

23 October 2020



Deer Park School

LEARN ENJOY SUCCEED

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

Happy half term! It's been a fantastic seven weeks, full of intrigue and adventure – despite the challenges and eventful developments that came with it. The highlight reel of this term contains dress-up days and competitions, welly walks and workshops, junk-modelling and biking-to-school, engaged parental groups and magical learning experiences. Perhaps most importantly, though, it shows happy, positive, enthusiastic children. On that note, I'd like to thank our fantastic staff team, families and community for ensuring an excellent half term for all our children, and for maintaining high expectations of learning, behaviour and progress while managing new routines and systems – it would not have been possible to do so without a concerted team effort for our children. Particularly, my thanks go to Mrs Darby, Ms Coward, Ms Philip, Mrs Wilson, and Mrs Bracegirdle for seamlessly moving into online learning for children in Year 3 and Year 5; their excellent delivery and pre-planning made this transition both possible and productive. Our gratitude, and indeed our empathy, must also go out to the families of our closed bubble, who could not have been more proactive and supportive in making the continuation of education possible. Thank you all.

Since our last newsletter, the PTA has undergone a leadership transition. I'm sure that every member of our community joins me in thanking Katie and Sally for their truly exceptional leadership of the PTA over recent years, for their dedication to our school, and for their consistent focus on improving the experiences for children. Their inspiring vision and selfless diligence have made a huge difference to Deer Park, and one which will not soon be forgotten. I would like to welcome Darcy and Maia to the co-chair positions, after deservedly being elected last week – we are excited for your leadership of the PTA, and for the guidance and ideas you bring to the Deer Park community.

The Diversity Group also met last week, to deliver their feedback on the curricula provided to them by the school, and to offer their thoughts and input towards creating an exceptionally diverse scheme of learning. Thank you to Krupa, Courtney and the entire panel for their meaningful and productive feedback; it is both extremely supportive and of great importance.

Our book recommendations this week are three crackers. In KS1, 'I Want My Hat Back' is a beautifully illustrated (and hilarious) tale of cause and effect in the animal kingdom. In KS2, 'Wolf Brother' is the first in a classic series of books; it's magical realism with a stone age setting – what's not to love? For adults, a personal recommendation: 'The Long Dark Tea-Time of the Soul', by Douglas Adams. Those familiar with Adams will know his iconic 'Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' series, and I can confirm with certainty that this side of his work is every bit as good. Further on reading, Miss Coward has put together a collection of recommended sites where you can find books that link to your child's learning in Autumn Two. Reading widely around a concept or subject helps to develop understanding of the topic itself, but also helps to develop reading skills by providing a narrative setting with which your child feels comfortable – having learned about it in their classroom already. It also helps parents and families to be fully involved with the new knowledge and contextual learning being gained during the school day.

Thank you all for an excellent start to the year. Have a wonderful half term, get plenty of rest, and remember to read. We can't wait to get started on Autumn 2!

Alex Lee



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BAG 2 SCHOOL

Thank you to all those families who donated clothing and goods to the 'Bag 2 School' collection today. It was an excellent turnout, and the growing number of bags spoke volumes for the support and altruism of our community. Our hearty thanks to the PTA, and in particular to Steph for arranging and overseeing the process right up to and including collection. For those who may not have heard already, Bag 2 School helps schools across the country turn clothing donations into fundraising. Thank you to all those who helped us keep raising money towards our yearly goal.



Halloween Boxes



How amazing are those movie night parcels? The spooky buckets of scarily delicious treats (and monstrously fun activities, of course) were delivered or collected today by those looking forward to enjoying them in front of Hotel Transylvania later today. Our **heartfelt gratitude** once more to our **amazing PTA**, and in particular to **Mel** for her superhuman effort in sourcing, filling and delivering an entire school's worth of Halloween surprises.



JUST ONE TREE

Just One TREE

Well done everyone! Just under **£200** raised, **environmental awareness heightened**, and the first dress-up day of the year is in the books. **Thank you** to everyone who **donated to increase our 'school forest'** and decrease our ecological footprint; a thoroughly worthy cause. We look forward to our next set of both fundraising and dress-up days!



Recommended READS

Autumn 2

If you are looking for new books to buy, or books linked to your child's new topics, please see the below. Here are a few example websites links that are generally very useful: ***Book List, Love Reading 4 Schools, Books for Topics.***

Additionally, you may be interested in these recommended texts to help the discussion of diversity and equality: ***Letterbox Library celebrating Equality and***

Diversity, Literacy Trust Black Lives Matter.

However, always check that the actual book is the correct age range or interest level. Some books may have very simple language but have more grown up themes especially around topics like Migration and Refugees. Click on the book and check exactly what age it is aimed at. If you'd like to discuss your child's reading, don't hesitate to contact us at the school!

