

Deer Park School

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Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

Dear Families,

A very happy Friday to you, and हैप्पी मकर संक्रान्ति to those celebrating the festival of Makar Sankranti today to make the advent of the harvest season. It's been a week of development here at Deer Park, with woodwind lessons beginning at the school, two new teachers joining our ranks, and the first LAB meeting of the calendar year (more on this below). Speaking of development, the Diversity Group has its Spring meeting coming up on Monday 24th January at 7pm. It's an exciting time to be part of the group's ever-growing work on inclusion, gender equality and anti-racism, so please do email diversitygroup@deerparkschool.org.uk to be involved. In other news, the 'Banditos' project began at Deer Park this week: a musical ensemble programme that brings pupils from key stage two together to play in a school band. Deer Park is the pilot school for this project at the primary level, and we're grateful to the Richmond Music Trust for picking us out of all the schools in the borough to develop this exciting initiative.

In recommended reads this week, we begin with an impossibly underrated novella fit for KS2 readers and adults alike: 'Jonathan Livingstone Seagull', by Richard Bach. A homily to the pursuit of perfection, 'JLS' is a contagiously inspirational piece of writing and an illustration of the limits we set ourselves – and indeed our ability to surpass them. Bach himself is an interesting character (a later work of his, for example, recounts a vision in which a ferret offers him spiritual guidance), but JLS itself is a rare and wonderful work; I recommend reading it alongside your children.

For our younger readers, a somewhat less spiritually enlightening work, in the form of 'The Story of the Little Mole who knew it was none of his business', by Werner Holzwarth. It's a story as old as time: mole arises to discover a bowel movement atop his head, mole is livid, mole wages a fierce campaign of investigation to discover the culprit. Classic. For our adult readers who

don't fancy delving into Seagull stories (although I really do suggest you choose the KS2 recommendation this week), we this week put forth Adam Kay's 'This is Going to Hurt'. A former doctor and current comedian, the chances are you've seen (or heard) Kay's work in recent years. He is, for lack of a more articulate description, very funny. He also has a knack for creating bleakly real, visceral imagery of some of the less funny parts of his former career, and it's perhaps this latter talent that makes this book so readable.

Have a superb weekend together, stay warm, and don't forget to read.

Alex Lee

A Message from the Chair of the LAB

The LAB met on Tuesday evening for the usual termly update. We welcomed two new members: Patrick Amin is our new parent member and Victoria Coward has replaced Frances Bracegirdle as staff member. The highlights included a summary of performance data showing that there was significant progress in areas that needed attention following lockdown. Also, feedback from two external reviews focusing on the delivery of English and phonics concluded teaching is of a high standard. We will soon be starting to prepare for an Ofsted inspection which is due this calendar year. We hope to maintain the school's previous Outstanding rating and will be providing more information on what is involved soon. The LAB will be looking for a new member in the next few months. I will be organising a presentation where you can learn more about what the LAB is and what we do. Before that, you can email me on LABchair@deerparkschool.org.uk with any questions or to express an interest in joining us.

