



Deanwood Dispatch

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



Term 1 – October 2023

CLASS NEWS – TERM 1

Deanwood Nursery

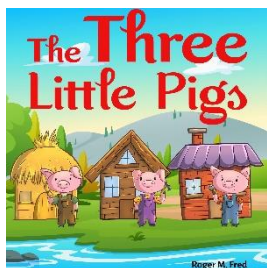
What a lovely start to Nursery we have had here at Deanwood! The children are settling in so well and thoroughly enjoying our new environment and resources.

Our topic this term has been Homes and we have been thinking lots about our homes and the special people we live with.

The children have loved reading and re-telling

The Three Little Pigs using our puppets and story stones.

We even made our own straw, stick and brick houses in the garden to role play the story!



Our new construction resources have been extremely popular and we are seeing some really purposeful play using our new rings, blocks and wooden people – the possibilities are endless!

We have loved bringing the outside in this term and



using lots of our natural resources such as logs, sticks and leaves for craft and small world!

Very to excited to see what next term will bring!



Pine Class

We have had a very successful Term 1 settling into Reception! We are gradually getting used to our routines and our rhythm of the day.

Our topic focus has been All About Me and we have been talking lots about ourselves and our families. We painted self-portraits and have been using natural resources to create ourselves too!



The children have really enjoyed using our new construction resources and have been making things from

garages, to castles! There has been lots of collaborative working together which has been lovely to see!



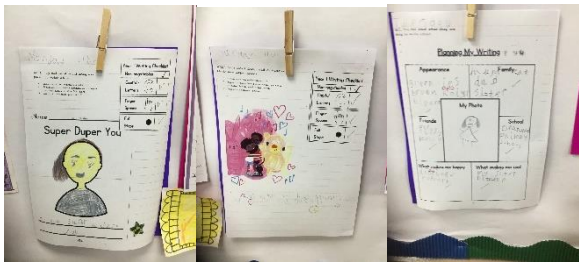
Our children absolutely love mark-making and this week we made our own lift-the-flap pictures and clues to guess whats inside!



What a lovely start to the year we have had! Looking forward to coming back next term for lots more exciting learning 😊

Maple Class

This term, Maple Class have been learning about themselves. We have focussed our writing on the book 'Super Duper You' by Sophy Henn. We have written all about what makes us super-duper! We wrote about the people we live with. We have written about our favourite things. We have been busy using capital letters, finger spaces, full stops and adjectives. We also really enjoyed singing the alphabet song when learning our alphabet for GPaS!



In Science, we have been learning about parts of the body and our 5 senses. We investigated how we use these senses to understand the world around us. We have used our mouths to taste lots of different foods and we used our hands to find out what was in the box! We used our noses to match the scents and our ears to identify different sounds. We used our eyes to see what we could see on a walk around the school.

In Computing, we have been looking at technology around us. We have explored technology – electronic and non-electronic - and have even logged on to the computers in the ICT suite! We can now name and identify the main parts of a computer and have developed our mouse and keyboard skills. We now know how to use computers responsibly



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

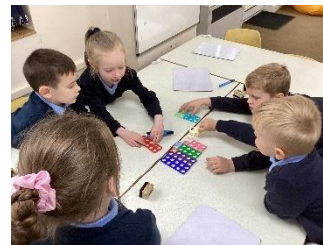
This term Oak class have been learning all about dinosaurs, fossils and Mary Anning as part of their 'Dinosaurs' topic. We have looked at different dinosaurs from prehistoric periods, explored whether they were carnivores, herbivores or omnivores. During our English lessons, we have studied a text called '*The Adventures of Eggbox Dragon*' and have designed, labelled and created our own Eggbox Dragons, role played scenes from the book and written letters to Eggbox Dragon to ask for his help with our own lost items.

Throughout our maths lessons, we have learnt all



about place value: identifying tens and ones, finding different ways to represent numbers to 100, comparing objects and ordering numbers, too. We will be moving on to our 2, 5 and 10-times tables when beginning our 'Addition and

Subtraction' unit, so please continue to support your child with Times Tables Rockstars so their automaticity of multiplications is successful.



Throughout our curriculum subjects, Oak class have continued to develop their artistic skills by exploring primary colours and how to

use these to create secondary colours. We have experimented with adding black and white to change the shade, considered how to create texture while painting and have made some beautiful collages. Throughout our science sessions, we have also looked at what makes us safe and happy, how exercise helps our bodies and what foods keep us healthy.

