



Deer Park School

LEARN ENJOY SUCCEED

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

Dear Families,

A splendid weekend to one and all, and a question or several. What is the best art? What about the best music? The best poem? Book? Song? There's a frustrating lack of data available and these probably aren't the right questions, anyway. As any doctoral candidate will tell you, working out what the question should be is the real jigsaw. They need to be specific and measurable, and – ideally – in some way related to your field of study. 'What is the best song for me to compound my joyous feeling on this summer afternoon?' for example. But that's still nowhere near, since it requires definitions of 'best' and 'compound' and 'joyous' and examinations of how our neurological cortex experiences joy and, well, a host of other stuff. Any answer these questions produce is going to be a total load of dingo's kidneys, empirically speaking. I think this phenomenon, or its exact opposite, is part of what makes sport so widely and accessibly appealing. It calls to both our inner statistician and our inner competitor: it is the distillation of comparison-based achievement, of who/what is best. Would you like to know who has the world's fastest forehand? No problem. It's measurable and documented. Home runs? Defenders beaten when they close within <1 metre? Yards after initial contact? Test match catches by slip-fielders off swing bowlers after tea? Or perhaps maybe just, 'Who is the fastest?'. This question is answerable in an unambiguous way, with hard data. Now all of this is great and measurable and clear, but it's only part of what makes sport wonderful. The other part is unfortunately a little more challenging to measure. A few weeks back in March we looked at the Barclay's [Here for Every Goal](#) report, on the positive influence of women's and girls' football on (among other things) self-esteem and confidence. This report is about as well-funded as a study of this type is going to be, with a 30-strong bibliography, but it still doesn't answer all the questions or even *ask* all the right questions. Not for lack of trying, but because it's very difficult to measure the intrinsic value that an experience or set of experiences adds to a person's sense of self. We might feel that we have drawn a sense of confidence or resilience from the sport we have participated in. That we are kinder or better communicators because of our sporting experiences. We might *know* that this is the case for ourselves, but proving the causal relationship is of course a bit harder. 'Sport is good for you!' we proclaim, clinging to a branch of sentiment while the hounds of statistical analysis snap at our ankles, hungry for empirical proof we haven't got. The answer to 'Is playing a sport a good idea for my child?' (which is a *terribly* worded research question; sorry) depends on who your child is and what 'good' is and so on and so on, but the answer is usually 'yes' or 'yes, the positives will outweigh the negatives'. 'Ok, which sport should it be?' is harder, and then you have 'how often?' and 'to what level of competition?' and myriad other cascading questions ad infinitum until you give up and delete your spreadsheet and just pick a sport based on how close to your home it is. But it *is* good for you, and it *does* add to our lives. Right? So is it enough to know or feel that without having to prove it? Maybe. I submit the proposal that while we work on the data to prove that sport enriches our lives, we rest for now on our emotive instincts and play it anyway.

In the short space left in this newsletter, some very brief recommended reads this week, beginning with some empirical analysis! 'The Family Firm' by Emily Oster is a guide to data-driven decisions on parenting during school years. It is fascinating. For our youngest readers, 'The Magic Callaloo' by Trish Cooke. Rapunzel, retold, and retold well. Finally for our KS2 readers, 'Keedie' by Elle McNicoll. Neurodiversity and the coming of age, from the author of 'A Kind of Spark'.

Have a wonderful weekend together, and do remember to read.

