

Deanwood Dispatch

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



Term 4 - April 2025

CLASS NEWS – TERM 4

Deanwood Nursery

In Nursery, we have been completing lots of activities based on animals. At the start of term, we looked at the story 'Monkey Puzzle' and explored what animals live in the jungle. We then moved onto woodland animals and based our activities on the book 'The Gruffalo.' The children thoroughly enjoyed making the logpile house in the outside area.



Towards the end of term, we explored minibeasts and have learnt some interesting things. We have enjoyed completing lots of arts and craft activities based on the books 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and 'Superworm'. We have enjoyed looking for insects in the outside area.



The children have really enjoyed exploring our outside area.



We have a new digging area and the children have loved exploring this with their friends.

We have had a lovely term in Nursery and look forward to exploring lots of fun and exciting activities next term.

We hope you have a lovely Easter Break 😊

Pine Class

We started the term by going for a spring walk to see if we could find any signs of new life. We found all sorts of interesting things like new daffodils and daisies.



Later, we explored all the different people who help us, including Paramedics and Police. We even had a visit from them!



Later, we learned about teeth, how we keep them clean and even the names of some of them. Why don't you ask your child to see if they can tell you. P.s. the actions and voices will give you a clue!



Next term we will be learning all about growing and life cycles through the books of Eric Carle. Have a lovely Easter and see you in 2 weeks!

Maple Class

Maple Class began Term 4 by looking at The Polar Regions in Geography. We learned all about The Arctic and The Antarctic! The children enjoyed comparing them and were fascinated by the different animals that live there.

We took this enthusiasm and carried it through to our history topic where we explored the life and polar expedition of Sir Ernest Shackleton. We learned about his famous expedition on The Endurance and found out all about how the ship got stuck and how they were rescued. We used role play to act out the roles of the crew onboard The Endurance.



For writing, we delved into 'The Great Explorer' by Chris Judge and wrote a letter in the role of Tom explaining our journey to The Arctic to save dad!

We used adjectives, pronouns and past tense in our writing.

We then used a story map to plan an alternative ending to the story. We had some very interesting suggestion for an alternative ending!

In maths, we continued looking at number and place value to 50, length and height, mass and volume and multiplication and division! Maple Class have enjoyed listening to our times tables songs every day to help us learn our 2s, 5s and 10s.

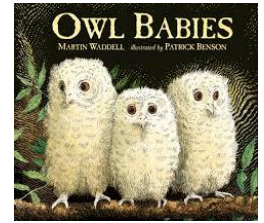
We looked at grouping data in computing and have loved getting hands on with this block!



Oak Class

This has been a term of two halves for us in Oak Class.

Our book for Reading Week was "Owl Babies" by Martin Waddell. We thought about the implied parts of the story and what the baby owls were actually thinking and feeling. We used our ideas to create diary entries for the owls.



For science we looked at habitats and food chains, making particular links to barn owls.

The illustrations in "Owl Babies" by Patrick Benson inspired our art work. We looked at how to add texture to drawings using a variety of different marks. We then explored the work of Edward Tingatinga (who inspired the television series "Tinga Tinga Tales"). We tried to add texture to paintings using shapes and colour. We are very proud of our super drawings and paintings of barn owls.



The second half of our term has been focussed on Mary Seacole and in particular her nursing work during the Crimean War.

We compared hospitals and nursing from the 1800s with medical services today. We had a visit from some paramedics with their ambulance, which allowed us to see some modern medical equipment.

We have explored instructional writing and produced instructions for washing hands, which was something Florence Nightingale highlighted as an important part of nursing care after she saw the dirty conditions of hospitals in the Crimean War.

We have been looking at the 2x, 5x, and 10x tables during our maths lessons. We have begun work on measurement and have been busy measuring different parts of the school using metre rulers.

Wishing you a safe and happy Easter holiday.

Cedar Class

History

This term, we explored the fascinating periods of the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. The children examined the similarities and differences between these periods, including comparisons to the Stone Age. We also discussed how people's lives during these times compare to modern-day living. A highlight of our history lessons was a whole-class debate about whether the Bronze Age or the Iron Age was more important. After researching both periods, the class concluded that the Iron Age had a greater impact on society!