As we plan for our journey through Year 2, I ask that you continue to support your child with their phonics and reading by encouraging your child to read daily and to practice their spellings each week for Friday's spelling test. Thank you for all your amazing support and kindness this term, it has been a wonderful start to the year.

Cedar Class

Cedar class have settled really well into their routines and it is so lovely to have them back! We also wanted to thank you all for the wonderful home learning that has been carried out over this term. The children have returned to school very eager to learn.

This term, we have been learning about life in the Stone Age – pre gadget era. Needless to say, some of the children have been shocked to learn that they didn't have many of the luxuries which we enjoy today!

In Maths, we have been working hard to consolidate all our good mathematical learning on place value and addition and subtraction. We are learning how to use numbers up to 1,000. Next term, we will be continuing with addition and subtraction before moving onto multiplication and division. Specifically, we have introduced the children to column addition and subtraction which they are excelling in!

In addition to this, we have had lots of fun across the curriculum. We have been learning about networks in ICT; Diwali in RE; relationships in PHSE; and hockey in PE. The children particularly enjoyed the nappy experiments in science as well as learning about Stone Age jewellery art.



Thank you to all the parents that are continually offering support with homework, home reading, times tables and spellings practice. We can already see some incredible progress and the positive impact this is having with your children.

Willow Class

Well, what a good start to the academic year the children of Willow Class have had. They have fully embraced the challenge to tackle their times tables and begun battling on Times Tables Rockstars.

Please continue to support your children with this, not only is it a vital mathematical skill but also with the



Multiplication Check coming up in June 2024, it is crucial that the children can access this to the best of their abilities.

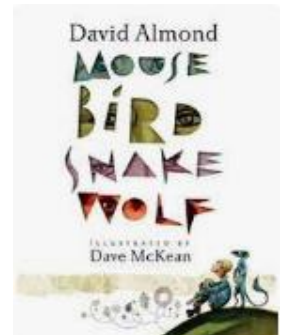
In Maths alongside the timestables, Year 4 has been revisiting Place Value and adding to their knowledge using numbers of 1000 and beyond.



The class have also travelled along Route 66 and virtually visited Las Vegas, learned about the past and present Presidents of the USA,

navigated the seas, following the trails of Christopher Columbus and written postcards, poems and diary accounts, linked to the topic.

In Guided Reading, Willow Class have been reading 'Mouse, Bird, Snake, Wolf' and using their inference skills, to express what may happen within the story. Furthermore, they have described characters and settings.



Art lessons have taken the class on an indigenous journey, exploring Totem poles and the meanings behind the bold, carved creations, mainly of North American animals. The process of creating a 2d design and transferring their ideas by manipulating media into a 3d version is always truly inspiring to be a part of.

Finally, the children have continued their recorder lessons within their Music lessons and have also been thoroughly enjoying hearing about musicians of the month in the singing assemblies.

September's musician was David Bowie.

Mrs Russell and I wish you a wonderful October break, full of beautiful Autumnal memories.

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 Cavell 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 learning 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!

For PE, the children have been learning how to play basketball. Many games have been enjoyed and it has been nice to see their competitive side shine!

The children have worked 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 Cavell.



Elm Class

This term it has been lovely to get to know the children being a new member of staff.

In Science, we have been learning about the heart and how to keep healthy. Please don't be surprised if your children demand you look at the food labels to find more healthy options as we have been shocked at the amount of fat and sugar in foods that have marketed as healthy.

In geography we have been learning about the physical elements of the United Kingdom such as mountains and rivers. We continued their learning from yr5 about climates and looked at the different climate zones across the world and how climate change will impact the physical geography.

Our PE lessons have been learning about how the children can work collaboratively and effectively together as a team. They have had lots of fun doing this. Some of the activities have included rowing across the hall in teams of five. Having a competition to pass a range of items along a line only using their feet. Believe me the hall smelt cheesy after that one!!

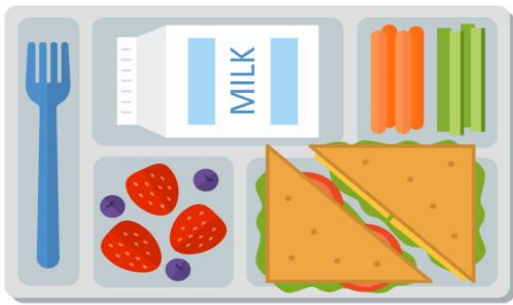
Maths this term has been all about place value. We have been concentrating on numbers up to ten million. We have been learning about short division and learning the most efficient methods for adding and subtracting.

