

19 March 2021



Deer Park School

LEARN ENJOY SUCCEED

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

Happy Friday, and welcome to the tail end of week four. It is hard to believe there's only a week and a half left of this term, and indeed a week and a half of Deer Park School being located in its current site. The school in the carpark is shortly to become the latest denizen of Richmond Road, and our new building has been alive with activity this week as we prepare for the completion of construction work. Several large and colourful lorries could be seen on Wednesday morning, delivering a substantial quantity of new furniture which is now being installed in our airy teaching spaces, adding form and purpose to an already exciting layout of classrooms. The playground is now bedecked with seating and table tennis, the lunch hall replete with circular dining tables, sparkly new screens adorn several of the classroom walls, and a regimental quantity of cupboard are ready to be filled with equipment, books and learning materials. I include below a few select photos, which I hope you enjoy perusing. There is, of course, still considerable work to be done and milestones to be achieved in the coming month, and our sincere gratitude must go to all those families who have volunteered their time to support us in dismantling the current site, designing spaces for the new, and in the Herculean venture of Ikea furniture assemblage taking place this coming week. Your support for the school is, as always, both immense and appreciated.

Our fluffier friends in school this week have had an excellent time meeting the children, and assisting with various lessons across the school. They have, it must also be noted, also had several evening excursions to homes of various staff members, in order to be doted upon and cuddled by adults and children alike. While these weekday staycations were conducted under the guise of caring for the ducklings, we suspect that it may have more to do with them being extremely cute. In other news, children in all year groups received an online interactive finance session from HSBC this week, with our grateful thanks to Botagoz of class for arranging this for Deer Park. Samba bands in years 4 and 5 have now begun in earnest, and rhythmic percussion

arrangements can now be heard (at considerable volume) on Friday afternoons along Parkshot Road.

In our recommended read this week, we have three volumes of poetry. First up, for the younger readers among us, Coelho's 'Poems Aloud' is a scintillatingly accessible volume of performance poetry, designed to be read, shouted, orated and delivered out loud. For our KS2 bookworms, a book from Benjamin Zephaniah – an author quietly acting as one of nation's muses for a good few years now. His collection 'Funky Chicken' is extraordinarily wide ranging, often irreverent, and – perhaps most importantly – fun. Our adult readers may enjoy getting their proverbial teeth into 'The Bees' by Carol Ann Duffy; published in the midst of her decade-long stint as poet laureate, this collection shows off her pure power of range as a wordsmith, touching on politics, elegies, and the eponymous bees.

Have an excellent weekend, don't forget to read, and I look forward to seeing each of you on Monday.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Lee



Stay Social



Please like our Facebook page



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Say Yes To Super Fun Movie Boxes!



On Wednesday 31st March, it's movie night for Deer Park families! Our wonderful PTA have put together these fabulous Movie Boxes, each of which is made to order (with grateful thanks to Mel) for collection at school on the day. For each £10 donated you receive one of these excellent boxes, which were a very popular hit for the last movie night at Halloween. The deadline for ordering is Monday 22nd March. The movie night as always is free to join, and we hope to see our families there.

