



# Deer Park School

LEARN ENJOY SUCCEED

## Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

**I**t's been a week of extremes. Monday morning was a blustery deluge of snowflakes and iced over roads, on Tuesday we basked in clinically bright sunshine, and Wednesday brought with it the fog of a governmental press conference. Despite the fluctuations in climates both meteorological and political, the children have continued to excel. Attendance, engagement and active participation remain strong in all year groups, and the quality of projects and learning produced at home has been excellent. You have only to peruse the photos in the class news below to see the imagination, creativity and eclectic variety employed by our children in their work; it continues to be an inspiration for each of us.

As our children spend more time online, and the internet provides an increasingly broad platform for children to engage with, it is more important than ever that we support our children to keep themselves safe online. The internet is a vast and wonderful cosmos of information and interaction, but in order to use it safely it is crucial that children are aware of the dangers, as well. This forms a core part of our PSHE curriculum, and I encourage all our families to ensure that they know the full extent of their children's engagement online, to make informed use of parental controls on site usage and access, and to check that your children are not interacting either unsafely, or with anyone they do not know. If you have any questions about online safety or concerns about your child's experience online, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

On Wednesday morning, Mrs Bracegirdle and I visited our new building for a progress walk around the site. Amid the clamour and bustle of construction work, there was a discernible aura of cautious optimism on the part of the contractor team about the timeline of completion. We will, of course, reserve our own optimism until we have a confirmed and definitive date, and I hope to bring you news on this front in the coming week. In the meantime, the new school has some noticeable developments; the teaching terraces have taken shape, the classrooms are being painted, and the astroturf pitch

is now ready and waiting to be played on. I've included a few select photos below, which should illustrate the current state of progress more accurately than any descriptions of mine here.

Our suggested reading list for the week includes two experiences of Caribbean life. A call to environmental action for KS1 in the form of Nathan Bryon's 'Clean Up' (those who read 'Look Up' may be particularly excited about this one), and an evocation of island childhood in 'When Life Gives you Mangoes'. For our adult readers, a non-fiction tome this week: 'A History of the World' is an ambitious examination of cultures both lost and current, and it's tough not to read it in Andrew Marr's voice.

Thank you all for your hard work for the children. Have a wonderful and well-deserved weekend, stay warm, and don't forget to read.

Alex Lee



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# Mental health

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week 2021. This year's theme is 'Express Yourself'.

It is important for children (and adults) to be able to express themselves, so they can share their feelings, thoughts and ideas. Doing this creatively through, for example, art, dance, music, writing, baking is fun and makes them feel good. Being able to express themselves is not about being the best at something or putting on a performance for others. It is about finding a way to show how they are feeling that can help them feel good about themselves.

At this time, with schools partially closed and lots of uncertainty, children's mental health has never been more important. This week Mrs Bracegirdle did an activity with our lovely year 5s which enabled them to think about how they are feeling and provided a good opportunity for the children to talk about it. The link is below if you would like to do it at home.

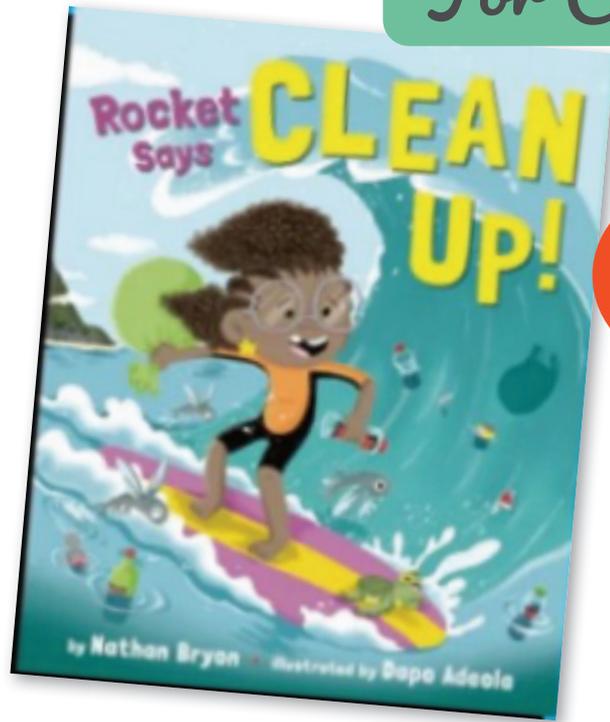
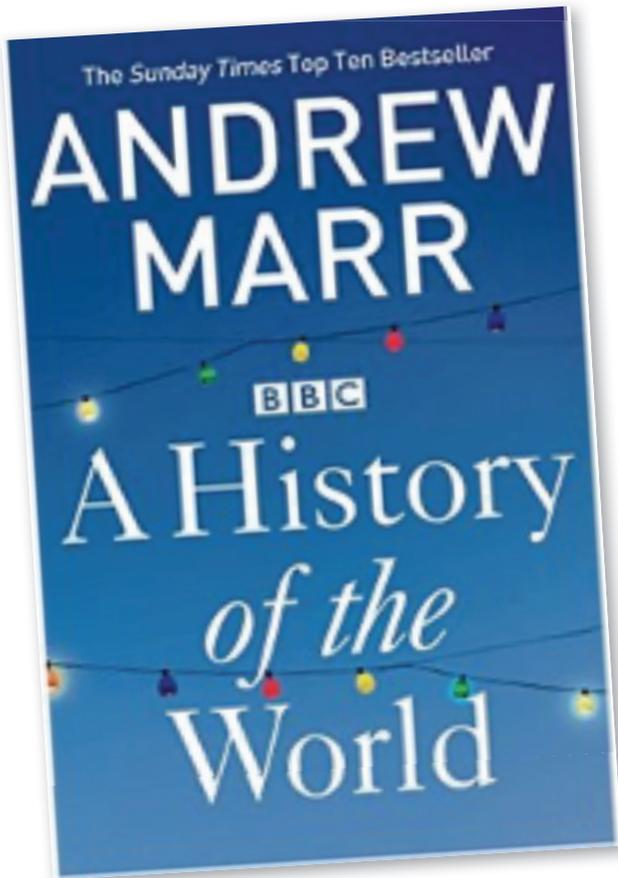
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STdJ\\_\\_8ORyE&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STdJ__8ORyE&feature=youtu.be)





