



Deer Park School

LEARN ENJOY SUCCEED

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

Dear Families,

A warm welcome to the weekend. At time of writing, Year 2 are at the Gurdwara on Alice Way in Hounslow, and Year 6 are booming out the batucada rhythms of *carnival* in the main hall. The great annual Art Exhibition is nearly upon us, and the opening overs of this week were a flurry of thoughtful and creative entries. I'm not sure 'flurry' is entirely the right word here, given its usual usage in reference to snow, wind or ice-creams, but the exploration of other options was not fruitful. After rejecting 'smorgasbord', I briefly dabbled with 'melee' (which I hope you'll agree is not preferable) and immediately confused this with 'milieu'. Consultation with the dictionary of choice (i.e. Google) reveals that neither a 'social environment of art entries' (milieu) or a 'confused fight and/or scuffle of art entries' (melee) were the right choices for this particular description, and so 'flurry' retains its place, albeit under continued doubt. Vocabulary is a code: it's the cypher we each need to crack in order to access new concepts and ideas, to read and write and speak cogently, with dexterity and meaning. In order to read and comprehend a page of non-fiction text, for example, you need to fluently understand 95% of the words contained therein. Less than that, and the exercise becomes about the fluency of reading, rather than about the concept being described. It is for this reason that we teach **vital vocabulary** explicitly at Deer Park, and why it's included in our homework. [Four in ten children](#) nationally are behind in their language and vocabulary acquisition, and the gap between peers by age 7 can be up to 4,000 words. Four thousand! If you briefly cast your eyes back over the words you've already read in this newsletter (a publication known for its accessible language and concise descriptions), I invite you to think about the word meanings you had to recognise instantly in order to be able to grasp the concepts. 'Rhythm', 'annual', 'fruitful', 'consultation', 'scuffle', and 'albeit', to name just a few. If reading is the doorway to expanded horizons (and it is), vocabulary is the key to that door. It's worth our time.

In recommend reads this week, an unsurprising, foreseeable and predictable book for our adults: Alex Quigley's 'Closing the Vocabulary Gap'. Quigley is the Michael Jordan of this particular field of education, and his book is an instructive testament to the role of vocabulary in academic progress and cultural development.

For our youngest readers, 'The Proudest Blue' is this week's edition. It's Asiya's colour-choice of hijab for the first day of Year 7, and her younger sister (our narrator) takes us through the day and the experience with some wonderfully poetic descriptions.

Finally, for our readers in KS2, 'A Drop of Golden Sun' by Kate Saunders. It's the Sound of Music (kind of) in a French chateau, but really it's a reflection on grief and the legacy of warfare. A good choice for historical fiction fans.

Have a fabulous weekend together, stay warm, and do remember to read.

Yours as ever,

Alex Lee



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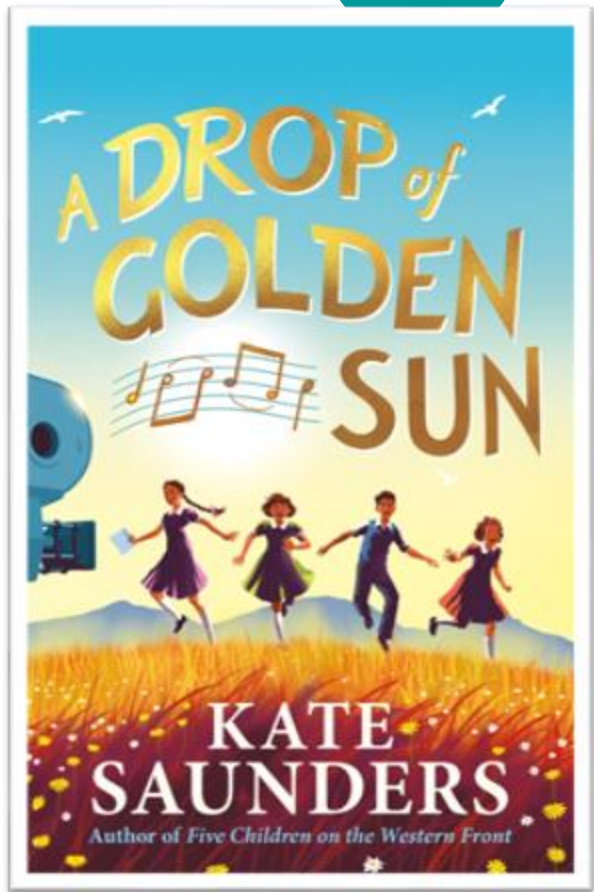
Recommended READS

