



Deanwood Dispatch

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



Term 3 - February 2025

CLASS NEWS – TERM 3

Deanwood Nursery

In Nursery, we have been completing lots of fun and exciting activities surrounding the theme of 'sticks'. We have enjoyed reading some lovely books based on this - 'That's not a stick' and 'Stickman'. The children have created some lovely arts and crafts activities based on this. We have also created some amazing people using a variety of natural resources.



We have also enjoyed playing in the home corner and taking part in role play activities. We have been dressing up as superheroes and princess' and have enjoyed listening to songs relating to our costumes.

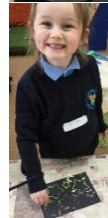
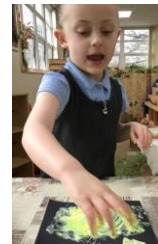
Our children have thoroughly enjoyed playing outside this term. They have been playing lovely with their friends and really enjoy riding on the wobble bikes and trikes.

Overall, it has been a lovely term in Nursery, and we are looking forward to all the adventures that await us next term 😊



Pine Class

This term, we have been learning all about space! We read *Whatever Next* by Jill Murphy, *The Moon* (a non-fiction text), and *How to Catch a Star* by Oliver Jeffers. The children loved imagining their own space adventures, just like Baby Bear in *Whatever Next*, and discovering fascinating facts about the moon. We talked about its surface, how astronauts travel there, and even had a go at creating craters in flour. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity and excitement about space!



We have also read *The Colour Monster*, a wonderful story that helps children understand and talk about their emotions. We've been learning to recognise different feelings, link them to colours, and use self-regulation

strategies like deep breathing when we need a moment to settle. It has been lovely to see the children becoming more confident in expressing how they feel and using the strategies we have talked about.

Please remember that you can record any extra phonics work that has been done in the reading records or on tapestry, I love to see what you have been doing at home. The sound blending books are there for you to read daily and in addition, there is *Numbots* and *Oxford Owl* to do.

Thank you all for your support this term. It really means a lot. Please remember you can contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Maple Class

In Maple Class, we started the term by looking at the NSPCC PANTS Rule. We learnt all about how to keep ourselves safe!

We were excited to programme robots in our Computing block this term. We thought about what robots are and how they can help us. We had a go at giving our bee-bots commands by pressing various buttons and creating algorithms to give them instructions and directions. We finished off the topic by debugging algorithms.

In Science, we explored seasonal change. We identified what we would see in Autumn and Winter and went on a walk around the school grounds to see if we could find any signs of Autumn and Winter. We set up an experiment to observe wind direction, rain fall and temperature using a weather vane, rain gauge, and thermometer. We observed this over a period of a week and concluded that the most common weather was cloud and the wind direction was mostly West! The temperature varied between 5 and 6 degrees Celsius.

In History, we were transported to the Caribbean to learn all about the Windrush and Caribbean culture! We explored the reason why people from the Caribbean came to England between 1948 and 1973. We found out lots of information about some significant individuals who were part of the Windrush Generation and took this learning into our writing topic!

We wrote a diary entry from the perspective of Dame Floella Benjamin, who was on board the Windrush as a child. We thought about her journey and how she might have felt travelling from the Caribbean to Britain!

We extended this by writing a story about her journey and used lots of descriptive language!

Maple Class have worked extremely hard this term! 😊

Oak Class

*“Votes for Women!
Deeds not Words!”*

This term we have been exploring the suffragette movement, and how equal voting rights for men and women came about.

Firstly, for our geography work, we explored the United Kingdom, identifying the four countries, their similarities and differences and their governments. Following on from our work last term, we made links between Chatham, Belfast and Glasgow and their importance to ship building.

Next, we looked at the history of voting in the UK, and how unfair it had been towards both women and some men. We created a timeline about Emmeline Pankhurst. Did you know she was born in Manchester in 1858, twenty years before Manchester United was formed?

Then we studied a variety of sources that help to explain what happened in the pursuit of women’s suffrage, including newspapers, photographs, statues and souvenirs.

We explored the key elements of persuasive writing, and inspired by one of the photographs we had seen about selling “The Suffragette” (a political newspaper sold to raise money) we decide to write our own newspapers. “The Suffragette News” includes either a photo of Emmeline Pankhurst or the WPSU making banners, our own article about why women should be allowed to vote and an advert we have adapted about a planned march in Hyde Park. Do try to get a copy! Very limited edition!

In other news, we have been finding out about 2D and 3D shapes, and identifying their properties. Quick quiz: how many edges does a triangular prism have? (Answer at bottom of page). We have also been learning about money and how to add up coins and notes to make different amounts. Very useful for selling our newspapers!

Votes for women!

Answer: 9

Cedar Class

Year 3 Term 3 News Report

Wow! What a busy and exciting term we have had in Year 3!