# Recommended READS

For Children



KS1

For Adults



KS2



# Class Updates



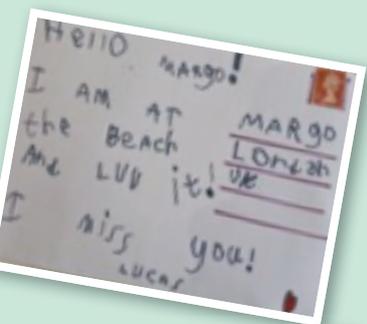
## Sambar Class

Sambar Class have once again amazed us with their **enthusiasm** and **engagement** during Zoom sessions and their **resilience** and **commitment** to Home Learning activities!

This week the children have been busy investigating **capacity, weighing** different items and finding out about why some items **float** and others **sink**.

They have also been writing **postcards** and going on a tricky word hunt!

We have loved seeing the children reading their **'Big Cat' books at home**, thank you so much for supporting us with this. The **children at school** have been **working equally hard** and we are so proud of all of their efforts!



## Fawn Class

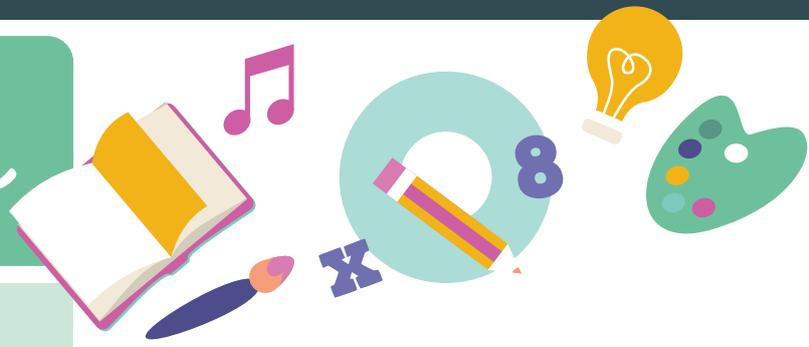
Thanks to our online platform we can continue our exciting learning journey. With the book **Commotion in the Ocean**, the children had the opportunity to be **scientists** and to explore their hypotheses and understanding of the world.

They have shown brilliant creativity in developing their **under the sea project** and making up **movements** for their **favourite sea creature**.

A special mention must be made of their **vocabulary**, which has been extremely impressive. Fawn Class have shown how much they have **matured** and learned so far. They have used specific words to describe their favourite sea creature or natural phenomena. **Well done** also to Fawn Class for maintaining their **resilience** and **enthusiasm** for learning **maths**.

They have increased their knowledge of the **number 5** and started to explore different **measurements**. It's been really hands-on and fun! Fawn Class have demonstrated that they are **competent, resourceful** and **very good observers**.

# Class Updates



## Roe Class

Roe class have continued to **knock my socks** off with their hard work and enthusiasm to learn.

In **science** we picked a fantastic week to make a **weather diary** with **cloud, rain, sun** and **snow** on our weather charts. In Art the class looked at the work of artist **Michael Bolus** and the created their own fantastic **3D sculptures**.

In **Geography**, the class really enjoyed learning about the **seas surrounding the UK** and created their own fantastic **sea shanties** and researched **marine life** around the UK.