The recommended book lists below are specifically linked to your child's history topic in Autumn 2

Reception <https://www.booksfortopics.com/reception>

Year 1 (Houses in our lifetime) <https://www.booksfortopics.com/year-1>
<https://www.booksfortopics.com/houses-and-homes>

Year 2 (Transport in our life time) <https://www.booksfortopics.com/year-2>
<https://www.booksfortopics.com/transport>

Year 3 (Shakespeare and local study of Hampton Court)
<https://www.booksfortopics.com/year-3>
<https://www.booksfortopics.com/shakespeare>

Year 4 (Anglo-Saxons and the Scots) <https://www.booksfortopics.com/year-4>
<https://www.booksfortopics.com/anglo-saxons>

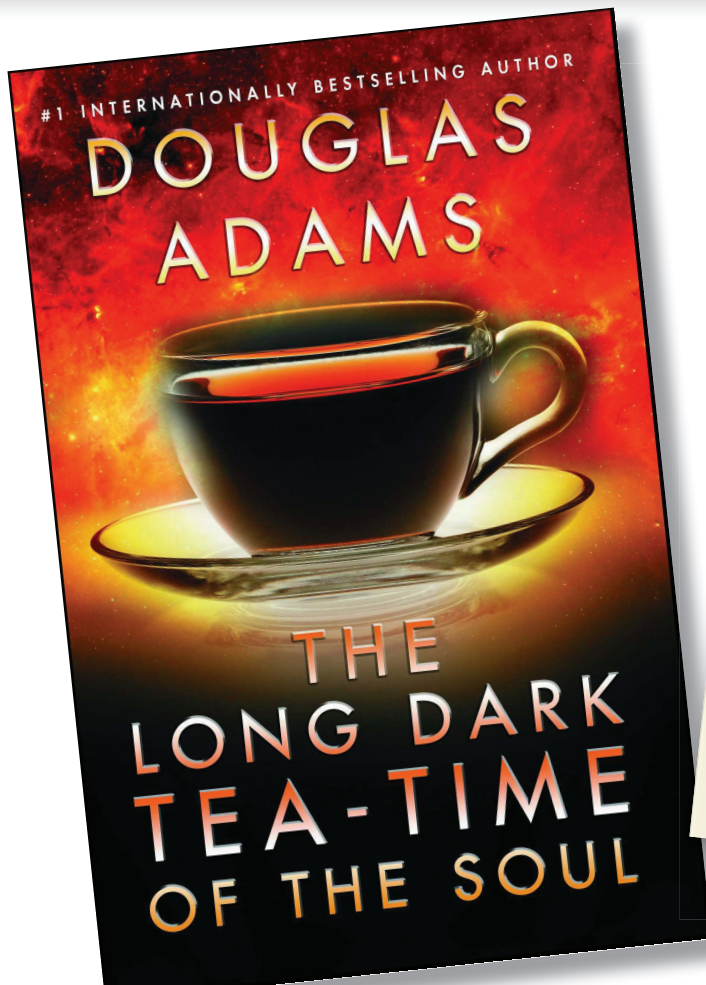
Year 5 (Migration and refugees)
<https://www.booksfortopics.com/refugees-and-immigration>





Recommended READS

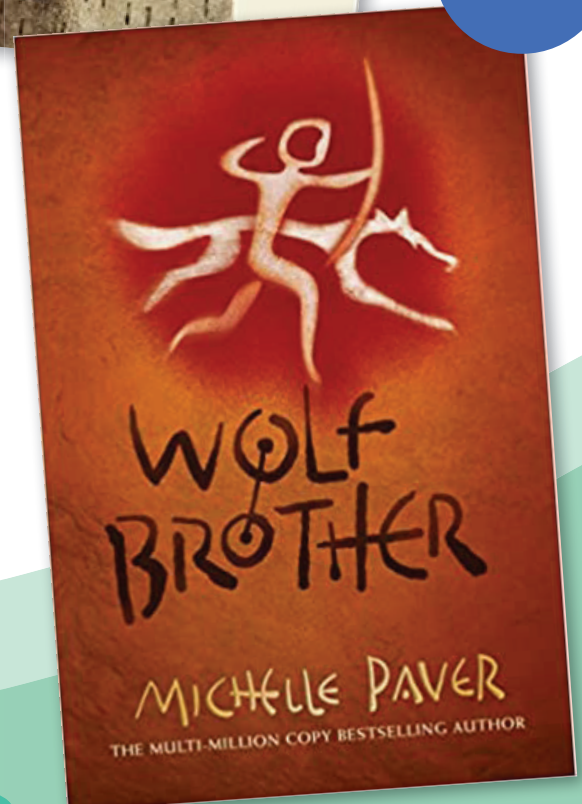
For Children



KS1

KS2

For Adults



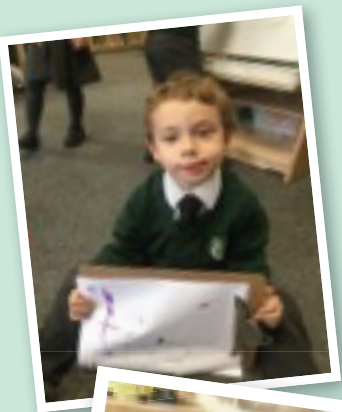
Class Updates



Sambar Class

Wow what another fantastic 2 weeks in Sambar. I have been impressed with the **children's enthusiasm** both in school and home learning. We have been continuing to look at our emotions and how it makes our bodies feel. We also had a look at how the weather makes us feel.

