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30 April 2021

Deer Park School

LEARN ENJOY SUCCEED

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

Dear Families,

Welcome to the weekend! I'd like to open with how remarkable and thoughtful your children were on Remembrance Day. We stood - all 420 children and 50 adults - on the playground, in the rain, to think of what it has cost to have the wonderful community we enjoy today. After a reading from Eliza of Y6, we listened to the last post and held our minute's silence: this is not easy for young children, and nor is it easy to conceptualise the sacrifices others have made on your behalf, before you were born. They deserve our admiration for their attitude and reflection.

It's also been the week of the Thunderdome here at school, as your children have no doubt enthusiastically told you. Except they won't have, because it's called the 'Wonderdome' and the only people who called it the Thunderdome were a) irritating Mrs Williams, and b) were me. Regardless, the massive inflatable hemisphere in the hall was a miniature planetarium and light-show and galaxy-tour in school for the day, and it was *spectacular*. Presenters wearing microphone headsets strode animatedly between supine children, narrating the scale and composition of the cosmos in child-friendly language, gesticulating to the moving orbs of the solar system, and pointing out our tiny glimmering space within the vast reaches of space. Great stuff. Back on a slightly more terrestrial plain, girls and boys football teams from KS2 headed out to play tournaments in the traditional weather of British team sports: the rain. Optimal conditions to show both enthusiasm and resilience, and our congratulations to both teams on doing just that while achieving that most important of sporting objectives: having fun with our peers. Individual congratulations are due to Luna of Year 6, for reaching the National Grand Final for climbing and (particularly impressively) the National Grand Final for the U13 age group.

The recommended read this week is very short, and you may have already read it if you're in the habit of flicking through the 'Families Upon Thames' magazine that comes home from school every couple of months. As you may know, the way that Ofsted inspects and grades schools has changed dramatically. There's no headline grade, several different inspection areas, and a full report card of outcomes. The article in 'Families Upon Thames' is a nice encapsulation of the changes, and what families can expect from this new system. Our thanks to Triin for spotting it, and you can find it (on page 5) here.

Yours as ever,

Alex Lee



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Sports news

Year 5 & 6 Girls Football Tournament



Year 4 Boys Football Tournament



Year 6 Tag Rugby with Jake (London Scottish Player / Coach)





Year 6 PE (Teamwork, Making times on the clock with our bodies)





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Class Updates

Sambar and Fawn Class


Mrs Blaxland


Ms Philip


Miss Natasha


Miss Sue


Miss Staines


Mrs Gordon


Miss Corrigan


Miss Susie

What we have been learning

What have we learned?

• This week we have been reading the book **'Let's Celebrate'** and finding out about different celebrations from around the world. We have used Google Earth to travel to the countries mentioned in the book.

• In Maths, we have been learning about the properties of circles and triangles. We have also been looking at different ways to make 4 and 5.

• In English, we have been learning to read and write short 'cvc' words and enjoyed writing some firework sounds such as 'pop' and 'fizz'.

• We read the book 'Rhinocorn Rules' and talked about the importance of rules at school to help keep us safe and happy.

• This week we have started using the woodwork bench in our outdoor classroom. The children were excited to use real tools to make their creations.

Our highlights:

A big thank you to Mrs Khurana, who came to talk to Reception about Diwali. The children have enjoyed using clay to make and decorate their own diya lamps, and explore rangoli patterns.

In the next two weeks:

We will be reading the book 'How to Catch a Star'. In Maths, we will continue our work on 2D shapes and use positional language.

Important Dates & Reminders

Trips and Events:

• Parents consultations are on 30th November and 1st December.
• Reception Performance - Monday 14th Dec 2pm

Important reminders:

With the change in weather, please remember to bring a coat with a hood to school. The children love to go outside in all weathers!

Upcoming stars of the week:
Sambar - Teo and Alienor
Fawn - Arman and Sebastian

Conversation Starters:

Two questions that you can ask your child instead of 'How was your day at school?'

- What are the three rules for using the equipment safely at the woodwork bench?
- What celebrations have you been learning about?

