

Deanwood Dispatch

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



Term 3 – February 2023

CLASS NEWS – TERM 3

Deanwood Nursery

This term, Deanwood nursery have been very busy exploring the topic 'Winter'. It has been a fantastic opportunity to discuss our holidays and if/how we celebrated with our grown-ups. We have looked at all things Arctic: and explored animals, ice, snow and igloos. We have also used opportunities in our play to observe the changes to our environment and explore the effects of winter on our setting's outside area.

While celebrating winter and the changes it brought with it, we have enjoyed exploring textures, painting with ice, building igloos and making icy pictures using a range of different materials.

As we move through the year, we are noticing how ready some of the children are to engage with phonics and literacy. We have provided lots of opportunities for them to begin to write their name and to join in with early phonic games such as 'What's in the Box?'. As some of our pupils become more confident with this, we will move on to introducing more phonic activities and some initial sounds.

We are finishing off the term by celebrating Valentine's Day and talking about the people that we love and what they do for us.



Pine Class

This term, Pine Class have been exploring the topic of 'Winter', looking at ice, snow, icebergs, igloos and penguins. We then got to look at the text '*The Blue Penguin*'. Pine Class began to think about what we already knew from our initial read of the text, and built upon our knowledge by developing our vocabulary, exploring and researching the topic in more detail and using cross-curricular links to explore what makes a good friend.

Pine Class have also been amazing at demonstrating their knowledge of number up to 10, often comparing numbers to 5 and introducing the concept of zero. Our topic has also given us the opportunity to explore weight, length and capacity: exploring when something is full, empty or half full.

The start of the new year also gave us a fantastic opportunity to observe other cultures and celebrations around the world. We explored the Chinese New Year and how this was celebrated, as well as the differences in experiences from the way New Year's Day is often celebrated in the UK.

The term has absolutely flown by and we look forward for a warmer Term 4, thank you for all your support throughout the term.



Maple Class

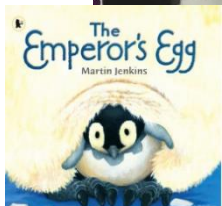
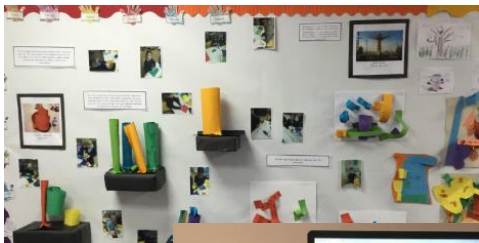
Maple Class have delved into our topic: 'Polar Regions'. We began the term by receiving a letter from the national polar adventurer's society, whereby Maple Class were invited to become polar bear explorers and visit the polar regions. We have then moved on to explore polar regions on a map, compare these regions to other areas of the world, identify and sort animals found in these regions according to whether they are herbivores, carnivores or omnivores.

Our core text '*The Emperor's Egg*' has provided us with lots of opportunities to develop our writing. Maple class have had the opportunity to compose and rehearse sentences, check their writing makes sense and develop their ability to form letters correctly. The non-negotiables that we reinforce each day are capital letters, finger spaces, handwriting and full stops so please continue to support your child with this.

Throughout maths, we have impressed other grown-ups around the school by adding and subtracting numbers to 20, developing our understanding of number bonds and we are beginning to work on accurately write numbers to 20 in numerals and words.

In other curriculum areas, we have continued to paint digitally, using software on computers to create shapes and lines, make careful choices and to paint independently.

Throughout our DT sessions, Maple class have successfully used paper to create 3D sculptures which now sit proudly on display. I'm looking forward to even more excitement and learning next term!



Oak Class

This term Oak class have been learning all about the topic 'Around the World', discovering more about the 7 continents, researching capital cities, rivers, lakes and famous landmarks as well as developing our understanding of the 5 oceans and how to locate them.

During our English lessons, we have studied a text called '*Claude in the City*' and have found the text amusing and exciting. We practiced responding to the illustrations, drawing maps, role playing and producing story maps.

Throughout our maths lessons, we have learnt all about multiplication and division: grouping and sharing, as well as continuing to practice our 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We have finished off the term by learning all about statistics: drawing and interpreting tally charts, recognising data in pictograms and deducing information from block diagrams.

Throughout our curriculum subjects, Oak class have continued to develop their artistic skills by producing drawing and sketches using a range of materials including charcoal and pastels. We have also discussed 'Safety' as our PSHE topic: looking at how to keep ourselves safe around medicine, when we feel safe or unsafe, how to stand up for ourselves and how to ensure we are around safe adults.

