

14 May 2021



Deer Park School

LEARN ENJOY SUCCEED

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

A very happy Friday to you, and a warm welcome to the final day of what is (unbelievably) already Week 4 of this half of term. Thank you to all our families for finding time for parents' evening this week, to engage with productive and thoughtful conversations with your child's teachers. These pieces of home-school dialogue are critical in creating a unified approach for our children, and your diligence and enthusiasm for your children's learning is – as it always is – sincerely appreciated and immensely valuable. Thank you all. In other news, the school hall held host to a parliament of owls on Wednesday, as the children learned about different species, watched them fly, fed them, and then posed for a photo with a friendly barn owl. It was, if you'll forgive me, a hoot.

This week's edition of the newsletter contains an update from the Chair of our local advisory board, James Bole, which can be found below. If you have any questions about the LAB, its remit or its activities over the year, please don't hesitate to contact James directly.

In our recommended read this week, we have an eclectic range of genres. First up, for the younger readers, is the delightful 'Maybe' by Chris Haughton. This wonderfully illustrated book raises important questions for all of us. Are there limits to productive curiosity? Is parental advice worth listening to? And of course the classic: 'Am I likely to be eaten by a tiger if I try to reach that Mango?'. For KS2, this week's tome is somewhat less light-hearted: 'A Monster Calls' by Patrick Ness. Tackling the complexities of grief, of anger, of the churning turmoil of loss and helplessness, this is a book worth reading. It has, interestingly, also been turned into a reasonably watchable film, although Liam Neeson as a gigantic, humanoid tree is a somewhat troubling image to be left with. Lastly, for our adult readers, 'Klara and the Sun' is the most recent book from that master of story-weaving, Kazuo Ishiguro. Ishiguro, by the way, is a

Booker Prize winner, Nobel Prize winner, and a Knight of the Realm, which are a solid few lines for Linked-In, but more importantly he is a superbly subtle creator of worlds: I hope you enjoy his latest.

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

Yours sincerely,

Alex Lee

The Local Advisory Board (LAB) met last week. The key discussion areas were school performance, the new school building and some safety concerns raised with the new location. Quality of education and academic performance remain high with all year groups showing good progress from the start of the year even with the disruption of home schooling. In terms of safety, the proximity of the school to the busy Richmond Road and the turn-in to the Lidl carpark is a concern. Please be vigilant and make your children aware of the dangers. James Boyle (LAB Chair) attended a meeting this week with local residents' associations and council members. During the meeting he raised these concerns. The council have agreed to look at options to increase the safety systems around the school. Previously, residents' groups have expressed concerns about a possible increase to traffic and congestion at drop off and pick up. Thank you all for adhering to the school travel policy and ensuring this has not been the case. For any questions about the LAB, please contact James Boyle (LABchair@deerparkschool.org.uk)
- James Boyle, LAB Chair



