



Deer Park School

LEARN ENJOY SUCCEED



Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

Dear Families,

Merry Christmas-jumper-day to all. What a spectacle of joie de Noel it's been today, decked out in a remarkably eclectic range festive garb. Particular special mentions must also go to those families who themselves donned full festive outfits for the morning drop-off: a very jingly extra mile. With the coming of jumper day and Christmas Lunch, the season is now officially upon us. 'Tis the time of year when we exchange thoughts on the desirable ingredients in stuffing, ruminate on our favourite carols ('Oh Holy Night', since you're asking), and tentatively look at the sky's stubbornly grey canopy with hopeful thoughts of snow. In sporting news, girls' and boys' teams from KS2 wended their merry way to compete in football fixtures this week, competing against a rich variety of other schools within the borough and enjoying themselves thoroughly while doing so. Year 4 of course sallied forth to spend Monday at Whipsnade Zoo, accompanied by excited volunteers, and a smattering of Geography fieldtrips in the local area have been cause for much hat-and-scarf wearing as we gather data to interpret back in class. There are *three* 'spotlights' in the newsletter this week, and I hope you enjoy the class news and updates in the pages below.

But what of reading? With what literature shall we arm ourselves in this time of cosy evenings after long, merry days? I have some thoughts on that topic, as it happens. If you're an adult, and your KS2 child is engrossed in 'The Final Year' by Matt Goodfellow, then I recommend you pilfer it after they've gone to bed. It was a recommendation for our older children a couple of weeks back, and it's - frankly - sensational. It's written purely in poems, but they're poems as poetry is meant to be. It's shoot-from-the-hip writing in a ten-year old's voice and it's brutal and insightful and dazzlingly clear all at once. Consider it, and then let please do come and talk to me on the door about it.

For our youngest readers, a seasonably appropriate piece. 'The Night Before Christmas' by Clement C Moore. This is such a well-known poem it's sometimes easy to forget that our children might not have heard it. The Alligator's Mouth, incidentally, do a very nice [illustrated version](#). Finally, for our KS2 bookworms, 'The Secret of Helmersbruk Manor' by Eva Frantz. It's a ghost story. It's evocative and charmingly spooky. It's set at Christmas. What's not to love?

Have a brilliant weekend, chag sameach, and do remember to read.

