

13 November 2020



Deer Park School

LEARN ENJOY SUCCEED

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

It's hard to believe we're nearly halfway through November. The air is brisk, the afternoons are short, and bicycle lights have become quickly mandatory. Here at Deer Park, the relentless pace of learning continues unabated; it's been a fortnight of workshops, welly walks, field-work, and early morning classes. Perhaps most striking is the continuously high-octane attitudes that our children bring to school each day. These early evenings and colder mornings can, on occasion, dull the mood and dim the motivation – there's been precisely zero evidence of this at school thus far, and the enthusiasm for learning in each classroom continues to be inspirational. Further into our newsletter today is a presentation on a developmental aspect of school life at Deer Park; instrumental music. I believe wholeheartedly - on both a professional and personal level - that every child should learn to play an instrument, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts and feedback on this topic.

Thank you to all those who have participated in fundraising for Children in Need this week. Our online page has been turning over with donations as we work towards our £800 target. As is commonplace at Deer Park, the generosity of our community is exceptional; thank you all. I'd also like to add that charity is relative: we raise money for lots of good causes over the course of a school year, and families should not feel pressured to contribute more than they comfortably can.

It was excellent to see so many parents and families at Ms Coward's reading workshop on Wednesday evening. The feedback received has been fantastic, and I'm sure you'll agree that Ms Coward's expertise and knowledge provided a very helpful framework for supporting children's reading at home. For those families who were unable to attend, I hope the recording and accompanying materials prove formative for you; do contact the school with any questions you might have. Reading remains a high priority for Deer Park, both at home and at school, and the communication between

these two is key to ensuring that the system works for our children. Speaking of reading, it was wonderful to have the Star Readers tea party last Friday! Eight children from across the school joined myself, Ms Philip and Ms Coward for a wonderful (and thoroughly well catered – thanks Ms Coward) celebration of reading.

Earlier this week I contacted parents to inform them of an incident involving a primary school child in Ham. No-one was hurt on this occasion, and the local authority has informed us that no further risk to children is presented by the situation. However, please do maintain your vigilance both for Deer Park children and for others in our community as a matter of course – we all bear responsibility for keeping our children, and the children in our area, safe from harm. For the safety of our community at Deer Park, I'd like to remind each of us to respect social distancing guidelines in the queue at collection and drop-off times. If you are unable to keep a 2m distance for any reason, current guidance is to wear a face covering. Thank you all for continuing to work hard to keep our children and families safe.

The recommended read for Key Stage Two this week is a wonderful contemporary novel. 'The Space we're In' details the lives of Frank and his little brother Max, who has recently been diagnosed with autism. It is a powerful story of family, inclusivity, perspective and loss: I highly recommend it. Our adult book recommendation this week, 'Take my Hand' comes from Mrs Bracegirdle and is rife with suspense throughout a churning plot line. In KS1, we have the always popular 'Astro Girl', as we continue to look at female role models in STEM.

Have an excellent weekend. Enjoy some well-earned family time, and don't forget to read.

Alex Lee



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Learning a Musical Instrument

Many children at Deer Park already learn to play a musical instrument, receiving weekly lessons. I strongly and unreservedly encourage all families to consider signing their children up to learn an instrument; it is an incredibly effective way of expanding horizons and developing opportunities. Music carries with it opportunities for teamwork,

individual flair, creativity, social skills, and physical dexterity in a way that is replicated in very few other aspects of everyday life. Beyond this, the impact of instrumental tuition on cognitive development is significant, to say nothing of the avenue for self-expression – such a critical part of the growth of young persons – that music inherently affords.



A few frequently asked questions to help introduce the topic:

What are the benefits of learning a musical instrument?

Perhaps the best known benefit of learning a musical instrument is the self-confidence and self-expression developed throughout the process. More than this, the cognitive and academic

benefits of musical learning are well documented, including the positive impact on memory and spatiotemporal reasoning skills. For those interested, I recommend the work of Psychologists Sarah Wilson and Margot Prior in this field. Music is also, from personal experience, a great deal of fun; playing in orchestras, bands or ensembles is a fantastically broadening experience.

Is it available at Deer Park?

The Richmond Music Trust provides music tutors for the school – either individual or group lessons are available. The quality of music tuition is, we have found, consistently strong. A wide variety of instruments is available, and you can find out more here: <https://www.richmondmusictrust.org.uk/site/>

What does it cost?

If your child attends a group lesson every week for 30 minutes, lessons are £127 a term. None of this money goes to the school, but we can confidently say that it is very good value considering the quality and attention provided. Fees are higher for individual lessons, and lower for shorter lessons. You can find the full range here:

<https://www.richmondmusictrust.org.uk/site/tuition/fees-support/fees/>

If you would like to discuss the matter in detail, I would be very happy to talk it through with you personally. I firmly believe that every child should play at least one musical instrument, and should have the opportunities and enjoyment that music can enable. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly for questions or for further information.