One of the highlights of this term was our incredible **Ancient Egyptian Day**. Everyone got fully involved in the activities, bringing history to life in the most fun and creative ways. We had a fantastic time **mummifying a tomato**, making and tasting **Egyptian flatbread**, crafting **Egyptian collars**, and even **building pyramids** using toothpicks and marshmallows! It was a messy but brilliant day, and we all learned so much about life in Ancient Egypt.



In **Maths**, we have been working hard on **multiplication and division**, learning how to work with 2-digit numbers. The children have shown great progress and determination!

In **English**, we became journalists, writing our very own **newspaper articles** all about our Ancient Egyptian Day. It was great fun putting our experiences into words and sharing our exciting day through writing.

In **Science**, we explored **light and dark** and investigated which materials would be the most reflective for a school bag. Our predictions and experiments helped us understand more about how light works and how it can keep us safe.

In **History**, we finished learning about the **Ancient Egyptians**, ending with a fascinating look at **Cleopatra**, one of Egypt's most famous and powerful rulers.

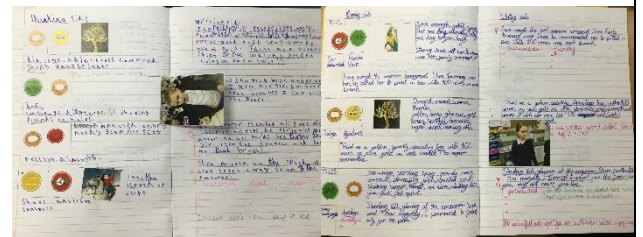
This term, we also had some very special new additions to **Cedar Class**—**two Giant African Millipedes** and **lots of stick insects**! They have been a wonderful and exciting part of our

Willow Class

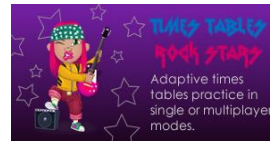
I cannot believe we are coming to the end of yet another term.

Willow Class have been producing some excellent ideas for writing a narrative and presented their work beautifully, as you can see in these two examples.

Sadly, I cannot put all 32 examples on here. The photos show the children acting out some of the scenes and how their characters may show their feelings, enabling a visual element to inspire their vocabulary.



During Maths there has been a lot of learning around multiplication and division with and without remainders, using a variety of methods ensuring that every child is able to access at least one of these. **Please** could you continue to practise the times tables at home, using TTR and written methods to keep up the great progress being made.



Ancient China and The Five Dynasties, have been this term's focus. Year 4 has looked at why this period was politically instable, freeze framed debates between the competing Dynasties and looked at the importance of Chinese artforms throughout these times and how they have remained significant to this date.



As Spring slowly approaches, Mrs Russell and myself, wish you all a lovely half term break and look forward to seeing you and the children in Term 4.

Hawthorn Class

What a busy term! We continued our history timeline with the Tudors. The children enjoyed reading 'The Queen's Fool' and creating mini booklets about the Tudors and their lifestyle.

In Literacy, we became mini journalists learning how to create our own newspaper report. They enjoyed incorporating their Science (space) learning into their literacy to create a newspaper report about the moon landing.

In Maths, we have been focusing on multiplication, division and fractions. The children have been working very hard to consolidate their arithmetic skills particularly learning how to multiply 4x2 digits using long multiplication. We have also learnt how to use short division and convert improper fractions into mixed numbers and vice versa! We are very proud of the mathematicians that they are becoming. Please can we continue to practise their times tables with them as this will help them tremendously as they move forward.

As well as this, we have also learnt how to roll in gymnastics; different dynamics in music; how to sew our own Tudor purse in DT; the five pillars of Islam in RE; and how to keep safe in PSHE.



Thank you to all the parents that attended parent's evening – it was a pleasure to share with you how much progress the children have made. We wish you a well deserved break and look forward to seeing you all in the Spring term.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 3rd April - library trip

Elm Class

This term we have been studying World War II and already there seem to be lots of experts – they know all about why the war broke out and how propaganda posters were used to encourage the population to grow food, evacuate their children or to avoid getting into trouble. We have loved researching and learning about the war and was thrilled when our very own Mr Daniels brought in some memorabilia and gave a talk on how his family were evacuated during the war.

PE has been adventurous as the children have been improving on their balances from Year 5. They can now perform a variety of floor and vault movements. They performed mini routines which included stag leaps, dive forward rolls, hurdle steps into cartwheels and round-offs. I'm worn out just typing that!!!

In maths, we have been learning all about algebra and ratio. The children used cubes and base 10 ones to represent expressions, with each cube representing an unknown number, x (or any letter), and the ones representing known numbers. Some of us have found this a bit tricky but I've been impressed with the resilience shown and we managed to complete the unit just before the school trip!!