James Boyle, Chair of the Local Advisory Board



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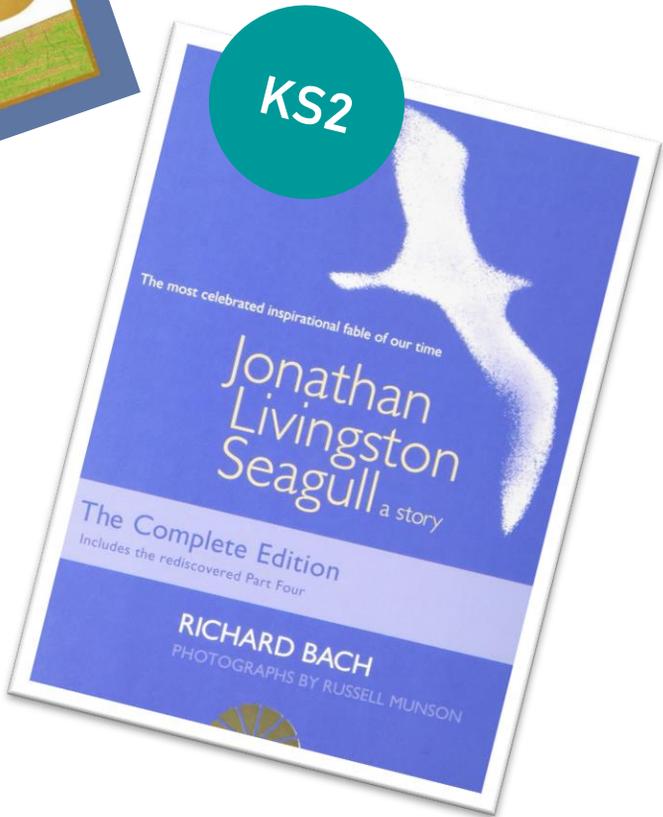
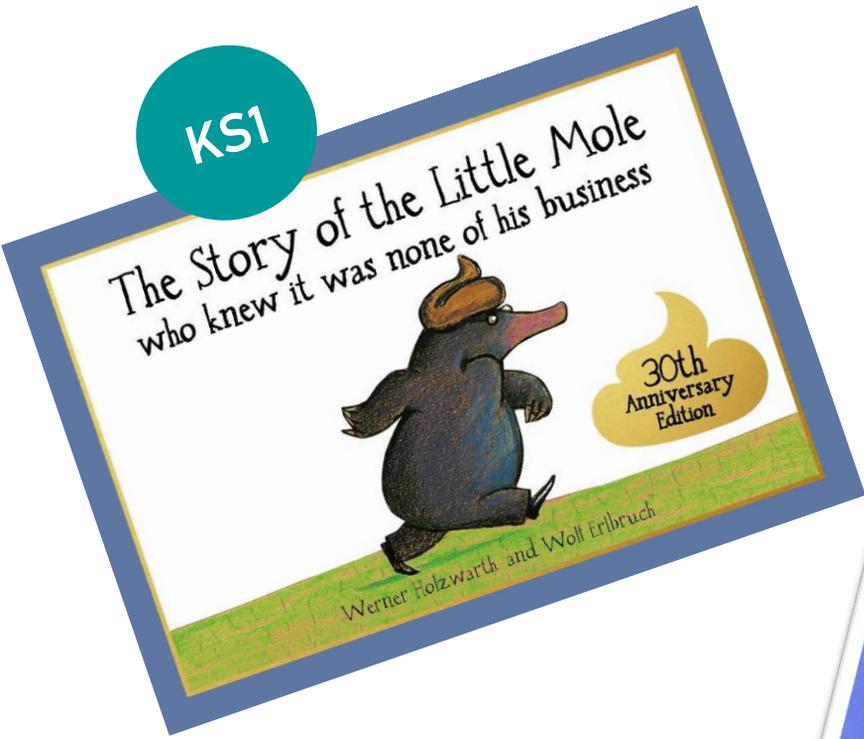
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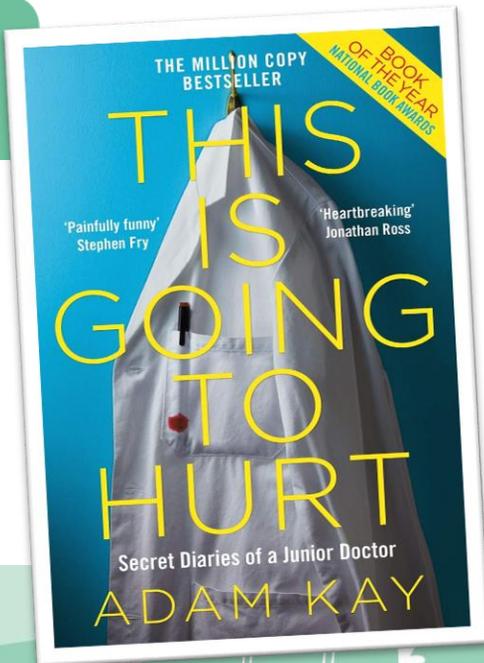