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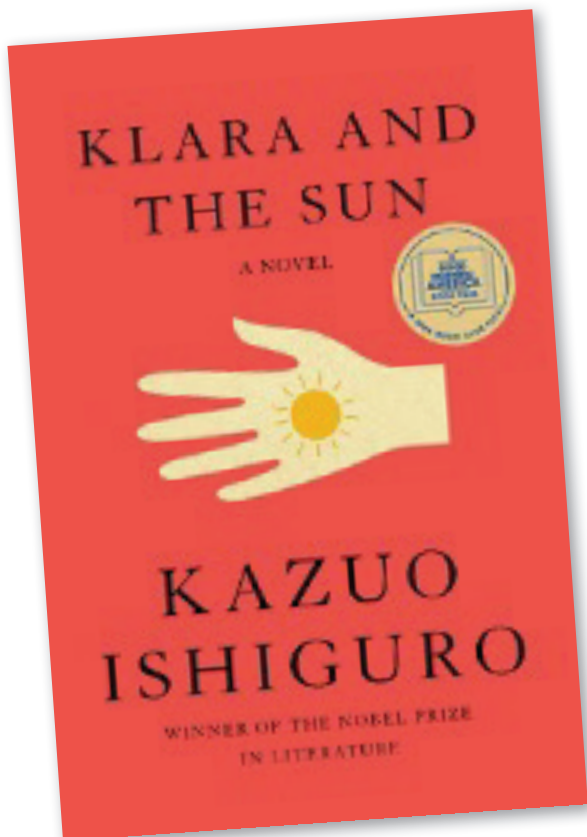
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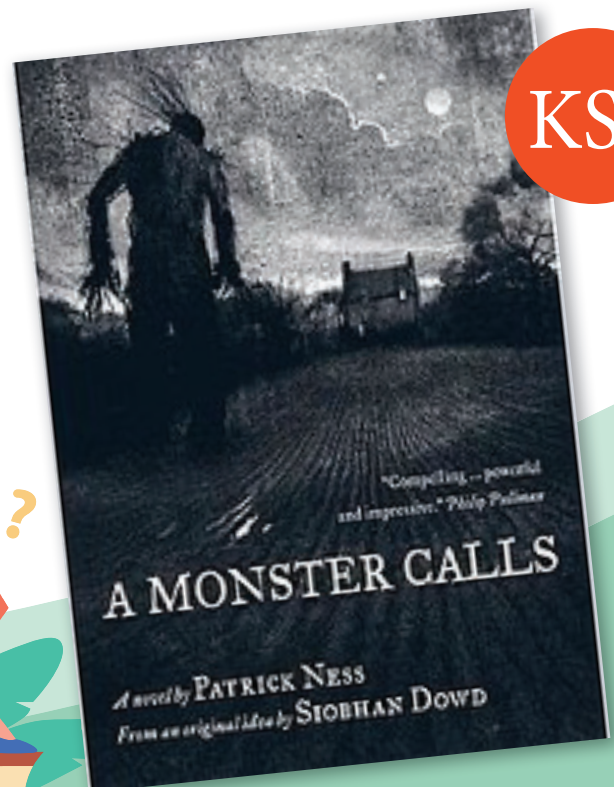
Recommended READS

For Children



KS1

For Adults



KS2



Class Updates



Sambar Class

Wow what another fantastic few weeks we have had. We have been looking at the story of **Goldilocks and the gingerbread man**. Sambar class have loved making things to help them re tell the story. We have used our imagination to bring other things to life too.

In **maths** we have been continuing to explore our numbers from **11-20**.

The children have done a fantastic job in ordering them, **playing bingo** and making their own number games up.

In the outside classroom we have had some lovely new things arrive. The children have **loved pumping the water around the water tanks**, learning to **build with real bricks** and **balancing on beams**. The children loved watching the **owls** flying around and having a **picture with one on their shoulder**.



Fawn Class

Goldilocks and the Three Bears was a great success with all the children.

The story allowed us to discover more about these **amazing creatures**. The kids worked in pairs, sharing their **knowledge of bears**. Here are some examples of what they said:

"Some bears have sharp claws and sharp teeth to kill and peel the meat." (Lucas and Florence)

"Some bears live in the jungle." (Jono and Michelle)

"Paddington Bear is a spectacled bear." (Sebi)

After this brainstorming session, each pair decided on what else they would like to know about bears.

"I want to know if bears can do tricks." (Rosie)

"Do bears live a long time?" (Greg)

"Why do some bears live in water?" (Adetti)

We all did some research and came up with the answers. The Goldilocks story gave the children the opportunity to gain an insight into bears in general.

This week we turned our curiosity to **avocadoes**. Are they a fruit or vegetable? The children wrote down their ideas and guesses. We then read the **book, 'Avocado. What am I?'** Yes, an avocado is actually a fruit. In **Maths**, we are continuing to work on **teen numbers** - ordering and writing them.

In **P.E.** we have been exploring **spatial awareness**.

The Gingerbread Man is our focus right now and the children are enjoying chanting '**Run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch me. I'm the Gingerbread Man.**'

Class Updates



Roe Class

Roe class have been loving our class book '**Grandads Island**' and blew our socks off with their amazing writing, packed full of amazing **adjectives**, interesting **verbs** and even a few **exclamation marks**!

In **Geography** we have loved looking at **atlas** and **globes** to identify **hot and cold places in the world**. We've also learnt a very catchy song to help us learn the **names of the Oceans**.

In **Science** Roe have loved learning all about **animals**. Last week we used our senses to feel out objects, just like nocturnal animals hunting in the dark.

This week we **planted sunflower seeds** and made predictions about what would happen to them in three weeks.



Brocket Class

Brocket class have had a wonderful 2 weeks.

In **English** we have continued with our text, **Grandad's Island**, exploring powerful **adjectives and verbs**. I was incredibly impressed by their story writing last Friday and the **descriptive language they are using**.

In **maths** we have been **grouping objects** and looking at different ways of representing numbers up to **50**.

