

30 April 2021



Deer Park School

LEARN ENJOY SUCCEED

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

Happy Friday, and welcome to the tail end of week two. At the end of our first full week of learning in our new premises, I'm delighted to say that the children have taken to the new opportunities and facilities with the enthusiastic and high-octane approach that has come to characterise learning at Deer Park. It has been wonderful to see indoor PE and the full gymnastics curriculum taking place in the hall, painting skills being taught in the bespoke art studio, and the investigative practical science (with plenty of productive mess) lighting up the STEAM room on the second floor. Equally notable is the flexibility and proactivity with which our families have picked up our new routines and logistics; no small feat given the radical change of scenery and I'd like to thank each one of our community for making the move possible with such fluidity and ease.

Parents' evening is around the corner, and we look forward to hosting a virtual evening of important conversations about your child's progress and wellbeing at school. Time slots will be available on Arbor shortly, and conversations will be conducted via Zoom while we continue to observe the Covid—19 regulations of the moment. On the topic of important conversations, you'll find in this newsletter an article on using Thoughtful Words, with suggested conversation topics to have at home. In particular, we look to grow within our children and community an understanding of the power of words, and indeed the choices we make with them that can affect those around us. I would ask each of us to find the short time over this long weekend to have these conversations, and to continue to help our children make oratory choices with their peers that reflect their kindness, inclusion, and respect.

Our recommended reads this week begin with the excellent 'One World Many Colours' for our younger

readers. A vibrant celebration of both geography and artistic inspiration, this book is lyrically written and illustrated with rare precision and skill. For our KS2 readers, this week is an unapologetic classic: 'To Kill a Mockingbird', by the inimitable Harper Lee. The buoyant and stark narration of Scout Finch provides layers of meaning that will appeal to a wide range of readers, and the importance of integrity, equality and human dignity runs deep throughout. It is a book that has graced literature syllabi for generations, and to read it is to understand why. For our adult readers this week, we offer an embrace of childhood joy in the form of 'Wild Thing' by Mike Fairclough. This short and enjoyable tome examines happiness and wellbeing, and how the wide-eyed fearlessness of childhood can be brought into our adult lives. Fairclough, by the way, is a notable educator in his own right – his school's adoption of experiential learning and risk are at the forefront of his field: it's well worth a Google.

Further to our recommended reads, we also have a small quiz this week. In the pages following, you'll find a selection of books and staff pictures which can be matched to reveal who is reading what. I'll offer a short clue, in that my own current reading material is a poetry volume with a canine theme, and leave the rest up to your deliberations.

Have an excellent bank-holiday weekend, don't forget to read, and I look forward to seeing each of you on Tuesday morning.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Lee



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Thoughtful words

We're very proud of our values at Deer Park. This coming week, we're focusing on being Thoughtful with our words and actions. As part of this, the children will be considering how our words can affect those we talk to, and how to internally moderate the choices we make when speaking to our friends and peers.

We're also extremely proud of our diversity, and the appreciation of each other's cultures, backgrounds and beliefs, that makes us a stronger and more cohesive community. With this in mind, it is important to discuss with our children the words we use to make others feel included – and indeed the choices that could make others feel different, excluded, or self-conscious, particularly when they concern another person's appearance.

Over the longer weekend, please do take the time to talk to your child about using Thoughtful Words when communicating with their friends at school. Considering the effect your question, comment or statement may have on others is an important skill to develop as we grow up, and we can progress these ideas by talking about them with our families and trusted adults.

