



# Deer Park School

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## Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

Dear Families,

Welcome to the weekend, with a single week left in this half of term. This past week has been a typically industrious one, with the big-ticket trip being Year 3's excursion to Stonehenge. Under the sweeping skies of Wiltshire, the children undertook workshops on the history of the monolithic structure, its importance to ancient civilisation, and the mystery that surrounds it to this day: an excellent addition to their history unit on the stone age. Elsewhere, various sporting teams went forth to do various sporting activities at various other schools. Girls' and boys' sides from the upper school played their latest league fixtures, with the girls drawing 1-1 and the boys edging a victory at 6-1. The very next day, netballers from our eldest year groups headed over to St Stephen's for an enjoyable local league match, finishing 7-2 to Deer Park.

A few wider items to draw your attention to this week. The first is the DEI group's latest newsletter, which can be found on the very next page. You can find out about the group's valuable work alongside the school, their latest updates from milestones reached, what's coming up next on the DEI agenda, and how you can be involved should you choose to be so.

Next on the list is the upcoming ADHD coffee morning with Leanne Maskell, on Friday 9th February. You'll find the flier for this exciting event further down in the newsletter, and I know many of us will be keen to attend. Leanne is one of the voices at the forefront of effective ADHD education and research, and is the author of 'ADHD: an A to Z'. We're very lucky to have her visiting us, and to have a parent at our school put the event together. We look forward to seeing you there.

In recommended reads this week, I offer you this Friday a book that works for the whole family. Readers young, younger, and less young will – I hope – all enjoy this particular number, mainly because it is totally unnecessary and ridiculous. In the dingy corner of the newsletter where the recommended reads are set out, it might be said that the suggestions sometimes lean towards the effete and classical. That would be fair commentary, I think, but this book is not of that kind. It sets out to be ridiculous, and achieves that aim beautifully. It doesn't at any point claim to be anything other than nonsense, although through that lens it does somehow also manage to be very readable. For your consideration and enjoyment, I therefore present 'The Unfortunate Life of Worms' by Noemi Vola. It is very possible that, a few pages into this book, you may be struck by the poignant thought; 'what on earth am I doing?'. If you do think that, then take heart in that this is a normal thought process for a rationale adult to have while reading this book. It seems Vola had that very thought while both researching and writing this book, and the tangents within it are accordingly absurd and silly and fun. The illustrations in particular are testament to what the human mind can accomplish with enough whimsical stubbornness and caffeine. The editorial process (if there was one) presumably took place in a hallucinogenic dream and/or a very dimly-lit room. Will it add to your zoological knowledge, cultural understanding or scientific vernacular? No. Not at all. Will it make you chuckle? Maybe. Do I recommend reading it aloud with your children? Very much.

Enjoy your weekend, and do remember to read.  
Yours as ever,

Alex Lee



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# Spotlight on....

## The DEI Newsletter

### Welcome to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) group's newsletter.

The DEI group is run by a group of parents committed to working with the Deer Park teaching team and students to create an all embracing, positive and equal school culture.

### Who are we?

The group is run by parents of Deer Park school, whose contributions are informed by children's feedback, as well as experience and passion in specific areas.

Courtney Chadwick and Krupa Padhy focus on diversity and multiculturalism, Margot Silk focuses on inclusion and Melloney Cunnell -Mitchell and Rob Lucy look at gender and equity.

### What we've been up to:

-**Diversity social.** So many of you brought food from around the world to share with us all for an afternoon of music and fun. We hope to host another world food festival in the autumn term!

-**Curriculum reviews.** We've successfully reviewed curricula ensuring they are representative. This term we've tackled geography, art, history and RE and shared our feedback with the school.

-**Anti-racism policy.** Team diversity and Mr Lee have created an anti-racism policy which now sits along with the school's other policies on our website for guidance. You can read the details here:

<https://www.deerparkschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Deer-Park-School-Anti-Racism-policy-2023.pdf>

**Lifting Limits** - Deer Park has partnered with Lifting Limits a charity that delivers gender equality through education. The charity visited DPS and gave a parent workshop at the beginning of this school year. Our work with the charity is ongoing. <https://liftinglimits.org.uk/what-we-do/>

**Homework clubs** – homework club is now an option on a Thursday support students and parents! The Inclusion Homework Club has also begun and is already a huge success amongst the children that attend, supported by one of the SEN teacher team. Get in touch to learn more.

