



Deer Park School

LEARN ENJOY SUCCEED

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

Dear Families,

A ringing thank you to all those family members who ventured into classrooms this week to support us with Design and Technology days. I hope you all thoroughly enjoyed creating piston mechanisms, revolving water wheels, and self-powered vehicles (to name a few): the children certainly had a wonderful time working alongside you. Our thanks as well, of course, to Mrs Zanini, under whose able leadership and vision these DT days at Deer Park have progressed from strength to strength. You can read all about the individual year group projects in this week's newsletter. In sporting news, the Deer Park hockey team travelled to the London finals on Monday, having convincingly won their regional qualifier. Of the ten schools that reached the finals from across London, our team finished third: a fantastic achievement, and a real testament to their hard work in training over the previous terms. As the only state school to reach the finals, we were particularly proud of our children for competing – and very successfully – against a wide variety of established hockey programmes. We look forward to compounding on their success as we continue to grow our sporting provision here at DPS.

A word on our uniform and dress-up (or dress-down) days. You will know, no doubt, that our uniform policy and clothing-list is not gender specific. Any child can wear whichever part of the uniform they feel comfortable in. Our only stipulations are that they are smart, tidy, and meet the uniform requirements for the summer/winter dress code. Schools should, where we can, reflect the personal freedoms extended to us all in modern life: accordingly, the construct of mandating specific clothing for girls, and a totally different set of clothing for boys, is not one we practice here at Deer Park. Clothes, we feel, are clothes – they don't come with gender assignments. To this extent, your child can wear whatever component(s) of the

appropriate uniform that they feel is best for them. This also extends to home clothes days, dress up days, costume days, and any other opportunity to wear clothing outside of the school uniform. Our children can wear, as on any other day, clothing that they like and feel comfortable in.

For our adult bookworms, this week's recommendation is 'The Master and Margarita', by Mikhail Bulgakov. This book is, frankly, bananas. It is all at once a critique of totalitarian regimes, a sparkling meditation on love and the face of evil, and a portrayal of sublimely ridiculous characters. It is thoroughly fun to read, and an entirely unique piece of writing.

For our youngest readers, the excellent 'Can Bears Ski?' by Raymond Antrobus. Those looking to explore ursine talents for downhill slalom will be disappointed, but the book thankfully carries a much more important theme: the discovery and management of deafness. Antrobus is a highly accomplished poet in his spare time, and his first children's book is a solid opening work in the genre.

Finally, for our readers in KS2, Tom Palmer's new novel 'Arctic Star'. Historical fiction of the best, most gritty sort, Palmer's work is set amid the arctic convoys of WW2, and the treacherous navigation of both human and natural perils.

Have a wonderful weekend together. Tomorrow promises to be clear skies and fair winds, so I wish you all adventure and joy, amid time taken to read.