For Children

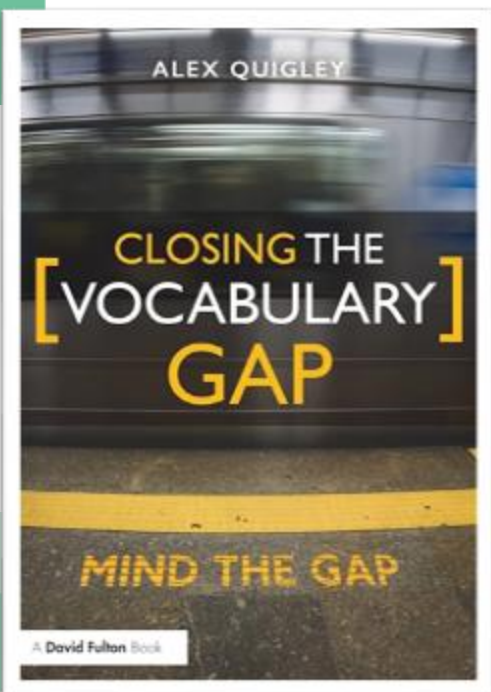
KS1



KS2



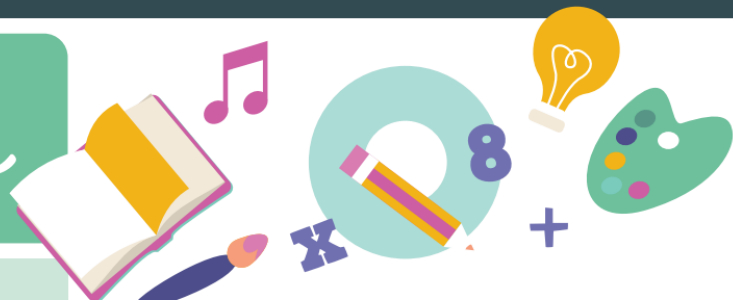
For Adults



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Class Updates



Sambar Class



Mrs Blaxland



Ms Philip



Miss Wilkinson



Mrs Lambelin

Our Learning

What have we learned?

- This term we have started our new topic 'Growing and Changing'. Last week we read the book 'Oliver's Vegetables' and this week we have been reading 'Jack and the Beanstalk'.
- In Maths, we have been adding and taking away.
- In Science, we went to the STEAM room terrace to plant our own sunflower seeds. We also thought about how we can look after our plants and what they will need to grow.
- In Music, we have been listening to different types of music and drawing how it makes us feel.

Our highlights:

The Reception classes enjoyed their latest Welly Walk to Marble Hill Park, where they made nature crowns.

Last week in Art, we looked at the work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo and made our own artworks using only fruits and vegetables.

In other news

- We would love any donations of socks, if you have any old ones at home. Thank you.
- Library Day is still on a Thursday so please ensure that your child has their Library book with them on this day.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

We will be reading the book 'Omar, the Bees and Me'. In Maths, we will be exploring different shapes.

Trips and events:

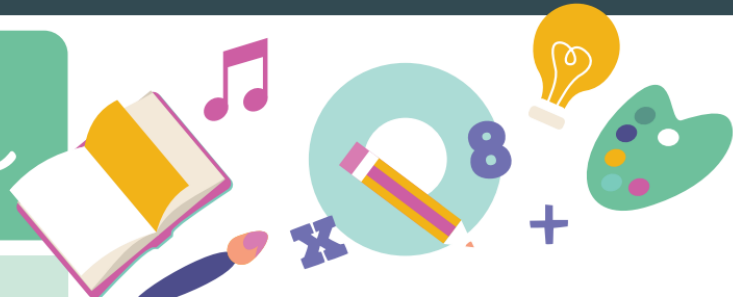
Welly Walk – Thursday 16th of May

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Dylan and Remi



Class Updates



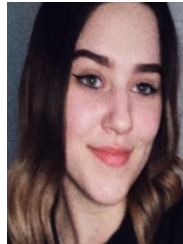
Fawn Class



Miss MacGregor



Mrs Gordon



Miss Cain



Miss Sarah

Our Learning

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- In Maths, we have been adding more and taking away.
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Trips and events:

Welly Walk – Thursday 16th of May

Upcoming Stars of the Week: Oskar and Freddie



Class Updates



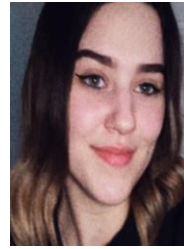
Roe Class



Miss Copeland



Mrs. Amber



Miss Cain



Miss Tejas

Our Learning

What have we learned?