Alex Lee





Be At School Bear

BAS (Be At School) Bear. BAS congratulates the classes who have the best attendance for the week. Last week four classes had 100% attendance which is a Deer Park record! Well done to Elk, Muntjac, Marsh and Roe. This week the same thing happened with four classes making 100% - Elk, Muntjac, Roe and Samba.



Golden Tie and Bow Tie Awards

Cagla (Roe)

Cagla is always eager to learn and excited to share her ideas with the class. Cagla is an enthusiastic learner who takes part in the learning for the day. She shows non-stop resilience, always persevering even if her task is a little tricky. Cagla's beaming smile is a delight to see each morning and all of Roe class can't help but smile back. Cagla upholds the HEART values and is a fantastic role model for others.

Scarlett (Brocket)

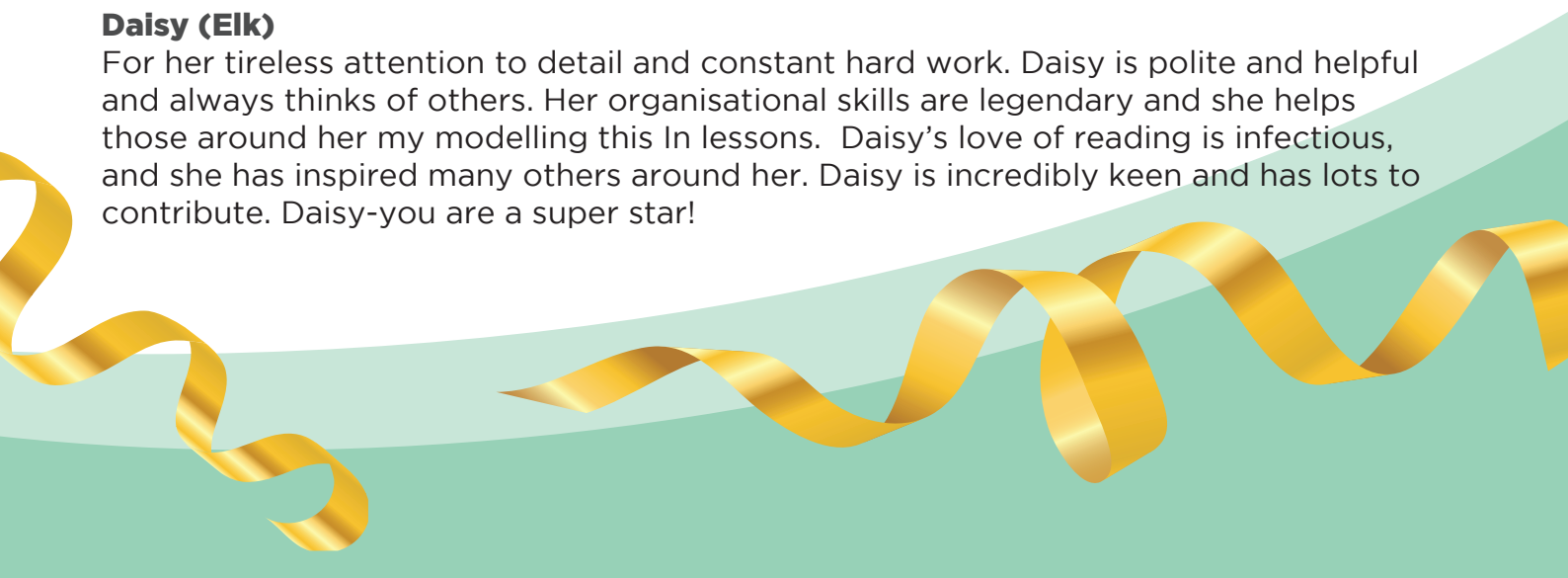
Scarlett is always supportive of her friends, shows great thoughtfulness in helping others and in the class. She sits well on the carpet, being a great role model and always wants to complete her work to the best of her ability. She exudes happiness and is concerned when others are sad or injured. She really deserves to be awarded the golden tie and is a great role model for others.

Talia (Muntjac)

Talia is an unwavering beacon of happiness in Sika class. She always has a fantastic positive attitude to learning and to the other members of the class. She is happy to help her classmates and teachers in any way she can. She has been producing some great pieces of work in class and is always raring to go with whatever task is set. She shows fantastic enthusiasm and resilience and reminds us all that anything is possible if you put your mind to it!

