



Deer Park School

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Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

What a fortnight it's been. Since our last newsletter, events, trips, DT days, performances and showcases have erupted into life at a frenetic pace. It's been excellent to see so many of our families supporting the children in their theatrical and musical performances, and thank you to all those who made the time to attend these events across the school. A resounding thank you from all of our community must go to Darcy, Maia and many, many PTA team members who made our Winter Fair such a fabulous day for children and families. Those who attended will recognise the extraordinary amount of work that goes into creating a day of that high-a-quality and experience; not to mention the many thousands of pounds raised for the school.

Those who attended the festive performances of Reception and Year 1 this week will have been thoroughly proud of the children's fabulous enthusiasm and confidence. You will also, no doubt, have at least one of the musical numbers stuck in your head for the coming days. The children and staff in our youngest year groups have been rehearsing, decorating and organising ceaselessly for the past few weeks, and our families have been wonderful in creating beautifully handmade props: a big thank you for your community spirit in making these wonderful opportunities for the children.

For our adult readers this week, a likeable and clever read in the form of

Dave Eggers' 'A Hologram for the King'. With the light and mischievous writing style that makes him so readable, Eggers does an excellent job of portraying globalisation and its many discontents, while somehow keeping the narrative light and fast paced. It's a cracking read, and not to be confused with the film adaptation from 2016 which was merely ok.

For our youngest readers, acclaimed author Zadie Smith turns her hand to children's literature with 'Weirdo'. It's a story of the quiet power of being different and includes fabulous illustrations of a guinea pig in judo attire. The illustrations, also, are by the very talented Magenta Fox: if there's a better name for a children's illustrator, then I haven't yet come across it.

Finally, for our KS2 readers, an ambitiously fantastical novel. 'Amari and the Night Brothers' from BB Alston has all the hallmarks of a cracking supernatural adventure, including sinister and shadowy organisations, thoroughly malevolent magicians, and of course a likeable protagonist.

I hope you enjoy the full class breakdown in the pages below, and then a fabulously festive weekend together.

Yours as ever,
Alex Lee



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This week Deer Park had their first Design and Technology day of the year – specifically Food Technology. The children were involved in an iterative cycle of learning cooking techniques, acquiring safety skills in the kitchen, researching recipes to use, thinking about ingredients, as well as designing and making dishes from scratch. The children also had the opportunity to evaluate not only the taste, smell and texture of the food but also to make aesthetic choices. Food Technology at school aims to help the children observe their own diet, become aware of ethical responsibilities, improve sustainability and understand the importance of local farmers in the quality of our diet.

I hope you enjoy the pictures below!

Year 1 – smoothie making

Mrs Zanini – DT leader

Reception – making focaccia bread



Year 2 – making wraps



Year 3 – making and baking a crumble tart

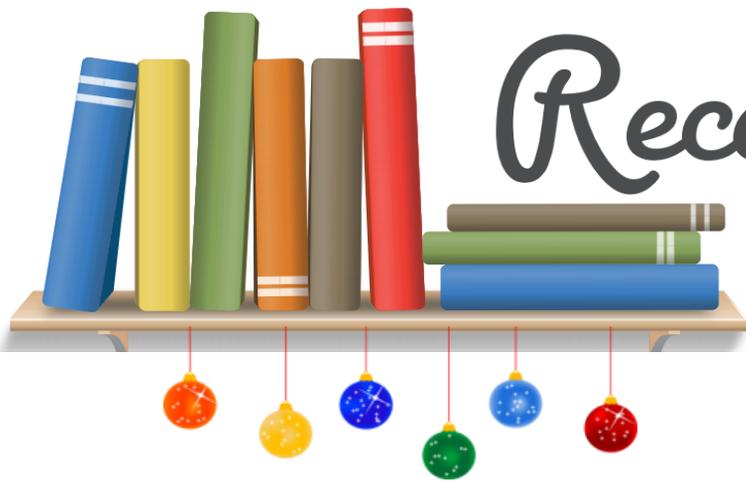
Year 4 - adapting a recipe for traditional biscuits



Year 5 – pasta with Bolognese sauce

Year 6 – a three course meal!