In English we have started a new book, Grandad's Island. They have learnt to write descriptive letters using a range of adjectives and past tense verbs.

In Maths we have been grouping and sharing different objects. We have also been learning about arrays and identifying rows and columns.

In science we have been learning about the 4 seasons. We have learned which months are in each season.

Our highlights:

Roe class have shown great enthusiasm with their learning. They have been especially enthusiastic during History. We have been learning about the history of flight and Roe class have been asking lots of questions.

In other news

Next Friday we will be making rain gauges as part of our science lesson. If you have any empty large plastic bottles at home, please can they be brought in.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

Halves of a shape and quantity

Weather Patterns

Trips and events:

- 30.4.24- Art Exhibition
- 9.5.24- Year 1 Phonics screening Parent workshop at 3.30pm

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Amelie

Owen

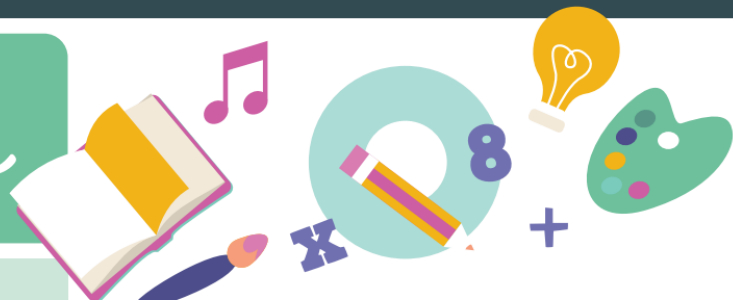


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Class Updates



Brocket Class



Miss Bennett



Miss Cat

Our Learning

What have we learned?

In Art we have started learning how to sketch a character inspired by the illustrator Quentin Blake. Brocket class have loved learning how to sketch different characters and show each emotion.

In English we have started a new book, Grandad's Island. They have learnt to write descriptive letters using a range of adjectives and past tense verbs.

This term we are having our music lessons with Mell. She is teaching Year 1 to sing a few songs and how to project their singing voice. We have loved our lessons for the past couple of weeks.

Our highlights:

It has been a fantastic start to summer term. Brocket class have come back full of excitement, ready to learn with smiles on all faces. We have particularly enjoyed learning about the history of the first flight and the Wright Brothers. Lots of questions being asked and historic facts being shared in every lesson.

In other news

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The next two weeks

We will be learning:

- Halves of a shape and quantity
- Weather Patterns

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Upcoming Stars of the Week:

- Daniel
- Darcy



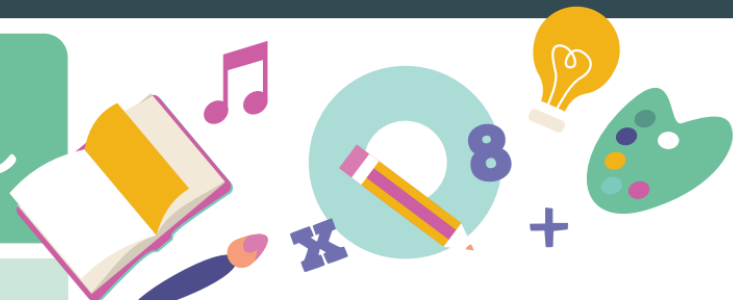
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Class Updates



MarshClass



Miss Webster



Mr Lloyd



Miss Susie



Miss Tejas



Ms Melissa

Our Learning

Year 2 have had an amazing first week back and have been showcasing our values of enthusiasm towards their learning and thoughtfulness towards each other.

What have we learned?

In Maths, we have been learning about money. The children have got to know values of different coins and notes, how to add them together and how to find change.

We planted French climbing beans in Science and we'll be observing how they grow over the next few weeks.

We have started learning about Maurice Sendak in Art this term. The children have loved looking at the fantastical creatures he created in 'Where the Wild Things Are' and exploring the techniques he used. This week we created creatures of our own. The children came up with some creative and wonderful animals with some excellent names!

