



Deanwood Dispatch

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



Term 1 – October 2021

CLASS NEWS – TERM 1

Pine Class

We have thoroughly enjoyed our first term in Pine Class and have completed lots of fun and exciting activities.

Our learning has been based on different stories throughout the term. Our first story was 'The Gruffalo'. We were very excited when we discovered his footprints in our outside area. We thought that he was very sneaky to visit when we were at home. Our second story was 'The Cave'. We completed some amazing story maps and mark making activities. Our final story was 'We're going on a bear hunt'. We thoroughly enjoyed making our own bear hunt maps and bear pictures.

In phonics we have learnt some new phonics sounds and have been practicing sounding out and blending words e.g. p-i-g, c-a-t.

In maths, we have been learning how to compare amounts. We have been using lots of different language to compare objects - more, fewer, long, short, taller, smaller, heavy and light. We have also been learning about patterns and have enjoyed making our own repeating patterns using colours and shapes.

Overall, this term has been very busy and we have all settled in really well. We are looking forward to the adventures that await us in term 2.



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.

In Science, we have been learning about animals, including humans. We learnt about the human body, including our senses. We investigated how we use these senses to understand the world around us. We have looked at different categories of animals (including humans) and focussed on their features so we could sort and group them.



In Art we looked at colour mixing and how we could use primary colours to make secondary colours. We looked at using a variety of lines to create a class collage, based on the work of Bridget Riley.



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 our favourite characters, telling them all about us.

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.

Oak Class

This term, Oak Class have been learning about dinosaurs and exploring the works of famous fossil hunter Mary Anning in their History lessons. The children enjoyed learning about her and linking this with our dinosaur topic.

In Art, we firstly created pictures of dinosaur skeletons using pasta shapes but then moved onto learning about Andy Goldsworthy, a famous artist who uses natural materials to create sculptures. We collected our own natural resources, created an observational drawing of one of our natural objects and then created our own land art sculptures, inspired by Andy Goldsworthy's work.

Our Science lessons have been focussed on living things and their habitats. We went on a walk to find microhabitats and learnt about how different animals are suited to their habitats.

In English, we have been focussing on the story of The Adventures of Egg Box Dragon where we began the term by all making our own egg box dragons. This led on to writing letters, invitations, stories, interviews, instructions, using poetic language and practicing performing in front of others. All of this has meant that pupils have had lots of opportunities to practice writing sentence using full stops and capital letters as well as being introduced to commas and question marks.

It has been a busy first term but we are looking forward to next term where we will be beginning a new topic, a new story and also starting to prepare for the Christmas Nativity!

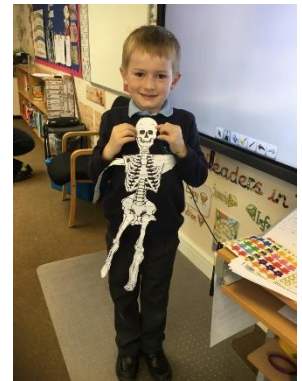


Cedar Class

What a great start to the year we have had! The children have settled nicely into Year 3 and we have done a lot of learning!

In Maths we have been working on our number skills. We have been trying to be quick with our addition and subtraction facts when adding 1, 10 or 100 more to a 3-digit number. We have also been learning about the place value within 3-digit numbers.

In our Science learning, we have enjoyed discovering more about our skeleton. We learnt how important it is for protection and movement. We even made our own model skeletons to help us learn the names of the bones in the body.



Our main topic this term has been The Stone Age. It has been fascinating to learn about our (very) distant ancestors. Life was very different back then with woolly mammoths roaming the lands, weapons made of wood and flint and cave paintings made using natural materials.



We have completed lots of pieces of work relating to our topic including make replica stone and bone necklaces in art, writing a report on woolly mammoths and exploring settlements like Starr Carr.

We can't wait to find out what we will be learning about next!

Willow Class

It has been a busy but fantastic first term in Willow Class. We have kicked the year off learning about the USA in our topic, Route 66. We spent some time in English lessons writing instructions on how to sew the Star-Spangled Banner, then we made our own! We found it tricky, but persevered and made beautiful flags!



In Science, we have been studying electricity and have made some circuits. We experimented to see how they worked and we found out that metal is a conductor. When we knew this, we had a go at making our own light switches to see if they would work, and they did!



In PE, we have had lots of fun learning OAA, which required us to be good working in a team and make decisions where everyone is included. Miss Peake set us up an orienteering course and we amazed her with how well we could read the maps and work in pairs to find the markers.



Miss Gannon and I would like to wish all of you a happy and healthy half term. We can't wait to see you in November to start our new topic, Fascinating Pharaohs which is all about Ancient Egypt!