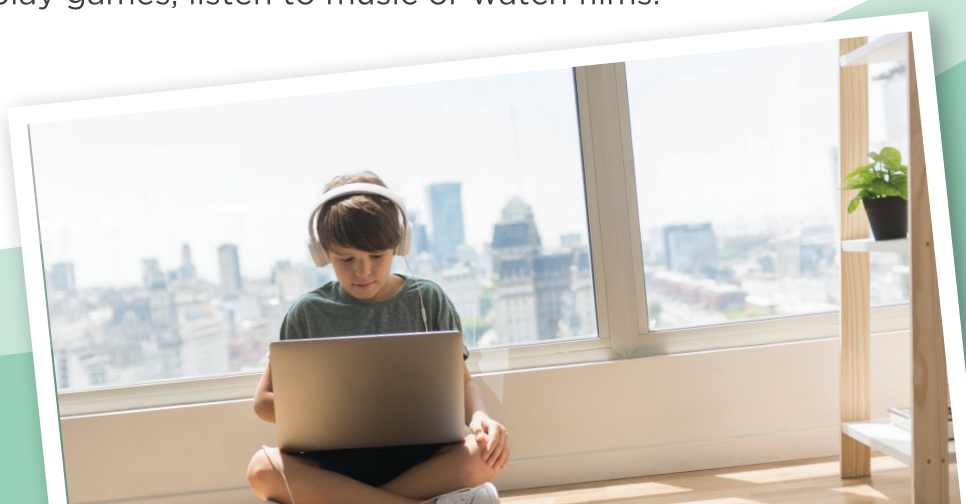
E-Safety

Thank you to all the parents who joined our e-safety workshop last week. This is something we will be repeating yearly so don't worry if you missed it this time. A few takeaways that I would like to share with you all. Firstly, I've recently discovered that many online sites for children have a chat function for example, scratch. Scratch is a brilliant site for children to use to learn how to code and make their own games BUT it has a chat function which needs to be very carefully monitored. It is important that the children are constantly reminded that they shouldn't share any of their personal information with people they don't know. When I've spoken to children about this in the past I've been told 'but they're very nice' to which I've explained that without knowing someone you have no idea if they're very nice or not. As we all know it is very easy to let our guard down and be persuaded that a person is a good person and for children that is even easier to do.

Another top tip is to set the parent controls, see here, on a new piece of equipment before giving it to your child/ren. This will save arguments and difficulties in the long term. Our children are frighteningly good with technology and we need to ensure we stay one step ahead. If you are giving your child a playstation or alternative games console, you can set parent controls which often include the option to set a time zone. By setting the time zone you can restrict the amount of time your child can play on the device on any one day. These controls will also mean that they won't be able to play games or use apps which are above the limit you set.

Here are links to information on **What's App**, which I've just discovered has a recommended age of 16+, **Tik Tok** which has a recommended age of 13+ and **Fortnight**, **Battle Royale** for 12+.

Used safely the internet is a wonderful thing for our children to help them with their learning, to have fun and play games, listen to music or watch films.