Yours as ever,

Alex Lee



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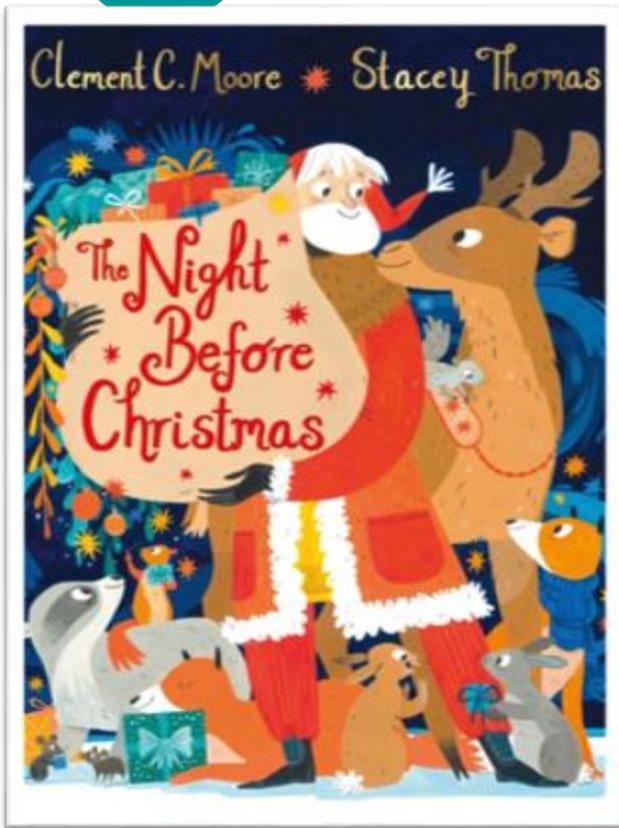
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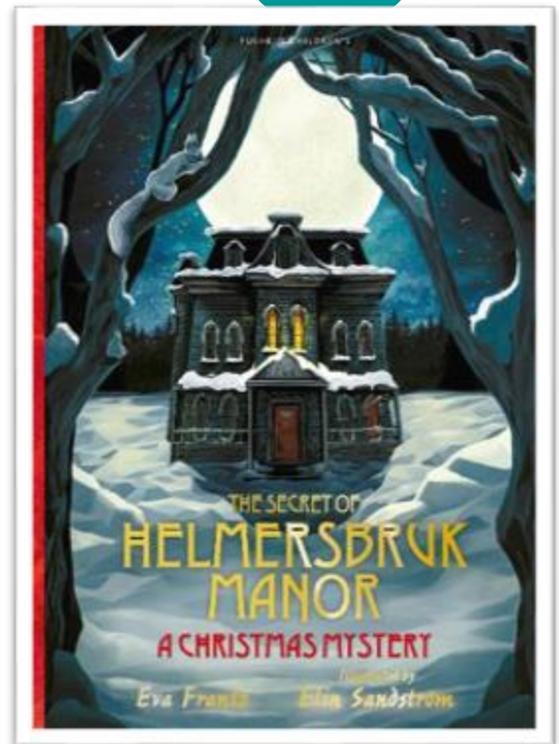
Recommended READS

For Children

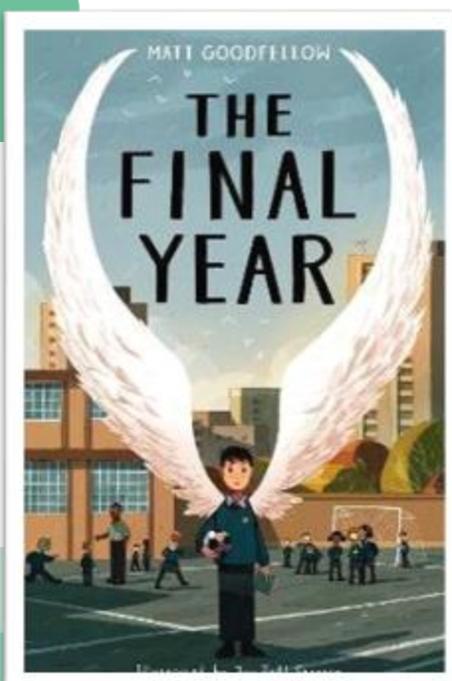
KS1



KS2



For Adults



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Spotlight on....

Last years' School Council make sale money and books from the bake sale money



Last year, thanks to the efforts of the school council, we had the most wonderful make sale, which many of you worked to produce items that were sold.

Here we have some of the items we bought with that money.

This includes a new dressing-up box and a Lego box- both of which provide opportunities for a different type of playtime.

We also bought new bats and balls, hoops and bean bags! There is now this target hoop that is easier for the Lower School to use.

On the way are some more plastic bricks to replace our much-loved old ones.



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Spotlight on....

Performance Poetry 23-24

This year's Performance Poetry competition was a fabulous event for all.

Some children read out to their class for the first time, some read in a small group for the first time and all the children listened to their friends and enjoy their poems. Many of these poems were written by the performers.

The class winners this year were:

Lower School -Mia, Oskar, Daniel, Alexis, Amber, Max, Leo, Clara.

Middle School- Rocco, Vanessa, Freddie, Kat, Emilia, Ted, Sidati and Sim.

Upper School- Arun, Alexnader, Scarlett, Finlay, Maya, Vrishan, Lola and Stefania.

The overall winners were Max in Year 1, Emilia Year 3, Maya Year 5 and Stefania Year 6 was the overall winner.

