



# Deanwood Dispatch

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



Term 2 – December 2023

## CLASS NEWS – TERM 2

### Deanwood Nursery

This term, Nursery have been thoroughly enjoying arts and craft activities! We have been experimenting with different resources to make different festive crafts such as playdough ornaments and cookies, Christmas paintings, reindeer food, Christmas cards and much more! The children helped decorate our Nursery and made it look so cosy and Christmassy!



We were also so thrilled to be able to invite our children's families in for a Christmas stay and play which was enjoyed by all children and staff!

Our children have been really developing their

fine motor skills by using different techniques. We have been printing, using stencils, exploring with small and large paint brushes, even painting our hands! All these skills are supporting our children's development to learn how to write! Wishing all of our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



### Pine Class

In Pine class this term, the children have been working so hard to develop their mark making skills! We have been writing our names, CVC words and captioning our pictures too! Our



mark making area is always so busy and the children are using their independent skills to access their environment!

We have also been observing some lovely collaborative

play from our children. They have been helping each other, sharing ideas, supporting one another and being so kind and friendly which has been wonderful to see.



Our children have particularly enjoyed learning the poems Miss Lacey has been teaching them throughout the term. They pick them up so quickly and are able to recite them. This helps with their language development and are very impressive to hear!

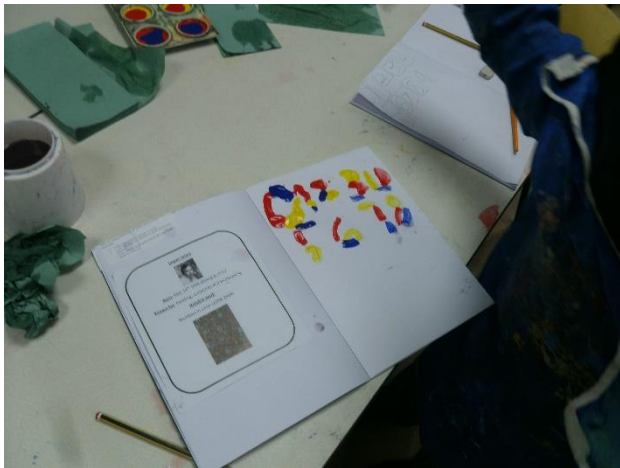
We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## Maple Class

This term, Maple Class have been learning about famous artists throughout history and ended the topic by creating our own artist inspired artwork. We have looked at timelines and used source materials to find out information about what it was like to live during the lifetime of artists such as Kandinsky, Pollock and Rothko.

In Art we looked at the skills used in Art and Design when painting and mixing. We have been using our sketch books and have experimented with lots of techniques to create artwork inspired by Clarice Cliff and Jasper Johns. We have printed with Lego, colour mixed to make hues of green, and have mixed primary colours to make secondary colours.



In English we read a book called 'The Day the Crayons Quit' and wrote our own letter to the crayons to get them to come back! We have looked at adjectives and nouns and continued to work on using our finger spaces, full stops and capital letters in our writing.

Maple Class have really enjoyed rehearsing and performing the KS1 Nativity! We had a visit from the Elf on the Shelf and enjoyed the challenges and activities they brought us.

We have been very busy in Year 1 this term and we look forward to finding out what our new topic will be in the New Year.

Have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year  
Maple Class!

## Oak Class

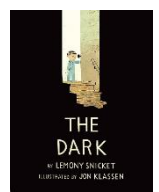
This term Oak class have been learning all about London: past and present, how we find out about the past and how to ask and answer appropriate questions during our Great Fire of London topic. We have looked at Samuel Pepys' diary, the fire breaking out in Pudding Lane and the materials used that led to the fire spreading so quickly.

During our English lessons, we have studied a text called '*The Dark*' and have responded to illustrations on the front cover, produced story maps and written our own stories from the perspective of the Dark.

Throughout our maths lessons, we have learnt all about addition and subtraction: using number bonds to 20, adding and subtracting 10 and added 2-digit numbers while crossing 10 (exchanging). This is not an easy subject so please continue to support your child, using White Rose Maths videos and the app, as well as supporting your child to know their number bonds to 10 off by heart.

Throughout our curriculum subjects, Oak class have continued to develop their artistic skills by producing pastel skylines and used a range of methods to represent the Great Fire of London. We have also used the iPads to determine how to take a 'great' photo, using lights and effects as well as checking consent before taking photos of others. Finally, Oak class have discussed how we make others feel, what to do when someone appears to be left out, how to show kindness and how to solve problems or conflicts with others.

