Deanwood Primary School

Deanwood Primary Newsletter

Issue date: 13th November 2026

Welcome from the Principal

It has been an absolute pleasure to join Deanwood as Principal, and I can hardly believe that my first week is already over!

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to say hello at the school gates. I have been made to feel incredibly welcome, and if we haven't met yet, I hope to meet you very soon.

What a busy and exciting first week it has been! We have already achieved so much, and I hope this newsletter gives you a flavour of the wonderful things happening across our school. I plan to share a newsletter with you every fortnight. It will continue to evolve, but I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I have enjoyed putting it together!

One lovely highlight this week was our PTA Teddy Bear Picnic on 11th November. Our younger children enjoyed a wonderful picnic and lots of fun on the bouncy castle, with their favourite cuddly toys joining in the excitement! It was such a lovely event, and a big thank you to our fantastic PTA for organising it and creating such special memories for the children.

Next week is Anti-Bullying Week, and to mark the occasion, we are inviting children to wear odd socks on Monday to celebrate what makes us all unique.

I would also like to encourage any parents or carers who can spare even a little time to consider joining our PTA. Their fantastic fundraising efforts make a real difference, with money raised going directly back into enriching opportunities for our children. With this in mind, we have moved our Christmas Fayre to Saturday 28th November, and I very much hope you will join us at school between 1pm and 3pm for some festive family fun!

Finally, thank you once again for such a warm welcome. I am incredibly excited about the journey ahead and look forward to working together to make Deanwood the very best it can be for our children.



Warmest wishes,
Mr Knight



Deanwood
Primary School

Rememberence Day

On Wednesday, we came together as a whole school community to mark Remembrance Day and pay our respects to those who have lost their lives in conflict, as well as those who have served and continue to serve our country.

It was an incredibly proud and moving moment to see every child across the school observe the two-minute silence with such genuine sincerity, maturity and respect. Moments like these remind us just how special our Deanwood community is and the importance of teaching our children about remembrance, gratitude and peace.

We were also delighted to see so many children proudly wearing their Scouting and Guiding uniforms, representing their groups and showing their respect. It was wonderful to see, and we hope even more children will join them next year!

We are also incredibly proud to share that, thanks to the generosity of our families and school community, we have raised a fantastic amount in support of the Poppy Appeal. Thank you to everyone who contributed to such a worthwhile cause. Your kindness and generosity are truly appreciated.

A heartfelt well done to all our children for showing such respect and thoughtfulness on this important occasion.





Deanwood Primary School

School News

Nursery (Chestnut Class)

The children in Nursery have had a lovely time taking part in a range of activities based around Bonfire Night and Fireworks. They enjoyed getting creative, exploring different materials and learning about the celebrations. We have also been learning our new phonic sound 'S', taking part in lots of fun games and group activities to help us recognise and practice the sound. Alongside this, the children completed some thoughtful Remembrance activities, giving us the opportunity to talk about remembering and showing respect. We have had a busy and exciting time filled with lots of learning, creativity and fun



Reception (Pine Class)

Pine class have loved exploring their new and improved learning environment in the classroom so far this week. We have been celebrating light with our core text "Little Glow" through exploring pumpkins and Jack-o'- Lanterns for Halloween and Fireworks for Bonfire night and Diwali. Well done Pine Class!





Year One (Maple Class)

This week Maple class have been enjoying learning all about parts and wholes and using them as numbers sentences in maths, in our curious quests lessons they have been loving reading the book 'clean up' all about cleaning up beaches from plastic, during some own learning time they have been even creating their own inventions that will help clean up litter from beaches. We have been super excited to introduce the children to David Attenborough as their topic this term and so far we have been looking at Africa as a continent and how it is different from the UK.

Deanwood Primary School

School News

Year Two (Oak Class)

This week, we have been building our addition and subtraction skills, tackling missing-number problems with confidence. In Geography, we explored Chatham Dockyard and its local links. We also showed respect and maturity during our Remembrance reflection.
Well done to our merit winners, Archie and Frankie!

Archie has worked incredibly hard, showing excellent behaviour, kindness and a positive attitude. Frankie has shown fantastic effort in maths, particularly subtraction, demonstrating growing confidence and perseverance. Well done to you both!

Year Three (Cedar Class)

This week, the children have worked hard to write an informative fact file about the ancient Egyptians, showcasing their historical knowledge. We have also learnt about the significance of Remembrance Day, exploring the meanings behind the different coloured poppies and creating some beautiful artwork. As part of our learning, the children discovered the important roles animals played during the Second World War and why we remember their contributions.





Year Four (WIllow Class)

Willow Class kicked off Term 2 with a brilliant Roman Day! Dressed as emperors, empresses and soldiers, we spent the afternoon making Roman clocks, exploring mosaics, choosing Roman names and tasting Roman foods. We are excited to learn more in our History topic this term!









Deanwood Primary School

School News

Year Five (Hawthorn)

This week Hawthorn class have been enjoying learning about the Ancient Maya. We have explored timelines and created our own. As well as this, we have been learning how to write recounts ahead of our trip to Kent Life on Monday. During our maths lessons, we our continuing our multiplication and division unit and have learnt about many different types of number including: factors, squares, cubes and primes! Year 5 particularly enjoyed the prime rap – you can find the link to practise here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cRz4hW9SPPc

Year Six (Elm)

Year 6 have been linking their writing to our class text, Pig Heart Boy, exploring the difficult decision faced by Cameron, who urgently needs a heart transplant but must consider a risky experimental operation using a pig's heart. We debated the pros and cons before writing persuasive letters to Cameron, sharing our mixed opinions! We have also begun creating fantastic non-chronological reports on keeping our hearts healthy, using our own research to gather key information.