It was lovely to finish off the term with a trip to the Dockyard, the children had an amazing time – even though and I quote "went to the Arctic!"

So, it must have been a bit chilly then!

A variety of activities were enjoyed by all, one included rope making.

As it is year 6, we are now preparing for our SATs tests later this year and the progress looks amazing so far – thank you for your continued support in your children's learning. The hard work is really paying off. It was a pleasure to see so many of you at parents evening especially as it will be our last!

Enjoy the half term break and Mrs Daffin and I will see you soon.



Lunchtime



This term has certainly been a cold one, despite this the children have still enjoyed playing outside on both playgrounds. We have seen them playing some lovely games 'Duck, Duck, Goose' seems to be a firm favourite on KS1 😊

While in the dinner hall the Mid Day Meals Supervisors try to encourage healthy eating habits, good manners and kindness to others.



We would like to say a big Well Done to all the children who have received a Lunchtime Award certificate this term.

Hope you all have a lovely break and hopefully we will return to some nicer weather in Term 4.



Extended Services

Breakfast & After Schools Club



This term has gone really quick and been very cold we have gone out when we have had the chance to get out and play.

This term we have been working on team bonding and understanding boundaries and respecting each other.

We have also had the usual arts and crafts and colouring. Also, been learning card games and memory games. we look forward to seeing all next term but for now enjoy the half term.



Deanwood PTA

Last week we had a very busy, noisy disco evening, it seemed like nearly the whole school came along!

We hope the children had a good time, there was certainly some great dancing going on.



We are currently fundraising for new playground equipment. We have just over **£6000** towards that goal so far.

Dates for your diary:

- World Book Day Bookshop, Thursday 6th March.
- Mother's Day Shop, Thursday 20th March.
- Easter Coffee Afternoon, Wednesday 2nd April 2:30pm.



Summer Fayre
Wednesday 18th June 3:30pm

PTA meeting dates, all are welcome to join us:

- Monday 3rd March at 8:45am in school.
- Monday 24th March at 8:45am in school.

Please follow our PTA Facebook page for news, updates and reminders.

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

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.



Attendance

Our whole school attendance for the year so far is 94.1% 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.



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

Please note: We are receiving a very high-volume of phone calls regarding collection arrangements towards the end of the school day. Whilst we do try our best to deliver the messages this is becoming increasingly difficult. Please could we ask for your support in providing any changes in advance with messages / calls about changes in arrangements only being sent on the day in the event of an emergency. Thank you for your continued support

Principal's Review of Term

As we come to the end of Term 3, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect upon some of the highlights of what has been another busy term at Deanwood.

As you will be aware, we started using a new phonics scheme this year (Read Write Inc.). All teaching staff have been trained in its use and we get regular support from a consultant as part of the package. A couple of weeks ago, Mrs L Russell hosted a visit from our consultant. They spent the day working with staff who are delivering the sessions, reading with the children and discussing our next steps. The consultant was extremely complimentary about how well the programme is being delivered at Deanwood. The impact of this can clearly be seen in the termly data that is being collected. I would like to extend my thanks to all of the staff who are delivering the sessions but in particular to Mrs L Russell for her leadership of Read Write Inc.

We have had a lot of visitors into school this term. On 22nd January, we hosted our annual Governors' morning. Governors enjoyed having the opportunity to see the school in action and also got the chance to experience some Read Write Inc sessions themselves. In their feedback, Governors talked about the enthusiasm for learning that they saw from all of the children, the positive relationships between adults and children as well as children and their peers, the high levels of engagement from children and the positive behaviour for learning.

As well as the Governor visits, we also had our termly Academy Review Visit from Mr Symons THAT's Director of Primary Education. He was joined by Mrs Fordyce (Principal at Miers Court Primary School). Both of our visitors noted that, "The behaviour in all classes was calm and positive". They also commented on the, "respectful and purposeful manner" in which the children responded to adults and each other. This was something that was also noted by Mr McColgan (THAT's CEO) who has made two visits to the school this term. Whilst walking around the school with me he described the atmosphere as being "lovely and calm as always". All of these comments make me very proud to be Principal at Deanwood.

This term, Miss Manewell (supported by Mrs Daffin and Mrs Fuller) has attended two Medway Mini Youth Games events with some children from KS2 – Table Tennis and Swimming. All of the adults involved tell me that the children were an absolute credit to the school and that a member of staff from another school even commented on the wonderful sportsmanship that they showed throughout. This was something that Mr Slack really encouraged and I know that he would be very happy to know that his legacy lives on at Deanwood.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the PTA for their continued support. The school disco was extremely well attended and I know that the children thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. 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.

And finally, I would like to thank 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 like to end by wishing you all a good break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 24th February**.

Mrs J. Wright
Principal