



Deanwood Dispatch

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



Term 5 – May 2023

CLASS NEWS – TERM 5

Deanwood Nursery

We have had a lovely term in Nursery learning about minibeasts! We have gone on more bug hunts than we can count!



A highlight of this term has been watching our very own caterpillars grow and eventually become butterflies! The children learnt about the life cycle of butterflies and thoroughly enjoyed watching the process.



When the butterflies were ready, we set them free in our garden which was very special!

With the weather improving, we are spending lots of time outside in our garden and enjoying lots of water play – particularly making potions using flower petals, glitter and paint! It's been a really fun term!



Pine Class

This term we have been learning about 'People Who Help Us'. We have met Police Officers, Nurses and Fire Officers. We have found out about their jobs by listening, asking questions and having hands on experiences. We have been inspired to think about helpful jobs we want to do when we grow up! We have also found out, how to keep safe, clean and healthy from our very kind visitors. After we had our visitors we drew and painted portraits of them. In Pine Class we have looked at X rays of bones and talked about how doctors use them. Pine Class have practiced cleaning our teeth and examined our own fingerprints! We found out we all have unique fingerprints.

During the festivals of Easter and Ramadan we discussed the celebrations that take place.

In Literacy we have recited the story of 'The Little Red Hen' and written speech bubbles, story maps and our own versions of the story. We have used instruments to accompany our story when we retold it.

In Maths sessions this term some things we have investigated are: doubles; sharing equally and odd and even numbers.

We will be looking at maps to see where we are going on our school trip. Next term- Minibeasts and Hot Places.



Maple Class

During term 5, Maple Class have enjoyed learning about fairy tales. We had a fantastic time dressing up as our favourite fairy tale character and wrote a recount of the day.



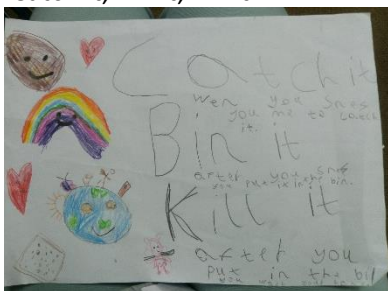
We have been looking at stories such as, 'The Three Little Pigs', 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff', 'Jack and the Beanstalk', and 'Little Red Riding Hood', and used elements from the Writing Rainbow to enhance our writing.

In science, we have learnt about Invertebrates and vertebrates. We spoke about what an invertebrate and vertebrate is and how to identify them.

Maple Class have enjoyed learning about moving story books in DT. We have discussed how we could make objects and images move, and we have explored and built our own sliders. We designed and made our own moving story books and plan to read them to Pine Class in term 6.



In PSHE, we have been thinking about taking care of things. We have spoken about our routines and how we keep ourselves clean. We spoke about germs and how to stop them spreading. We made our own posters which were put up across the school to remind people to 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'.



Maple Class have worked hard this term in Maths as we looked at weight, mass, volume and capacity. We have looked at multiplying and dividing, sharing and grouping.

Have a lovely half term and we look forward to welcoming you all back for Term 6 😊

Oak Class

During Term 5, the children have been thoroughly enjoying the engaging and humorous book *The Man on the Moon*, by Simon Bartram. This follows the life of Bob, a moon expert, who travels the 15 minutes each day to the moon, to maintain it and entertain the moon tourists. The children found lots of opportunities to write based on and around the story.

In PSHE, we have been learning about keeping clean and healthy. We learnt about the Scientist, Edward Jenner and the children were fascinated by the dramatization of the story of how and why he invented the vaccination to protect against Smallpox.

During Science lessons, the children have been investigating what is needed to successfully grow plants. They planted sunflower seeds in a variety of different conditions and waited. Apparently, keeping them in the dark, in a fridge and not watering them, doesn't work. Who knew?