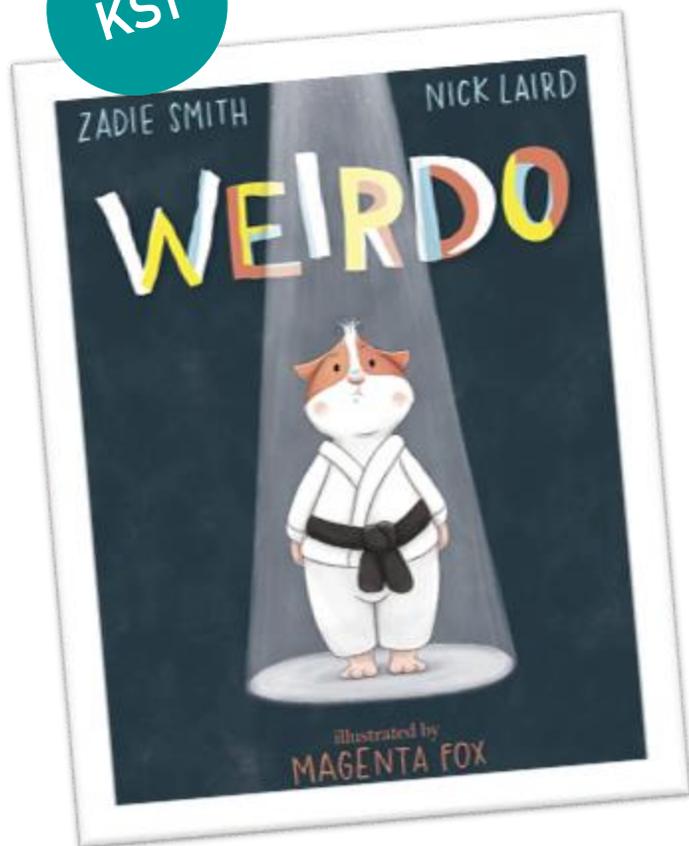




Recommended READS

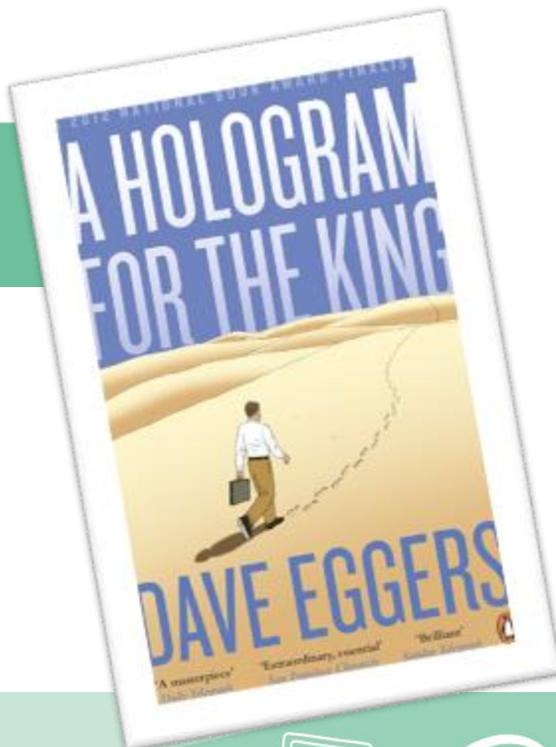
KS1

For Children



KS2

For Adults



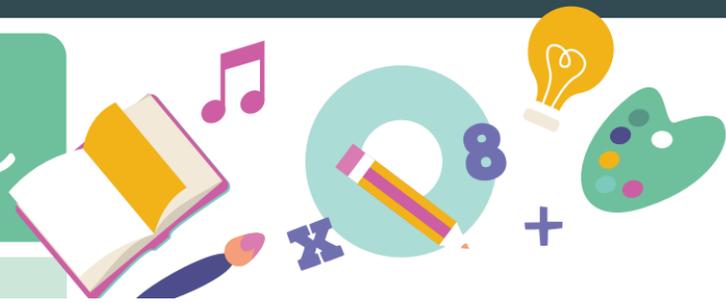
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Class Updates



Sambar Class

What a fantastic first full term we have had in Sambar Class! We are so proud of all of the children and the incredible progress that they have all made. They continue to wow us with their inquisitive minds and their endless love for learning. This week, our days have been filled with festive fun and after many days of rehearsals, the children were finally able to perform their show in front of a full audience of smiling faces!