The children have worked so hard with learning all their **sounds** and we have really noticed how they are putting it into their **reading and writing**. In maths we have now introduced a "**five frame**" and been blown away with how the children have been exploring it. We have also been exploring the **junk modelling** even more and it's wonderful to see all their amazing ideas and how open ended it has been.



Fawn Class

Fawn Class have worked so hard and developed such a lot this first term. Some of us have learned how to **write our names** and some have started to read and write their first words. In **Maths**, we explored so many different ways of **making sets** and we are getting really good at this! We also started to **understand ourselves a little better** and to know that it is alright to feel sad and angry because it is just a feeling. By doing so, we gained tools to understand and **manage our feelings better**.

The **values of our school** are becoming truly **meaningful** in daily school life. I asked the children what was their favourite part of school since they started at Deer Park. They were unanimous in saying, **my friends, play time and welly walk**. These answers just underline even more that their learning has been experienced with great pleasure! We are so incredibly proud of them all. **Enjoy a well-deserved holiday!**

Class Updates

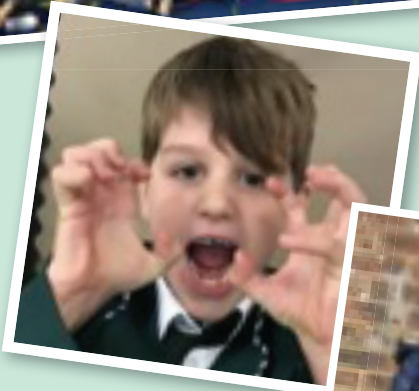


Roe Class

Roe class have had a **fantastic couple of weeks**, highlighted by our **explorative walk** of the **local area**. With our teachers and even a few parents in tow, we observed **seasonal changes** and the various elements of **human and physical geography** that characterise **Richmond**.

There were some **fabulous costumes** in Roe class for **Just One Tree day**, and it was particularly fun to see a range of **different animals** learning together that Friday. Well done to everybody for their **wonderful writing** this week, and well done on a brilliant half term!

Have a wonderful break and see you in November!



Brocket Class

Brocket have had a **wonderful two weeks**. We have **written** to **Goldilocks** to let her know whether we forgive her (or not!) and have been planning and writing about how, as the **wolf**, to **best scare Little Red Riding Hood**. We have finished our amazing **Picasso portraits** and had a **learning walk into Richmond** looking at the **seasonal changes** and geographical features. In **maths** we have explored **number bonds** and in music we performed our **Hey You** piece.

Well done Brocket, what a great first half of term!



Class Updates



Muntjac Class

Muntjac class have impressed me so much this week with how well they have adapted to home learning.

Art – the children have been looking at Dali's surrealism and created their own interpretations.

Science – the children created their own light and dark boxes and made observations.

Geography – they'll never get lost now they're secure with compass points.

English – new books by Anthony Browne have been explored.

Maths – recapping on subtraction and addition. A great week but I have missed you all! Have a great half term all of you.



Marsh Class

What a great last week to our half term. I have been so impressed by how **resilient and hardworking** everyone has been- in class and home learning!

In **English** we have been writing our **own mission stories** about Traction Man and creating a new character. The children have been using **fantastic adjectives** to make their writing more descriptive.

Maths, we have been learning to **count in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s** and fact families. For **Art** everyone has created their own fabulous **model of Deer Park School**. The children have been creative with their designs and have thought carefully about which features they are to include.

Have a relaxing half term!



Class Updates



Sika Class

What an exciting week we have had in Sika class this week! Not only was it the long-awaited **Scottish Day** today, which has had the children buzzing with excitement since it was announced over three weeks ago.

We also had an amazing **virtual visit from Nessma Al Ghousein, an architect** at Zaha Hadid Architects. She gave a fantastic and inspirational talk to the children about being an architect and the process of getting a design commissioned and built. A great way for the children to see an **example of architecture in the real world** and maybe even as a **career!** They then **constructed their own building designs** out of junk modelling and **we had some really amazing creations!**



Elk Class

What an extraordinary two weeks! With minimal notice, Elk class dived into **online learning** and got going. **They have shown their independence, resilience and incredible maturity.**

They have continued to develop as young historians by exploring the legacy of the **Ancient Greeks**. In addition, they have used this knowledge to ensure their non-fiction writing has the correct structure, presentation and vocabulary. **They are thinking like and writing like historians.** Move over Simon Schama!

Once Elk class realised that Sika class were top of the Managhish leader board they have worked hard to regain their rightful position. Keep going Alis-you are nearly number 1!

Thank you to Mrs Bracegirdle, who has kept them all busy, whilst Miss Coward was resting. I have **read a few books** whilst resting. **I would recommend the following:** Coming Home by Floella Benjamin; The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q Rauf and Sky Song by Abi Elphinstone. Thank you to Isabelle C for the recommendation for the last book. **It was a joy to read!**