Recommended READS

For Children



For Adults



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Class Updates



Sambar Class

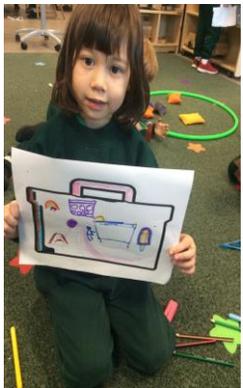
Sambar class have quickly got back into the routine of being back at school. We have been very busy exploring the book "The colour monster" We have created our own adventures and packed our own backpack. We have been creating our own colour monsters and writing about them. We have created our own toolbox which will help us if we are not in the green zone. In maths we have been thinking of ways to make 5 in lots of fun and exciting ways. In PE we have been working on our balancing skills and pretending we were on a tightrope at the circus.

Fawn Class

Welcome to the Spring term! Once again, let me say an enormous 'thank you' for all the lovely presents and cards that we received at the end of term. You were so very generous, thank you very much.

We began this term with the book The Colour Monster and discussed what made us happy and excited during the Christmas break. We looked at colours that make us happy and bright and how they are used in artwork, particularly pop art – Andy Warhol's work. We also created our monster and thought about an adventure to go on. The children thought about what they would put in their backpacks and had a go at drawing and writing down the items. In Maths, we revised 2D shapes and their properties. We also revised one more and one less with numbers up to 5 and started to move on to the composition of number 5. In PE, we are progressing from developing spatial awareness and exploring different movements to rolling and catching a ball.

Have a lovely weekend!



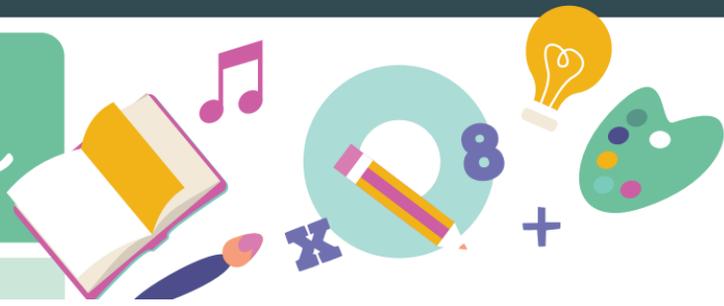
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Class Updates



Roe Class

Welcome back to Spring term! Our new book this term is Last Stop on Market Street. Roe class have been learning how to use adjectives describe and using a variety of verbs to write interesting sentences.

In Science this term our topic is habitats, we have been matching animals to their habitats and thinking about what an animal needs in their environment to survive. In history this term we will be learning about Queen Victoria and inventions made in this era. In Art we will be We will be working in collage and learning about Martin Bulinya and East African art.

Brocket Class

It has been a wonderful week meeting the children in Brocket class. We have been getting to know each other and are settling well into the school routine. We spent some time discussing the expectations within the classroom to ensure everyone has a safe space to learn.

The children have shown me their writing skills by creating interesting sentences using adjectives and verbs. In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting numbers, including trying out some word problems.

It has been a fantastic start and I am delighted to have joined Brocket class!



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Class Updates



Marsh Class

It has been marvellous having all of Marsh class back after a restful Christmas break.

They have been enthusiastic about their new topics and have been keen to share their interests with the class. In science they have been learning about the different food groups and which foods are important for us to eat. In maths they have been learning to multiply in 2s, 5s and 10s. They have been fantastic at identifying and explaining how many equals groups have been made and how many are in each group. In PE Marsh class are continuing their development of hand-eye co-ordination and playing as part of a team. They are also learning a new dance routine with the theme of the environment.

