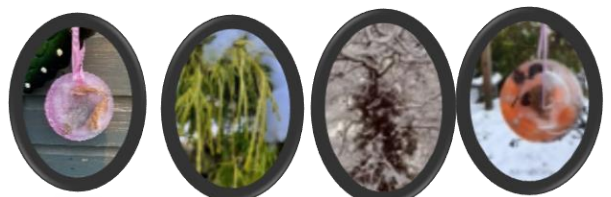
In Religious Education, we have explored 'Christmas Around the World' and looked at the life of Saint Nicholas. The children wrote a diary account of a day in his life. He may have visited too, as all the children had received a chocolate coin on the 6<sup>th</sup> December.



We shall continue to read the book, 'Mouse, Bird, Snake, Wolf' and explore different styles of writing, inspired from the text and images. Furthermore, the class looked at news reports and had a go at writing their own accounts of newsworthy events. In term 3 we shall revisit further ways of reporting news

Finally, we would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas break and shall leave you with some of the beautiful Snow Day photos that were sent in.

Seasonal greetings from Mrs Turner-Murrell and Mrs Russell





## 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 looking at statistics. The children worked hard with this and secured their knowledge of pictographs and line graphs. 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. We are finishing this term by looking at perimeter and area.

Our class book has been called Floodland and the children have enjoyed reading all about Zoe and her adventures being stranded on an island. Some amazing poetry has been written as well as some discussion texts. I think we may have a few budding politicians in our class as during a debate they can put a point across articulately!!

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 Art and DT project this term which has been creating and designing a turtle out of a bottle.

In PE the children have been learning about dance. They have created dances in pairs and then developed this further into group work.

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

Our book for this term has been Shackleton's Journey. We started by researching who Ernest Shackleton was, and we discovered that he was a famous explorer who trekked across Antarctica with his crew onboard the Endurance. Next, we wrote letters of application, applying for a job on his crew aboard the Endurance. We needed to think about what skills would be essential for such an arduous journey aboard a ship, and we came up with: first aid, chef, navigator, singer and engineer. After that, we turned Shackleton's real-life adventure into a fiction piece of writing, writing a narrative about his crew's journey from South Georgia, through the Weddell Sea and into the frozen depths of the Antarctica.

In geography, we have continued our topic called 'Our United Kingdom'. This term, we have been using Digimaps – a new online mapping tool – to find human and physical features in our local area. We discovered that we are surrounded by a range of settlements; Lidsing is a hamlet, Bredhurst is a village, Gillingham is a town and London is a city. We then use the online tool, and real OS maps of our local area, to find 4 and 6 digit grid references.

In PE, the children thoroughly enjoyed dodgeball – in fact they enjoyed it so much they kept asking to do it even outside of PE lessons! They enjoyed learning about difference throwing techniques and how to hit a moving target. The hardest part was learning how to dodge, duck, dip and dive so there were not hit and eliminated from the game. It has been fun watching how competitive some of the class get in each game!



## Lunchtime

Brrrrr, this term has certainly been a cold one. It has been lovely to see the children enjoying the snow up on the field.



We have also spent many lunchtimes indoors due to all the rainy days we've had but wherever possible we do try to get outside so please make sure your child has a warm coat with their name inside and gloves, hats and scarves are advised for the coming winter months.



The children have really enjoyed trying some of the new dishes on the Chartwells menu this term and the dinner hall has been buzzing with the excitement leading up to Christmas.

All the Mid Day Meals Supervisors would like to wish you all a Wonderful Christmas and will look forward to welcoming the children back in the new year.



## 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 making jewellery and Christmas decorations for themselves and kids club. Very good Christmas spirit had by all.



## Deanwood PTA



Thank you very much to everyone who came to the Christmas Fayre. It was a very busy and successful event, and we made **£1011.69** profit for the school.

We hope that you all had a fun afternoon. Thank you for your generous donations towards the fayre, particularly on the non-uniform day, we really appreciate it.

As well as the fayre, this term we have also had a book sale, second hand uniform sale, the Christmas Shop for the children to buy gifts and of course the Christmas discos.



The Christmas Card order arrived earlier than expected and the cards all looked wonderful. By placing card orders you helped us raise **£186.45** so thank you for all those who took part.

We would like to wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to arranging more events for the school in 2023.



Thank you very much 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 Term 2, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on what has been another busy term.

We started in spectacular fashion with our very first trip to see a West End Show. I think it's safe to say that the children from Years 4, 5 and 6 who came along to see the Lion King made some fantastic memories. It was really special to see the looks of awe on the children's faces as the orchestra started to play and the cast appeared on the stage in their wonderful costumes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Russell and Mrs Simmonds for all of the hard work that they put into organising the trip. We are hopeful that a trip to a West End Show will become a regular feature on the school's calendar so watch this space!

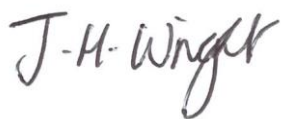
This term saw Deanwood's return to the Mini Youth Games. On 10<sup>th</sup> November, Mrs Russell and Mrs Daffin had the pleasure of taking 8 Year 5 and 6 children to Medway Park to represent the school in the basketball tournament. They competed against some very strong opposition and, although they did not win, they demonstrated fantastic teamwork throughout and were excellent ambassadors for Deanwood.

Christmas activities have been coming thick and fast in the last few weeks with Nursery and Year R entertaining us with their Christmas sing-alongs and Years 1 and 2 putting on performances of "Lights, Camel, Action!". It was lovely to be able to invite family members into school to join us and I know that all of the children thoroughly enjoyed being able to perform in front of an audience. I'm sure you would like to join me in saying a massive "well done" to the children that were involved and in thanking all of our EYFS and KS1 staff for their hard work in making sure that these were memorable events for everybody.

The PTA have certainly been busy this term. As well as the book and second-hand uniform shop, they also organised a performance of Dick Whittington in the school hall, helped with refreshments at festive sing-alongs and put on another school disco. However, a particular highlight for me was the Christmas Fayre. It was great to see so many people coming back into school at the end of the day to enjoy the activities and browse the stalls. I am sure you would like to join me in thanking the PTA for all of their hard work in making this such a fantastic experience for all. If you would be interested in helping out at future events, please contact the PTA via the school office.

Term 2 ended with our traditional Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas lunch and Christmas assembly. I think it's safe to say that we have fitted a lot into the last 7 weeks and all deserve a rest!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023.



Mrs J. Wright  
Head of School