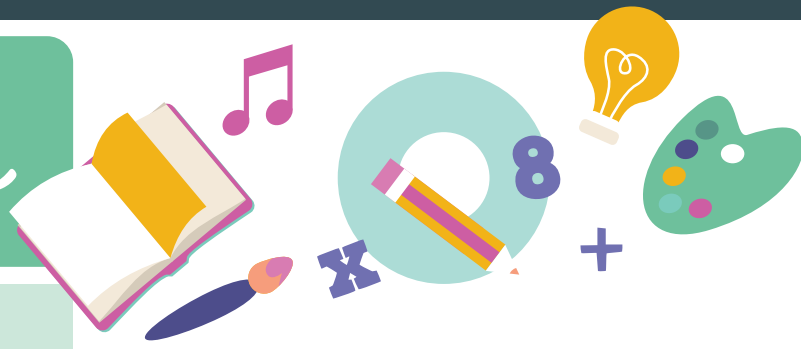
Geography lessons have allowed us to continue learning about **continents, oceans, the equator** and **North and South Poles** and we are now exploring **hot and cold places**.

In **RE** we have been looking at **baptism**, learning about beliefs and practices, and enjoying our practical lessons.

Well done Brocket, for another fabulous two weeks of learning!



Class Updates



Muntjac Class

Muntjac class have continued to be thoughtful, engaged learners over the past two weeks across all subjects in the curriculum!

In **English**, we have used our research skills to create a **fascinating non-fiction fact file** about the **Ruler of The Gods - Jupiter**. Elsewhere, we explored more about the **Romans** and their way of life when we visited the 'Muntjac Museum' and saw a collection of **Roman artefacts**.

In **art**, the children have begun to plan a **mosaic sun** inspired by the Spanish gothic artist **Anthony Gaudi**.

Together we are learning a lot about what it means to **treat everyone equally** through the teachings of **Guru Nanak** in our **Sikhism unit**.



Marsh Class

Marsh Class have had a fantastic two weeks of learning.

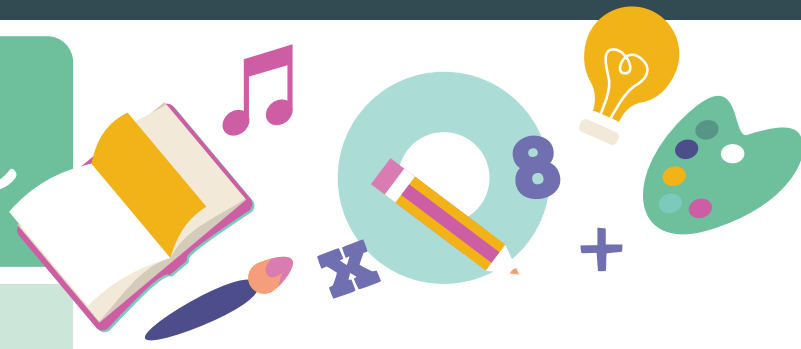
They have continued **writing** their **creative sentences** using expanded **noun phrases and adverbs**. The class story of **The Owl who was Afraid of the dark** is building up into a book for us all to enjoy.

In **Art**, the children have been learning about **Van Gogh** and have been using **oil pastels** to replicate **sunflowers**.

The **highlight** of the week has been our visit from **Night Owls**. The workshop was extremely interesting and loved by all children.



Class Updates



Sika Class

This week in Sika class we have had all sorts of amazing experiences and learning opportunities.

From playing **Allez Les Escargots** in **French** (to help us learn the different colours), to creating our own sets of teeth out of clay in Science!

We also had an opportunity to meet a variety of **different owls** in our special assembly. Zachary even shared what we found out from our owl pellet investigation which the ladies were very interested to know!

We have also had yet another fantastic **workshop** delivered by **OneDay Creative** telling us all about the **Mayans!** We absolutely loved it and can't wait to use everything we have learnt in our lessons for the rest of the term!



Elk Class

Elk class has had a super week.

We have grappled with **perfect and progressive forms of verbs** to create layers of time in our writing.

In **History**, we have explored and interpreted **Indus Valley artefacts** just like historians and archaeologists.

Playtimes have been full of **basketball, table tennis and football**.

The **art room** has been used at lunchtimes; as has the **library** for **Alfie and Eoin's comic club** and **Isabelle's book club**.

When we had our **Owl Assembly**, we were blown away by their **beauty** and their silent and **graceful flight**.