These children went to Kilburn Grange School and performed in front of other schools and received positive feedback about their polished performances.



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Spotlight on....

Reading Together

Reading in Evening Owls

It's been lovely to see the children in Evening Owls reading together this week, and enjoying selecting new books. Shared story times between our older and younger children have been a particular highlight!



Pupil Leader Readers

The pupil leadership group who put themselves forward to be Reception Reading Buddies have started their weekly sessions. Every Thursday, six of our Year 6 leaders collect their buddies from their Reception classes and spend a half-hour sharing stories with them in the library.



Class Updates



Sambar Class



Mrs Blaxland



Ms Philip



Miss Wilkinson



Mrs Lambelin

Our Learning

What have we learned?

- This week, we have been reading the book 'The Snowman'. We have re-told the story and also sequenced the different events.
- In Science, we have conducted an experiment with ice to investigate melting.
- In Art, we have been making our own snowmen using different loose parts.
- We have used images from 'The Snowman' to identify different emotions and to talk about how the characters might be feeling and why.

Our highlights:

The cold weather has brought changes to our outdoor classroom and with it a wealth of new learning opportunities. The children have loved finding ice in various places and using it for a number of different activities.

With the arrival of a post box in our classrooms, the children have been busy writing lists and posting very important letters!

In other news

- With many children bringing hats, scarves and gloves to school, please try to ensure that these are clearly labelled.
- Please keep reading folders in bags every day and ensure that Library books are in bags on Thursdays so that your child can choose a new Library book each week.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

Next week, we will be reading the book 'The Jolly Christmas Postman'. In Maths, we will be representing different numbers from 0 to 5.

Trips and events:

14th December – Reception Performance of 'The Jolly Christmas Postman'.
19th December – School Disco

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Arthur and Theo



Class Updates



FawnClass



Miss MacGregor



Mrs Gordon



Miss Cain



Miss Sarah

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Upcoming Stars of the Week: Aya and Mira



Class Updates



Roe Class



Miss Copeland



Mrs. Amber



Mr Owen

Our Learning

What have we learned?

In English we have been learning to write non-fiction questions and answers. They have been learning about different ways we can help our world.

In Geography we have been learning to use a map and follow simple instructions. This week we went on our fieldtrip to identify human and physical features in our local area. Thank you to all parent volunteers that came and supported us.

Our highlights:

Year 1 loved having our furry visitors in on Monday. They were very excited to learn all about how to look after your pets. Thank you to all parents and dogs for coming in and talking to the children.

In other news

With many children bringing hats, scarves and gloves to school, please try to ensure that these are clearly labelled.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

- Number facts within 20.
- History- People in the past

Trips and events:

- 18th December – Year 1 Performance- Ralph the Reindeer 2pm
- 19th December – School Disco