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Class Updates

Sambar and Fawn Class

Highlights











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Class Updates

Roe and Brocket Class


Miss Melissa


Miss Bennett


Miss Charlotte


Ms Barbara


Mrs Drew

What we have been learning

We have had such a wonderful, busy couple of weeks in Year 1!

After a *mysterious spaceship* landed in our playground, the children acted as brilliant detectives to investigate the scene. This led us to the lovely book Beegu by Alexis Deacon. Inspired by the story, the class has been writing their own imaginative alien sentences and describing how Beegu feels on Earth. We are so proud of their creative ideas!

In Maths, we are mastering addition and subtraction facts up to 10. The children are working hard and using manipulatives like counters, number lines, and rekenreks to solve problems. They are also doing a fantastic job showing their working using part-whole and bar models.

Our exciting new Science topic explores animals and what they eat. We have started grouping reptiles, amphibians, and birds by spotting their unique features. The children have loved sharing what they already know.

In Art, we are studying the famous artist Vincent Van Gogh. The children have been looking closely at his paintings to see how he used bright, bold colours and big, expressive brushstrokes. We cannot wait to see their own colourful creations come to life!

Important Dates & Reminders

Trips and Events:

- Tuesday 17th November- St Stephens Church trip
- Wednesday 18th November- Open classroom
- Friday 27th November- Seasonal walk
- Monday 30th and Tuesday 1st- Family Consultations

Important reminders:
Please support your child to learn their lines for our Winter play as we are starting to practice our performance.

Upcoming stars of the week:
Roe class: Oliver, Ayla
Brocket: Beatrice, Rayyan

Conversation Starters:

Two questions that you can ask your child instead of 'How was your day at school?'

- Are reptiles the only animals that lay eggs on land?
- If you could jump right inside *The Starry Night* painting what sounds would you hear? Would it be quiet, windy, or noisy?

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Class Updates

Roe and Brocket Class

Highlights













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Class Updates

Marsh and Fallow Class


Miss Lauren


Miss House


Ms Barbara


Miss Brandvik


Miss Lauren


Miss Denisa

What we have been learning

In English, we are currently reading 'Traction Man' and the children will be completing their own descriptive retelling of the story. Over the last 2 weeks, they have made their own predictions about the story and identified the language skills that make a book exciting to read. We have just introduced expanded noun phrases in our work and explored the effect they have on the reader.

In Maths, we have been using place value charts to support our addition and subtraction. The children have used manipulatives to explain their reasoning and work out the most effective way to find an answer.

In Art we have introduced our new artist, Georges Seurat, who pioneered the pointillism revolution. The children have already begun to explore the effect that using thousands of tiny dots has on the mind and the eyes. We have explored the colour wheel and given the children the chance to experiment with using two different colours to create the illusion of one blended colour.

In Finance this week we have worked to understand the value of money. The children really enjoyed taking on the roles of shopkeepers and customers to deepen their understanding.

In Science we explored the relative sizes of the planets that make up our solar system. Everybody worked fantastically in teams to create their very own solar system using everyday objects ranging from a peppercorn (Mercury) to a basketball (Jupiter). The children even made up their own silly sentences to help them remember the order of the planets from the sun. We also had a visit from the Wonderdome planetarium- it was incredible for them to experience what it is like up in space and we were amazed to find out that Saturn has over 200 moons!

Important Dates & Reminders

Trips and Events:

- Wednesday 18th November- Open classroom
- Monday 30th and Tuesday 1st- Family Consultations

Important reminders:
Spelling and Maths homework books are needed in school every Monday.
Tuesday is Year 2 library day - this is the allocated slot children can change their library books.
If your child is in the Accelerated Reader programme please ensure they read their AR book at least 3 times before completing a quiz at school.

Upcoming stars of the week:
Marsh: Chuni-Hei and Emily
Fallow: Adam and Harper

Conversation Starters:

Two questions that you can ask your child instead of 'How was your day at school?'

- What is the order of the planets in our solar system from the Sun?
- How many countries make up the United Kingdom, can you name them and what are their capital cities?