Writing

In English, the children wrote incredible narratives about a character losing something they love but eventually finding it again. This allowed them to develop their storytelling skills, focusing on emotion, description, and structure. Their creativity truly shone through in their writing!

Art

Linking to our writing lessons, the children brought their stories to life by drawing and painting their animal characters. They used different techniques to add detail and express their creativity. The results were fantastic, and we were so impressed with their effort and enthusiasm.

Maths

In maths, we focused on length and perimeter, helping the children develop their measuring skills. We then moved on to fractions, where the children explored equal parts, unit and non-unit fractions, and simple equivalent fractions. Their confidence in these areas has grown beautifully!

Science

Our budding scientists conducted experiments to investigate plant growth. They explored how different amounts of water affected the speed of plant growth, making predictions and carefully observing the results over time. This hands-on approach helped deepen their understanding of how plants survive and thrive.

We have had a brilliant term, and we are so proud of the children's hard work and enthusiasm for learning. We hope you all have a wonderful Easter break filled with fun, relaxation, and of course, lots of chocolate! Best wishes,
Miss Beard and Mrs Cavell

Willow Class

Willow class have been learning about Sound in Science this term. They made yoghurt pot drums and elastic band guitars to observe how vibration is linked to sound and how it travels through different spaces and objects. They also played and listened to a variety of percussion instruments to observe what exactly made the noises they could hear.



In Maths Year 4 have been learning all about Fractions, using their times tables and division facts to support. Please continue to practise the times tables with your children. 10 minutes a day on TTRS, Soundcheck to build up the speed and memory skills.

History has been all about when the Anglo-Saxons ruled Britain, where they came from and what influences they have had on present day Britain. Here the class are creating a human timeline of historical events to date.



They then went on to write persuasive letters, to convince their Anglo-Saxon Chief to come to Britain and reap the benefits of the

land and climate.

Reading Week seems so far away but was a memorable time producing beautiful artwork inspired by the book 'Volcano', dressing up on World Book Day and opening Mr. Slack's Reading Garden.



Mrs Russell and I wish you a Happy Easter break full of glorious Spring sunshine and look forward to Term 5.

Hawthorn Class

This term we have continued our history timeline with the Queen Elizabeth I and the Spanish Armada. This has led us to learning about the colonisation of America where we were able to revisit our learning in Term 1 to discover what happened to the Ancient Maya. The children enjoyed reading 'Freedom' and creating a biography about Pocahontas, learning about her journey from America to Gravesend.

Most of our Literacy was linked to the "Lonely Beast" which we explored during reading Week.

We enjoyed writing a newspaper report about the Beast's search for friends. In addition to this, we wrote our own sequels to this book and created our own story books. Our Art was linked to this book too. The children loved collaboratively creating giant art work in the style of artist Chris Judge.



In Maths, we have been focusing on decimals, fractions and percentages. The children continue to work hard to consolidate their arithmetic skills. As well as this, we have learnt about statistics, perimeter and area. They continue to be extremely 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 been learning about different dynamics in music; the Easter story in RE; rights and respect in PSHE; growing up and growing old in science; databases in ICT; school trips in French; and playing basketball in PE.

Elm Class

This term we have continued our learning about WW2, one focus has been learning all about Anderson shelters and how important they were during the War. This helped us to reflect on our previous trip to the Dockyard and the children worked in groups to build their own shelters. The project was to create a shelter that would withhold at least 1kg in weight and would fit at least one lego man inside. The class thoroughly enjoyed this task, and it was amazing to see the creativity immerge from them all.

We have been keeping fit in PE – doing some circuit training – a mixture of cardio and body-strength exercises – it was 'good' to have the children complaining the next day of aching muscles as it shows that they worked hard.

In writing we have been reading the book Holes. The story follows Stanley, a boy who is wrongfully sent to a detention camp where he and other boys are forced to dig holes in the desert. The plot masterfully weaves multiple story lines, and the children became reporters and wrote magnificent newspaper reports on an event from the story!

We have been working hard in preparation for the SATs next term – we are on the last leg and the progress that the children are making is amazing – so please keep it up for the last push.