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 Down 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 learnt 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!

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 Down



Elm Class

This term we have been studying London. We began by looking at the history of London and why historical events have helped shaped London into the city it is today, such as the Great Fire of London, The Blitz and the arrival of the West Indian immigrants, which has helped to form our multicultural capital and black culture in the city. Next we studied rivers and the features of the River Thames; we looked at what a meander, tributary and confluence is. After that, we wrote a piece of descriptive writing, imagining that we were an object on the streets of London, such as a phone box, a London pigeon or a London bus; the writing was imaginative and interesting! Finally, we made a new tourist attraction in London and wrote persuasive adverts to attract tourists to come and see it. In Art, we focused on graffiti and created our own name in graffiti style for display.

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.

We also had a visit from Kent Fire and Rescue, teaching the children basics CPR; they thoroughly enjoyed learning this life saving skill.



Lunchtime

So, that's our first term back completed! As well as thanking all the children for settling back into the school routine after the summer break, we must give a special mention to Pine Class for how well they have all done at lunchtimes. They have behaved so well and eaten their lunch without any fuss. What a friendly, well-mannered group they are!

Please remember to keep the school office notified if your child's dietary requirements have changed - we use discreet wrist bands to help the catering staff identify that the child has a particular requirement so we need you to help us ensure we have the correct information about what your child can or cannot eat.

We always publish the menu on the school website (or a paper copy is available via the school office) for you to look at with your child to help them make choices. It's surprising what a difference this can make to a child's lunch time if they are confident and prepared to make these choices. It's such a nice feeling to hear the children excited about the meal that they've chosen to have on that day whilst waiting in line with their friends.

And finally, as the weather turns to Autumn, just a reminder that all children will need to wear a named coat as we will endeavour to get outside whenever possible. So Key Stage 1 make sure you practise, practise, practise with those zips, buttons and sleeves over Half Term so that you are ready for Term 2!

Enjoy your break everyone, and we look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Extended Services

Breakfast & After Schools Club

It has been really good to get back to some normality as this has meant that we no longer have had to have separate Key Stage rooms. All of the children coming to our clubs have been able to mix together, and it has been great to see KS1 and KS2 children playing together and helping each other.



This term we have tried to join the ES clubs with the main school by putting up some posters. For the KS1 children there are posters to help with Phonics and Maths and for KS2 there is a map of world showing the location of various countries.



Extended Services

Breakfast & After Schools Club



Our arts and crafts activities this term have been based on the change in season from Summer to Autumn and things that go on during September & October. The children have been working on pictures of the changing colours of Autumn and preparing for Halloween.



Website

Please visit our website www.deanwood.medway.sch.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 1 – 2021

This has certainly felt like a very busy term! As you will be aware, Deanwood Ducklings and Extended Services joined the school in September. Staff have been working closely with the Trust to ensure that we are able to offer all of our children the best possible learning opportunities. We are very excited to have a Nursery class in the school and are looking forward to further improving our Early Years provision under the leadership of Miss Webber.

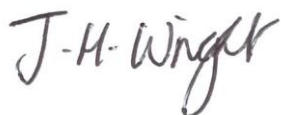
I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to return to doing my weekly assemblies in the hall. Although we have not yet met as a whole school, we have been meeting in Key Stages. I have loved having children telling me how much they have enjoyed being able to do this when they see me around the school. We will continue to proceed with caution but, if there are no spikes in the local infection rate, the hope is that we might be able to meet safely as a whole school towards the end of next term.

Thank you to those of you who attended a Parents' Evening appointment this week. Staff tell me that they appreciated being able to meet with parents face-to-face. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for following the guidelines that we set so that we can continue to maintain the safety of the whole school community.

As we approach the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to Miss Taylor and Mrs Knight who are both leaving us to pursue alternative career paths. Although Mrs Cavell will be remaining as a Teaching Assistant, she will be stepping down from the role of Midday Meal Supervisor at the end of this term. Mrs Kington has taken up a position at another of the Trust's Academies so we will no longer see her at Deanwood. I would like to thank them all for their hard work and wish them well in their future endeavours. We will have a new Teaching Assistant and new Midday Meal Supervisors joining us next term.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that attendance at school is statutory. We have had a number of parents this term who have chosen to take their children out for the day rather than sending them into school. We have also started to notice that some children are regularly absent from school on the same day every week. Whilst I appreciate that it has been a challenging 18 months for us all, it is really important that children are in school as much as they can be. Staff do not always have the capacity to ensure that children "catch up" the learning that they have missed and this can make it hard for the children in class. Absences such as this will be unauthorised and significant concerns will be "flagged up" to the Attendance Advisory Service.

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 1st November.



Mrs J. Wright
Head of School