-**Festive season support:** A Calm Space created at the Winter Fair allowed kids (and grown-ups!) to use a quieter area away from the hustle and bustle of the fair. A SEN-ta session was also created for neurodiverse kids, who may need a calmer session with Santa himself. The Christmas decoration and jumper swap was also very popular! Plus, Christmas gifts and food hampers were put together for families who needed a little support over the season.

-**Summer holiday support:** Voucher packs were given to families that needed a little extra support towards summer experiences. We're hoping to expand on this success in 2024 with yearly memberships if enough money can be raised.

-**Anxiety session:** A session was held for teachers and support staff on understanding more about anxiety, how it manifests and how we can better support our children. Ellen, who held this really insightful session, is one of our incredible parents and a child psychologist.

- **Special Yoga** morning sessions have officially started! Two of our amazing parents (Annie and Leah) who are Special Yoga Practitioners are now delivering therapeutic sessions to a selection of pupils.

-**A Coat Swap** was held early this school year to create an opportunity to sustainably get a warm winter coat for free!



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# Spotlight on....

## *The DEI Newsletter*

### What we've been up to (continued):

**-Coffee mornings:** The DPS SENCO team have organised some insightful Inclusion Coffee Mornings to help parents better understand inclusion within the school and understand/navigate the wider system. Watch this space for more details of future coffee mornings with our SEN Parent Network.

### What we are working on?

(and some dates for your diary!)

**-Streetwise 365 :** We are working with this company who will be visiting the school this summer to give the year 5 and year 6 pupils a workshop where they can learn how to stay safe on our streets.

**-Gender equity movie nights** are coming soon for year 5 & 6.

**-Say my name:** Our names matter. If you feel your child's first or last name is being mis-pronounced within the school and you wish for this to be corrected, we're encouraging families to email in a short recording of the name. Mr Lee has agreed that this file will be attached to your child's school record to help better inform teachers and other staff members.

**-International day:** This will be Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May. For new families, this is when we encourage children to dress up in an outfit that celebrates their identity or heritage. We are also hoping to have a visit from Kim Chakenetsa that week, author of Africana.

**-Netball & Football:** The PTA have a mixed netball tournament on 7<sup>th</sup> of June and a mixed football tournament on 29<sup>th</sup> June where teams have to be even in gender. There is also a netball club on Monday mornings or Tuesday after school and we want to encourage more boys to give it a try.

**-Leane Maskill** ADHD Coach and Author has offered to spend a day holding various sessions with staff, parents and pupils at DPS. More details can be found in this newsletter!

**-Book Sale:** a chance to reuse and affordably buy a new book, whilst raising funds for Inclusion. This is planned for 29<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> of March- we will be collecting books very soon!

We need YOU!

We are organising speakers for Mental Health Week to smash gender equality and culture stereotypes. Business Week is also coming up in the summer term. Do you run your own business or have an interest that could push DEI boundaries? Or if you have experience in mental health in your workplace we would love to hear from you!

In our aim to help our children understand more about neurodiversity and remove potential stigma, we would like to demonstrate how many people they may know who are neurodiverse. If you are a family member who is Dyslexic, Autistic, ADHD, dyscalculia etc- we would love to connect.

If you're a parent or relative with an interesting story about your heritage, please do reach out to share this with our children on International Day too.

So much to look forward to.

You can reach us all on our email address: [diversitygroup@deerparkschool.org.uk](mailto:diversitygroup@deerparkschool.org.uk) or on Class List.



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# Spotlight on....

## ADHD Coffee Morning

**Leanne Maskill**



**with ADHD expert**

Deer Park parents are invited to join internationally renowned ADHD speaker, best-selling author and ADHD coach Leanne Maskill for a morning of coffee and Q&A.

If you have first-hand experience with ADHD, are looking for support or just want to learn more – all are welcome.