On Tuesday we enjoyed our second DT Day. This time, the focus was on food and nutrition and the children absolutely loved making their own bread. Hopefully they will show you some of their new-found culinary skills in the kitchen at home!

In Maths, we have been working on subtraction. We have also continued to look at shapes and the children even made their own shape wrapping paper.

We would like to thank all of the parents for their continued support and wish all our families a wonderful winter break, the children are certainly very excited!



Fawn Class

Dear Fawns,

What a Festive week! The children have done such a fantastic job of learning Christmas songs and lines. Their performance in front a large audience for the first time was such an achievement. We are very proud of them!

The children were incredibly excited about going to the pantomime. It was a pleasure to see their faces full of awe and their enjoyment of the moment.

At school, cheeky Jackson the Elf, named by the children in honour of the painter Jackson Pollock, has continued to trick us and increase our curiosity by encouraging us to explore new things such as making a rainbow with skittles. We loved the funny faces that Jackson drew on our oranges. The children said, "Look Mrs Zanini, Jackson drew, you!", talking about an orange that was wearing glasses. That was funny! Jackson brought excitement to the class, getting us to use our phonic awareness to write a Christmas list, to think about a menu and to thank him for the beautiful Christmas decorations in our classroom.

Fawn Class also enjoyed making and designing their own focaccia. What a delicious, soft focaccia bread we made! They tasted different types of bread, cut herbs, kneaded the bread and tailored the focaccia to our taste. So many skills and language involved - it was a really enriching moment! We are now getting ready for our winter holiday and for our well-deserved rest!

Have a lovely weekend!



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Class Updates



Roe Class

Nadolig Llawen/ Merry Christmas! We have had a fun filled and action packed two weeks in Roe Class! Year 1 have been working extremely hard to learn lines, dances and sing with a big voice for the winter play.

In Geography Roe have been learning about the different parts of the UK and in science we had a visit from Reggie the dog and Mr Lee to learn all about looking after animals.

Roe class had a fantastic time in DT day this week, learning about flavour and texture, tasting fruits and veg, and creating our own nutritious smoothies.



Brocket Class

What a wonderful time Brocket class have been having. A trip to the pantomime, busy putting the finishing touches to our Winter Production and smoothie making for DT day. We have also been designing posters on how we can help our world and looking at the countries which make up the United Kingdom. I think the children will be looking forward to a rest at Christmas!

I just want to thank all of you for the amazing support you give to the children and for your kind wishes regarding my new job. I will miss the wonderful children and the fun we have had in Brocket class.

Class Updates



Marsh Class

What an excellent fortnight it's been in Marsh class. We thoroughly enjoyed our DT day, and in particular the final product as we made delicious savoury wraps from a range of fresh ingredients. We've created some beautiful worded pieces of writing on the Fox and the Star, which are now proudly on display and accompanied by careful illustrations. Thursday's pantomime was a real hit with our class too, and we enjoyed a chuckle or two while singing along to the main numbers. We're still working hard on our festive performances, learning lyrics and rehearsing choreography, and look forward to showing these off on Monday! Our final pieces for our art unit were a great success, using our pointillism skills to recreate a Seurat masterpiece. Marsh Class have continued to work with amazing enthusiasm even in these last days – I'm very proud of them!