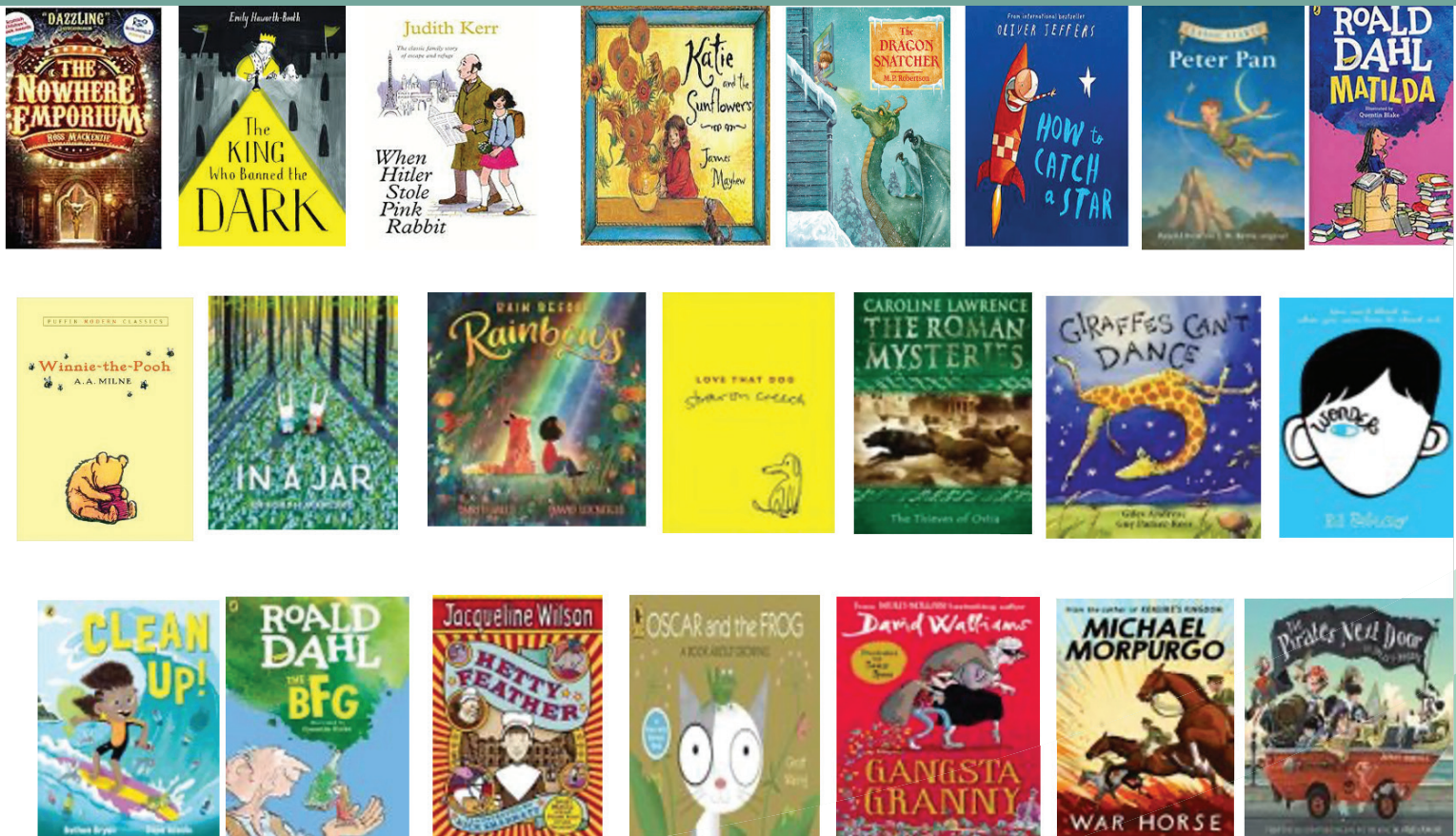
For example, these question prompts can help structure conversations with your child, to explain the difference between celebrating our differences and making others feel unwelcome.

- How can we ask questions about another person's beliefs respectfully? What language could we use?
- How could it be hurtful or thoughtless to make comments about another person's appearance? How could we avoid this?
- Does it matter what a person looks like? What are the qualities of a person that really matter?

These conversations are crucial components in building our understanding, and in learning to appreciate each other for the characteristics and personal qualities that really matter.



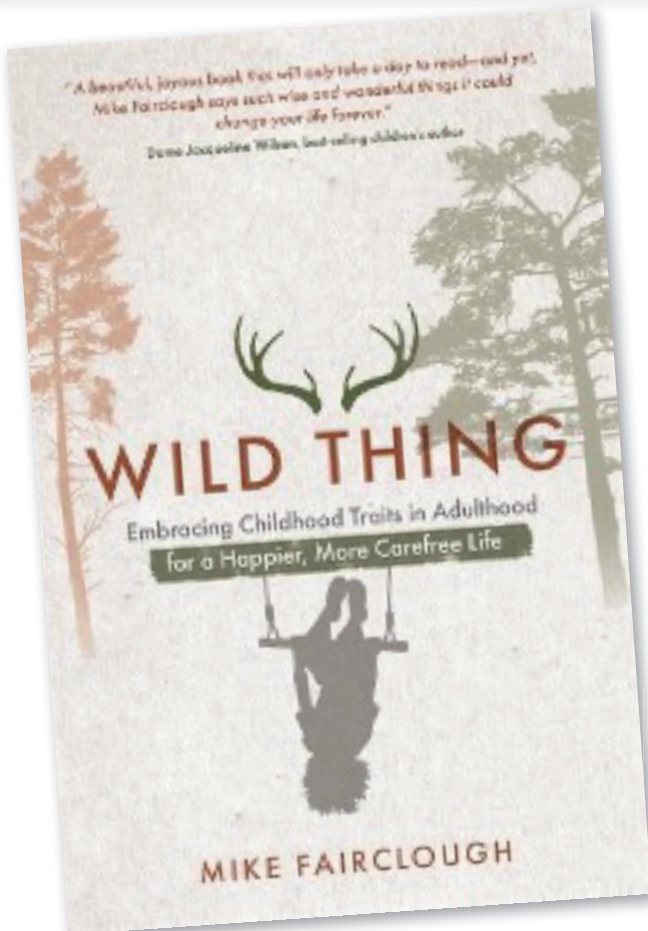
Can you match each staff member with the children's book that they are currently reading?