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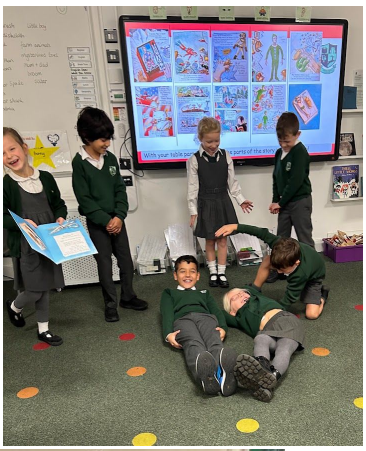
Class Updates

Marsh and Fallow Class

Highlights

Last week we had a lot of fun immersing ourselves in our English text, Traction Man, by getting together in teams and acting out the whole story. This week we were wowed by the "Wonderdome" with a 360 degree projection of space and the planets.












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Class Updates

Muntjac and Kashmir Class


Miss Charlotte


Miss Lauren


Mr Lord


Miss Tejas


Mr Owen


Miss Thomas

What we have been learning

We have started studying two new texts in English this week: *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* and *The Nothing to See Here Hotel.* We have enjoyed delving into the lives of the characters and discussing how things are not always as they seem!

In geography, we have been learning about earthquakes, fault lines, and plate boundaries, and have identified these on a map. In maths, we have mastered using the column method to add and subtract larger numbers. We have also looked at how we can use the inverse operation to check our answers.

Christianity is our new RE topic this half term. We have covered the key teachings and beliefs of the religion, including the Holy Trinity, and look forward to our trip to Westminster Abbey at the end of the term. In our finance lessons, we have been exploring how different methods of payment are used and when each might be appropriate.

During science, we applied our knowledge of how we see light to investigate how light travels in straight lines. This investigation resulted in some fantastic predictions, observations, and scientific diagrams. Finally, we have been introduced to the life and work of Pablo Picasso and have used visual language to comment on various pieces of artwork from throughout his life.

A jam-packed first fortnight back!

Important Dates & Reminders

Trips and Events:

18/11 - Open Classroom
30-01/11 - Family Consultations
07/11 - Geography Field Trip
14/12 - Trip to Westminster Abbey

Important reminders:

As the weather gets colder and wetter, please ensure your child brings a coat to school each day. They may also bring spare socks and shoes for PE, if it is raining.
The children have been given their new Maths homework books. Please mark your child's work with them. They should bring their Maths homework book to school for checking every Monday, along with the rest of their homework.

Upcoming stars of the week:

Muntjac - Louisa and Freddie
Kashmir -Venus and Alexis

Conversation Starters:

Two questions that you can ask your child instead of 'How was your day at school?'

- Can you name any natural or artificial light sources?
- Who was Pablo Picasso? What movement of art did he pioneer?

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Class Updates

Sika and Taruca Class


Miss Melissa


Miss Skewes


Miss Lauren


Mr Rory


Miss Bhatti


Mr Lloyd


Miss Mandy


Miss Amber

What we have been learning

We have had a busy first two weeks to the term with assessments and introductions to new units.

In English, we have been learning about expanded noun phrases to write a detailed character description. We have been reading *Oliver and the Seawigs*, learning about adding emotion and emphasis to our voices to bring a character to life.

In Maths, we have continued learning with our multiplication tables, covering 9, 7, 11 and 12 times tables.

In Geography, Year 4 students have been introduced to the different regions and counties of the United Kingdom.

Science has been focused on classifying animals according to their physical features.

Students have been learning days of the week and months in French.

In Art, students have been introduced to Frida Kahlo and some of her artworks including the use of watercolour paints.

Students have been learning about different ways to pay in Finance.

On Friday of Week 1, Year 4 students went to the Richmond Synagogue to learn about Judaism and how worship happens.

Important Dates & Reminders

Trips and Events:
Monday 16th November - Whipsnade Zoo

Important reminders:
Your child should bring their reading record to school every day.
Homework books, including Maths Practice Journals should be brought in on Mondays to be checked.
Our library borrowing day is Friday and library books should be brought in on Friday to be returned.
Please listen to your child read for at least 20 minutes a day and support them to spend time on TTRS.