**Friday 9th Feb  
10:45 - 12pm  
Deer Park School**

**Parents' Coffee**



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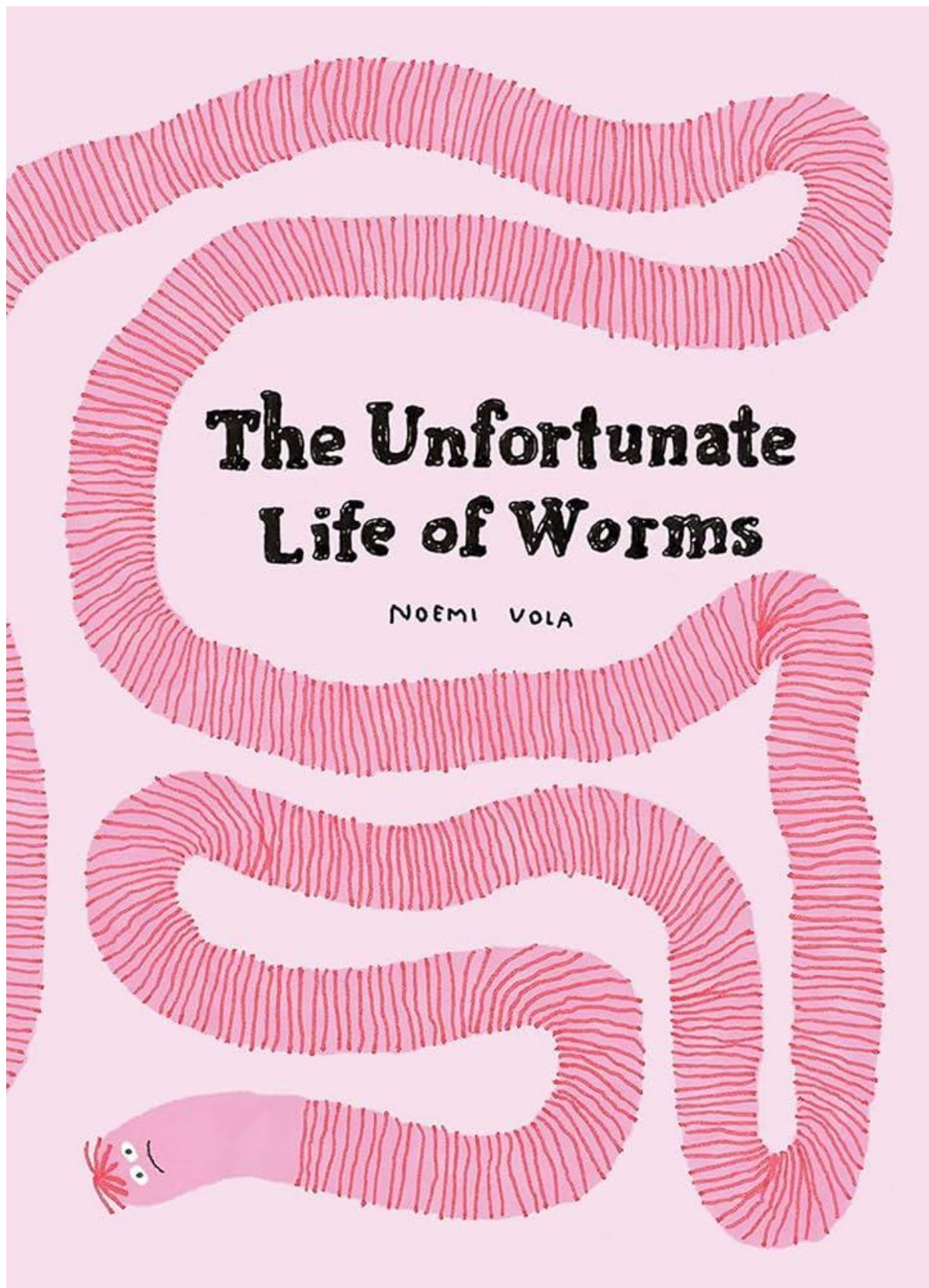
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# Recommended READS