Fallow Class

Fallow class have thoroughly enjoyed the past two weeks, they have worked well together on a number of occasions showing super teamwork skills; the best I have seen in a Year 2 class yet! In geography, the children made informative posters about the human and physical features of Kenya – they discovered such interesting things about the country and by the end could point out what countries border it and where it is exactly located on a map. In English, the class wrote up their Fox and Owl narratives into a beautifully illustrated booklet made by Year 6, they are now ready for display. The class completed their final 'pointillism' piece of the 'Seine' painting by Georges Seurat. It was absolutely lovely to see them admiring each others' work. Recently, we have all been enjoying the Christmas festivities and cannot wait to perform our song at the end of term.



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Class Updates



Muntjac Class

It's been a wonderful two weeks in Muntjac Class. For DT day we designed and made our own crumble, learning how to cut and prepare fruit safely and make informed choices about flavour and texture. The results were delicious, and then eaten extremely quickly by the class. It's also been a week of performances as we work hard for our end of year concert. We visited the Richmond Theatre's pantomime on Thursday (oh no we didn't) and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves singing and laughing along. Our watercolour pieces for our art unit having also been coming along well this week, as we combine our geographical and artistic learning by creating detailed paintings of volcanic eruptions.

Sika Class

Wow ,what an action-packed couple of weeks. Sika Class have approached their learning and extra-curriculars with their trademark enthusiasm and delight, and we've thoroughly enjoyed our special experiences. DT day was a hit, as we learned how to adapt a traditional recipe to suit both specific tastes and consumer needs. Thank you very much to all the parents who came in to help us out for the day! We had a blast. In the previous week, the pantomime provided a similar level of excitement as we watched Cinderella spurn the attentions of Anton Du Beke. The children have been just wonderful this week, as they have been all term, and their good spirits and enthusiasm have made the final days a real pleasure. We look forward to getting back on the pace in January!



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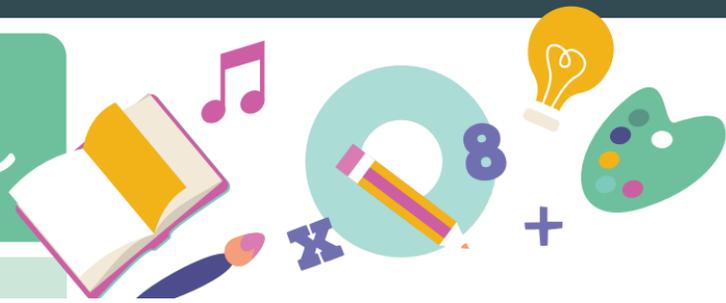


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Class Updates



Elk Class

We have had some really exciting weeks in Elk class!

Author Colin Stuart came to our class and gave a space talk where we learnt about sun burps (yes you read correctly)! Last week we went to St Elizabeth Church of Portugal to learn more about Catholicism and on the Monday, we went to see Cinderella at Richmond theatre.

We have been practising our Christmas song - getting ready to perform to parents on Monday 20th. We are so excited about this!

We had a great DT day on Tuesday where we created our own recipe for a Bolognese sauce. It was delicious, and very rapidly eaten by the class. There was none left when we were finished! Thank you to all the parents who came along to help us out for the day as well.

With under a week to go we will continue to work hard while having lots of fun along the way.



Red Class

Like all other classes, the highlight of Red Class the last few weeks was our DT day, spent cooking a three-course meal (including Bruschetta, Salmon Tart and Meringue). In groups, we planned, prepped and cooked our meals before they were tried and tested by Mr Lee and Ms. Coward. Our handmade menus and recipe cards added to the feel of our 'Year 6 restaurant' and we were all so proud of what we produced. We were all so impressed with the standard of food and presentation and I can only assume the children were proud of their work as there was not a scrap left on the plates at the end of the day!

Year 6 have continued working hard in the run-up to Christmas which has included: preparation for sports tournaments; running school tours for new prospective parents (for which they have had excellent feedback); rehearsing for musical concerts ready for our KS2 performance – we look forward to seeing you there; preparing French presentations using our computing skills; helping with the running of the school fair which was a huge success; as well as all the usual hard work and learning in class that goes on in the background. I hope Year 6 spend the Winter break resting as they have had a very busy end of term and I have no doubt the Spring Term will be just as busy! Have a wonderful holiday.



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