In History, we have started exploring WW1, learning how and when the war began. Elm Class have shown great enthusiasm and are excited to discover more!

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

Our OPAL provision is off to a smooth start this term and the children have been brilliant at remembering their wellies and waterproof coats for the field. With colder weather approaching, please send your child in with clearly labelled hats, scarves and gloves. We're also thrilled to announce some exciting new additions to our OPAL equipment—including a brand-new mud kitchen—with more to come as the term progresses!



Deanwood Primary School

School News

Achievement Update

Every Tuesday we hold our weekly merit assembly. The blue certificates recognise various achievements that have been noticed by the teacher for two children from each class. The green certificates celebrate outstanding behaviour and attitude to learning.

Certificates are also given out across the school to celebrate reading, maths, the Daily Mile and successful lunchtimes.
Barney our attendance bear will be visiting Nursery and Hawthorn Class this week for the highest attendance in the school.

Highest attendance: Nursery 2 and Hawthorn

House Points:
Earth 370
Fire 321
Water 306
Air 255



A Special Mention

A huge congratulations to George Link and Bella Perrin on earning their Word Millionaire medals! What a fantastic achievement – well done to you both! 🏆📚





Deanwood Primary School

Safeguarding Matters

At our school, safeguarding and the wellbeing of every child are at the heart of everything we do. Keeping our children safe is a responsibility we take extremely seriously, and we believe that working closely with parents and carers is essential. In each newsletter, we will include a safeguarding focus, sharing important information, practical advice and helpful reminders to support you in keeping your children safe. If you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, however small, please contact our school safeguarding team. We are always here to listen and help.

This Newsletter's Focus: Online Safety
The online world offers children wonderful opportunities to learn, play and connect, but it also presents risks that we all need to be aware of. We encourage parents and carers to regularly talk with their children about what they do online, which apps they use and who they communicate with. Checking privacy settings, using parental controls and understanding age restrictions are simple but important steps towards keeping children safe.

Did you know that popular apps have different age requirements and safety settings? Take a look at the guidance below and consider whether the apps your child uses are appropriate for their age. Remember, parental controls are helpful, but they work best alongside regular, open and supportive conversations with your child.

Together, we can help our children enjoy the benefits of technology while staying safe online.



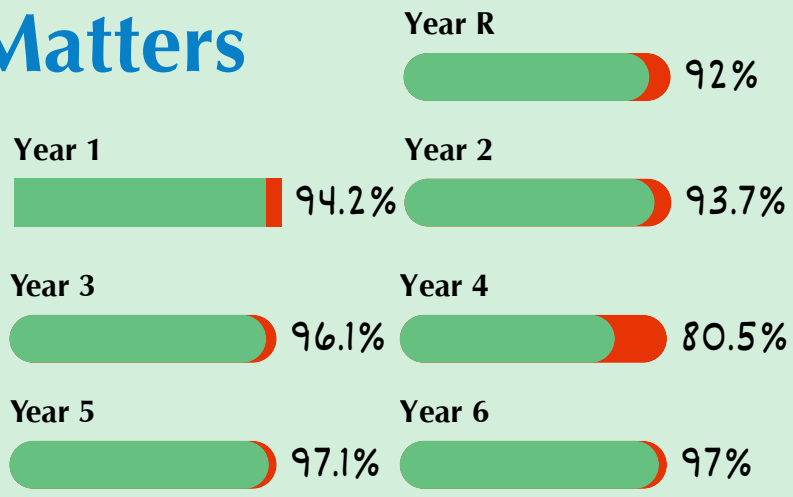


Attendance Matters

Whole School



The government's expectation is for all children to attend school at least 95% of the time. This week, our whole school data is below this expectation.



Celebration

Deanwood Primary School

We are incredibly lucky to have so many wonderful children at Deanwood who amaze us every day! We know their achievements don't stop at the school gates, so if your child has something special to celebrate outside of school, we would love to hear about it! Whether it's a sporting success, a new skill or a personal achievement, please do share it with us so we can celebrate their success in our next newsletter!





We are incredibly proud of Amelia-Rose, who has been elected as the Young Mayor of Medway! What a fantastic achievement and a wonderful honour. We have no doubt that you will put your all into this new role, just like you do at school everyday. It will be exciting to share updates from you over the year. A huge congratulations from everyone at Deanwood – we know you will do an amazing job!

We are so proud of Effy, who had the special honour of carrying the flag for her Cub group on Remembrance Sunday. Effy represented her group beautifully as they came together to remember and honour our fallen soldiers. What a lovely moment to be part of – well done, Effy!





office@deanwood.medway.sch.uk

01634 231901

Dates and Reminders

Deanwood Primary School

Upcoming dates

School Photos - 24th November
Christmas Fayre - 28th November
Nursery Stay and Play - 2nd December
Year R Christmas Event - 9th December
Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch - 16th December
Year 1 and 2 Christmas Event - 17th December
Last Day of Term - Friday 18th December
Start of Term 3 - Wednesday 6th January

Reminders





office@deanwood.medway.sch.uk
01634 231901