Fallow Class

It was wonderful welcoming Fallow class back at the start of 2022. The children have jumped straight into all of the new units enthusiastically! In history, we have been learning about the Great Fire of London using our historical skills to investigate sources that tell us information about what happened. In English, the children are getting creative as they begin to write their own poem 'The Desk Diddler' based on the Michael Rosen model. They are planning their stanzas to include rhyme, repetition and onomatopoeia. Fallow's very first swimming lesson was a huge success, a big thank you to all who came to support.



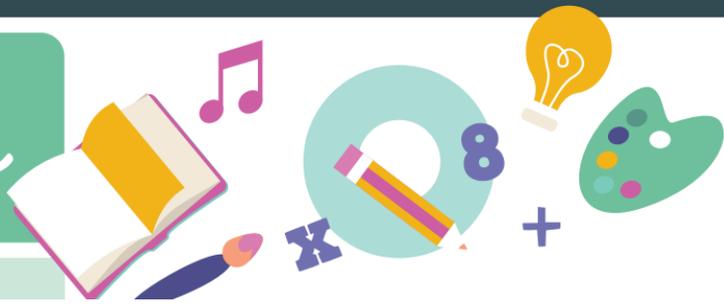
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Class Updates



Muntjac Class

As ever, we have had a busy start to the new term. All of the children returned from their Christmas break refreshed and enthusiastic to learn. In English, we have thoroughly enjoyed reading 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs!' where we have learnt all about using onomatopoeia in our complex sentences, as well as arguing for and against the wolf's choices throughout the story. We have started to study the work of Sir Peter Blake in our art lessons and experimenting with collage, specifically looking at how pop culture can influence our art work. This week we explored the use of visual language and the impact that it has when interpreting a piece of art. In history, we have continued to expand on our knowledge about the Stone Age. We have been identifying key events and placing them in chronological order on a timeline. We attended Marble Hill Park to start our Hockey unit in PE last week, and we cannot wait to go back each week for more sport (and mud!) in the sunshine!

Sika Class

Sika class have jumped into their new subject topics with enthusiasm and thoughtfulness.

Our book is *How to Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell, which is a fun coming-of-age tale about an underdog Viking and his back-talking dragon.

We are starting maths with multiplication and division this term. We are also continuing to practice our times tables for our check later this year.

This term, we will be studying collage in art, healthy lifestyles in PSHE, Vikings for history, and space in science. Our first swimming lesson was a great success, and we are looking forward to more.



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Class Updates



Elk Class

Year 5 has had a fantastic week-and-a-bit to open the new term. We welcomed our new class teacher – Ms Haddock – to class today, and heard about her arrival (just yesterday) from summertime New Zealand.

In class, we've been studying the Highwayman poem and forming our opinions about character motives and perceptions. In maths, we've been delving deeper into our two digit multiplication and the strategies to understand formal methods. We look forward to putting it into practice next week! PE has been exceptionally fun thus far, with two strong sessions of hockey under our belts. We've been working hard on our stick handling, and on controlling the ball under pressure. We're looking forward to being able to play some games as our passing and understanding of the game continues to improve!

Red Class

Year 6 have a lot planned for this short term and so we have hit the ground running starting with our new class book - 'The London Eye Mystery'. Becoming police and witnesses, we have used our acting skills to help develop ideas which will be used when we come to write our police report next week.

This week has been particularly busy as we have been completing our Stage 2 Cycling Safety courses. This has involved practice in the Muga before venturing out onto the roads and learning how to navigate the busy London roads safely.

We have begun our History topic of 'Benin' this term by mapping the kingdom of Benin on a timeline alongside the other historic eras we have learnt about previously. We are looking forward to our trip to the British Museum in a few weeks time to further support our learning about this Ancient African Kingdom.



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