Our highlights:

The children were really excited about receiving their very own pet potatoes to take home with them and they have loved telling their friends all about the fun they've been having. This enthusiasm has been reflected in the brilliant diaries they wrote at home and at school.

In other news

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

Writing instructions in English,
exploring fractions in Maths

Trips and events:

Wetland centre – 13th May

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Freya

Amelie



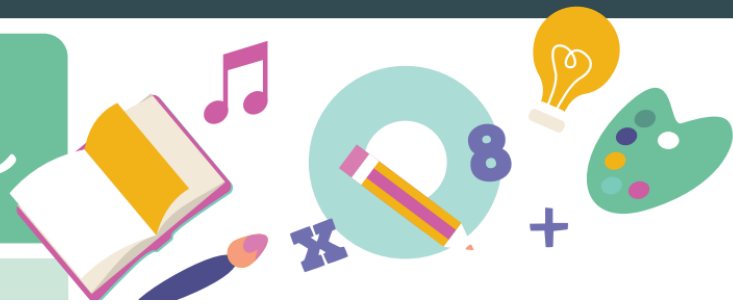
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Class Updates



Fallow Class



Miss Brandvik



Mrs Kisby

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In other news

Please make sure your child keeps their yellow reading record in their reading folder so any new books can be logged at school.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

How to write instructions in English, exploring fractions in Maths, observing a plant's growth in Science.

Trips and events:

30th April – DPS Art Exhibition

13th May – Wetland Centre

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Maxi and Eric



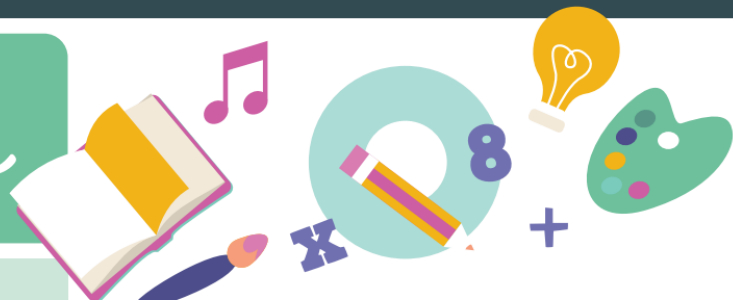
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Class Updates



Muntjac Class



Miss Forshaw



Miss Tejas

Our Learning

What have we learned?

The children have absorbed many facts about the ancient Roman gods and goddesses. We learnt how to use relative clauses, possessive apostrophes and conjunctions, which we included in our fact file.

In maths, we have completed our unit on measure. We can convert between different units of measurement, read scales, add and subtract measurements and order and compare measurements.

In History, the children learnt about the chronology of the Roman empire. We learned that the Roman civilisation had three main periods: The Kings Period, The Republic, and Imperial Rome. We learnt about Julius Caesar and Claudius' invasion of Britannia, understanding their motives, problems they encountered and consequences of the invasions.

- Our highlights:

The children have used their observational skills in Science, understanding that the roots and the stem of a plant transports water. We observed the petals of our white flowers turning pink from the food dye!

We are lucky enough to be singing in our music lessons with MeI. MeI said she was impressed with the enthusiasm, effort and talent in Y3!

In other news

Please remember to bring in any buttons, ribbons, sequins or small pieces of fabric that can be used to decorate our upcoming DT project.

The next two weeks

What we will be learning:

In Science, we will be learning about how the different parts of a flower play a role in the process of pollination.

In English, we will be using Marcia Williams as inspiration to design our own comic strip about the founding of Rome.

In RE, we will learn about the different parts of a church, linking it to symbols of Christianity.

Trips and events:

Friday 10th May – Kew Gardens

Monday 20th May – Literacy Festival trip to see Joseph Coelho at the Rose Theatre, Kingston.

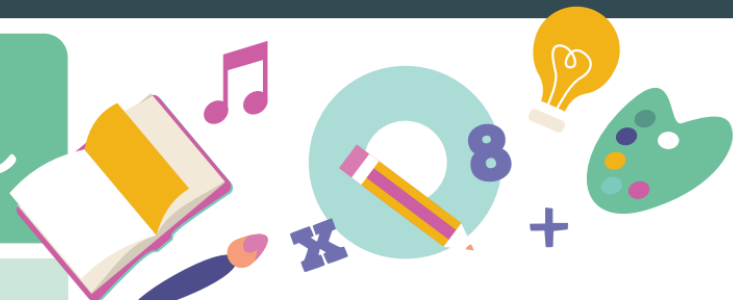
Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Roscoe
Michalina



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Kashmir Class



Miss Cutter



Ms Barbara

Our Learning

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The children have used their observational skills in Science, understanding that the roots and the stem of a plant transports water. We observed the petals of our white flowers turning pink from the food dye!