Daisy (Elk)

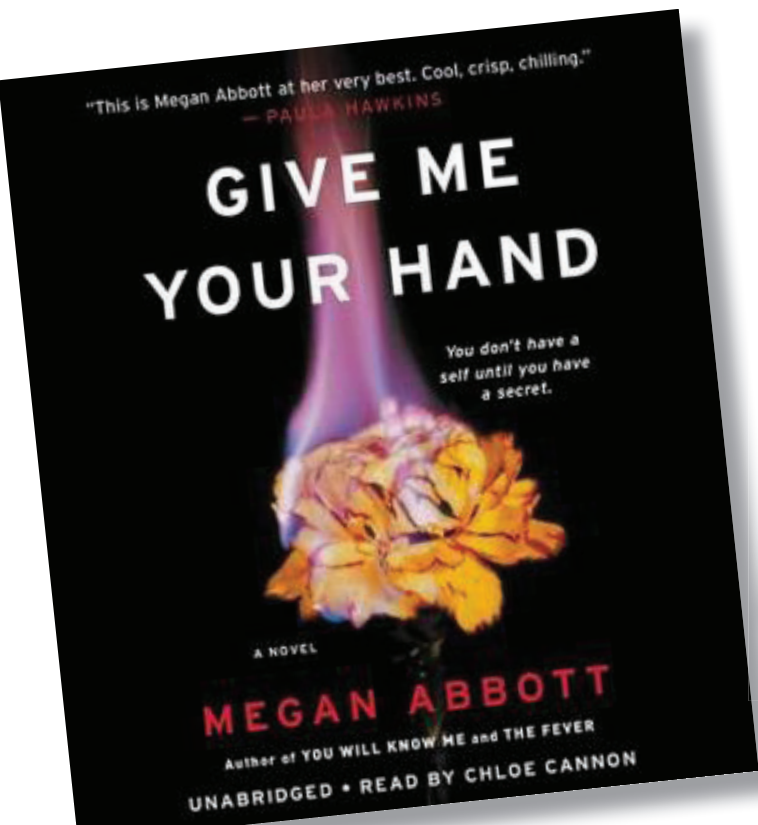
For her tireless attention to detail and constant hard work. Daisy is polite and helpful and always thinks of others. Her organisational skills are legendary and she helps those around her by modelling this in lessons. Daisy's love of reading is infectious, and she has inspired many others around her. Daisy is incredibly keen and has lots to contribute. Daisy-you are a super star!





Recommended READS

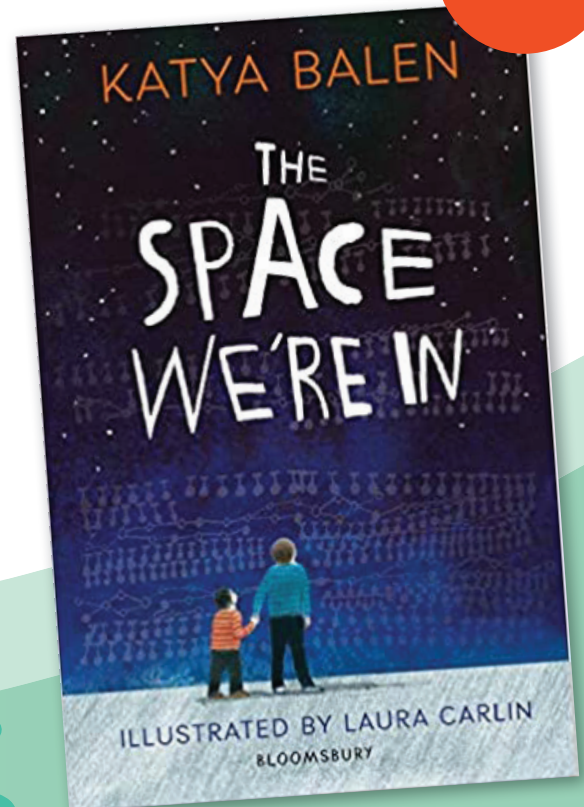
For Children



KS1

KS2

For Adults



Class Updates

Sambar Class

Another **super busy two weeks.** We started off this half term becoming **detectives** and searching for **clues.** We have looked at the festival / celebration of **Diwali.** We have made diva lamps, rangoli patterns, made our own decorations on crackers. We have learnt new sounds and spent time revising them all. We are blown away with all the sounds the children know and how they are transferring these skills into their reading and writing. We have been working really hard on our **numbers** from 1-3 and exploring them in lots of detail.



