

Deanwood Dispatch

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



Term 4 – March 2023

CLASS NEWS – TERM 4

Deanwood Nursery

This term, Deanwood nursery have been very busy exploring the topic 'Growth and Change'. It has been a fantastic opportunity to discuss life cycles, explore plants, get busy looking for minibeasts and recognise seasonal change as we move into Spring.

We have also been fortunate to see the changes taking place to our outside area and construction is underway. A huge thanks to our PTA for raising the funds to support with this amazing development!

Our amazing cohort have also practised learning a repertoire of songs, so feel free to continue singing I'm A Little Bean and Mary Mary Quite Contrary. On top of this, we have developed our expressive arts and design, as well as our understanding of the world with opportunities to explore spring playdough, look at a range of materials to enhance our artistic ideas and match baby animals to the adult version.

We were also incredibly busy this term celebrating World Book Week and Red Nose Day, so thank you to all of you that took part, you looked amazing and put a huge smile on our faces.



Pine Class

This term, Pine Class have been exploring the topic of 'Spring', and explored a wonderful story called 'Errol'. This has given us the opportunity to explore information books and increase our understanding of non-fiction. We have also looked closely at seed packets and the instructions written on them.

This was also a fantastic change for us to make links between our literacy and our understanding of the world when we explored where Errol lives and used google maps to explore our local area.

Pine Class have also been amazing at demonstrating their understanding of number bonds and our automaticity with this is phenomenal! We have been busy mathematicians comparing number, exploring 3D shapes and also using these produce patterns.

We have had a wonderful term, with opportunities to celebrate World Book Day, Red Nose Day, Easter and pancake day. I am looking forward to 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 'Pink is for Boys' during reading week and discussed job roles, colours and hobbies. We sorted them based on if we thought they were designed for boys or girls. We painted a paper doll in our favourite colours and we wrote an acrostic poem titled 'PINK'.

We dressed up as our favourite characters for World Book Day 2023.



We dressed up in red, something funny, or a Mr Men/Little Miss to support Red Nose Day 2023!



In science, we have learnt about the plants and animals in our local area. We have explored the school grounds and found lots of deciduous and evergreen trees. We have been bird watching and have made our own bird feeders out of toilet roll tubes, lard and bird seed.

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 character within this story and trying to understand how she might be feeling, linking her experiences to that of our own.

Maple Class have worked hard this term in Maths as we have started to learn how to count in 2s, 5s and 10s. We have been learning about place value up to 50 and look forward to looking at even bigger numbers next term.

Have an egg-cellent Easter! 🐣

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 also been applying a lot of our maths knowledge in Computing as we used tallies and pictograms to record and interpret data. The website <https://www.i2e.com/jit5#pictogram> is a great resource if you wanted to practice at home, too.

Thank you to all parents for your support throughout a difficult term with the loss of Mr Slack. Your understanding and patience has made me even prouder to be a part of this community. Good luck with any SATs practice or revision over the holidays and enjoy a well-deserved break.



Cedar Class

How time flies when you are having fun! 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 how to do short division and short multiplication. As well as this, we have been studying money, statistics and length. The children have loved getting better at their maths and I am really impressed with how their times tables are improving!

In Literacy, we finished our Chinese traditional tale and the children loved using all their skills to write a story about Maui and his magical object! We have now moved onto Aladdin and the Enchanted Lamp which the children are equally engaged in. Reading week was also a huge success where the children enjoyed the book, "Here we are" by Oliver Jeffers.

As well as this, the children have continued their around the world journey to North America, the Middle East and Africa (next term). They have also had a wonderful time sewing puppets and creating pneumatic toys. In addition to this, they have been improving their flexibility with yoga, creating branching databases in ICT and enjoyed learning about the Easter Story in RE. Their recorder skills continue to improve as well. The children have been working very hard and we are incredibly impressed with their progress.