We are lucky enough to be singing in our music lessons with Mel. Mel said she was impressed with the enthusiasm, effort and talent in Y3!

In other news

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Trips and events:

Friday 10th May – Kew Gardens

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Upcoming Stars of the Week:

w/c 29th April: Ida

w/c 6th May: Riley



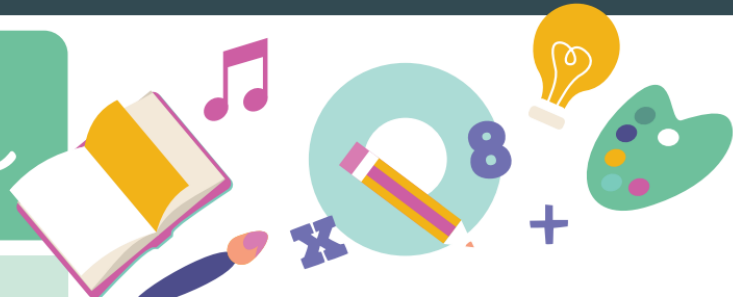
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Class Updates



SikaClass



Miss Cowing



Miss Lauren



Miss Mandy

Our Learning

What have we learned?

What a brilliant start to the Summer Term! We have started reading our book for this term 'Running Wild', which the children are absolutely captivated by. They have been using the sentence types and vocabulary from the book to write a recount.

In Maths, we have focused on Decimals – learning what tenths and hundredths are we are beginning to now divide 1- and 2-digit numbers by 10.

This term in History we look at The Shang Dynasty and compare this to what was happening at Britain at the same time. We looked at what life was like back then.

Science this term is the terrific topic of Teeth! The children have compared teeth of carnivores and herbivores and questioned why this might be the case. As well as learning about the different types of teeth we have and their functions.

Our highlights:

I have been so impressed with the way that Sika class have come back to school this term. They are becoming much more independent and their passion and curiosity for learning is really showing! We had some brilliant art competition entries, and I cannot wait to see them all properly at the exhibition next week.

In other news

Mr Lee sent out the kit list for Thames Young Mariners. Please make sure you have everything needed. If you do not, please let school know and we can do our best to find some spares.

Could you also email myself (Miss Cowing) or Mr Lee if there is any medical information you want us to know for the trip.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

- Comparing decimals
- Writing a persuasive letter
- What effect sugar has on your teeth
- Looking at Shang Dynasty artefacts
- Using oil pastels and chalk pastels to blend

Trips and events:

2/5-3/5 - Thames Young Mariners

6/5 - Bank Holiday

23/5 - DT Day

Upcoming stars of the week:

Week 3 – Woody

Week 4 - Frieda



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Class Updates



Taruca Class



Mrs. Bailey



Mrs. Wilson



Mrs Bhatti



Ms Melissa

Our Learning

What have we learned?

We have had a fantastic start to the Summer Term! We have started reading 'Running Wild' and using this to enhance our writing. We are adding more description and detail to our writing, including adverbs and verbs. We have introduced the use of dashes and included that into our longer piece of writing.

In Maths, we have been representing numbers as decimals and we are beginning to now divide 1- and 2-digit numbers by 10.

In History, we have started looking at the Shang Dynasty and what Britain was doing during that time as well, focusing on what life was like for different people in that era.

In RE, we have started our new unit on Hinduism.

Science this term is the terrific topic of Teeth! The children have compared teeth of carnivores and herbivores and questioned why this might be the case. As well as learning about the different types of teeth and their functions.

Our highlights:

Taruca have come back ready for Summer Term! They are becoming much more independent and curiosity for learning is really showing! We had some brilliant art competition entries, and I cannot wait to see them all properly at the exhibition next week. They have also really enjoyed our first 2 tennis lessons, practising their skills.

In other news

Mr Lee sent out the kit list for Thames Young Mariners. Please make sure you have everything needed. If you do not, please let school know and we can do our best to find some spares.

Could you also email Mrs Wilson or Mr Lee if there is any medical information you want us to know for the trip.