Yours as ever,

Alex Lee



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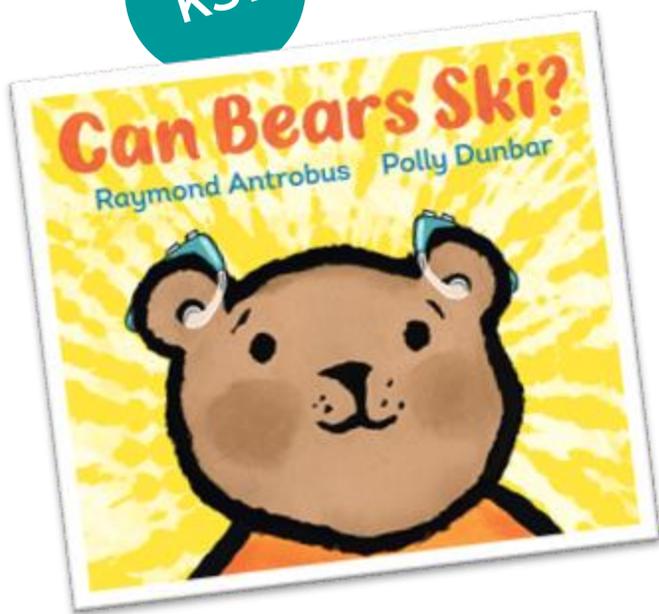
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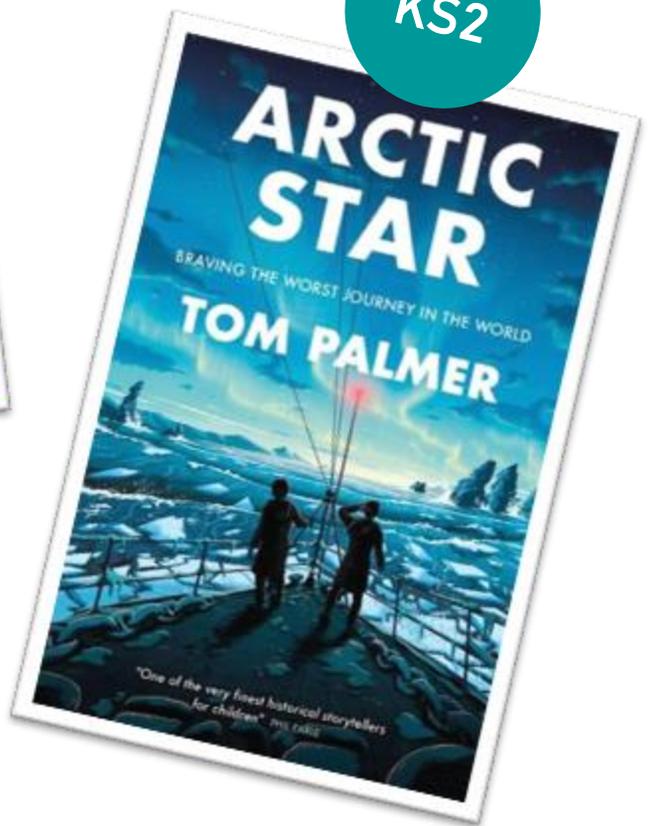
Recommended READS

For Children

KS1



KS2



For Adults



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Class Updates



Sambar Class

We have had another very busy two weeks in Sambar class. We have finished our book Goldilocks and the three bears and even made some incredible chairs for our DT day. We have now moved onto our new book "The three little pigs". We transformed ourselves into wolves and wrote a sorry letter to the pigs for blowing down their house and not being very kind. We have been exploring 3D shapes and repeating patterns. We have been consolidating how to add within 10 and our number formation. In PE we have been learning new ball skills and using balls and rackets to move around in different ways. We enjoyed yet another exciting welly walk, and the children noticed it looked different to the last time we went. We became scientists and made predictions about floating, sinking and waterproof materials. We hope you have a lovely relaxing weekend.



Fawn Class

Fawn Class have been busy bees these past two weeks. Inspired by the book , 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', we had our Design and Technology day. We designed, made and evaluated our own chairs. The children generated, developed, modelled and communicated their ideas in a variety of ways, including spoken language, drawings and prototypes. Thank you to Seema (Ryan's mum), Kipp (Robert's dad) and Alex (Krystyna's dad), who kindly supported all our children in their projects. We looked at one more of Vincent Van Gogh's works of art - 'Sunflowers' - and had a go at painting our own version.

As we are exploring the world of fairy tales, our book choice for this week was 'The Three Little Pigs'. The class loved chanting: 'I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down' and 'Not by the hair of my chinny-chin-chin'. We also had the opportunity to write a note to the three little pigs on behalf of the Wolf apologising for blowing two of the houses down.

Our science experiment on floating and sinking was a success. We discussed and predicted which object would float or sink.

In Maths we are consolidating our learning of the numbers up to 10. We looked at the skills of subitising and number bonds. We also looked at 3D shapes -cylinders, cuboids, cubes, spheres and cones.

Have a lovely weekend! A suggestion for this week is to read different fairy tales.



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Class Updates



Roe Class

Another wonderful fortnight in Roe Class!

DT has been a wonderful chance for the class to show off their wonderful creative and problem-solving skills. We learnt about how wheels move and built our own cars.

In Geography this week we looked the human features on a map and compared a map of The Isle of Coll and Westminster.

In Science we have been learning about evergreen and deciduous trees, spotting the difference in their leaves and their growth throughout the year.

