

25 June 2021



Deer Park School

LEARN ENJOY SUCCEED

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

A very happy Friday to each of you, heralded this week by a resurgence of sunshine: long may it continue. The main news this week is an announcement of both celebration and sadness. The inimitable Mrs Bracegirdle has, this very week, been appointed as the next Headteacher of the Vineyard School, starting after the October half-term. I know our community, staff and families all share in the same opinion here: that this appointment and recognition could not be more well-deserved. In Frances the Vineyard will be getting an outstanding school leader, but perhaps more importantly a Headteacher with empathy, with understanding, and with the rare ability to unite a community in a shared purpose. Now as one of the longest serving members of staff at Deer Park, it would be difficult to overstate the impact and influence Frances has had on our school, both as a teacher and as a leader. Her high expectations of herself and others, her inexhaustible kindness, and her uncanny knack for bringing out the best in children and adults alike, have been a driving force in Deer Park's success thus far, and a constant foundation throughout the change and growth of the last few years. She is, frankly, quite exceptional. While she will leave considerable shoes to fill, we as a community are delighted for her, and for the wonderful opportunity that this appointment brings. Over the next few months, until the end of October, Frances will still be – as she usually is – involved and ingrained in all facets of school life, learning and community. On the next page in this newsletter, you'll find a letter from Mrs Bracegirdle herself, and I encourage all our families to reach out to her directly with your messages of congratulations and support.

Our recommended reads this week begin with the sublimely ridiculous 'Meerkat Mail' for our younger readers: an enjoyable recount of one young Meerkat's travels, and the importance of keeping your family informed. For our KS2 bookworms, we recommend 'Ghost' by Jason Reynolds. An exploration of one young person's journey to move not away from their past, but towards their future. For our adult readers this week, a non-fiction volume in the form of 'Notorious RBG'. For both longstanding fans of Bader-Ginsburg, and those coming more recently to her legacy, it's a cracking account of her tenacious brilliance over a lifetime, and the resonance of her work over the longer arc of history.

Have a wonderful weekend together, enjoy the family time, and - as always - don't forget to read.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Lee

It's with a heavy heart and mixed emotions that I am writing to you all. I will be leaving Deer Park School at the end of October to start a new role as headteacher at The Vineyard Primary School in Richmond. I am extremely excited about the opportunities this role will bring but my excitement does conflict with the sadness I feel about leaving Deer Park.

I feel privileged to have been part of the Deer Park journey since the beginning of its second year when it was a small, one form entry, school with 43 pupils in portacabins. As we know the stay in portacabins was much longer than anticipated but to watch the school grow, become two-form entry and then move to the state of the art building it is in now will be a special part of my career that will stay with me forever. Your children are wonderful and the way they embrace the HEART values is something I will greatly miss.

Many of you will remember how hard it was for me last year when I wasn't appointed as headteacher. Things happen for a reason. I can say with my hands on my heart that I am leaving you in the very capable hands of Alex and the rest of the team. Deer Park is going from strength to strength and nothing is going to stop that. I am looking forward to hearing about the great things the children will achieve in the future and as I am only over the river, I am expecting to be involved in them. This is a school with HEART!

Fortunately, this is not quite goodbye. See you all on Monday for the last few weeks of the year and then in Autumn 1.

Thank you for your never-ending support.