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Class Updates



Brocket Class



Miss Bennett



Miss Cat

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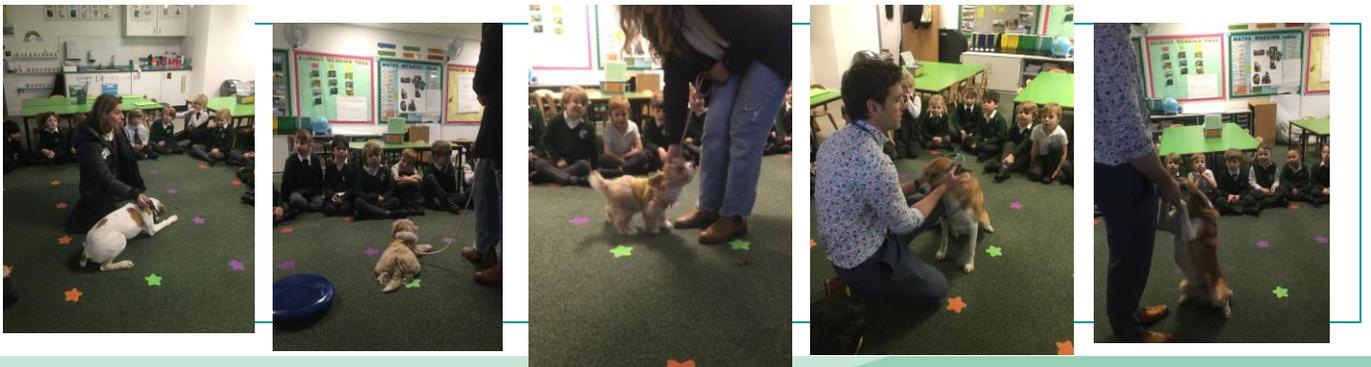
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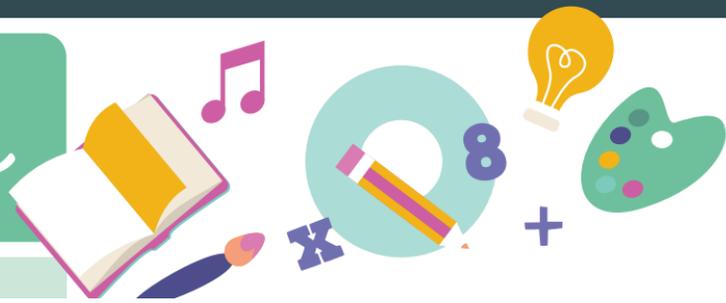


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Class Updates



MarshClass



Miss Webster



Mr Lloyd



Miss Susie



Miss Tejas



Ms Melissa

Our Learning

Over the last two weeks we have been finishing off our stories based on The Fox and The Star. The children have written about some fantastically creative characters and we have now moved on to creating a road safety leaflet inspired by Max's adventures in The Hodgeheg.

In Maths we have finished our unit on Shape and will be continuing with Addition and Subtraction, using different strategies to help us tackle more complex equations.

Our highlights:

We loved exploring the composition of the Earth in Science by examining cooked eggs to help us label Earth's crust, mantle and core. We were also very excited to learn about Neil Armstrong and the Apollo 11 moon landing. The children have been really inspired to find out more and have enjoyed hearing about pioneering NASA mathematician, Katherine Johnson's amazing achievements.

In other news

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The next two weeks

We will be learning:

In Geography we will be investigating the negative impacts of tourism and in Art we will be re-creating one of Seurat's most famous paintings.

Trips and events:

Geography field trip – 15/12

Disco – 19/12

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Archie and Hana



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Class Updates



Fallow Class



Miss Brandvik



Mrs Kisby

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Trips and events:

15th December (am) – Pantomime
15th December (pm) – Yr2 Geography field trip
19th December – School disco
20th December – Music Celebration

Upcoming Stars of the Week: Kat and Rufus



Class Updates



Muntjac Class



Miss Forshaw



Miss Tejas



Miss Naz

Our Learning

What have we learned?

This fortnight, we have started writing our own endings for the book 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs'. The children have worked hard to include fronted adverbials, prepositions and conjunctions in their writing, and it has been great to see them flex their creative muscles!

In Geography we have been studying the effect of earthquakes, building our knowledge on the environmental, social and economic impacts.

In Science, we learned about how we can protect ourselves from the sun, and the children showed great interest in learning all about UV rays.

Our highlights:

In Maths we have been very excited to explore Times Table Rock Stars, a new platform for us to become (rock) legends at multiplication and division. There has been fierce rivalry between Muntjac and Kashmir, as well as hair-raising time trails between performers. It has been lovely to see the children's great enthusiasm for this across the year group.

We have enjoyed learning our festive song for this year's Festival of Music – it has been lovely to hear both Muntjac and Kashmir singing together and tackling a complicated song.

In other news

Many thanks for bringing in spare trainers on a Thursday for PE!