A BIG thank you must go to the PTA for gifting all the children commemorative coins to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. When the children came back to school after the event, the children brought in homework about the weekend. Some wrote recounts of what they had seen. Some had created collages of photos from the weekend newspapers and some brought in photos of how their friends and families had celebrated the occasion. One even made their own crown! All of them had plenty to say about their experiences. As I am sure you know, KS1 SATS can take place all through the month of May, but we worked with the children on these tests for the last two weeks, so that we could have them working in smaller groups, to make the tasks less daunting. They all worked very hard and these are all complete. They really deserve their Half Term break!



Cedar Class

It has been an incredibly busy and exciting term in Year 3!

In our writing, we have been looking at a book called 'Flood' which has no words as the story is told through images. We have been working on what the words might have said if there had been any! We are really enjoying the book and exploring a range of vocabulary in our writing.

In science, we have been looking at light and dark. We have considered how some objects can reflect light well whereas others do not. We are also exploring shadows, how they are made and how they can be manipulated.

In maths we have worked incredibly hard on fractions! They can be a bit tricky at times, but all of Year 3 have tried incredibly hard and made good progress with their understanding.



Of course, a main event this term has been celebrating King

Charles III's coronation. We loved dressing in our smartest red, white and blue and participating in a range of activities including imagining we were king or queen for a day and making our own crowns.



Here, we are making volcanoes for our topic!

Willow Class

With Term 6 fast approaching, Year 4 have been practising their times tables in school, by reciting these to earn badges, gaining Dojo's for the house point contributions and winning certificates for 'most valuable players', during tournaments. There has been lots of progress, so a big well done goes out to the children of



Willow Class. However, they can do even better with more practise at home and for this we thank you for your continuous support in enabling your children access to TTR at home.

Once again, our children across the nation have witnessed a further historical event within the British monarchy, in the coronation of King Charles III. As you can see we celebrated this in class, creating fact files, poems, collaging, colouring, word-searching and taking our own royal portraits.



In Art, Year 4 have been learning that photography is also very much a form of art. The class used the iPads and took some beautiful photographs of the nature, just outside our classroom door. Back in the classroom, they used tools, such as 'filters, stickers, draw and paint', in the app, to manipulate the images and create new, artistic versions.

We look forward to lots more fun learning in Term 6.

Have a lovely break.



Hawthorn Class

Year 5 have again had an eventful term. We went back to the Tudor times and have learnt all about Henry VIII and his wives. The children had an amazing day out at Leeds Castle where they extended their knowledge of the castle and took part in a drama and craft workshop. Each child made their own Tudor inspired roundel out of clay.

In maths, we have been learning about fractions. This unit has been vast and the children have learnt to compare and order fractions, subtract and add fractions by an integer as well as converting mixed numbers to improper fractions.

The class have enjoyed being able to stretch their legs up on the school field during PE this term as we have been learning about Athletics. In writing we have been mastering the technique of speech writing and the children will soon be experts in learning how to persuade and argue effectively. Watch out parents when they come to you asking for an increase in their pocket money!! The children seem to have liked it, but I don't think they would argue with me after learning about the punishments during these times!

Mrs Down and I would again like to thank you all for your continued support as we enter our last term together. 😊



Elm Class



This term, Elm Class had their school trip to Chatham Historic Dockyard. We had an

incredibly busy day learning about World War II warships (HMS Cavalier) and how air raids would have been managed at the dockyard.

We also went onboard their submarine, HMS Ocelot, and had the opportunity to make rope by hand – this is



now on display in our classroom. It was a really informative and enjoyable day, especially as it was their first school trip since the pandemic!

This term has also been SATs term. We are incredibly proud of how hard all of Elm Class worked during the weeks before and the week itself. Now that SATs are over, we turn our attention to our end of year production. This year we will be performing Wonderland! The class will be auditioning in the last week of term and parts and scripts will be handed out before half term so they can start learning their lines!

In DT, we have been finishing off our mechanical toys. Working in pairs, they have measured and sawn the wood to the correct length, then designed and created the cams used to make the toy move. Each pair designed the toy using their own theme and we're very impressed with the final result!



Lunchtime



This term, our new caterers ABM took over and gave our dinner hall a lovely bright makeover which the children were very excited about. The children also seem to also be really enjoying the new menu.