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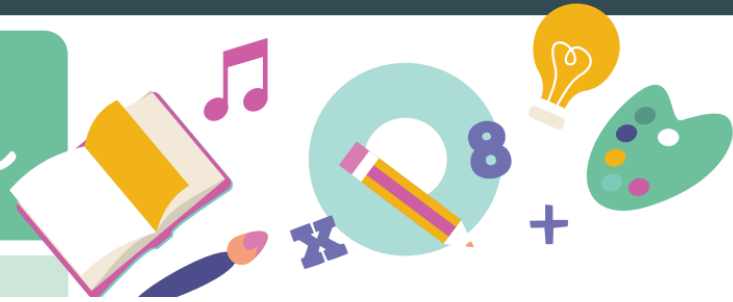
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# Class Updates



## Sambar Class



Mrs Blaxland



Ms Philip



Mrs Sue



Miss Natasha

### Our Learning

#### What have we learned?

- We have been reading the book 'The Mixed-Up Chameleon'. We have been thinking about why the chameleon wanted to be like all the other animals when actually, he was perfect just the way he was!
- In Maths, we have been making pairs and finding out all about odd and even numbers. We have also been doubling amounts to 8.
- In Art, we have been looking at the work of artist Yayoi Kusama and the children have wowed us with their wonderful spotty artworks!
- In PE, we have been working on our football skills and learning about the importance of teamwork.

#### Our highlights:

We were all very excited to go on our first welly walk to Marble Hill Park! Thank you to all the parents who were able to help us on the day.

The children loved looking at their baby photos and talking about how much they have changed!

DT Day was lots of fun and the children made some very creative bird feeders!

### In other news

- If anyone has any boxes that we could use for our next DT Day, we would be very grateful if they could be brought into school.
- Please continue to upload photos and videos to Tapestry, the children love to share what they have been doing at the weekends with the rest of their class!

### The next two weeks

**We will be learning:** Next term our topic will be 'Traditional Tales' and we will be reading lots of well-known stories, but with a twist!

#### Trips and events:

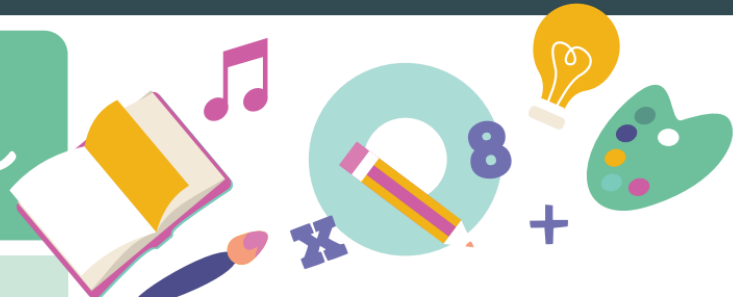
Welly Walk Thursday 8th of February

#### Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Tennessee and Chloe



# Class Updates



## FawnClass



Miss MacGregor



Mrs Gordon



Miss Sarah



Mr Owen

### Our Learning

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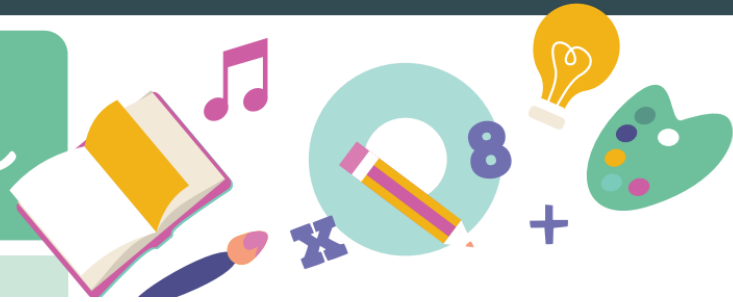
#### Trips and events:

Welly Walk Thursday 8th of February

**Upcoming Stars of the Week:** Amandine and Peri



# Class Updates



## Roe Class



Miss Copeland



Mrs. Amber



Miss  
Lauren

### Our Learning

#### What have we learned?

In English we have been reading our story of 'Last Stop on Market Street'. Roe class have been retelling the story and learnt to write in past tense using a range of -ed verbs.

In Maths we have been learning to use our number bonds to answer subtraction and addition questions. Year 1 have been learning to use a number line and dienes to solve mathematical problems.

In History we have been learning about Victorian lives and how some things have changed over the years. Year 1 loved going to Richmond Museum to learn and the Victorian era.