Thank you again for your continued support especially with your children going online for homework. Have a great Easter break and Mrs Daffin and I will look forward to seeing you all when we return.



Lunchtime

What a wonderful term this has been. The children have been enjoying the sunny, warmer days spent playing on the playground. They have particularly enjoyed the new playground equipment on both KS1 and KS2 playgrounds.



Another highlight of this term was our World Book Day. I think all the lunchtime staff would agree that the atmosphere at lunchtimes on this day is joyous and the children all looked amazing in their costumes.



On another note, I would like to mention that the MDMS have noticed a rise in children being sent in with takeaway food in their lunchboxes. We like to promote a healthy, balanced lunch here at Deanwood which as you would agree is not really appropriate for a school lunch.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a lovely Easter break and look forward to seeing you all in Term 5.



Extended Services

Breakfast & After Schools Club

This term, we have been working on Easter and physical exercise and how fresh air is great for all children after a day of learning.

It's lovely to see the different ages all coming together and building relationships. Here at Kids Club, we are firm believers that you treat everyone how you want to be treated and encourage all to the best of their abilities.

It's also great watching the children when dress up and becoming someone else! We have had some great acting as cats.

We hope all have amazing Easter break and see you back on the Wednesday 23rd April.



Deanwood PTA

It's been a busy term for the PTA with the Mother's Day Shop, World Book Day Bookshop and this week's Easter event.

We are currently fundraising for new playground equipment and after this term's events, thanks to your generosity, we now have approx. £7000 towards that!



Dates for your diary:

- Monday 28th April – Bags2School, 2nd hand clothes collection
- Friday 2nd May Bingo Evening.
- Wednesday 7th May – Grandparents Tea
- Thursday 15th May – Discos.



Summer Fayre
Wednesday 18th June 3:30pm

PTA meeting dates, all are welcome to join us:

- Monday 28th April at 8:45am in school.
- Monday 19th May 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/>

Attendance

Our whole school attendance for the year so far is 93.92% 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

Designated Safeguarding Leads



Mrs E Russell

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

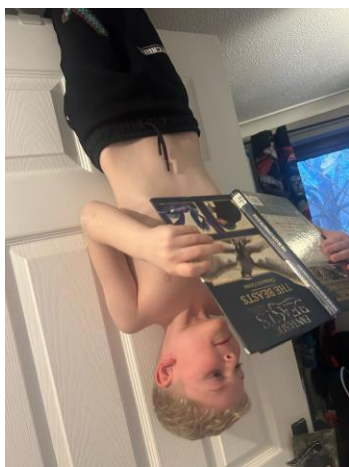
We will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support

Principal's Review of Term

This term seems to have passed by in the blink of an eye. I cannot believe that we are now well over halfway through the school year. How time flies! As always, I would like to take some time to reflect upon all the wonderful things that have been happening at Deanwood in Term 4.

Reading Week is always a particular highlight for me and this year did not disappoint. Although we aim to promote and celebrate reading throughout the year at Deanwood, Reading Week is always a brilliant opportunity to showcase this. The highlight of the week is always World Book Day. This year, World Book Day was extra special as we opened Mr Slack's Reading Garden with his family present. We also announced the winners of our Extreme Reading competition on World Book Day. Take a look at the brilliant entries that won!:



Phase 1 winner – Jenson



Phase 2 – Halle



Phase 3 – Poppy

The Book Swap also proved to be very popular again during Reading Week. We plan on running this at least once a term as it is a great way to pass on old books and to get something new to read.

Special mention needs to be given to the PTA who have been extremely busy this term. The children thoroughly enjoyed getting the opportunity to go to the Mother's Day shop to buy gifts for their loved ones and I hope that those gifts were well received at home. The children were also given the opportunity to attend a Book Shop during Reading Week which, once again, was very popular. The PTA's Easter Coffee Event was very well attended and I know that the home-made cakes went down particularly well. As well as this, they ran a second-hand uniform shop which proved to be popular. If you are able to offer any support with upcoming PTA events, I know that our small group of volunteers would be extremely grateful of any offers of help. Please contact the PTA via the school office.

I would like to end by wishing you all a good break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Wednesday 23rd April**.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. H. Wright".

Mrs J. Wright
Principal