Recommended READS

For Children



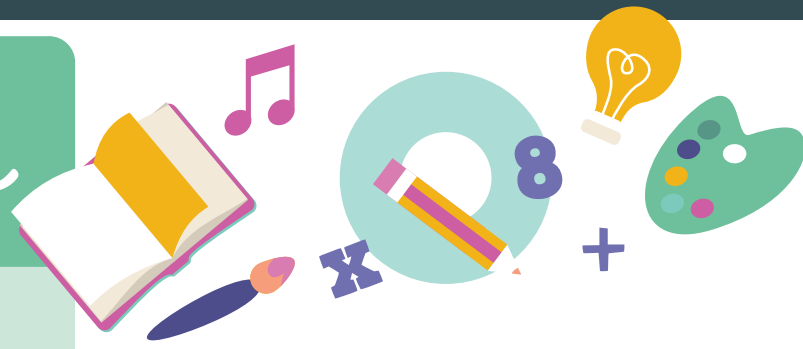
KS1

For Adults



KS2

Class Updates



Sambar Class

What an action packed first full week we have had in Sambar class!

The children have all **settled so well** into our new environment and have continued to wow us with their **wonderful work** and enthusiasm for learning. Our book this week, '**Goldilocks and the Three Bears**' has really sparked the imagination of the children and we have seen masks being made to bring the characters to life and angry sentences being written about why Goldilocks shouldn't have eaten the porridge! In **Maths** we have been investigating **numbers up to 20** and in **PE** we have loved being able to do our lessons in the **new outdoor space**. One of the **highlights** of our week has been visiting our **amazing new Library** and not only discovering all the fantastic books it has to offer but also finding out that there is a **secret door** hidden away amongst the many books!

Fawn Class

Hi from our brand new premises.

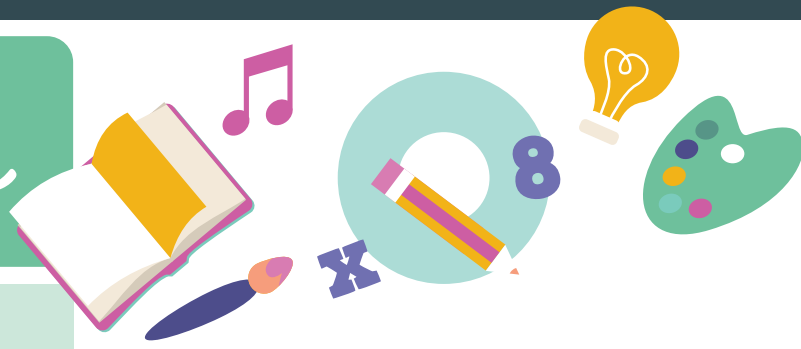
One week in and everyone's **settled in comfortably**. Our surroundings are welcoming and conducive to learning. The children are **excited** about having **their own lockers** and absolutely love our classroom.

This week we started exploring **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**. Was Goldilocks right to enter someone's house without permission? The children enjoyed questioning the young girl, (I was Goldilocks) pointing out what is **not acceptable** and then writing a **letter of apology** to the **Three Bears**, imagining they were in her position. In **math** we are looking at **teen numbers**. We've been matching the numbers 11-19 with pictures of items showing various quantities.

We are looking forward to continuing our story and numbers next week. **Have a lovely weekend!**



Class Updates



Roe Class

What an amazing week and a half we have had! We have been blown away by the amazing new facilities, doors onto the playground are a real highlight!

The class have **settled in so well** and have taken the challenge of a new school in their stride.

Highlights from this week have been:

- Exploring the new library
- Investigating the new playground
- Using the hall for PE (What a treat!)
- Filling in our class weather chart
- Working hard to earn house points

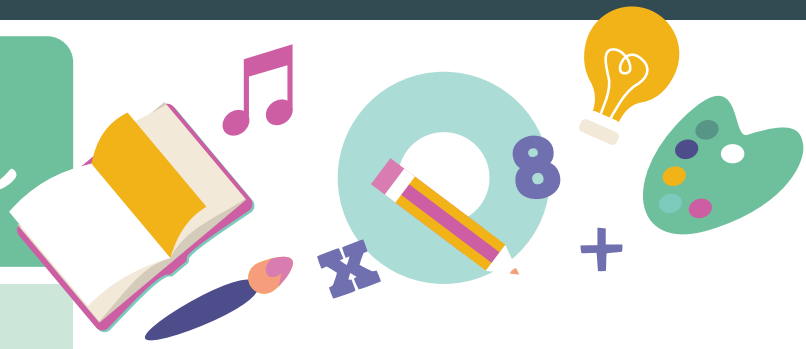
Brocket Class

Well done Brocket for a wonderful start to the new term.