#### Our highlights:

Roe Class have been very excited to learn about different habitats in Science. This week the children worked together to make their own wormerys and they have made sure that the worms have everything they need to survive.

### In other news

Please practise logging onto Purple Mash. If you have misplaced your log in card please let us know.

Label all hats, scarves, gloves, jumpers etc

### The next two weeks

We will be learning:

Fact families within 20.

Sequencing a story using adjectives.

Different habitats around the world.

Trips and events:

6.2.24- DT Day

9.2.24- Open Classroom

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

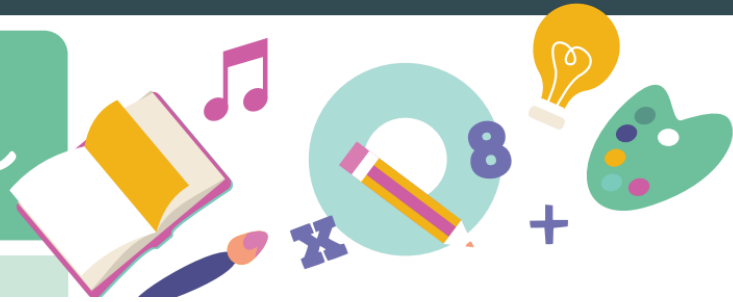
Min- Hao

Chloe





# Class Updates



## Brocket Class



Miss Bennett



Miss Cat

### Our Learning

What have we learned?

In Maths we have been learning to use our number bonds to answer subtraction and addition questions. Year 1 have been learning to use a number line and dienes to solve mathematical problems.

In English we have been reading our story of 'Last Stop on Market Street'. Brocket class have been retelling the story and learnt to write in past tense using a range of -ed verbs.

In History we have been learning about Victorian lives and how some things have changed over the years. Year 1 loved going to Richmond Museum to learn and the Victorian era.

Our highlights:

This week we have made our own wormery! Brocket class loved pouring in the soil and sand to create the different layers. There was lots of excitement when we got to put the worms into their new microhabitat.

### In other news

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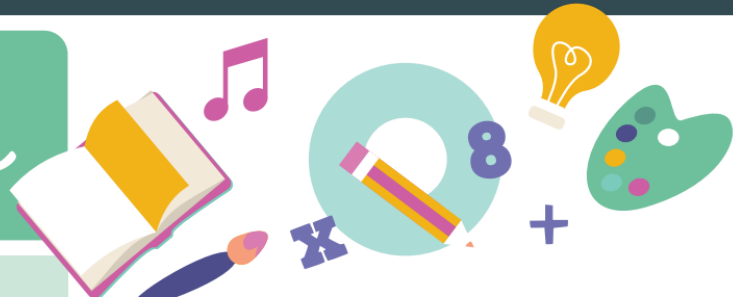


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# Class Updates



## Marsh Class



Miss Webster



Mr Lloyd



Miss Susie



Miss Tejas



Ms Melissa

## Our Learning

### What have we learned?

- In English, we have been writing about the day in the life of a crayon, based on our inspiration text: the day the crayons quit.
- In Maths, we have been learning about measure and mass. We have been learning how to use rulers and scales and the correct measurements to use for different objects.
- In Art, we have been creating photo-collages inspired by David Hockney and we will be using the techniques we've learned in our final piece next week – a self-portrait.
- In Science, we have been learning about how exercise helps our bodies and the functions of some of our vital organs.

### Our highlights:

The children had a brilliant time at the Great Fire of London workshop last week. As well as learning more interesting facts about it, they were immersed in London life in 1666 and got to know and reenact some of the key players in this event.

## In other news

Please make sure to log into numbots and give it a go. Let us know if you would like any help or reminders of login details.

## The next two weeks

### We will be learning:

We will be writing an information report about the Great Fire of London in English and reviewing Volume and Capacity in Maths before starting Multiplication and Division next half term.

