

Deer Park School

LEARN ENJOY SUCCEED

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

Dear Families,

Happy end of term! It's been a strong finish for Deer Park, with a packed week of learning, sporting events, authorial visits and extra-curricular opportunities. Children across the school learned dragon-drawing from a professional, wielded rounders bats with dexterity and aplomb, played in the finale of the Richmond football league, snuggled into sleeping bags for the PTA movie night, and put the finishing touches on their curricular learning for the term. They thoroughly deserve two weeks of fresh air, play, and – obviously – reading. Thank you to all those families who ventured to Marble Hill Park today to provide an animated crowd for the KS2 rounders tournament: we thoroughly enjoy these end of term sporting events, and hope that you had fun today as well. It was particular delightful this week to watch our children enthralled by author M.P Robertson, as he animatedly explained his creative process and treated them to readings from his excellent range of dragon-related literature.

In sporting news, the Chess Team headed up to sunny Kilburn on Wednesday to play in a nine-school tournament. Amid much discussion of opening gambits and whole-board-strategies, our team played a number of individual games and finished a very respectable fifth overall. The Year 5 and 6 football teams also went forth this week, and finished off the league's fixtures with a hard-fought brace of games over at Holy Trinity CE. We now wait for the highly complicated calculations of goal difference and home/away advantage to tell us our final position in the boys' and girls' leagues; watch this space!

In recommended reads this week, we begin with our youngest readers. 'The Boy with Flowers in His Hair', by Jarvis, is a gently lovely story of kindness and friendship, with a soft-touch approach to the challenges of hardship and the compassion with which we can support each other. For our KS2 readers, this week's recommendation is one that's upwardly spiralling in popularity with our upper key stage; 'The Last Wild' by Piers Torday. This book has a lot to love. There's talking animals, touching relationships, environmental responsibility and personal challenge. And while chatty pigeons and sanctimonious mice are intriguing inclusions, what's really compelling about this book is how well written it is. Like, *really* well written, but in a way that's not overly complicated or highbrow: a tough balance to get, and one Torday has nailed. Lastly, but by no means leastly, onto our grown up readers. 'Is it an uplifting and light-hearted piece to end the term?' I hear you ask. Well, no. It's not. But it *is* an interesting piece of work. C.S.Lewis wrote many interesting pieces of work, in fact, but 'The Abolition of Man' is one of his non-Narnia-related books. Written in 1943, it is very much a product of Lewis' time of writing, and discusses the formation and preservation of natural values within each of us. If you can overlook the highly preachy tone, it's a thought provoking and relatively short read.

Have a wonderful two weeks together, stay warm, and keep reading.

Yours as ever,
Alex Lee



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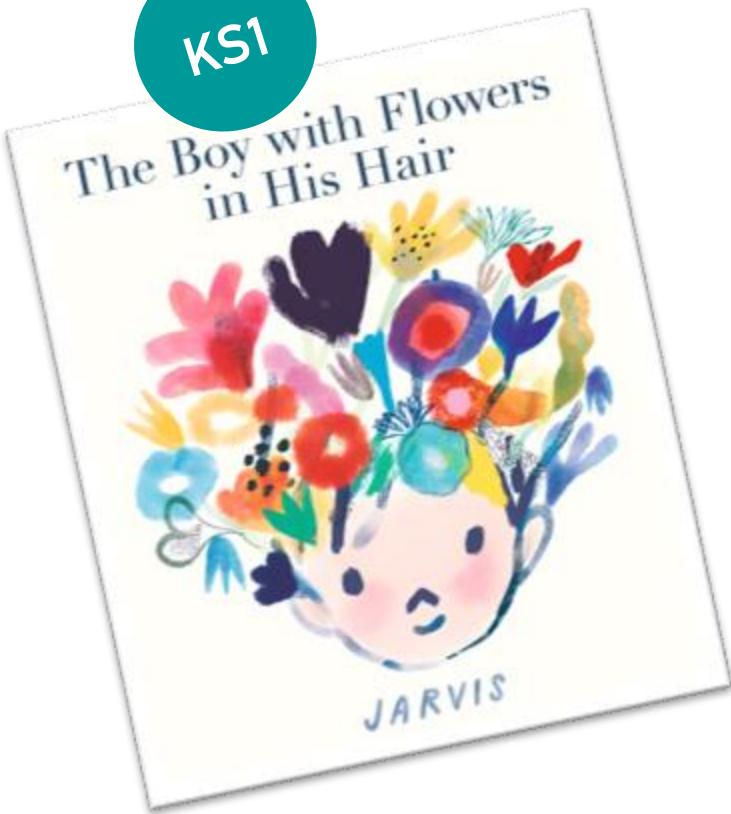
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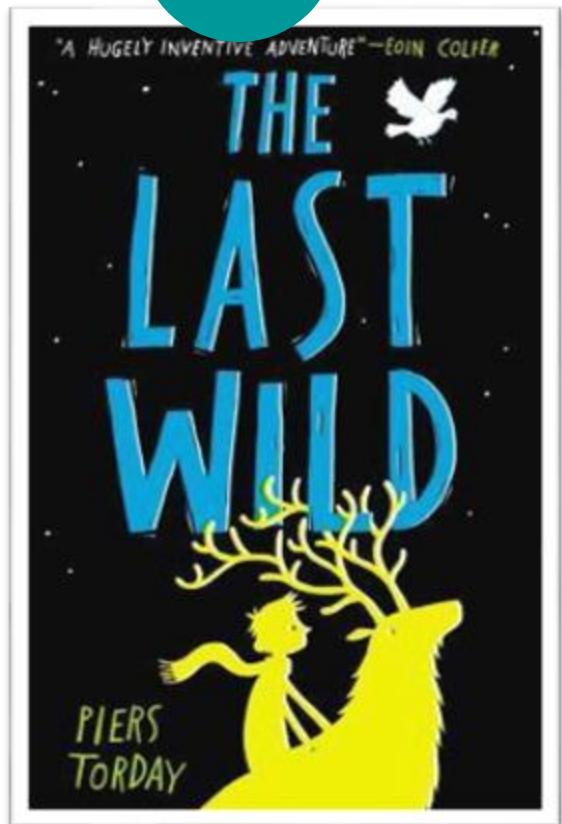
Recommended READS