Upcoming stars of the week:
Sika: Rudi and Reyan
Taruca:

Conversation Starters:

Two questions that you can ask your child instead of 'How was your day at school?'

- Who are the main characters in *Oliver and the Seawigs*? What has happened so far in the book?
- How do I know if an animal is a vertebrate or an invertebrate?

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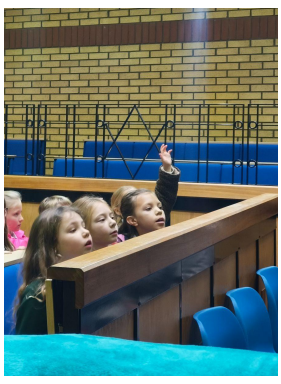
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Class Updates

Sika and Taruca Class

Highlights

On Friday the 6th of November, Year 4 students walked to the Richmond Synagogue. We were greeted by three helpers who introduced us to the space. We then rotated between three rooms where we learnt about the synagogue, the history of the Judaism, and how Jews celebrate and worship with Shabbat. We got to taste grape juice (to represent the wine) and challah bread. Before we left, we received a small biscuit and drink snack! A wonderful morning spent learning about one of the oldest religions.


















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Class Updates

Elk and Caribou Class


Mrs McMinn


Miss Amber


Miss Tweedie


Miss Denisa

What we have been learning

We have had a busy first two weeks to the term with assessments and introductions to new units.

In our English lessons, we are looking at 'The Journey' by Francesca Sanna, which tells the story of a family fleeing a war-torn country. We are working towards writing a comparative setting description to compare a setting before and after a conflict has occurred, particularly focusing on highlighting the emotional impact of conflict (e.g. use of pathetic fallacy).

We have also started reading 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin in our reading lessons, which details a real account of moving to the UK as part of the Windrush generation and the challenges that came with it.

In maths, we have completed our unit on multiplication and division and have moved on to fractions. This week, we have been finding equivalent fractions to both unit and non-unit fractions.

Our new science unit this half-term is 'The Earth in Space'. In our first two lessons, we have identified features of the planets in our solar system and the children can now confidently explain how humans discovered that the Earth is spherical and not flat.

Our first geography unit this year is all about migration. The pupils have learned about the different push and pull factors that can cause people to migrate. Our second lesson focused on what a settlement is and the various types of settlements that exist.

Our focus artist for Autumn 2 is Henri Matisse. Year 5 combined their collage and watercolour skills to create a piece inspired by Matisse's style. This week we focused on creating gradients using contrasting colours.

Important Dates & Reminders

Trips and Events:

- 18 November: Open classroom
- 23 November: Tate Modern trip

Important reminders:

The children have been given their new Maths homework books. Please mark your child's work with them. They should bring their Maths homework book, their purple homework book and their reading record to school for checking every Monday.

Upcoming stars of the week:
Caribou - Jasper and Eva
Elk -

Conversation Starters:

Two questions that you can ask your child instead of 'How was your day at school?'

- What are the main denominations of Christianity and what are the differences between them?
- Why do people migrate?

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Class Updates

Elk and Caribou Class

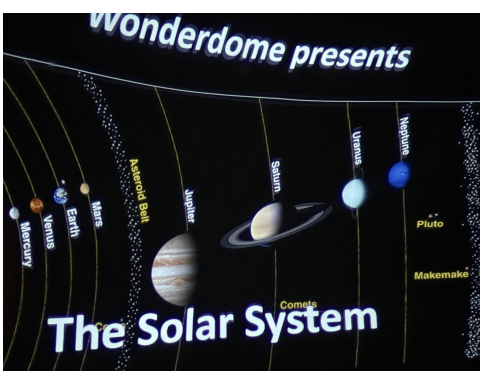
Highlights

Year 5 enjoyed a trip to space this week! Our Wonderdome workshop supported our learning on the solar system, including the attributes of the planets and how the rotation of the Earth causes night and day. The students asked lots of great questions and enjoyed experiencing a solar system 'rollercoaster'.



