It is lovely to be in our **new classroom** and we are enjoying making use of all the new facilities. **Welcome to Frieda** who has joined our class and settled in really well. It has been a busy beginning, we have started a **new book in English**, been **identifying coins** in our **finance lessons**, learning our **oceans** and **continents** in **geography** and in **maths** exploring **sharing**.



Class Updates



Muntjac Class

Muntjac have had a wonderful start to the Summer 1 Term.

It has been brilliant getting to know all of them and seeing how eager they are to learn each day! In **science**, we have been researching what constitutes **a healthy balanced diet** as a part of our '**Animals Including Humans**' unit.

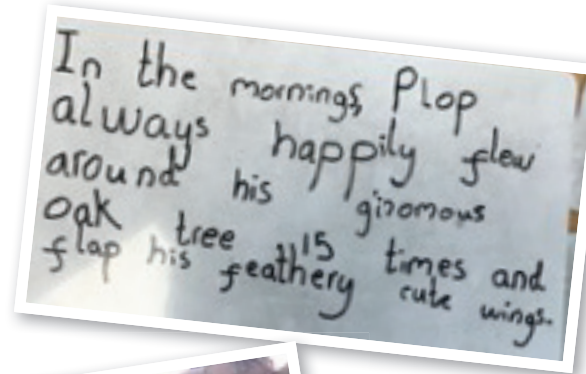
In **English**, we have thrown ourselves into the world of **Roman mythology**; discovering lots of **fascinating** things about the fickle **Gods and Goddesses**.



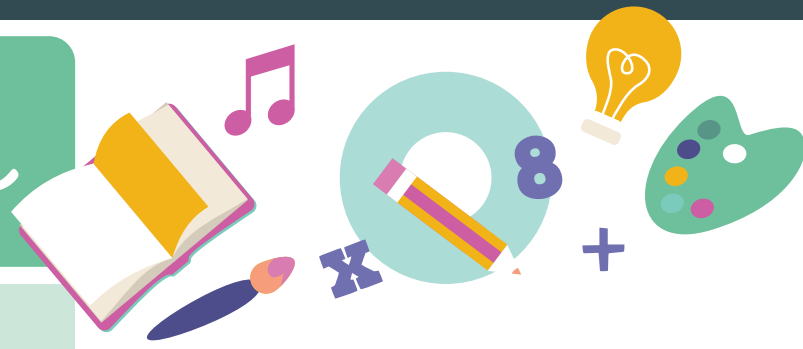
Marsh Class

We have had an exciting first week in **our new classroom**. The children loved seeing the **library** for the first time on Wednesday and can't wait to sit and read a new book.

We have started reading **our new book for this term** about an **afraid Owl** called **Plop**. They have immersed themselves in the story and have been **writing descriptive sentences using adverbs**.



Class Updates



Sika Class

Sika class have shown their enthusiasm and **resilience** this week **settling in to our new building** and **enjoying all the new exciting opportunities** it has to offer.

They are showing the rest of the school their **high standards of behaviour** and are always respectful and thoughtful whilst moving round the building. It was a pleasure this week to sit with them in our amazing new hall and eat lunch together and have some wonderful discussions!

They have also fully embraced the challenge of our rich and busy curriculum. The reveal of the **library** was a **highlight** for us all, along with our first lesson in the **Art studio**- which they had all been looking forward to immensely! We have also enjoyed starting our new **book The Great Chocoplot** and can't bear to think of a real chocopocalypse happening to us! We have also started our look into **Ancient Maya** and finding out all about why it is important to study the Mayans - and using lots of our **Vital Vocabulary** accurately here! **Well done for another amazing start Year 4!**



Elk Class

Elk Class have had a great start in our new fabulous building. They are setting the standards for **respectful and thoughtful behaviour** really well. It was a pleasure this week to sit with them in our wonderful hall and eat lunch.

In addition, they are rising to the challenge of our busy curriculum. The **library was a real highlight** and their eyes light up when they saw the **design, decoration and selection of books.**

The new history topic of the **Indus Valley** both consolidates previous learning about Ancient Egypt, the Ancient Greeks and the Romans and has an element of mystery too.

In **science** they had fun in the **STEAM room** exploring materials with Mrs Bracegirdle.

We are trying to read our **book Cosmic** but we keep laughing so much it is taking quite a long time!

Well done to all the children for learning their poems and performing them with such expression. Videos are to follow soon.