For Children

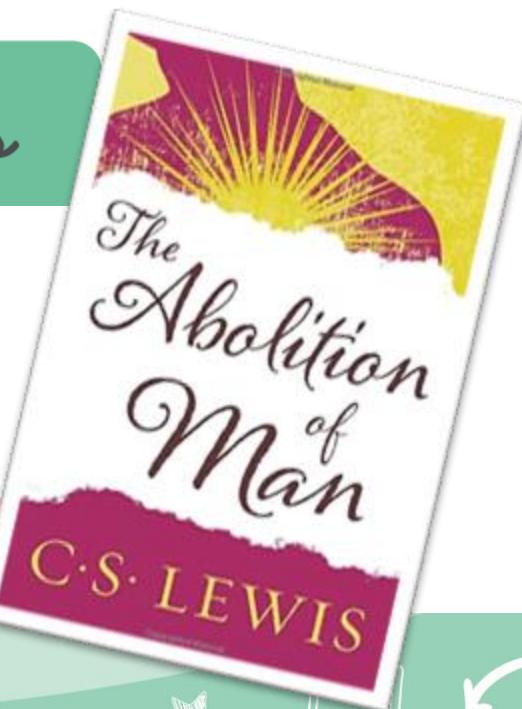
KS1



KS2



For Adults



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Ms Ballantine

We're both proud and sad to announce that our wonderful Ms Ballantine has been successful in securing an exciting new role in the civil service, taking her talents to influence policy and government at a national level. We are delighted for her and her family, but of course sad that this necessitates her leaving our team here at Deer Park. This will of course be an emotional goodbye for your children, and indeed for the school, as Ms Ballantine has taught many classes over her years at Deer Park, and has been a profound influence on the lives of many of our children. Roe class this year have built a fabulous relationship with her, and have learned and grown greatly under her care. This is to say nothing, of course, of the commitment, work ethic and innovation she has brought to our school as our art lead this year. As one of the longest serving members of our staff team, Sophie's influence on the school's growth and development has been remarkable, and the children's messages to her in assembly today reflected the real impact she has had on their growth as young people. We wish her every success, and will miss her greatly.

Ms Copeland

From the beginning of the Summer term, Roe's class teacher will be Ms Kayleigh Copeland, who joins our team at Deer Park with a considerable degree of experience in Key Stage One, as well as subject leadership across the school. Ms Copeland is local to Deer Park, and brings with her experience of the high-expectations and outcomes that are such an intrinsic part of life at our school. The recruitment process for Roe's class teacher was extensive, and - we are pleased to say - with a very high volume of applications. We are thus delighted to have offered Ms Copeland the role after this process, and looking forward to her bringing her experience and expertise into Year One at Deer Park. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming her at the start of the new term.