Fawn Class

It's been an **industrious two weeks** of learning in Fawn class, starting with the detective day and some amazing clue-hunting outfits. We chopped up peppers and cucumbers to make **delicious cracker snacks** and **rangoli patterns**. Some of our little engineers made an excellent **ramp** to suit a **toy car**, and we counted in groups using shiny gems and counters. In particular, we've explored **numbers** and noted the differences between them when we create groups. The children have been working hard on their turn taking and **sharing**, and on remembering our new sounds!



Class Updates



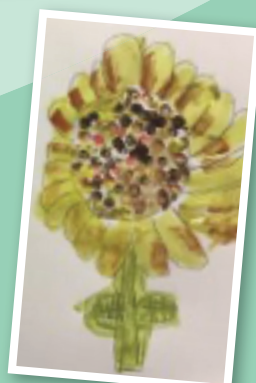
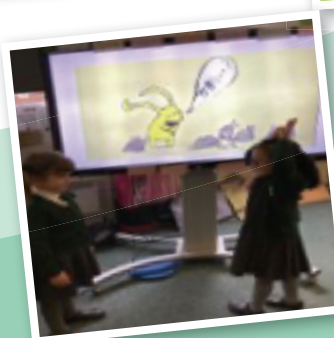
Roe Class

We've had a brilliant week in Roe. Our English lessons have all been focused on our book **Beegu**, which we are loving. When Beegu is sad her ears are down and when she is happy her ears are up! On Thursday, we went on a **History walk** to **Richmond Green** so we could look at the different **styles of houses** over time. It was so lucky that it was a sunny day! On Friday we did some **Diwali art** which was messy and lots of fun! Thank you to our fabulous parents for arranging this for us!



Brocket Class

Well we have been busy, and it is wonderful to have all the pupils back in the classroom. We have moved on to exploring the **art of Van Gogh**, have been looking at our **new science topic** of '**Animals**' and in history we are **studying houses** from the past. In English we have been visited by a creature from another planet (we are hoping that she is friendly) and in maths we have begun exploring **subtraction**. The children have settled back well, and it is fantastic to see their **enthusiasm** towards our new topics.



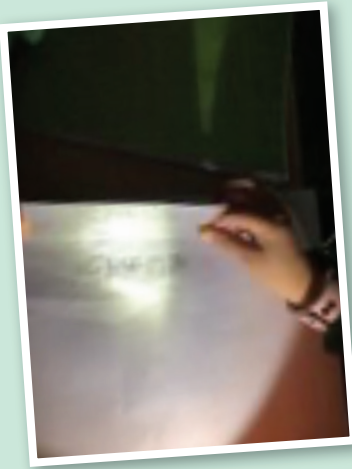
Class Updates



Muntjac Class

This week in **science** we have been exploring **light and reflection**.

We've been writing our **names** in **mirror code** – Here is Charlotte's. How tricky is this!?



In **maths** we've been estimating and **describing numbers** using our **place value skills**.

In **English**, some incredible alternative endings to **Romeo and Juliet** have been written.



Marsh Class

What a great two weeks Marsh class have had. This week the class have been learning about **Diwali** and created their own **Rangoli decorations!**

We started '**The Fox and the Star**' the children have retold the story and sequenced the order.

We have been learning to use **creative verbs** when writing sentences about Fox searching for his lost star. We have enjoyed sharing our writing to the class and praising each other on our hard work.



Class Updates



Sika Class

A fabulous two week start back at Deer Park for Year 4! We hit the ground running again picking up where we left off with our English, **writing newspaper reports** for a strange event at Brighton Beach in The Nothing To See Here Hotel, consolidating our **addition and subtraction knowledge in Maths**, and starting on our **Anglo-Saxon adventures in History!**

The children have really shown their **enthusiasm and resilience** in these past few weeks and the improvement in their behaviour for learning and team spirit has been noticed all around the school.

Miss Oppenheimer continues to be as proud as ever of their amazing attitude!

This week is a sad week for Sika class as **we say farewell to Rosa** who is moving down to Somerset with her family and starting at a new school in a few weeks. **We wish her an amazing start in her relocation** and she will be missed immensely by us all in Sika Class. **Good Luck Rosa!!**



Elk Class

Elk Class have been working incredibly hard for the last two weeks. The **Equaliteach workshop** was very thought provoking and really challenged our unconscious bias about what sports women do and what types of people are migrants. We are continuing with our **Migration** topic in **Geography** and we are reading two very moving books to support this.

In **Maths**, we have moved onto **Multiplication** and we shall look at multiples, factors and the prime numbers. The **excellent use of reasoning** and finding patterns has been evident throughout the classroom.

The highlight of the week was the **glockenspiels in music** and the beautiful sound we produced as a class. Please do ask your child about what they are **wearing** using **French vocabulary** and hopefully they will be able to tell you!