Please continue to support your child by encouraging them to read daily, to practice their spellings each week for Friday's spelling test and to engage with both TT Rockstars and the one-minute maths app to promote their automaticity.





## Cedar Class

What a busy term it has been! The children have worked really hard this term and Mrs Down and I are both incredibly proud of the achievements they have made. We have enjoyed learning about the Romans and have written some fantastic travel brochures to Rome.

As well as this, we have learnt a great deal about the Christmas story; forces and magnets; why Remembrance Day is important and valuing difference. The children particularly enjoyed creating their own animation in ICT.

In Maths, we have worked hard learning about time, addition and subtraction this term. I was delighted to see so many children learning their times tables, which is fantastic! Next term we will be learning about multiplication, division and focusing on the 3x, 4x and 8 times tables.



In addition to this, we have also enjoyed different events such as the Christmas Celebration, Christmas dinner and the pantomime. The children have settled really well this term and it has been lovely to see them so happy and enjoying their learning.



I hope you all have a well-deserved break and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2024.

## Willow Class

**Term 2** has flown by and Year 4 has worked incredibly hard throughout all areas of learning.

**They** have battled other classes and challenged each other with their timestables knowledge, learned more about place value, addition and subtraction with exchanging. Please keep up with TTR, as you know, 'practise makes perfect'.



**Within** History and Geography, Willow Class have been exploring Ancient Egypt and Ancient Greece, comparing the two and creating beautiful information spreadsheets about The Pyramids and The Olympics. To support their learning, the children used our wonderful library space and were able to research further ideas for their work.



**In** Art, Year 4 have worked with clay and created their own Scarab Beetle Seals. The children wrote their initials, using hieroglyphics into the soft clay. Once the beetles were dry, they were painted in beautiful colours and then used to print with. The printing proved challenging, however everyone enjoyed the



process and outcomes, despite unexpected results. Further to this, Willow class have explored how Ancient Greek architecture, has influenced Modern Day architecture.



I could go on more about the incredible learning, however I am running out of space, so, all that is left for me to say, is have a fabulously Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2024 from Mrs Russell and Mrs Turner.



## Hawthorn Class

This term we have been learning all about Global Warming and Climate Change. We have been studying Plastic Pollution and waste. The children have been working towards creating items out of waste and turning them into reusable items such as clothing or everyday items. The end of term "Trashion Show" is nearly upon us and the children's ideas are looking wonderful. We look forward to performing this to you at the start of next term! We have incorporated recycling into our art lessons as well and the children have designed and made their own turtles which will



be swimming their way to you soon!

In Maths, we started the term by studying addition and subtraction.

The children worked hard with this and are now able to use column methods to add and subtract 5-digit numbers. Moving on from this, the children have learnt about factors, multiples, square numbers, cube numbers and how to multiply and divide numbers by 10,100 and 1000.

In Science, we have been looking at living things. We have investigated the life cycles of insects and amphibians. The children have been fascinated by the life cycles of frogs! We have looked at how plants and mammals reproduce and finally looked at the different types of metamorphosis in varying animals. In writing, we have been reading a book called Floodland. The children have been learning all about the idea of being potentially stranded on an island alone. As a class we have written some amazing poetry and I have been impressed with their individual styles.

PE has been fun this term as the children have been learning how to become young leaders for next year. They have been working alongside Mr Harvey and he has been developing their leadership and collaborative partnership skills. The children have been working in teams and learning how to understand each other's strengths and weaknesses. They then have been working together to build team games that would support younger children in the playground.

I have been so proud to see how far this group have developed not only in their teamwork but in their support for each other.

We really have packed a lot of learning into this term and both I and Mrs Cavell hope that you have a wonderful Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!



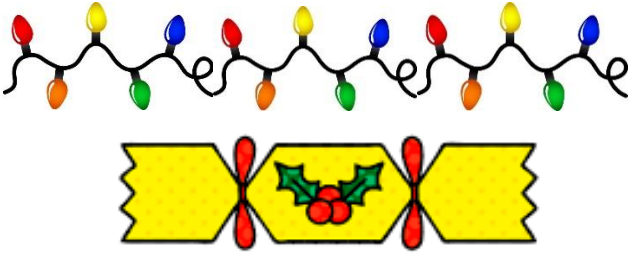
## Elm Class

It has been a busy term 2 for Elm Class. Every week we have been swimming and we have entered the Mini Youth Games for January – we certainly have some amazing swimmers! For the other PE lesson we have been dancing Kings and Queens and have learned some Hip Hop moves to create a sequence to perform to the rest of the class. This term we have learned about physical geography where we have looked at the UK and learned all about how mountain ranges are formed and where they are in the UK; the difference between climate and weather and we have compared our temperate climate to the other climates across the world. We have created graphs comparing the temperature and rainfall across the UK and found that there is a huge difference. In music, we have been lucky enough to have Mr Mann in each week to teach Samba which everybody has loved. We are in the process of creating a printed masterpiece based on Celtic knots where we have used wool or string to create the shape and glued it onto a piece of card. From there we will paint over the raised pieces and print – the finished pieces will be sent home before Christmas. We have all been very excited to learn how to build a web page using Google Sites in computing this term. We had to analyse a few websites and decide what makes a good one. We have all designed one based on our interests and aim it to a certain audience: some of us have included links and different pages.