Frances Bracegirdle



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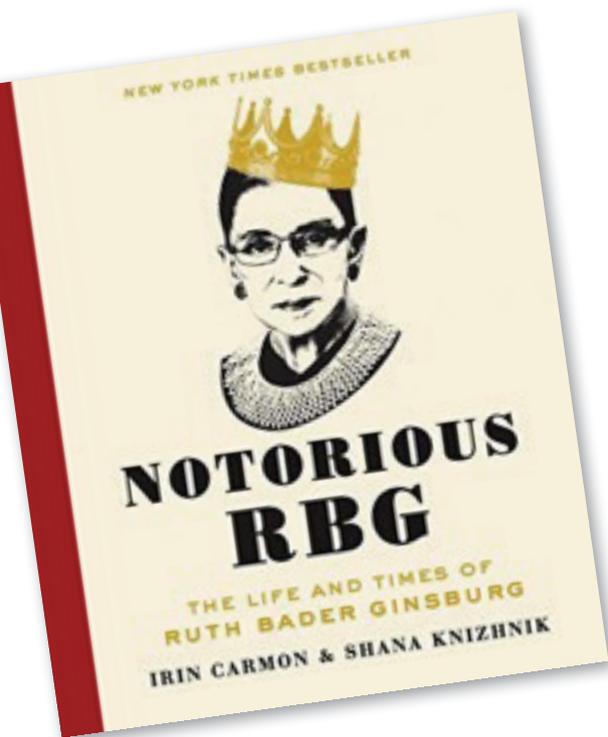
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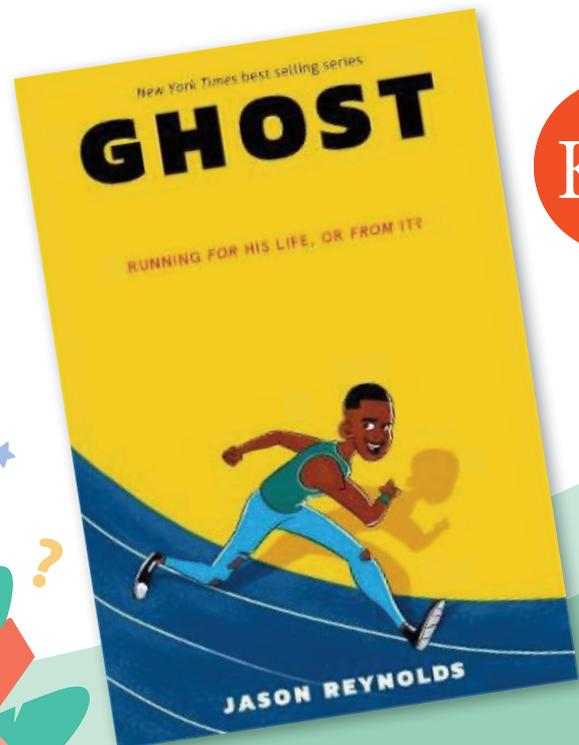


Recommended READS

For Children



KS1



KS2

For Adults



Class Updates



Sambar Class

Wow what another fantastic week we have had. We can't believe we only have 5 weeks left of this year. The children have **planted sunflowers** and started to watch them grow. They became artists by drawing and painting their own sunflowers. We became authors and made up our own stories which we then wrote about. In **Maths**, we have been exploring shapes and how **shapes** can help make different **patterns and pictures**. We have been exploring doubling and what it means. We have looked at our **own gardens** and created our very own magical garden with lots of different things inside it and even different **jungle animals**. We explored what a **wish** was and made our very own about what we would love in our garden.

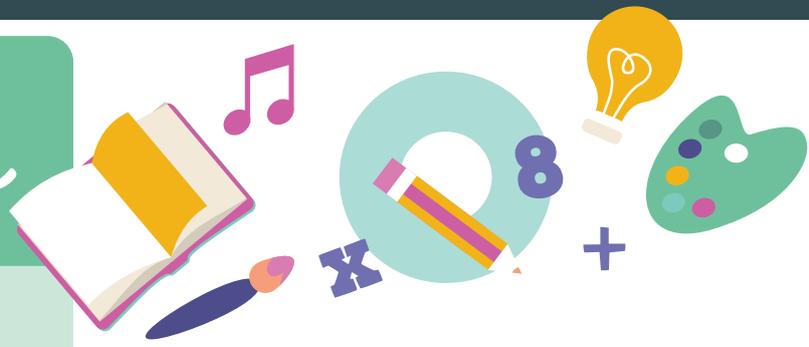
Fawn Class

Dear Fawns,
We have had a great week looking at the book **"There is a Tiger in my Garden"**. We were inspired by different gardens and had a go at designing our own. The children came up with so **many exciting ideas for gardens**, eg. with **fountains**, different **animals**, flowers, three houses and cottages in the middle of the garden. In **Maths** we are looking at **doubling** and have used different strategies to master our skills, like using **dice, dominoes** and painting **butterflies**. In **PE** we had fun practising **bouncing** and jumping over **hurdles**.

We are looking forward to more exciting, **inspirational ideas for gardens!**



Class Updates



Roe Class

Another wonderful few weeks in Roe Class!

We have been learning about **exclamation marks** in English and the class have been amazing! In **History** we have been learning about **Grace O'Malley** and acted out her meeting with **Queen Elizabeth I**. In PSHE we have been learning about the importance of being a **good friend** and discussed what to do if you feel like a friend is being unkind. In **Phonics** and **English** we are concentrating on **spelling high frequency** and **tricky words**. The class really enjoyed writing about their **imaginary adventure islands** and included wonderful adjectives in their writing.