Lots of children have taken part in the bike ability course. They have learnt important life skills to allow them to ride safely on the roads.

As you can see, we have had a jam-packed term. I am looking forward to the new experiences of next term.

Enjoy your half term and I will see you next term.

Lunchtime



We have had a fantastic start to the new school year at lunchtime. Reception class are settling in very well, please continue to keep building their confidence at home with using a knife and fork as this is a very important skill.

We have also welcomed 2 wonderful new MDMS to the lunchtime team, Mrs Honey and Mrs Black.

We would like to remind parents of the importance of a healthy, balanced lunch to enable children to stay focused during their afternoon learning. Also, if sending your child in with grapes or cherry tomatoes please cut lengthways as these can be a choking hazard.



Now the Colder weather is returning, can we please remind parents to send children in with a named coat/jacket and if sending children in with hats, scarves and gloves please label them where possible to help us return items if lost.



The MDMS team would like to wish you all a lovely Autumn break and will look forward to Term 2 and starting the run up to Christmas celebrations!

Extended Services

Breakfast & After Schools Club

This term, we have been working on a drawing competition with the winning school winning £1000 for their wrap around care service. It has been a very good bonding exercise in the afternoons with the normal activities whether it's indoor play or outside play. With this in mind, please can we ask you to make sure that the children have at least a cardigan with them.

Without a cardigan or a jumper, children will not be allowed to play outside as we don't want anyone becoming poorly due to the cold.

Breakfast Club runs Monday till Friday 7:30-8:30 when Debbie or Jane will take the children round to their class rooms. Breakfast options are: bagels, toast, cereals pancakes, muffins or croissants.

The After-School Club runs from 3:30 till 6pm.

The children receive a snack such as: fruit, biscuits, crackers, cheese twists and breadsticks or a light tea of: pizza, sausage rolls, sandwiches, beans on toast or chicken nugget wrap. Places should be booked via Arbor so that myself and Debbie know who to expect and don't miss any children out! All in all, it has been a good term. Please find attached a couple of the children's designs



Deanwood PTA



In September, we had our first lunchtime bookshop of the year, it was very busy! We hope the children enjoyed the books that they bought.

Recently, we held our annual Macmillan coffee afternoon. Thanks to all who supported this event we raised a fantastic **£411** This is £100 more than last year which is amazing. This has now been sent to Macmillan. Thank you!



The children have created some wonderful Christmas designs for the Christmas Card Project. ***Important**, the deadline for you to place online orders is **Sunday 22nd October**. We should receive the orders by mid-November. We have some dates for your diary:

Term 2:

- Thursday 9th November – Bookshop and 2nd hand uniform shop 3-4pm
- Christmas Coffee Event
Wednesday 6th December
from 2: 45pm
- Tuesday 12th December
Children's Christmas Shop.
- Friday 15th December – Christmas 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

As we come to the end of a busy start to the academic year, I wanted to reflect on all that has happened since September.

This term, we have welcomed new children into Year R and the Nursery. All of the children seem to have settled in really well to life at Deanwood. A particular highlight for me has been seeing Pine Class coming in to the hall to join us for our weekly singing assembly. It is lovely to see the smiles on their faces as they try to learn all of the new songs. Well done, Pine Class!

As well as new children, we have also welcomed new staff to the team. Mrs Howard has joined us as the teacher in Year 6 and Mrs Lacey has joined us this week teaching Year R on a Thursday and a Friday until the end of Term 2. We have also welcomed Mrs Honey and Mrs Black to the Midday Meal Supervisor team. All staff report to me that they have been made to feel very welcome by the whole school community.

There have been some exciting physical changes around the school this term which I am really pleased about. Not only do we now have a designated Music Room but we also have a wonderful new library containing some fantastic new books:



Music Room



Library

As the school year progresses, staff will be aiming to use our exciting new spaces as much as possible.

Thank you to 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 also like to thank the PTA for their continued support this term. The Macmillan Coffee Afternoon was particularly well attended with lots of money being raised for a fantastic cause. As all of the PTA events rely on parent helpers, I would urge you to contact the PTA via the school office if you think you would be able to offer any support. Unfortunately, events will not be able to take place if parents are not available to help so please have a think about whether you might be able to offer some time.

I would like to end by taking this opportunity to wish you all a good break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 6th November.

Mrs J. Wright

Mrs J. Wright
Head of School