Finally, Oak class were fortunate enough to experience the Astrodome this term and had a wonderful time (in preparation for Term 5's topic) exploring space and looking at the night sky. A big thank you to Peter from *The Astronomy Roadshow* for creating an amazing experience for us!



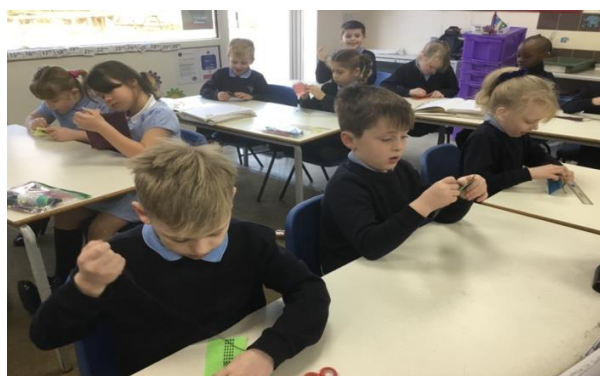
Cedar Class

What a busy term this has been! Cedar class have sprung into Disney world – beginning their world tour with the Pacific Islands, China and North America. I have to say, I have been very impressed with the effort and the quality of the work that the children have been producing.

In Maths, we have been revising fractions and learning our times tables (3s, 4s and 8s). We have just begun learning the formal method of multiplication and division. We are still finding these concepts a little tricky so please keep practicing these with the children at home – a how to handout will be sent out! However, we have certainly improved!

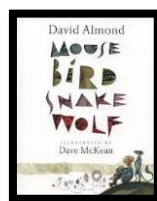
In Literacy, we have been focusing on the book Rapunzel by Bethan Wollvin. We are now reading the story, 'The Magic Paintbrush,' which is an ancient Chinese tale.

As well as this, we have been very busy learning about famous people, physical and human characteristics, music, dance and stories from other cultures. More recently we have been learning how to sew! The children have mastered threading a needle, tying a knot, sewing a running stitch and attempted an overstitch! We were very impressed. We will now attempt to sew a character!



Next term we will be moving into the lands of Arabia, Africa and America. Thank you to the parents that attended parents evening. I hope you all have a restful half term and I look forward to seeing you in Term 4. ☺

Willow Class



This term we have continued with our book, 'Mouse, Bird, Snake, Wolf' by David Almond. The class explored what it would be like to conjure up their own creatures, to then later, write about them. Don't the creatures look fabulous!



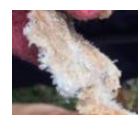
We would like to thank you for your continued support, in enabling your children, access to TTR. We have seen some good progress and watched how the children have enjoyed earning their Timestables badges, as they recite them to the class. Further learning in Maths has included a number of mental Maths skills within Arithmetic, as well as Area and Fractions. Ask the children how they can share your next pizza between the members of your household.

In line with this term's topic 'Europe', Willow Class has looked at some of the main landmarks throughout the European Continent, they have compared human and physical features and created a 3d map of these discoveries. Looking closer at one European country, the children have compared the Berlin Wall, Germany, to Hadrian's Wall, United Kingdom.



Freddie brought in a piece of the Berlin Wall, which came down (1989/1990) to reunite the country of Germany. Small parts were then sold off as souvenirs.

In Science, we are exploring 'States of Matter' and were able to use the colder January days to investigate our outside area and how it had been affected.



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 PE, 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. Each week they finished off by learning about Yoga.

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 next term. 😊



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. We created an online Padlet, showing a timeline of events from WW1 to the outbreak of WW2, and also wrote a newspaper report on the declaration of war against Germany.

We have been focusing on fractions in maths this term; we began by finding equivalent fractions and simplifying, before moving onto adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. Finally, we moved onto the more difficult parts – multiplying and dividing fractions. The children have worked incredibly hard in maths this term and have made good progress.

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 Wierwold to stay with a rather grumpy old man called Mr Tom. Using our imaginations and creativity, we created 3D maps of the village. 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

Term 3 has been a fun one, the weather has certainly given us some interesting lunchtimes with it being very icy on the playgrounds which most of the children enjoyed. We have also had our fair share of rainy days with lunchtimes spent indoors coming up with some very creative play.



This term we also had our census day on Thursday the 19th January where the children enjoyed a special menu of either a 'Baddie Burger' or 'Naughty Nuggets' with a 'Beat the Boss Brownie' or 'Invincibility Ice Cream' for dessert, I think it was safe to say the children thoroughly enjoyed this menu.