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

Willow Class

Again, this term, thank you your continued support, in enabling your children, access to TTR. The children are making gradual progress and we have



added some additional practise lessons to further up level their accuracy and speed when on Sound Check.

This term we have been focusing on the book 'Arthur and the Golden Rope', in Guided Reading. There are many wonderful illustrations in the book, that enable the children to use all of their reading skills, such as: inference, retrieval, comprehension, summarising and prediction.



We have celebrated our Deanwood Book Week, very much in honour of Mr. Slack, and his passion for reading and English. The children dressed up on World Book Day. Here are some of the fabulous costumes -don't they look great!



Willow class had an amazing time during the Viking Workshop, held at the beginning of term.



As you can see a lot has been packed in to Term 4, so much so, that I only have space left, to wish you a very 'Hoppy' Easter break and we look forward to seeing you in Term 5.

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 learning all about Hockey. The class have enjoyed creating obstacle courses and challenging each other on who could achieve the quickest times. The children have developed their stickhandling, running with the ball, passing and their shooting skills.

During this term we had an amazing book week. We looked at the book called Three to Tango, it was nice to talk about such a diverse book during our week and we learnt some interesting facts about penguins too.

Our class text has been Charlie and The Chocolate Factory. The children have seemed to enjoy delving into the wonderful world of Willy Wonka. I have enjoyed reading the children's creations as they created and designed their own chocolate bars.

I just want to thank you all for your continued support. Enjoy the Half term break and we will see you in Term 5.



Elm Class



Elm Class have shown phenomenal resilience this term and have applied themselves brilliantly in

lessons. We have continued our World War II topic this term which the class have really enjoyed. We have learnt about rationing, the role of women and the D-Day landings. The class have produced some fantastic writing about the different shelters used during the war and a narrative describing RAF pilots flying to Dunkirk. We are looking forward to our trip next term to discover more of our local World War II history.



In maths this term we have learnt about percentages and algebra. We have just begun our topic learning

how to calculate the area and perimeter of triangles and quadrilaterals. Next term we will continue with area and perimeter and then move on to cover properties of shape.

In science, we have been learning about light. We plan on continuing with light for a few weeks next term too. So far, we have learnt that light travels in straight lines and seen how refraction works.

Next term Year 6 will be sitting their SATs tests between the 9th and 12th May. We have been busily preparing ourselves so we feel as ready as possible. Over the Easter holidays we will be setting targeted homework to support the areas they have struggled with in the last set of practice SATs.

We are looking forward to all the exciting opportunities terms 5 and 6 provide for Year 6!

Lunchtime

After what was a solemn start to the term the children have shown great resilience. Our MDMS team have been very supportive to children at lunchtimes during what has been a difficult time.

On Thursday 3rd of March we celebrated World Book Day, it was lovely to welcome the children into the dinner hall at lunchtime dressed as their favourite book characters...everyone was buzzing with excitement.



Next term ABM Catering Limited will be taking over from Chartwells our current catering company, please see our separate email sent out on Friday 24th March for more information.

This term we have also said goodbye to our MDMS Mrs Collier, we wish her all the best – she will be missed.



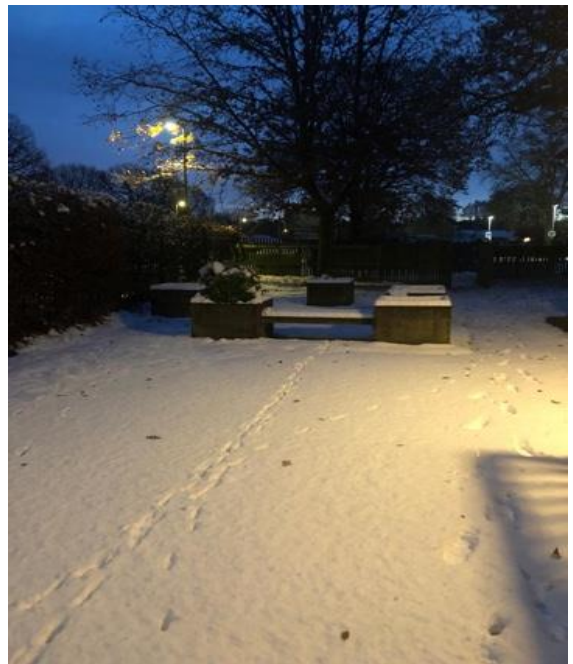
Hope you all have a lovely Easter break and look forward to seeing you all when we return.