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Class Updates

Red and Moose Class



Mrs Wilson



Miss Bhatti



Miss Race

What we have been learning

We have been reading Philip Pullman's mystery narrative, 'Clockwork'. In the beginning of the story, we are introduced to Fritz, a scary story teller, who captivates the bustling tavern in anticipation, before the arrival of the foreboding Dr Kalmenius. We have been writing a setting description, particularly focusing on the contrast in atmospheres through the use of adverbial phrases, figurative language and descriptive stacks.

In maths, we have been adding and subtracting mixed numbers. We have tried two methods: adding the integers then adding the fractions; converting the mixed number to an improper fraction. Children have chosen which method they find easiest.

The artist we are studying this half term is Joan Miro. We looked at his pieces of work and described them using visual language. We discussed his stylistic choices, as well as learning about his influences.

We learnt about exchange rates in finance: we understood who controls exchange rates, what this means for different currencies and thought about what caused exchange rates to fluctuate.

Our topic in science is light. First, we recapped knowledge from Year 3, understanding that light travels in straight lines and that it reflects off objects into our eye so we can see. We then understood what a shadow is and investigated how it changes depending on the position of the light source. We then applied this knowledge to sundials.

Important Dates & Reminders

Trips and Events:

16th - 19th November - Mock SATs week
Friday 20th November - V&A museum
Monday 30th November and Tuesday 1st December - Family consultations

Important reminders:

Please ensure that your child brings a coat in every day. It is getting cold, and the chances of rain are high! They will not be allowed outside if they do not have a coat when raining.

Upcoming stars of the week:
Red: Michalina, Anna
Moose: Scarlett, Mark, Emma

Conversation Starters:

Two questions that you can ask your child instead of 'How was your day at school?'

- How does the position of a light source change the direction and length of a shadow?
- What skills did you learn in rugby? Why do players use these?

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Class Updates

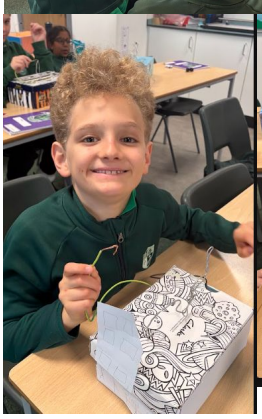
Red and Moose Class

Highlights

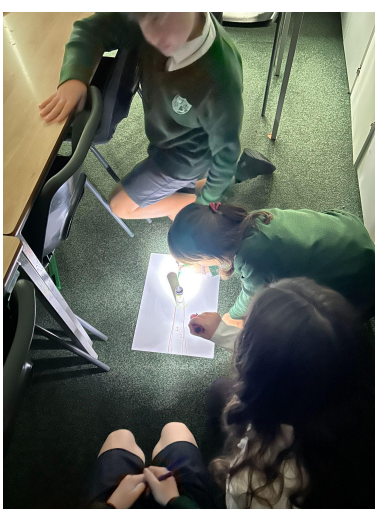
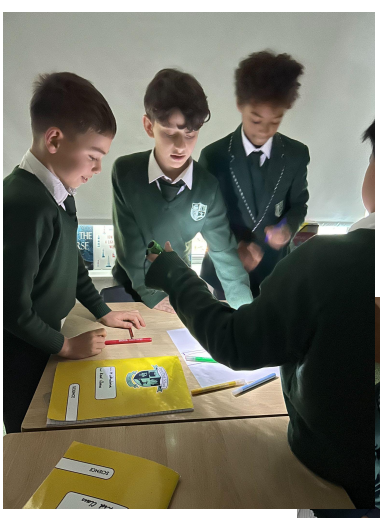
Moose Class DT

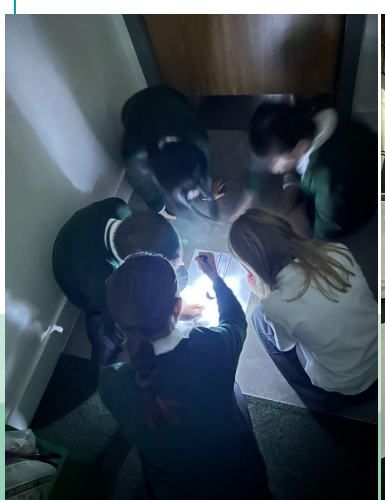





Red Class science





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