It's been lovely to see a lot of the children using their imaginations while playing at lunchtimes which has been greatly encouraged by our year 6 playleaders.

At lunchtimes we try to encourage independence as much as possible with the children, they should be able to cut up their own lunch, open their own food/drinks in lunchboxes, do up their coats and tie their own shoelaces. Please continue to practise at home if this is something your child struggles with. The MDMS are always here to help but at times our time is limited.

All of the Midday Meals Supervisors would like to say a big well done to all the children who earnt a lunchtime award this term, keep it up!



Enjoy your break and we look forward to seeing you all next term.

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.

This term we have been working together learning about time and using analogue clocks as well as digital which the children are more familiar with.



In addition, crafting has been popular this term, with pom pom making, sewing and a variety of creative arts, crafts and games.



Deanwood PTA



This term the PTA have provided refreshments for the Achievement Assemblies and for the Maths Workshop.

We have some dates for your diary:

Term 4:

- Friday 24th February – Bag2School collection of second hand clothes, 8:30-9am
- Monday 27th February – Bookshop for the children.
- Monday 27th February 7pm PTA Video call.
- Tuesday 14th March – Mother's Day Shop
- Friday 24th March – End of term discos.
- Wednesday 29th March – Easter Coffee Afternoon.



All parents/carers invited to collect their children from class to join us for refreshments, cakes, raffle & games.

It feels a long way off yet but please make a note of our fayre date.

Summer fayre Wednesday 5th July



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

Parking & Road Safety

We need your help

In recent weeks, the ongoing parking issues around the school have increased.

Despite our best efforts, motorists have continually been blocking pavements, school entrances, parking on 'school keep clear' zigzags, yellow lines and dropping children off without consideration for others. Parents walking their children to school (including those with pushchairs) are having to navigate their way between cars or cross the road to avoid these obstructions. We feel it will only be a matter of time before an avoidable accident will happen.

As the school is on a public highway, we have very limited powers as to what we can do other than to issue reminders and challenge individuals. However, members of the public are able to report illegally parked vehicles to Medway Council using the following link should they so wish:

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200136/parking_roads_travel/583/report_illegal_parking_in_medway/2

Thank you for support in keeping the children safe

School Office Hours

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

Monday - Thursday 8am – 4pm

Friday 8am – 3:30pm

Contact by phone: 01634 231901 or

Email: office@deanwood.medway.sch.uk

Website: www.deanwood-that.org.uk



Head of School's Review of Term

As we come to the end of Term 3, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect upon some of the highlights of what has been another busy term at Deanwood.

Years 2 and 5 have teamed up for a couple of space-themed events this term. They were lucky enough to have a visit from James Jefferson (local author of a book entitled "I Want To Go To Space") as well as a visit from the Astronomy Roadshow. The children thoroughly enjoyed meeting an author as well as having the opportunity to go inside the portable planetarium and to find out some fascinating facts about Space. I have had very positive feedback about both of these experiences from staff and students alike.

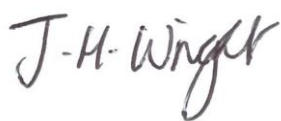
26th January was our annual Governors' Day when some of our Governors came into school for the day. This was the first time this event has been able to take place since January 2020 and it was lovely to be able to invite Governors back into school to join us. Whilst in school, they had the opportunity to visit lessons, talk with children, eat a school lunch and look at some of the children's work. The feedback we had from them was overwhelmingly positive with comments being made about how "respectful" our students are and the "palpable feeling of calm" that there was around the school. Well done, Deanwood!

As some of you may be aware, Mrs Russell has been busy organising meetings and information sessions for parents this academic year. This term, she arranged an afternoon session run by Medway Parenting Support. Those parents that were able to attend told us that they found the session useful. Mrs Russell plans to organise more meetings and events like this for parents over the forthcoming terms.

On Friday 3rd February, Deanwood took part in NSPCC Number Day. It was fantastic to see so many children and staff dressed in number-related outfits as they spent the day celebrating Maths whilst also raising money for the NSPCC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss White for the wonderful Parent Workshop that she ran. This was really well-attended with very positive feedback being received. I would also like to thank the PTA for putting on refreshments for the event.

And finally, I would like to thank 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.

I would like to end by wishing you all a good break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Tuesday 21st February**.



Mrs J. Wright
Head of School