Recommended READS

For Children

The Bees



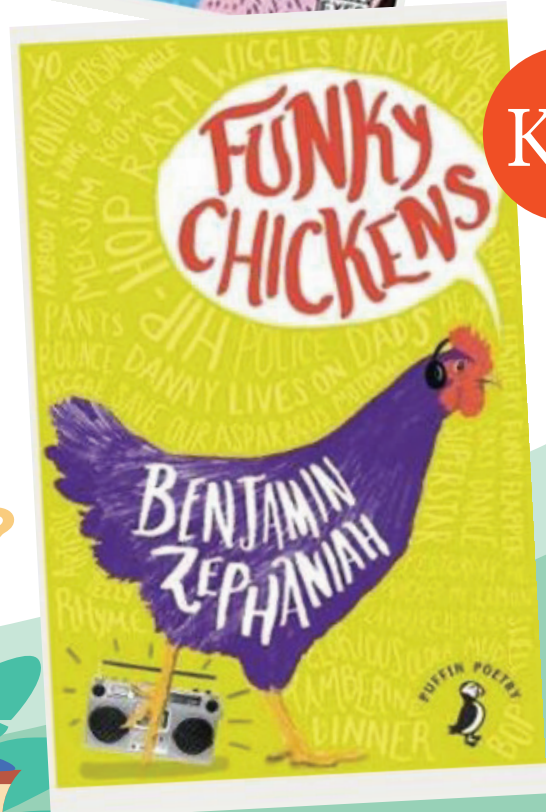
Carol Ann
Duffy

Poet Laureate



KS1

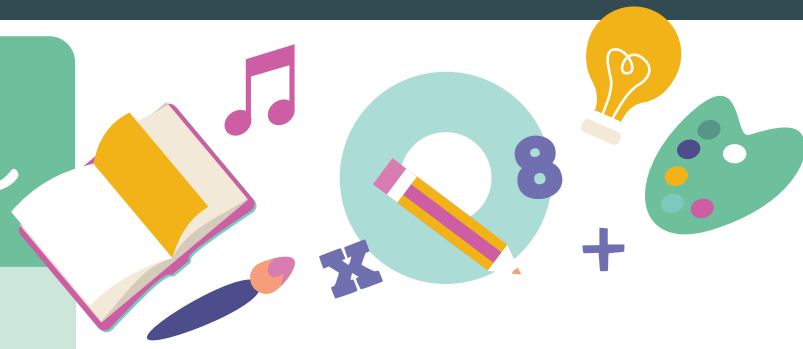
For Adults



KS2



Class Updates



Sambar Class

Wow what a fantastic first two weeks back at school. All the children were so happy to come back to school and see all their friends. We have continued to look at **Superhero's** and this week and they have been thinking about why they are a superhero. It has been so wonderful to see all the children apply their **phonic knowledge** to their writing. In **maths** we recapped our numbers from **6-10** and then we have been exploring height. The children are using such **wonderful vocabulary** when they are explaining things to do with height. Our famous **welly walks are back**, and the children have loved looking out for **minibeast's** which are in our book superworm.



Fawn Class

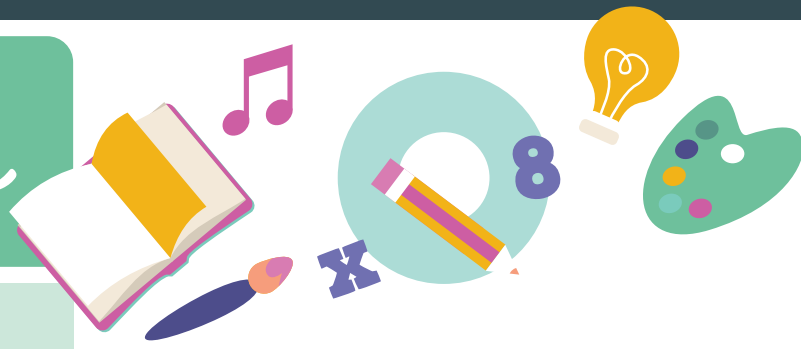
We are all happy to get back to a normal school routine and be among our friends. The first week we reminded ourselves of our classroom rules and talked about our feelings with the help of the book, **'Even Superheroes Get Scared'**. Our Zen Den yoga has taught us that worry and feelings of anxiety can be managed by taking in a big breath and using a tool called 'anchor', which helps us feel calm, brave and focused, through making us think of a happy place to be in. The children shared their happy places and moments with us - cuddling their mums, playing with dogs, going to magical places and flying with unicorns.

In Maths, we revised numbers from 6 to 10. We developed the skill of subitising and comparing quantities. We also explored further measurements and used different language to describe them. **The children also explored free writing** and wrote beautiful messages to their mums. With the Superworm book, we thought about our different talents and discovered that we have so many.

Have a lovely weekend with the great feeling of being back at school!



Class Updates



Roe Class

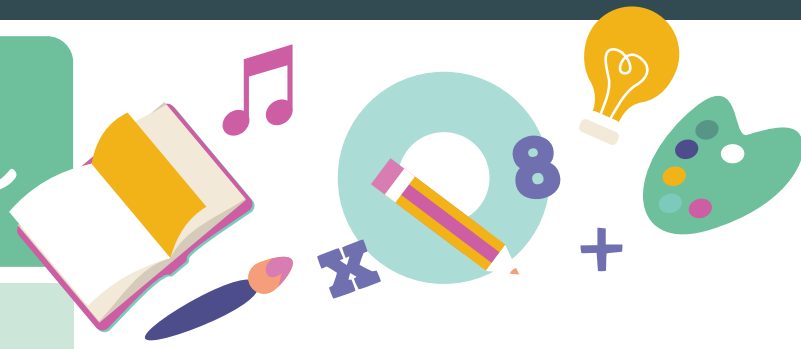
We have all been extremely proud of the **enthusiasm and resilience** Roe class has shown coming back to school in the last few weeks. We have had a fantastic few weeks of learning! The class have really enjoyed **writing travel journals** all about going on **safari**. We have a fantastic surprise on Thursday, the class were able to **hold ducklings** and learn all about the life cycle of ducks. In art Roe class blew us away with their **fantastic sunset paintings and silhouettes**.