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

In maths, we will be focusing on our 8 and 3 times tables.

In History we will be studying the Stone Age, learning all about our ancient ancestors.

In Science we will be studying nutrition, food chains and body structure.

Trips and events:

Tuesday 19th December: School Disco

Wednesday 20th December: Festival of Music (2-3)

Thursday 1st February: Stonehenge

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Have a fantastic break,
and we look forward to
everything that 2024
brings!



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Class Updates



Kashmir Class



Miss Cutter



Ms Barbara

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Wednesday 20th December: Festival of Music (2-3)

Thursday 1st February: Stonehenge

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Adetti

Finn

Have a fantastic break, and we look forward to everything that 2024 brings!



Class Updates



SikaClass



Miss Cowing



Miss Lauren



Miss Mandy

Our Learning

What have we learned?

This week in English the children have started collecting facts for their video script about an endangered animal of their choice. Maths this week we have been learning how to multiply and divide by 10 and 100 and have used these facts to do calculations like 6×70 and $140 \div 3$.

In Science, we set up an experiment to test how water pollution affects plants and animals and the children wrote up the method used.

And in Geography we have been comparing the human and physical features of Edinburgh and London. The children also learned how to use a key to understand the symbols on a map.

Our highlights:

This week we had our trip to Whipsnade Zoo. The children were all so engaged throughout our workshop and had lots of great questions to ask. We were extremely lucky with all the animals that we got to see, and the highlight was the lion, who jumped up against the glass to say hi to all the children (or rather, wanted to bite all their heads off!)

In other news

Please make sure your children have warm clothes and coats in school every-day. A lot of children have been going outside for break with very few layers on!

We have given all the children TT Rockstar logins, which they are very excited about – this is a great way for children to practice their times tables without feeling like its learning.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

- Write a video script on how to help endangered animals from climate change
- Short multiplication written method
- How pollution affects habitats
- Comparing Sikhism to other religions

Trips and events:

15/12 - Pantomime

19/12 - Disco

20/12 - Last day of term/Music celebration

Upcoming stars of the week:

Betty (Week 7)



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Class Updates



Taruca Class



Mrs. Bailey



Mrs. Wilson



Mrs Bhatti



Ms Melissa

Our Learning

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Maths this week we have been learning how to multiply and divide by 10 and 100 and have used these facts to do calculations like 6×70 and $140 \div 3$.

In Science, we set up an experiment to test how water pollution affects plants and animals and the children wrote up the method used.

Our Highlights:

What an incredible trip we had to Whipsnade Zoo! During the workshop, Taruca Class demonstrated their incredible knowledge and interest in wildlife. Looking at and thinking about why animals had different shaped skulls and teeth, for example, was fascinating. Although cold, we enjoyed walking around an empty Whipsnade to see the wonderful animals. An especial hit was the Butterfly and Fish house!

In other news

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The next two weeks

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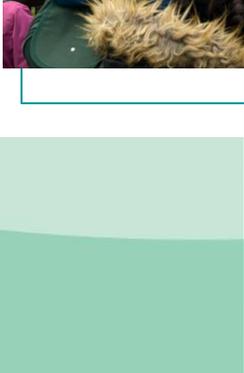
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- Short multiplication written method
- How pollution affects habitats
- Comparing Sikhism to other religions

Trips and events:

- 15/12 - Pantomime
- 19/12 - Disco
- 20/12 - Last day of term/Music celebration

Upcoming stars of the week:

Ramona (Week 7)



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Class Updates



Elk Class



Miss Thomas



Miss Lucie



Miss Bhatti



Mrs Hazell

Our Learning

What have we learned?

We have been reading 'The Story of the Windrush' and are using this to write a newspaper article about the arrival of Empire Windrush in June 1948. As we approach the end of our 'Fractions' unit in maths, we have been adding and subtracting fractions, including mixed numbers. In science, we enjoyed observing the phases of the Moon and in art we have learnt the new skill of 'sgraffito'!