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 where they have a light tea when the school closes its main gates. This term we have been working on team bonding, arts and crafts and games



Deanwood PTA



This term the PTA had a Bag 2 School collection, thank you for all of your donations. We don't know yet how much money we will get for the collection but the pile of bags was huge!

This month we had the Mother's Day Shop where the children had fun choosing their gifts. The Mother's Day Shop raised just over £120.

We also provided refreshments for the Achievement Assembly and by the time you read this we will have held the discos and our Easter tea & coffee afternoon.

We have some dates for your diary:

Term 5:

- **Wednesday 26th April – Grandparents Tea 3:30pm.** Letters will be sent out after the Easter holidays.
- Wednesday 3rd May – Bookshop for the children at lunchtime.

Term 6:

- Thursday 8th June – second hand uniform shop at home time.
- Wednesday 14th June – Father's Day Shop
- **Summer fayre Wednesday 5th July 3:30pm** 
- Friday 14th July - 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



Mrs E Russell



Miss J White

Designated Safeguarding Leads

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.



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

We will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support

Head of School's Review of Term

This term has been like none other I have experienced in my 25 years of teaching. However, the Deanwood community have pulled together and demonstrated amazing resilience.

A particular highlight for me was seeing the whole school celebrating World Book Day as part of our annual Reading Week. It was fantastic to see everyone dressed up and celebrating a love of reading. I hope the children have all enjoyed spending the World Book Day token that they brought home at the end of the week.

The children have also taken part in the NSPCC's "Speak out. Stay Safe" online programme in their classes. Feedback from staff tells me that the children listened sensibly and talked in a mature manner about the materials and the key message of "speaking out" to a trusted adult if they feel worried.

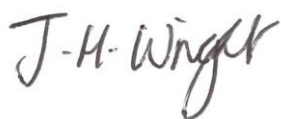
Special mention needs to be given to the PTA who have been extremely busy this term. The children thoroughly enjoyed getting the opportunity to go to the Mother's Day shop to buy gifts for their loved ones and I hope that those gifts were well received at home. This year also saw the return of the PTA's Easter Coffee Event. It was very well attended and I know that the home-made cakes went down particularly well. As always, last week's discos were very popular events and I think it's safe to say that the staff enjoyed it just as much as the children did! If you are able to offer any support with upcoming PTA events, I know that our small group of volunteers would be extremely grateful of any offers of help. Please contact the PTA via the school office.

In staffing news, we are pleased to welcome Miss Webber back to the Nursery after her maternity leave. As Miss Webber will be returning on a part-time basis, Miss Toombs will remain as the Lead practitioner in Nursery on Mondays and Tuesdays for the rest of this academic year with Miss Webber being in the setting for the remainder of the week. Miss White and Miss Webber will be sharing the EYFS Lead role.

I am also pleased to report that, following a selection process last week, Mrs Russell has been appointed as Acting Assistant Headteacher. I am sure you would like to join with me in congratulating Mrs Russell and wishing her well in her new role.

I feel it fitting to end by talking about the amazing staff team that we have at Deanwood. Not only have we lost a beloved teacher and colleague but we have also lost a friend. I'm sure you would all agree that every single member of staff has "dug deep" this term and supported not just the children but also each other through what has been a really challenging time for us all. I know that Mr Slack would feel extremely proud.

I would like to end by wishing you all a good break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Tuesday 18th April**.



Mrs J. Wright
Head of School