Brocket Class

How lovely it is to have all the children back in the classroom. We have welcomed **Ege** into the Brocket family and are **sad to be saying farewell to Kayne** who is moving out of the area. We have been continuing with **measurement and weight in maths**, and in **science** we have been looking at the **structure of plants**. In both English and art we have been following on with our **Africa theme**, exploring how we can make our sentence writing more exciting and looking at the amazing colours of the **African sunsets**. Well done everyone!

Class Updates



Muntjac Class

Across the last couple of weeks we have had plenty of **opportunities to learn collaboratively** and work in groups which has been really beneficial as we **get used to being independent learners** and more resilient now we are back at school.

This week we have been revising fractions in maths and writing our own unique version of the **Stone Age Boy**. I've been so impressed with the precise verbs, and ideas the children have used in their writing.

We have further been exploring forces in science and **we loved having the ducklings in the class today!**



Marsh Class

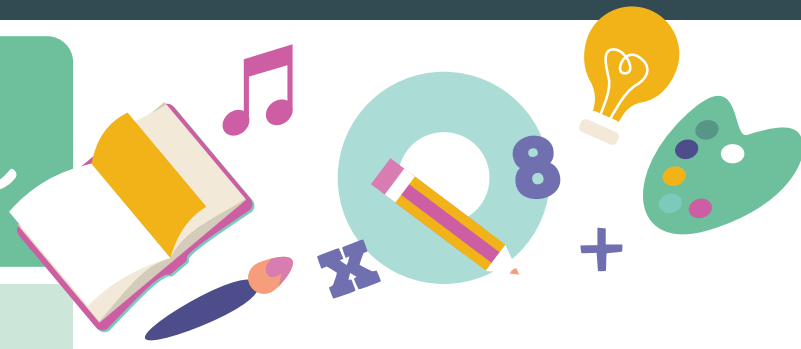
During the past ten days Marsh class have become **the carers for duckling eggs**. We were lucky to watch two ducklings hatch from their eggs and we have observed them grow each day.

In English the children have continued to **write stanzas** as part of their desk fiddler poem. The vocabulary they have produced has been outstanding and Miss Bennett has even had to use a dictionary a couple of times!

These last two weeks Marsh class have been learning about fractions; half, third and quarter. **They have been amazing at using the correct vocabulary** when finding the fractions of an amount.



Class Updates



Sika Class

The children have had a fantastic start back to in school learning and have been thrilled to see each other again. This week we have completed our final week on **fractions** and are moving on to applying this knowledge to **decimals**!

The children have been really excited to extend their understanding and look forward to continuing this after Easter too! We have also been writing our **Golden Ticket invitations** to the chocolate factory and have been using some bam-boggling, **mind-bending vocabulary** in our work!

Furthering our work on rivers, the children have been researching the physical features using **Oddizzi**. They will use this knowledge to help them better understand the **River Thames** and how it affects it's surrounding areas. And Finally, possibly the highlight of Tuesday, was a visit from some fluffy friends!

The children were all mesmerised by the **sweet little ducklings** and we hope to see them in a local pond in the future!



Elk Class

The last two weeks have been brilliant.

The Elks were so excited to see each other, and they have settled into work very quickly. During their time at home, they developed their **independence**, and they are have become increasingly independent at school too. They are definitely less reliant on adult support and are being more resilient when faced with challenging work.

The ducklings have been a highlight and it shows you are never too young to appreciate our fluffy friends. In **Maths**, we have started work on **decimals** and **percentages** and looking at how we can represent them.

Wonderful stories are starting to develop from our book **Hacker** and we shall next week re-tell the story with our own twist.

The focus in **geography** has been to explore the **mining industry in South Wales**. Isabelle's Conway's Book Club has got off to a great start with the author of 'When Life Gives you Mangoes' tweeting about how pleased she was to hear they were reading her book!