Yours as ever,

Alex Lee



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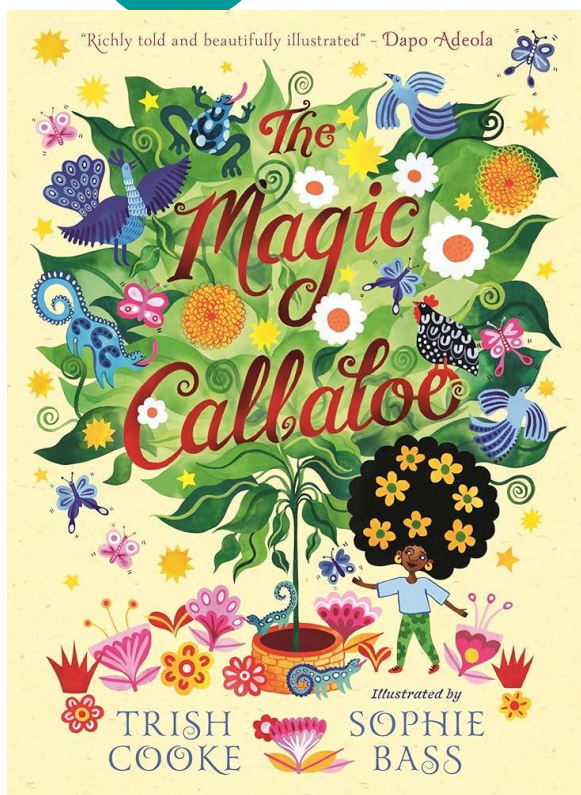
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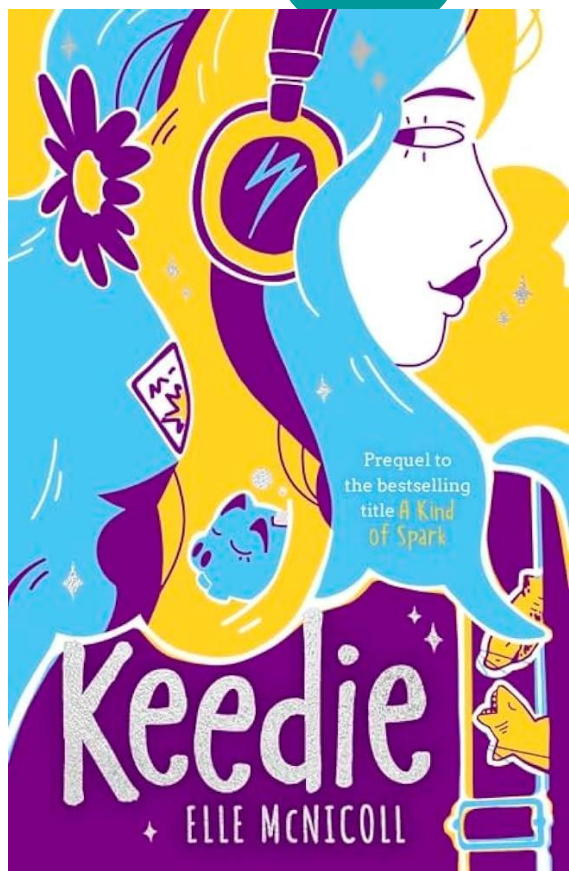
Recommended READS

For Children

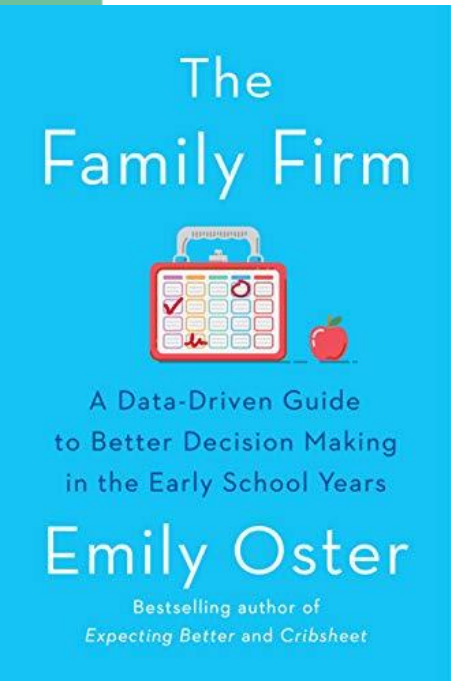
KS1



KS2



For Adults



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Spotlight on....

Art Exhibition winners

Reception

Anna A
Alexis

Year 1

Amber
Eymen

Year 2

Jasper
Milan

Year 3

Sidati
Lena
Amelie

Year 4

Can
George L
Charlie

Year 5

Ayona
Arabella

Year 6

Liv
Emilia
Astrid



Thank you to Ann Hines (a member of the LAB) who had to make the difficult decisions.

Year 3 and some children were absent today, so they are not in the above photo.



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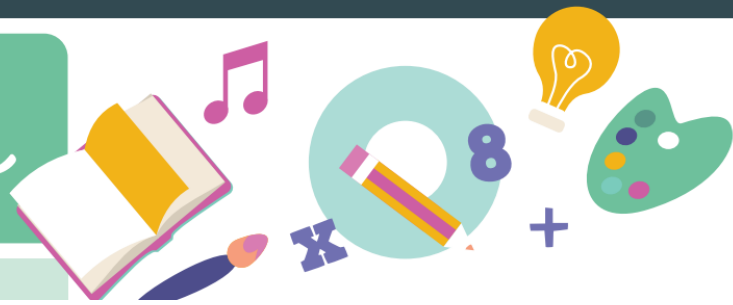


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Class Updates



Sambar Class



Mrs Blaxland



Ms Philip



Miss Wilkinson



Mrs Lambelin

Our Learning

What have we learned?