### Trips and events:

Thursday 8th February – Year 2 Scooter Training

Friday 9th February – Open Classroom morning

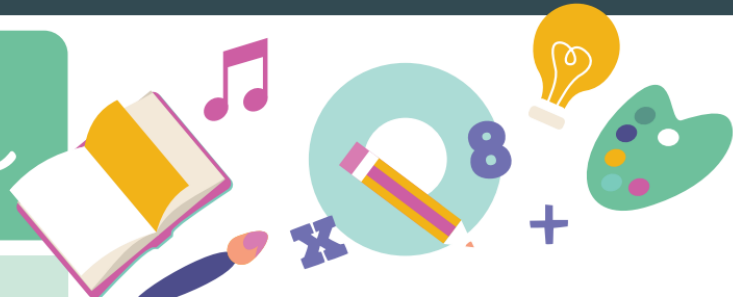
Friday 9th February – Year 2 DT Day

### Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Poppy and Marni



# Class Updates



## Fallow Class



Miss Brandvik



Mrs Kisby

### Our Learning

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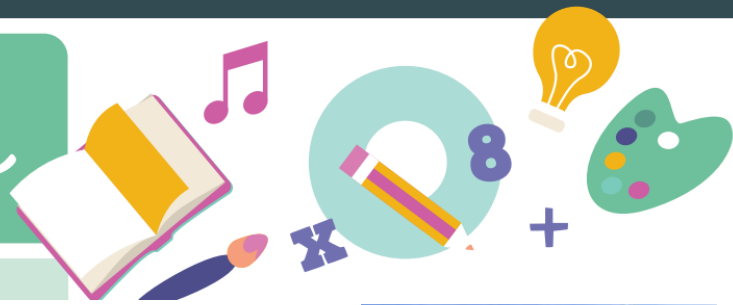
Friday 9th February – Open Classroom morning

Friday 9th February – Year 2 DT Day

**Upcoming Stars of the Week:** Ruby and Joshua



# Class Updates



## Muntjac Class



Miss Forshaw



Miss Tejas



## Our Learning

### What have we learned?

This week, we started a new topic in Maths all about measure. The children used rulers to measure in cm and mm.

In English, we have looked at play scripts, understanding the importance of stage directions and learning how to write cohesive dialogue.

In Science, we learnt that there are 206 bones in the adult human body. We learnt that our skeleton protects organs, offers us support and helps us move. We learnt about hinge joints and ball and socket joints, and learnt the names of some of the bones in the body.

We practised drawing tessellating patterns in Art, identifying which shapes were most successful in achieving this. We also drew overlapping patterns and thought about colours we could use to imitate Peter Blake's art.

### Our highlights:

Our trip to Stonehenge was a success! Despite it being cold, we had glorious sunshine. We saw the heel stone and were impressed with the iconic archways made up of the mighty Sarsen stones.

## In other news

Please encourage your children to **bring in books** they would like to recommend to their peers. They will be asked to discuss three questions on the **'BookTalk' sheet** before allowing other children to borrow their book.

**Please continue to practise Times Table Rock Stars at home!** Each week, a competition is set up between the two Y3 classes and the winners are announced in Friday's assembly!

## The next two weeks

### We will be learning next term:

- We will be reading 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes, aiming to write a tense setting description.
- In Geography, our topic is 'Gateway to the Word', in which we will focus on European geography and The Alps.
- In Science, we will be investigating magnets and the invisible forces that surround us every day!

### Trips and events:

#### DT Day

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February, all day!

#### Open morning

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 9am-10am.

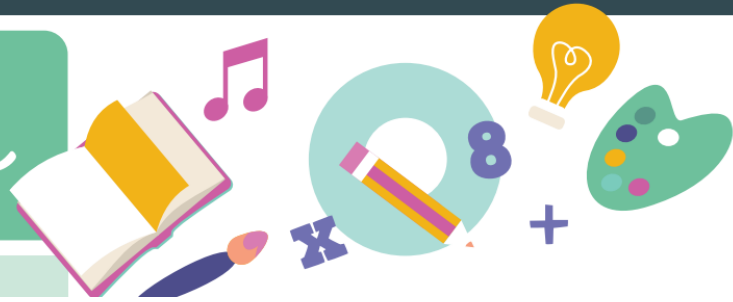
### Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Gabi