We have all worked extremely hard and are looking forward to our Christmas break – especially the party on the last day of term! Have a fabulous Christmas and let's hope that the New Year is a positive one for everybody.



## Lunchtime



Christmas is almost here and the children have been buzzing with excitement at lunchtimes. The children enjoyed our Christmas dinner day as they all get to sit in the festively decorated Main Hall while listening to Christmas music while tucking into their lunch, pulling crackers and sharing their Christmas jokes.

I would like to give our wonderful year 6 playleaders a special mention for doing an amazing job of supporting the children on the KS1 playground.

Finally, we would like to wish all the children a Merry Christmas and we look forward to welcoming them back in the new year.



## Extended Services

### Breakfast & After Schools Club

Well, what can we say it has been a busy term with lots of Christmas spirit and very excitable children. Also, lots of lovely fresh faces This term we have been making Christmas gonks, paper chains, stockings, Christmas hats and decorating kids club when they have not taken them home. We have also been doing puzzles and memory games which are a winner with most. We are looking forward to hearing all about the Christmas break when the children are back, and we all can't wait to get back out in the fresh air when we have some longer day light so for now merry Christmas all.



## Deanwood PTA



Thank you very much to everyone for supporting our Christmas events.

We paid for the Hurricane Theatre Company to perform a pantomime for the whole school at the start of December. This year it was Peter Pan, Never Grow Up and it sounds like everyone really enjoyed it!

As well as the Pantomime, we have also had a book sale, second hand uniform sale, the Christmas Shop for the children to buy gifts and of course the Christmas discos.



The Christmas Card order arrived in November and the cards all looked wonderful. By placing card orders you helped us raise **£186.60** so thank you for all those who took part.

We would like to wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to arranging more events for the school in 2024.



Thank you very much for your continuing support.

## Attendance

Our whole school attendance for the year so far is 93.7% which puts us just below the Government's expectation of 96%.

Barney Bear has continued to pay visits to several classes this term. Barney is awarded weekly to the class with the best overall attendance and all of the children enjoy hearing all about Barney's adventures with different classes in our weekly Merit Assembly.



## 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](http://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](mailto: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 Term 2, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on what has been another busy term.

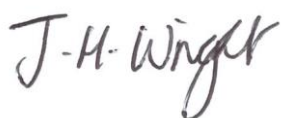
Christmas activities have been coming thick and fast in the last few weeks with Nursery and Year R entertaining us with their Christmas sing-alongs and Years 1 and 2 putting on performances of "Lights, Camel, Action 2: The Sequin". It was lovely to be able to invite family members into school to join us and I know that all of the children thoroughly enjoyed being able to perform in front of an audience. I'm sure you would like to join me in saying a massive "well done" to the children that were involved and in thanking all of our EYFS and KS1 staff for their hard work in making sure that these were memorable events for everybody.

The PTA have certainly been busy this term. As well as the book and second-hand uniform shop, they also organised a performance of Peter Pan in the school hall, ran a Christmas Shop for the children, helped with refreshments at events and put on a school disco. I am sure you would like to join me in thanking the PTA for all of their hard work in making events such as these happen. However, as you will be aware, the PTA had to cancel the planned Christmas coffee afternoon due to personal reasons and were unable to run a Christmas Fayre this year due to a lack of volunteers to help with the organisation. Whilst I know that this was disappointing, given the small numbers of volunteers, it is really hard to organise and run event if there are not enough people available. As always, I would urge you to contact the PTA via the school office if you would be interested in helping out at future events.

Term 2 ended with our traditional Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas lunch and Christmas assembly. I think it's safe to say that we have fitted a lot into this term and all deserve a rest!

At the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Lacey who has joined us this term to teach in Year R two days a week. I know that Mrs Lacey has thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the children and staff and we will be sad to see her go. In January, Mrs Elsworth will be joining the teaching team. Mrs Elsworth will be working in both Nursery and Year R and we are really looking forward to her joining the Deanwood community.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023.



Mrs J. Wright  
Head of School