The next two weeks

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- Comparing decimals
- Writing a persuasive letter
- What effect sugar has on your teeth
- Looking at Shang Dynasty artefacts
- Using oil pastels and chalk pastels to blend

Trips and events:

2/5-3/5 - Thames Young Mariners
6/5 - Bank Holiday
23/5 - DT Day

Upcoming stars of the week:

Week 3 – Finlay
Week 4 - Giselle



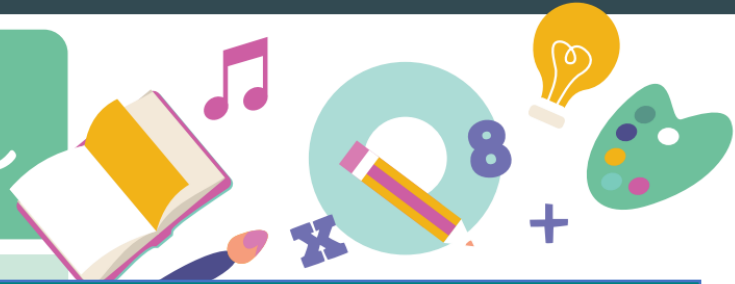
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Class Updates



Elk Class



Miss Thomas



Miss Naz



Miss Bhatti



Mrs Hazell

Our Learning

What have we learned?

Elk Class have come back to school eager and ready to learn! We have had brilliant discussion about environmentalism and urbanisation from our English text 'Varmints' by Helen Ward.

In history, we have gained an understanding of where, when and why the Indus Valley civilisation developed by looking at historical sources and evidence.

We have mastered measuring, drawing and calculating angles in maths. In science, we have explored the magnetic properties of materials and investigated the strength of different magnets.

Our highlights:

A highlight has been starting our swimming lessons. We are already feeling more confident and can't wait to see the progress we make over the next term.

We have also started our Samba lessons, which has been very exciting! We look forward to showcasing what we learn at our end of year concert.

In other news

We are delighted to have Miss Tundo also teaching in Elk class until July! Elk Class have made her feel very welcome.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

- Coordinates, translation and symmetry
- Writing an epilogue for 'Varmints'
- Life in the Indus Valley
- The poles of a magnet and the Earth's magnetism

Trips and events:

7th May - Science Museum Trip

20th May – Literary Festival – MG Leonard at the Rose Theatre, Kingston

23rd May – DT Day

Upcoming Stars of the Week: Clara and Alec



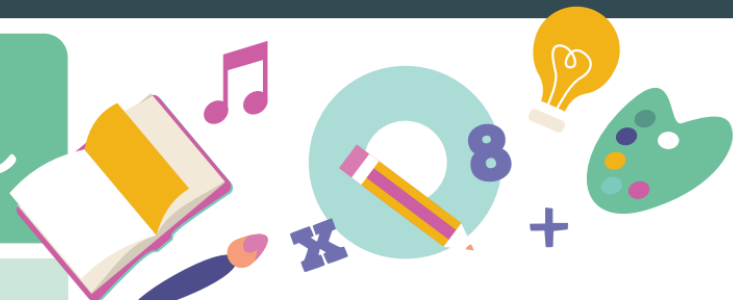
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Class Updates



RedClass



Miss Williams

Our Learning

What have we learned?

New term, new topics, and this half term we are learning all about the American Revolution in History. We have found it interesting learning about the events that led up to the revolution, and thinking about the historical significance of these. Following this, we have discussed the consequences of the revolution, including the impact on Native Americans, the British Empire and the legal systems.

In Science, our new focus is 'Forces'. We have looked at the force of gravity on objects of the same size and shape, but different mass and determined that Galileo Galilei was correct with his scientific theory. We have also started learning about how magnets can be used to create electricity by spinning them at extremely fast speeds.

Our highlights:

We have really enjoyed starting our Samba lessons on Friday mornings. Everyone is incredibly enthusiastic, and each week we take it in turns to try different instruments as well as learning where the music originates.

We look forward to sharing with you what we have learnt at the musical event towards the end of the year.

In other news

Please ensure that your child is regularly reading at home, and recording this in their reading planners.

Well done to those who bring it in every day!

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

- That levers allow a smaller force to have a greater impact.
- How objects can be made more streamline
- About the similarities and differences between the Ancient Greek, and American democracies.

Trips and events:

- 17/05 - Africana Workshop (in school)
- 20/05 - Y6 trip to the BAPs Mandir Temple
- 21/05 - Y6 DT day

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Jess and Veronica



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