Artist in Residence

Our Artist in Residence for 2021-2022, the wonderful Ms Cai Jia Eng, is now coming to the end of her residency at Deer Park. She has been a fantastic inaugural AiR, and has brought art to life within our school setting. It's a happy time for her as well, as she expects the latest addition to her family later on this year. For the 2022-2023 AiR position, we welcome Mrs Sophia Broke to the school. You can find a selection of her body of work [here](#), and we look forward to welcoming her into the art studio and into the school. The following is a short bio for Sophia, by way of introduction. *Sophia is a professional artist. She worked for many years as a Primary school teacher before pursuing a career in Fine Art. She trained at Heatherley's School of Fine Art where she focused on life drawing, portraiture, print making and oil painting. She produces both figurative and abstract work which explore colour, form, texture and space. She appeared on Sky Arts Landscape Artist of the Year 2020 and enjoys painting en plein air as well as in the studio.*



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Class Updates



Sambar Class

What a wonderful term we have had in Sambar Class! As always, the children have demonstrated great enthusiasm and resilience in their learning and have continued to fully embrace all of our school HEART values. Our 'Welly Walks' have certainly been a highlight of this term and the nature crowns that the children made at our most recent visit to Marble Hill Park were delightful!

Over the past two weeks, we have been learning about non-fiction books. We started with a fact book about dinosaurs, which unsurprisingly proved to be a huge hit! We even had a dinosaur egg in our classroom that eventually hatched and inside was a small dinosaur that the children have named 'Petal'! Our dinosaur topic has also inspired the children to produce some excellent writing and we are so proud of all of their hard work.

In Maths, we have been working on our Number Bonds to 10. We have been using tens frames and counters to solve different number problems and the children have enjoyed writing number sentences to demonstrate their understanding.

We have continued to explore the 'Zones of Regulation' to allow us to think about our feelings. This week we have focussed on the Green Zone and have discussed different ways to help us to feel calm. The children really enjoy exploring their emotions and sharing their thoughts and feelings with their friends.

We wish all of our families a restful and enjoyable break and look forward to seeing the children after the holidays and hearing all about their adventures!



Fawn Class

Dear Fawns,

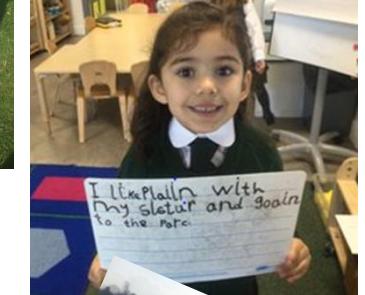
As we approach the end of the second term, it is time to reflect on how much our little ones have progressed and grown not only in all areas of learning but in confidence too. We have loved listening to their ideas and sharing their imaginative stories and creations.

We have had a fruitful and rewarding term in which we explored number bonds to 5 and 10. We looked at 3D shapes and their properties. In Literacy, we wrote sentences with the conjunctions 'and' and 'because' and remembered to use capital letters and full stops.

In Art, we inspired our children to become painters by looking at the works of Marcella Wylie and Vincent Van Gogh.

We really appreciate all the support given by parents.

Have a fun filled holiday!



Class Updates



Roe Class

What a spring term it has been! Packed full of learning, laughter and fun! We have learned so much together already in these two terms, and your children have been wonderful throughout. Thank you all for your lovely words over the past week especially, and thank-you all for your kindness and support over the last year. It has been a real privilege to teach your children and be a part of their learning journey. I look forward to hearing about the amazing things they do in the future!



Brocket Class

What a wonderful spring term we have had!

Six weeks ago, in Science, we planted sunflower seed and watched them grow. The children have observed and recorded the growth of their sunflowers every week, making predictions on what would happen next.

This week in English, we have been exploring poetry! The children have used their 5 senses to create their own poems.

In Maths, we have been reviewing all that has been taught so far in Year 1; number, place value, addition and subtraction.

Hope you all have a very restful break and come back ready for more exciting learning.



Class Updates



Marsh Class

What an amazing Spring term Year 2 have had. They have continued to work hard and grow into mature learners.

In Science they have been learning about living things- using the MRS GREN acronym to help identify if something is living, dead or never been alive.

In maths they have continued their learning with fractions of a shape and amount. Using cubes to identify quarters, halves and thirds.

This week Year 2 have had the pleasure of M.P Robertson, the author to 'The Dragon Snatcher', visiting the school. He spoke to the children about how he creates a story and completed workshops on drawing a dragon.

We hope you have a wonderful Easter break.