We also had our special Coronation Menu on Tuesday the 9th May, the dinner hall was decorated with Union Jack bunting and the children enjoyed their Sausage baguette and chips with a Union Jack cupcake for dessert.



As the weather is starting to get warmer we are hoping the KS2 children can start spending more lunchtimes on the school field.



Wishing you all a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing you in term 6.

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.

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 on making our own King's decorations.

I would like to remind parents that, if a child is being picked up by a grown up that we haven't previously met, they must set a password for collection with us beforehand. This is to ensure the safety of all of our children. Kind Regards



Deanwood PTA



This term we held our first Grandparents Tea since March 2020 and it was very well supported, thank you to all of the children and Grandparents that came along.

Apologies for those who had to queue for a while to get to the food. There was obviously such a good selection of food that it took people time to choose what they wanted. 😊

Earlier this month we held a lunchtime book and stationery shop which the children always seem to enjoy.

We also provided refreshments for the Achievement Assembly this week.

We have some dates for your diary:

Term 6:

- Thursday 8th June – second hand uniform shop at home time.
- Wednesday 14th June – Father's Day Shop – one day only!

- **Summer fayre Wednesday 5th July 3:30pm**



We need helpers for the fayre so please return the form on the recent letter or email pta@deanwood.medway.sch.uk if you can help.

- 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 – 4pm

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 appears to have flown by in the blink of an eye! It seems like only yesterday that I was wishing you all a lovely Easter break. However, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been another successful term at Deanwood. Although the weather hasn't been as good as I would have hoped, the occasional glimpse of sunshine has certainly helped to raise spirits with some classes taking advantage of opportunities for outside learning. I have everything crossed for wall-to-wall sunshine in Term 6 so that we can make as much use of our outside spaces as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive "well done" to the students in Years 2 and 6 who have all approached their SATs tests with a positive attitude. We are proud of you all and know that each and every one of you tried your hardest. We can't ask for more! I would also like to thank all staff for the part that they have played in both the preparation for SATs and also the invigilation of tests. It was very much a team effort.

It has been great to see classes going out on trips again this term with Year 6 visiting Chatham Dockyard, Year 5 going to Leeds Castle and Years R and 1 going to Minnis Bay. I have had really positive feedback from children and staff alike and have been particularly proud to hear about members of the public who have passed comment to staff about how well behaved our children have been. Feedback like this is always well received and the children should feel proud of themselves for being wonderful ambassadors for Deanwood.

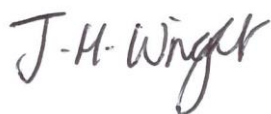
A particular highlight of the term for me was our Coronation Day on 4th May. It was lovely to see the children dressed up in red, white and blue as well as those that chose to come dressed as royalty. The children enjoyed doing Coronation activities in their classes and were really pleased to go home with the commemorative coins that the PTA bought for every child in the school. I'm sure you would like to join me in thanking the PTA for this lovely keepsake.

We were particularly pleased to be able to welcome grandparents back into school for the PTA's grandparents' tea. The homemade cakes and biscuits were as wonderful as always and I know that those that came had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. If you would be interested in helping the PTA at future events, please contact them via the school office.

In staffing news, I am pleased to report that we have appointed Mrs Howard to the position of Year 6 teacher from September. Mrs Howard worked at Deanwood a number of years ago and is really looking forward to joining the staff team again. We are hopeful that Mrs Howard will be able to spend some time in school in Term 6 getting to know the staff and children in preparation for September. In other staffing news, Mrs Cook will be coming back from maternity leave to work part-time at the end of next term. Mrs Chapman, who has been covering Mrs Cook's maternity leave, will become a permanent member of staff when Mrs Cook returns. As both Mrs Cook and Miss Webber will be working part-time, Mrs Chapman's role will be to teach in both the Nursery and Year R on their non-teaching days. We are certain that this will make for a really strong EYFS teaching team and help to aid the transition from Nursery to Year R.

As always, I am sure you would like to join me in thanking all of our school staff for their continued hard work this term and I look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school on **Tuesday 6th June**.

Mrs J. Wright



Mrs J. Wright
Head of School