Our highlights:

Last week, our trip to RIBA saw us all become architects for the day! Our brief was to design and build a multi-purpose, sustainable building. We had brilliant ideas for what our buildings could be used for and relished the challenge of turning our 2D designs into 3D models.

We would also like to thank everyone who kindly gave their time to take part in our questionnaire for our geography topic, 'Moving People'. It was great to have the opportunity to talk to lots of parents and interpreting the data has been very valuable.

In other news

Please remind your children that they should be completing an AR quiz once they have finished reading a book.

Thank you very much for all your continued support this term with your children's learning.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

- About the significance of Margaret Hamilton and Stephen Hawking
- Comparing local migration of Richmond to other boroughs in London
- How to draw the viewer's eye with our artwork

Trips and events:

- 15/12/23 - Gnome Alone pantomime (in school)
- 19/12/23 - Afternoon disco 2:15 – 3:00pm
- 20/12/23 - Music Celebration 2:00 – 3:00pm (parents welcome)

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Maya



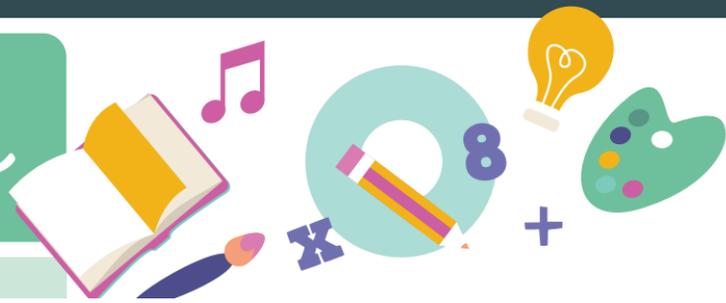
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Class Updates



Red Class



Miss Williams

Our Learning

What have we learned?

In class, we have finished reading the book 'Clockwork'. This was very popular with everyone (probably due to the macabre plot twists) and I would strongly recommend reading the other books written by Phillip Pullman. In science lessons, we have been using the light boxes to observe how different shaped lenses alter the direction of light by refraction.

In Geography, we have continued to look at trade, with a particular focus on the food supply chain. We have then looked at how fair trade can ensure the fair treatment of all involved in the supply chain, particularly those in less-developed countries.

Our highlights:

A new rota for the MUGA has varied the sport being played at breaktimes, and, as you can see from this week's photos, this has encouraged more of us to take part in games such as dodgeball and has been received positively even by those die-hard football fans!

As we approached the month of December, many Year 6 students were particularly 'buzzed' by the Winter Fair which took place last weekend. Some of the children helped out in the running of this, including the important position of being elves for Santa.

The start of December has also meant that our PE lessons have been particularly chilly the past few weeks, however Year 6 have shown resilience (and learnt how to layer up) as we've headed over to Marble Hill Park for our weekly tag rugby lessons on Friday afternoons.

On the theme of sports, many children have represented Deer Park in a variety of sports over the Autumn term. They have shown resilience and thoughtfulness when playing against other teams, and should be very proud of how well they have done.

In other news

There are many dates coming up, so please do make note of these. We would love to see you at the Music Celebration on the final day of term. This will be a lovely way to end the Autumn term, and we have been working hard in music lessons with Mel.

Please continue to read regularly, encouraging your child to read aloud and to themselves.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

- Where our food comes from and how this impacts the environment.
- How and why light can be split into a spectrum.
- How to calculate area and perimeter of right-angled and isosceles triangles, as well as parallelograms.

Trips and events:

- 11/12/23 - Geography Field trip
- 15/12/23 - Gnome Alone pantomime (in school)
- 19/12/23 - Afternoon disco 2:15 – 3:00pm
- 20/12/23 - Music Celebration 2:00 – 3:00pm (parents welcome)

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Alex GC



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