Fallow Class

In Fallow class, we have had a wonderful two weeks! Together, we have created a 'Fallow's Friendship Framework', where the children have all promised to treat each other kindly and include each other in the playground.

We have been continuing our work of 'The Dragon Snatcher', and the children have written their own non-fiction text about the mythical creature. They conducted their own research and made notes to then build their final fact file of a variety of dragons.

For our fieldwork in geography, Year 2 went down to the river and drew a birds – eye view of it labelling all the human and physical features they could see.

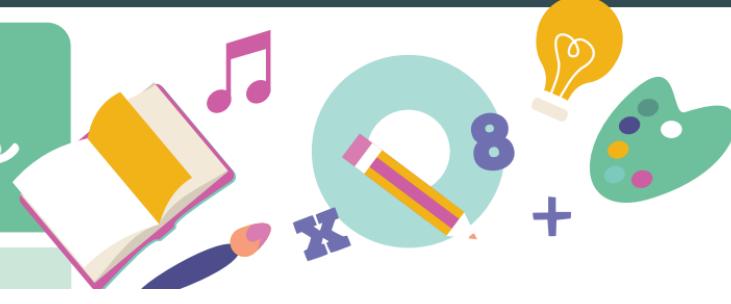
We look forward to welcoming the children back after the Easter break for more exciting learning.



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Class Updates



Muntjac Class

What a fantastic Spring Term we have had in Muntjac Class.

In English this week, we have been writing poems in groups and individually. I am blown away with the thought and precision that the children have put into their writing. On the topic of poetry, I have been equally impressed by the amount of children dedicating time to practise for the performance poetry competition.

We have come to the end of our Art Unit where we have been studying the work of Takashi Murakami, and exploring a variety of printing techniques. As always, the children have thoroughly enjoyed going to Marble Hill Park and learning to play rounders. Today we had great fun participating in the Key Stage 2 rounders tournament and I was proud of the children's team work and encouraging attitude towards all players.

We wish all of the families a restful break, hopefully full of sunshine and chocolate, and we look forward to welcoming the children back for their final term in Year 3.

Sika Class

As Spring term comes to an end, we're wrapping up our learning on mystery writing, decimals, block prints, rivers, Judaism, swimming, and samba. Spring term also saw us building castles and going on a trip to Teddington Lock, neither of which would have been possible without the help of our fabulous family volunteers. Thank you to everyone who helped make this term the success it was for the learning and joy of the Sika students. We particularly enjoyed participating in the rounders tournament this week. After a term of swimming for our PE lessons, it was great to outside in the open air playing team sports. In our artwork, we this week wrapped up our printing work after a half-term of new horizons. The children have enjoyed printing with a range of different objects and styles, and learning more about Faith Ringgold's highly interesting style and legacy.

Have a fantastic holiday and we'll see you again in the summer term!



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Class Updates



Elk Class

What a wonderful Spring Term we have had in Elk Class! In the last two weeks, we spent our time investing in writing our Suspense Narrative. It was fantastic to see the passion and drive from Elk class to complete their first published work in the new publishing books. 'Hacker' by Malorie Blackman has really encouraged reading in our class, and we are looking forward to reading our next novel together.

Sentence of the week:

"A chorus of screams shattered the dark night's silence" - LCM

We have finished learning about the varied biomes of California and its effect on human geography. To finish the Term, we had a wonderful time playing Rounders with Years 4-6 after learning the skills the past six weeks.

Thank you to the support from all our Elk Class families. We are looking forward to seeing what new experiences and learning Summer Term will bring.

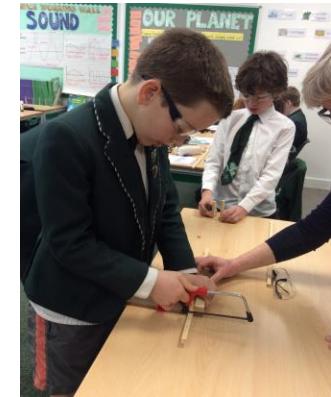


Red Class

DT day saw us building our own bridges, using hack saws, bench hooks and card for reinforcement. After an inspiring visit from a parent engineer, Year 6 spent time researching and designing bridges that would meet our criteria (being both aesthetically pleasing, built to measurement, as well as strong and sturdy). Following this, we built and tested our own bridges using square wooden rods. Some of our bridges were even strong enough to hold our own weight!



After a busy term, and assessment week, Year 6 all deserve a well-earned rest over the Easter holidays. We look forward to hearing about what you have all got up to during your time off.



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