Our sunflower seeds are continuing to grow at rapid speed! Jayden had the tallest so far at 14cm!

In English we have been learning to sequence the story of *The Way back Home* by Oliver Jeffers. We have built a class story map and added actions.



Brocket Class

We have had a busy two weeks in Brocket class.

In Maths we have been learning about measurement; length, weight and capacity. The children measured themselves using rules and explored if taller people have bigger feet.

We have continued to observe our sunflower seeds, which have all sprouted! The children are observing the changes in a seed diary.

In PE, we have been enjoying learning about gymnastics and football. The children love exploring different body movements in Gymnastics. In football, the children have practised their dribbling, passing and shooting skills.

DT day has been fantastic! The children created their own vehicles using wheels and axels.



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Class Updates



Marsh Class

Throughout the last two weeks Marsh class have continued to work hard and impress all adults in the class. They have warmly welcomed Mr Vergis into the class who will be with us until June completing his final placement.

In Science they have identified the key parts of a duck's life cycle and explained how they adapted to their environment.

DT day was great fun this week. Thank you to all the adults that came and supported the children with building their London eye.



Fallow Class



Within the last two weeks, we have welcomed Ms. Edwards (a student from St. Mary's University) who is in her final placement. The children have responded so well to her and have thoroughly enjoyed her teaching them lots of exciting new things. In English, the children's imagination knows no bounds which is very much reflected in their writing of their story adapted from 'The Dragon Snatcher' book. In geography, Fallow class have been learning about Sri Lanka and what it grows and exports. They have found out a lot about why the country makes what it does and where it sells it to! The DT day yesterday was very successful. The class really persevered as a team to build something really challenging for the first time together. The end result was super. A huge thank you to the family volunteers for coming and getting stuck in with the project and supporting the children.



Class Updates



Muntjac Class

Muntjac have had a busy couple of weeks learning new things and getting very creative with designing and making Pneumatic Toys. DT day this week has been a highlight for all of the children. Together we explored pneumatics and considered how we could use pneumatic systems within a toy. The children then carefully sketched and discussed how their toy would look and how to make it work efficiently. In the afternoon, we worked hard to make our creations using syringes, balloons, tubing, boxes, paint and the rest. A huge thank you to the parent helpers who spent the afternoon with us, we really appreciate it. The end products were fantastic!

Last week, we were lucky enough to spend some time with 3 ducklings (thank you to Year 2 for letting us borrow them). We all got the opportunity to hold them and even saw them having a swim. We discussed how their skeletons are adapted to support them both in and out of the water.

In English, we have been working in writing a narrative ending to *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. I am looking forward to reading the finished pieces next week.



Sika Class

Sika students had so much fun celebrating book day, and had the opportunity to use real pulleys to lift a heavy object before making our own for our castles' drawbridges in DT.

We've begun learning about decimals in tenths and hundredths, we've had a taster of creating Samba music, and now know how to order food and beverages in a French café. Tres bien!



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Class Updates



Elk Class

Over the past few weeks, Elk Class has been absolutely gripped reading the book *Hacker* by Malorie Blackman. We are yet to read the final chapter of the book, as we are currently writing our own ending. In our writing we are mastering the art of a suspense narrative and using precise language to create tension for the reader.

The biggest event we have had this fortnight was DT Day! On Thursday 17th, we set to researching, designing and making our very own waistcoats. It was a fantastic day that tested Elk's fine motor skills. Thank you to the many parents and carers who came in to help us stitch, sew and cut our designs into wearable waistcoats.



Red Class

Yet another busy couple of weeks for Red Class which have included: a trip to Holly Lodge (in Richmond Park) to take part in the Junior Citizenship Scheme; celebrating world book day by dressing up and sharing our favourite books; taking part in a comic workshop, understanding the process behind what we read; learning about how we can reduce our carbon-footprint in our Geography lessons; and investigating how sound travels and how the ear works in our current Science topic.



Perhaps the most exciting and timely event that has happened in the last few weeks was the discovery of The Endurance – Shackleton's ship, which for many years has been lost to the Antarctic. As we are currently reading about Shackleton's journey across Antarctica, we were very excited in Year 6 by this news.



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