



Deanwood Dispatch

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



Term 2 – December 2024

CLASS NEWS – TERM 2

Deanwood Nursery

It has been a lovely term in Nursery! The children have thoroughly enjoyed getting ready for Christmas these last few weeks and decorated our Nursery Christmas tree completely independently!



The children have been very interested in arts and crafts this term. They LOVE glitter and paint and a day does not go by without it! We've made garlands, Christmas trees, stockings, shiny stars and more!



Our children are also really enjoying role play at the moment and get very engrossed in a range of different storylines.

We've spent lots of time outside observing the changes in weather and temperature!

Have a happy and safe Christmas break and see you all in the New Year!



Pine Class

Another exciting term in Pine Class! We have been completing our learning based on children's interests and events. At the beginning of term, we completed some amazing pieces of art based on Diwali and Bonfire night. These were then displayed inside the classroom for everyone to see. We have enjoyed completing lots of Christmas craft activities leading up to the end of term and we are excited to bring them home and share them with our families.

In Maths, we have been learning our numbers to 5, looking at what numbers combine to make the numbers and subitising (knowing the amount without counting). The children have blown us away with their knowledge and understanding of this. We have also been looking at circles, triangles and shapes with 4 sides and have completed lots of fun activities surrounding this maths topic.

This term we have enjoyed participating in our weekly P.E lessons. We have been focussing our learning on what a safe space is and moving around the hall safely. The children have really enjoyed these lessons and are eager to carry them on in term 2.

Our Christmas show went incredibly well and we are all very proud of ourselves! It has been a great second term of learning and we are looking forward to a lovely Winter break!

I would just like to say a massive thank you for your amazing support over the last couple of terms. I will really miss being with the children in Pine class and seeing their lovely smiles. I hope you all have a lovely, relaxing Christmas.

Maple Class

This term, Maple Class have been learning about Queen Elizabeth II in their History block. We learnt all about her and her incredible life and reign. We then used the information we learnt to write a biography all about her for our writing block.

We had lots of fun filming our Christmas Nativity film and used this to inspire our RE lessons where we delved deeper into the Nativity story.

In Science, we explored everyday materials. We named, identified and sorted the materials and went on to learn all about their properties. We experimented with water to see if our materials were waterproof or not waterproof and were intrigued by the results of this experiment.

For Maths, we dived into addition and subtraction within 10 and have enjoyed looking at identifying and sorting 2-D and 3D shapes. We have learnt about the properties of 2-D and 3-D shapes including sides, vertices, edges and faces.

Year 1 had a fantastic time at their end of term pyjama party. They decorated their own biscuit to enjoy whilst watching a movie.

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 break!



Oak Class

*Oak Class,
Deanwood Primary School
December 2024*

Dear Deanwood Community,

We are writing to inform you about our learning this term.

Our over-arching topic was the history of the Royal Naval Dockyard in Chatham. We created timelines to show the development of boat building over the centuries, and compared maps of the dockyard and surrounding areas. We were particularly fascinated by the map from World War II, which had a blank space where the dockyard should have been. Our key event was the closure of the site as a working dockyard. We listened to the announcement made in 1981 with shock and sadness, and considered the impact the closure could have on the Medway Towns. Luckily for us we know that the story of the Dockyard did not end in the 1980s!

Prior to our work on the history of boat building we explored materials and their properties in our science lessons. We considered what materials would be good for a boat, and designed and conducted experiments to test our theories.

For DT we explored structures and what shapes are best when trying to create something strong and stable (answer: cylinders). Our client was Baby Bear whose own chair had been broken by Goldilocks. We worked in small groups to make chairs that would meet the design criteria for Baby Bear. We discovered just how tricky it can be to create a chair that is strong, stable and the right size!

We ended this term by writing a formal letter to the Dockyard from Lord Nelson, as his famous flagship The Victory was built in Chatham in the 1750s.

We hope you have enjoyed finding out about our work.

Yours sincerely,

Oak Class

Cedar Class

This term has been full of exciting learning adventures!

In PE, we had our very first swimming lessons, and it's been amazing to see how much progress the children have made in such a short time.

In maths, we've been working hard on addition and subtraction up to 1000. The children have also been learning their new times tables (3, 4, and 8) and have loved singing along to our fun and interactive maths songs!

In history, we've begun exploring the fascinating civilisation of ancient Egypt. The children have been learning about important figures and events from this era and are eagerly looking forward to discovering even more next term.