Brocket Class

Brocket class have had a **wonderful two weeks** thinking about **nature and the environment**. In **science** we have been looking at **pollution** and the sources of air pollution near the school. We have thought about the **importance of plants and trees** and have looked at the different parts of flowering plants. In **art** we have been studying the stunning natural works of **Andy Goldsworthy** and looked closely at the **patterns and shapes** he uses. We even created our own.

Maths has been consolidating our knowledge and recapping our **number bonds to 20**. In **English** we have continued looking at different features of our **persuasive leaflets**, and planning to write our own!



Class Updates



Muntjac Class

Muntjac have come back after the break **enthused and ready to learn**. Just like the children we have met in our **new literacy text 'mouse bird snake wolf' by David Almond**, Muntjac have been creative and imaginative in all their lessons. In art, the class have been discovering all about **'abstract' art** and negative drawings through observing **Barbara Hepworth's sculptures**. En Français, the children have been retelling the well - know story of **'la petite chenille affamée'**. The children were able to distinguish between **healthy and unhealthy foods** which the caterpillar ate using their scientific knowledge about the importance of a balanced diet. We investigated how many seeds were in fruit and vegetables using equipment then discussed and wrote about the benefits of seeds on our body. Muntjac have become **super time tellers** since the start of the last term using their homemade clocks to help them. We are now consolidating our **multiplication** fact knowledge by using them to compare statements, solve problems and make fact families.

Marsh Class

The children have been **amazing** with their learning during the past couple of weeks. They have become **independent learners**, ready to show off their knowledge in every lesson.

They are excited for every **geography** lesson, learning more about **Sri Lanka** and the culture of a different country. The children have been using **maps** to identify Sri Lanka's location and have been describing the island in relation to the UK.

This week we have been learning about **mass** and have been **weighing different items** around the class room. They have been fantastic at using the **scales** and identify the exact mass of an object in grams and kilograms.

In **PE** they have been using their **gymnastic skills** to complete **obstacles** around the hall, achieving a wide range of **super hero powers** in the process!



Class Updates

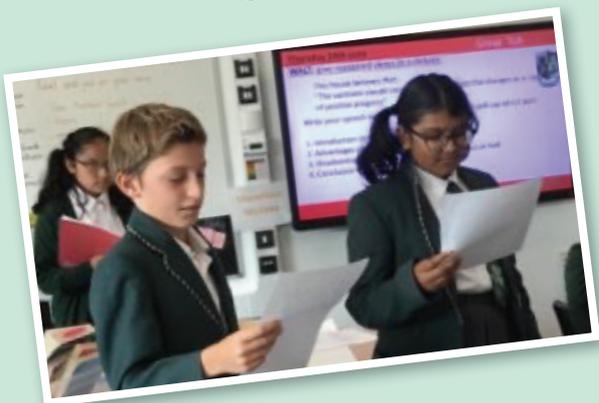


Sika Class

It has been a **wonderful couple of weeks** in Sika class and the children have been giving their all once again! We have been working hard **writing poetry in English**, looking at **Maya Angelou's I Rise**. The children have been generating some extraordinary vocabulary and using it throughout their writing. They also produced some fascinating writing based on a particularly interesting picture!

In **Maths** we have been working on **statistics** and the children have really impressed with their knowledge of different graphs and tables. They have been creating their own charts, displaying all sorts of data, from house points collected to the class' favourite films!

We have really sunk our teeth into our **Geography** focus of **Mexico**. The children have already been able to locate Mexico using an atlas and discuss its location in relation to continents and significant lines of latitude (the equator and tropics of Cancer and Capricorn). They have also defined the difference between human and physical geography and weather and climate (please do ask them about it!). We are beginning to understand much more about the country and look forward to applying this knowledge in English in the coming weeks!



Elk Class

It has been a fabulous few weeks with the highlight being the **Harlequins Rugby Tournament**. Every child played and many enjoyed it much more than they expected.

The other great event was **RIBA workshop** with **Leen** (Maya and Nai's Mum) where she taught them about **technical drawings**. On 8th July they will have the opportunity to build using re-cycled materials.

Tennis has been going really well and many children are developing more precision with their shots. The local coaches from Sheen Tennis are also helping us out.

The **first of 3 RSE lessons** took place this and although it was sometimes considered a bit embarrassing we have covered physical changes in puberty. **California** is fascinating and has such variety of features. The children are really writing like **geographers** using the correct vocabulary and key concepts. Congratulations to the children who took the **English Speaking Board exam in Year 4 and 5**. It was fantastic to receive so many **merits** and above.