Emilia



# Class Updates



## Kashmir Class



Miss Cutter



Ms Barbara

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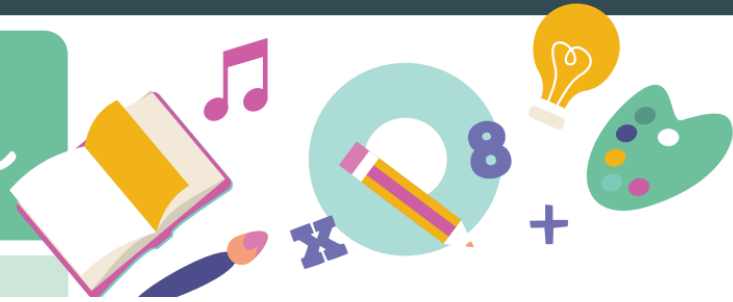
#### Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Jemima

Nikita



# Class Updates



## SikaClass



Miss Cowing



Miss Lauren



Miss Mandy

### Our Learning

#### What have we learned?

The children have been writing the most amazing story openings on 'How to Train your Dragon' and really blew all the adults away with their brilliant vocabulary choices and sentence types.

Our Shape unit has come to an end, and the children have now started working on Fractions looking at wholes and parts. We have been looking at 'pitch' and 'volume' in Science. The children had the exciting task of predicting which area of the school would be the loudest and which would be the quietest and then testing it with a decibel meter!

This week in PSHE the children have been learning about mental health and how we can all look after ourselves mentally as well as physically.

#### Our highlights:

The children were extremely thrilled to have Miss Cowing back in the house this week. They impressed her with all the knowledge they remembered from Viking Day last week, their super pieces of writing and such an improvement in their times tables scores.

### In other news

Please make sure the children are logging on to TT Rockstars, at least once a week. It is crucial to help them to improve in their facts.

Reading Records have been coming in to school, less and less, please ensure your child has their library book and reading record in their folder **every day**.

### The next two weeks

#### We will be learning:

- DT Day – Making healthy biscuits
- Counting in fractions and mixed number fractions
- Spelling and Grammar revision

#### Trips and events:

6/2 - DT Day  
9/2 - Open Classroom  
10/2 - 19/2 - Half Term

#### Upcoming stars of the week:

Sofia (Week 5)  
Padraic (Week 1)



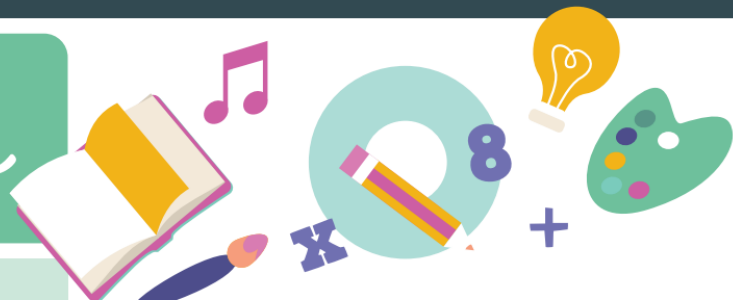
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# Class Updates



## Taruca Class



Mrs. Bailey



Mrs. Wilson



Mrs. Bhatti



Ms. Melissa

### Our Learning

#### What have we learned?

We've been learning about mental health this term, and the ways in which we can keep ourselves mentally healthy, alongside being active and physically healthy. Recognising our emotions, and that it's ok to have a wide range of feelings, has been a key part of our learning.

In science, we've been using decibel metres to measure the volume of sound around the school. This has been enormous fun, and in particular measuring which parts of the school are the quietest and loudest (and whether they matched our predictions!). In maths, we've made a strong start on fractions and splitting whole amounts into parts, as well as identifying different fractions in their various representations.

Notably this week, the children have created some spellbinding story openings based on our class text 'How to Train Your Dragon'. The vocabulary, choices of writing content, and similes to describe characters and settings were particularly impressive.

#### Our highlights:

We thoroughly enjoyed our full afternoon of 'outdoor adventurous activities' at Marble Hill Park this week, and reading out our fabulous story openings in class.