In art, we got creative by making our own replicas of papyrus paper, just like the ancient Egyptians used. The children had the chance to express themselves using a variety of materials.

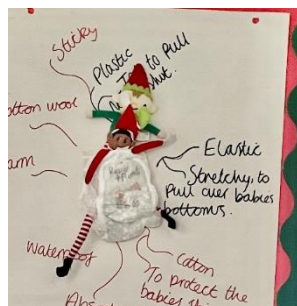
In science, we've been experimenting with magnets and even used them to move magnetic objects through water—an exciting way to learn about forces and materials!

To add a bit of festive cheer, we've also had visits from our mischievous classroom elves, Tiny and his friend, who kept us entertained with their antics!

We wish you all a wonderful festive break filled with joy and laughter. Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Best wishes,

Miss Beard and Mrs
Cavell



Willow Class

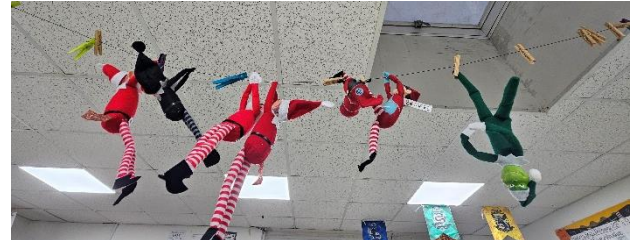
What a busy term this has been. Year 4 have been looking further into the Roman Empire, Trade and Travel. They discovered, we have a Roman road directly on our doorstep and how it leads to Rome, as all roads did in that era. They also found out about the different artefacts traded throughout this time and how all of this has influenced our modern day.

In Maths, Multiplication, Division and Factor Pairs knowledge has been deepened, with a much-desired progress made in the MTC practise tests.

Science has seen Year 4 explore Animals and Living Things and Their Habitats, also looking into the impacts of environmental change and the long-term consequences.

During RE lessons Willow Class discussed the importance of the Nativity for Christians, looking at the symbolism of the Holy Trinity and what it would mean if the three were separated.

Of course we have also decorated a tree, thinking of the meaning of the decorations and had visits from a certain 'Gang' of elves...



With these festive images, Mrs Russell and myself, wish you a magical, memory making Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year and term.

Hawthorn Class

It has certainly been a busy term!

This term we have continued our historical journey learning about the Islamic Civilisation of Baghdad. The children thoroughly enjoyed our class text, "The Golden Horseman of Baghdad" and finding out about the House of Wisdom. We explored Arabic symbols and used calligraphy to create our own bookmarks. We used tessellation to create patterns and even attempted our own soap carving!

In maths, we have been consolidating our knowledge of **multiplication, division** and **fractions**. Please keep practicing their multiplication skills at home!

During our science learning we have been learning how to separate materials. The children conducted experiments where they had to separate items using dissolving, filtering and sieving methods.

In PE, Mr Harvey has undergone the Young Leaders Programme with Year 5. The children have been working hard on their teambuilding and leading skills.

During our writing sessions we have created a story book for Year 1 based on the Christmas story the snowman as well as writing non-chronological reports.

In RE we have been learning about the Christmas story and loved singing our song at the Christmas celebration, "Feliz Navidad!"

Mrs Down, Mrs Fuller, Mr Daniels and myself wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year 2025! We hope you all have a very well deserved rest and look forward to seeing you in the new year.



Elm Class

Term 2 saw the start of our weekly swimming lessons and the children have enjoyed going to the new Contessa Park. It has been an absolute delight to hear about how these children have developed and grown in their strategies as swimmers over the past six weeks. We have entered the Mini Youth Games for January so we can showcase some of our amazing swimmers!

For Science this term we have learned about electricity. The children have learnt how electricity has changed over time, how to recognise and draw the main symbols for an electrical circuit and they can observe and explain the differing volts in a circuit. Just think if you have a problem with your Christmas Tree this year, you know who to call upon!!!

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Fractions has been the main theme of the term for maths. The children have been learning how to add, divide and multiply with them. Of course, this will come in handy when you're trying to divide that last box of Heros "fairly" between you all.

In music, we have been lucky enough to have Mr Mann in each week to teach Samba which everybody has loved.

As you can see the first two terms have really kept us on our toes. We have all been working extremely hard and are looking forward to the holidays!