**Well done Roe**, we are so **proud** of your **hard work**.

## Brocket Class

Yet again you have impressed me Brocket with your **creativity, awareness of the environment** and your **enthusiasm**.

We may be learning online but your **passion and contribution** in the **zoom lessons** is **incredible**.

We have been looking at the **weather** (and **loving the snow**) singing **sea shanties** and exploring our new English text.

We understand about **seasonal change** and all about the **UK**. We have moved on to looking at **numbers within fifty** in **maths** and your **artwork** is **outstanding!**

**Keep it up Brocket.**

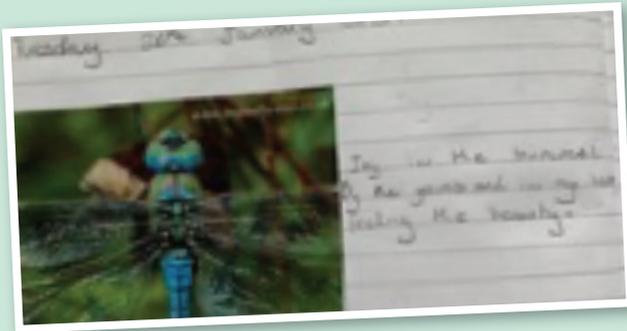


# Class Updates



## Muntjac Class

Continuing our story – **Pebble in my pocket** – the children described movement and wrote their own **Haiku** poems. This one is by **Emilia**.



The children have **worked so hard** this week across the curriculum. You should be so **proud** of them all. They attend their lessons with such **enthusiasm** and readiness to learn!

Inspired by **Peter Blake** the children created a **collage** using their **first letter**. As shown by **Alex and Gabi**.



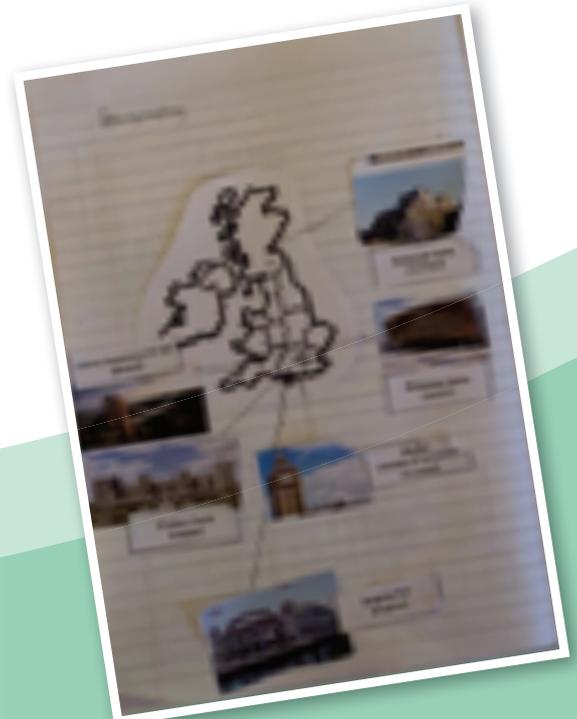
## Marsh Class

Another **great couple of weeks** from Marsh class. Everyone has been **working extremely hard** and I have, yet again, been impressed with their high **enthusiasm** during our zoom lessons.

Their **letter writing** to **Mr Lee** was great at giving him **clear instructions** on how to look after the **dragon egg**.



We've been using **maps** and **compasses** to locate **castles** and **human features** around the **United Kingdom**.



# Class Updates



## Sika Class

This week in Sika Class I am **celebrating** all the work that we have been doing to work on our **wider education**, including **musical endeavors, physical activity** and **wellbeing**. We had a fabulous activity to share what **creative things** we got up to in the **snow**, plus lots of daily submissions on Class Dojo for our **physical** and **mental wellbeing**, like a nice **run** or **walk** in the **park**.

We have also been producing some **outstanding writing** in our **English** lessons, really focusing on developing our **descriptive writing skills**. This week we have learnt how to use **prepositional phrases** and then connected them with our **expanded noun phrases** to create some incredibly **detailed** and **interesting writing!**

**Well done Year 4**, you are working so hard and it is really paying off!

## Elk Class

Elk Class have continued to **exercise** as much as possible and this includes **indoor rowing, gymnastics, walking, running and cycling!** As a result, they are calm and ready to learn in our lessons.

In **maths**, we are working on **fractions** and identifying lots of different **representations** and **equivalency**.

The **writing** that has been produced is full of **wonderful poetic devices** including **personification, similes, metaphors and alliteration**. We are building up to the excitement of the **highway robbery**. This links well to our study of crime and punishment over the last 1000 which has produced some superb work and fascinating discussions!

Below you can see some examples of **Matisse replicas** and **fascinating science experiments**.

The **quality** of work is **amazing**. **Well done** to all the **children** and their **parents** for all their hard work!