### In other news

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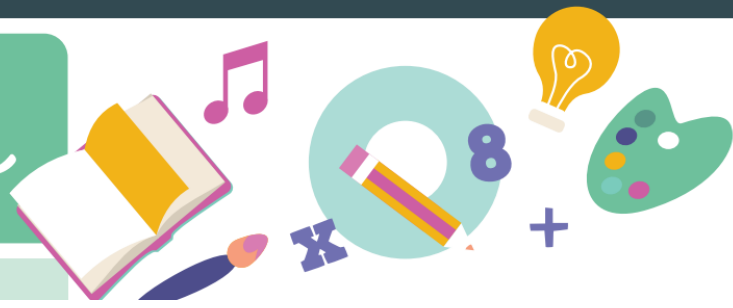
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# Class Updates



## Elk Class



Miss Thomas



Miss Naz



Miss Bhatti



Mrs Hazell

## Our Learning

### What have we learned?

We have had some fantastic performances of our narrative poems based on 'The Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes which have included impressive figurative language.

In science, we have enjoyed getting hands on and slightly messy whilst investigating different methods of separation.

Our PSHE lessons have fostered some great discussion around stereotypes in the workplace and how we are able to challenge these.

### Our highlights:

Our trip to the Tate Modern was a great success. After studying Matisse and Mondrian, it was fantastic to see their work in the flesh! We also enjoyed exploring the galleries in search of other artists who have similar or contrasting styles and techniques. Throughout the day, we used brilliant visual language to describe the artwork.

In indoor PE, we have been learning about Bollywood dancing and have created some brilliant dance routines of our own. We were lucky that Ms Khurana came to perform for us and gave us some brilliant sparkly belts to wear!



## In other news

Donations of any spare sheets of fabric for our D&T Day on Monday would be greatly appreciated.

Have a lovely half term break when it arrives!

## The next two weeks

### We will be learning:

- Equivalent fractions and decimals
- Line dancing
- Designing a waistcoat
- The rise of crime since 1800s

### Trips and events:

- 05/02/24 - D&T Day
- 09/02/24 - Open Morning
- 09/02/24 - PTA Y5 Bake Sale

### Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Mert and Samuel



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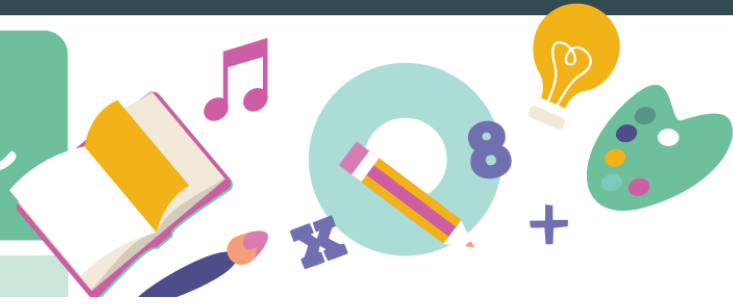


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# Class Updates



## RedClass



Miss Williams



Mrs Hazell

### Our Learning

#### What have we learned?

Over the last few weeks we have been learning about life cycles, and metamorphosis in Science. We have looked at similarities and differences between complete and incomplete metamorphosis, and also summarising the key advantages and disadvantages of sexual and asexual reproduction in plants.

In French, we continue to learn about the different habitats, and where different plants and animals grow and live. We have also looked at what living things need to survive in their habitats.

In History, we have been researching a different kingdom – The Kingdom of Songhai – and comparing it to that of Benin. We have then used this comparison to help identify why the Kingdom of Benin was so much more successful.

#### Our highlights:

A definite highlight of the last few weeks has been during our dance lessons in PE. We have been looking at the Haka. We watched examples of the New Zealand rugby team doing the Haka, and then compiled our own routines in groups using a range of different movements.

The following week we looked at how we could express ourselves using different emotions and feelings to make our Haka effective.

### In other news

Thank you for bringing in all of the cardboard boxes for our DT day on Monday.

Have a lovely half term when it arrives. Make sure you spend lots of time outside and read lots over the holidays!

### The next two weeks

#### We will be learning:

- How to create and add posts to our own blog
- How to design and create our own infographic
- How to use parenthesis effectively in our own writing
- How to form and solve equations

#### Trips and events:

05/02/24 - Y6 DT Day

09/02/24 - End of term

07/03/24 - World Book Day

#### Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Grace and Max



ay Social

ow us on Twitter