Have a fabulous Christmas making memories and as always, I want to thank everyone for your ongoing support {I'm hoping that next year is bump free!!}

From myself and Mrs Daffin Merry Christmas



Lunchtime



Christmas is almost here and the children have all been very excited! It has been lovely listening to children talking about all the festive things they have been doing at school and at home.

The children thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas lunch, they loved tucking into their Roast dinners while sitting in the Main hall which was festively decorated, pulling crackers and laughing at the jokes while Christmas music played in the background.



Now the colder winter months are upon us we would like to remind parents that children need a winter/weatherproof coat as we try to get outside in all weathers. Also, if your child's coat doesn't have their name in it can be very difficult to locate which children can find very upsetting.

This term we have had a new member join the MDMS team, Mrs Utteridge, has fitted into her new role brilliantly and the children have been very welcoming to her.

Finally, all the Midday Meals Supervisors and ABM kitchen staff would like to wish all the children at Deanwood a very Merry Christmas and look forward to welcoming them back in the new year



Extended Services

Breakfast & After Schools Club

We have had an amazing term with the build up to Christmas and doing Remembrance Day which the kids made some really good poppies. We have also been doing all sorts of Christmas decorations from gingerbread houses tree decorations and snowflakes. Plus our usual games of twister and painting drawing puzzles etc. we have also been working on listening ears and kind words, hands and feet as we can't have free time to run and play outside at current due to the weather and it getting so dark quick. We have attached some of the children's designs for you to enjoy too. We wish you a merry Christmas and look forward to more fun in term



PTA

A huge THANK YOU to all who supported the school Christmas Fayre, we hope that you had an enjoyable afternoon playing games and winning prizes! Thanks to you we made **£967.90** to add to our fundraising.



The Asda Cashpot for Schools scheme made **£144.94**, so thank you to all who signed up to that.

We had fun at the recent Christmas Shop, your children had a great time carefully choosing their gifts for you.

Our next fundraising project will be raising money for new playground equipment. We have approximately **£6000** towards that goal.

Dates for your diary:

- Bingo evening – Fri 31st January
- Disco evening – Thurs 6th February.

PTA meetings:

- Wednesday 22nd January at 7pm in school.
- Monday 3rd March at 8:45am in school.

Follow our PTA Facebook page for news, updates and reminders.

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Deanwood-Primary-School-PTA/61560108976037/>

Thank you for your continuing support.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance for the year so far is 94.74% 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

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

Principal'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 for Nursery, Year R, Year 1 and Year 2. It has been lovely to hear the children singing Christmas songs and getting the opportunity to share some special moments with their families. A particular highlight for me was the wonderful "Nativity Grand Premiere" event which KS1 children shared with their families. I know that the popcorn and drinks were very much enjoyed by all and we have had some very positive feedback from those that attended. 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.

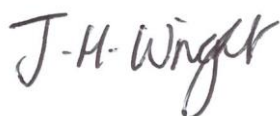
The PTA have certainly been busy this term. As well as the bookshop, they also organised a performance of Jack and the Beanstalk in the school hall, ran a Christmas Shop for the children, helped with refreshments at events and put on a Christmas fayre. I am sure you would like to join me in thanking the PTA for all of their hard work in making events such as these happen. Please remember that these events can only take place if the PTA have enough volunteers to run them. If you would be willing to help out at events such as these, please contact the PTA via the school office.

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!

This term, we have welcomed a new member of staff to the team. Mrs Utteridge has joined us as a Midday Meals Supervisor. The children have responded really well to her and she has settled quickly into the Deanwood community. You may also have noticed that Mrs King has returned to the Deanwood staff team as the Teaching Assistant in Year 2. I know she has had a really positive welcome back from children, parents and staff alike.

At the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Spierenburg who has joined us this term to teach in Year R two days a week. I know that Mrs Spierenburg has thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the children and staff and we will be sad to see her go. In January, Ms Hand will be joining the teaching team as the Year R teacher. I know the children and staff enjoyed getting to know her when she visited a few weeks ago and we are really looking forward to her joining the Deanwood community. I would like to thank Mrs Cook for teaching Year R for the past few months. We are very grateful for her help with helping to maintain continuity for the children. Mrs Cook will be returning to her Nursery Teacher role in January.

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 **Tuesday 7th January 2025**.



Mrs J. Wright
Principal