- Last week, we read the book 'Omar, the Bees and Me' and found out lots of interesting facts about bees. This week, we have been reading the book 'My Body is Me' and learning about our senses and different body parts.
- In Maths, we have been looking at 2d shapes within 3d shapes.
- In Art, we have been looking at the work of artist Andy Goldsworthy and have had a go at making our own land art using natural resources.
- In History, we have been looking at how vehicles have changed over the years. Some of us even had a go at making our own vehicles using junk modelling!

Our highlights: The Reception classes have been very excited about the arrival of caterpillars in our classrooms! They have been carefully observing them each day and talking about all the changes that they have noticed. They are all eagerly awaiting the next stage of their development!

In other news

- As the weather gets warmer, please ensure that your child has a water bottle with them every day.
- Thank you for all the donations of cardboard and other containers, we really appreciate it!

The next two weeks

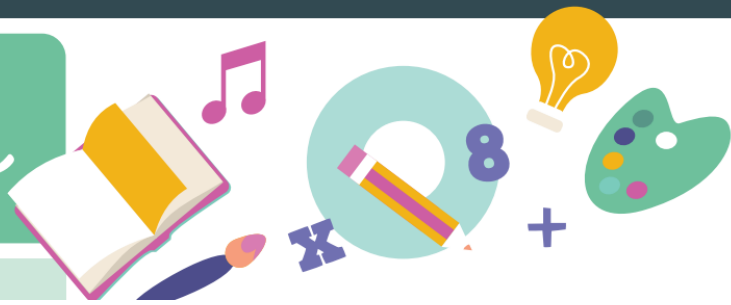
We will be learning: Next week, we will be reading the book 'What the Ladybird Heard'. In Maths, we will be exploring sharing and grouping.

Trips and events:
Welly Walk – 16th of May

Upcoming Stars of the Week:
Effie and Phoebe



Class Updates



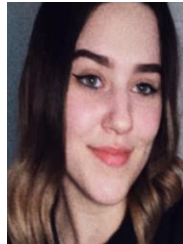
FawnClass



Miss MacGregor



Mrs Gordon



Miss Cain



Miss Sarah

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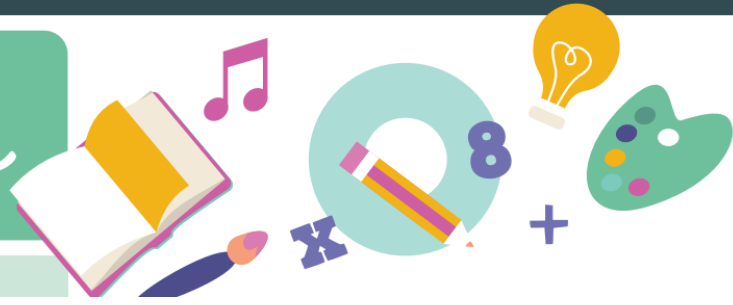
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Trips and events:
Welly Walk – 16th of May

Upcoming Stars of the Week: Mia and George G



Class Updates



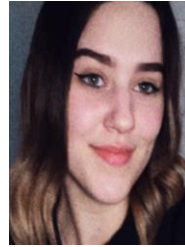
Roe Class



Miss Copeland



Mrs. Amber



Miss Lauren



Miss Tejas

Our Learning

What have we learned?

In English, we have been using purple mash to retell create our very own e-book of Grandad's Island. We have added animation, sound and used copy and paste to add pages.

In Maths, we have been learning to identify a quarter of a shape. We have been folding shapes and colouring in one quarter.

In Science we have made rain guages (coincidentally on the one dry week we've had this year!) and filled out a weather chart.

Our highlights:

This week we had a very special visit during our History lesson! Captain Jim talked to us about being a pilot. Roe class were very interested and asked lots of questions!

In other news

Thank you to those who brought in bottles for us to make our rain guages!

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

In English we will continue to create our e-books. We will then begin to write a recount of our visit from Captain Jim.

Trips and events:

14th May- Church trip

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Amber

Rudi



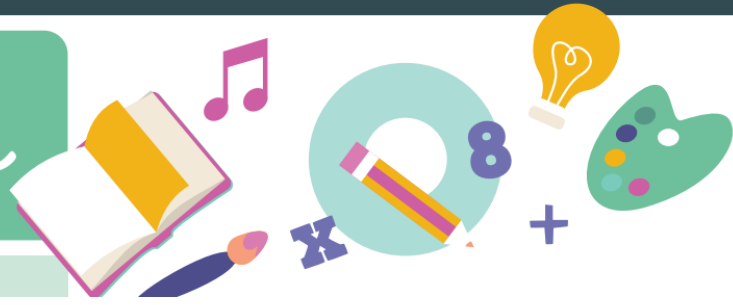
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Class Updates



Brocket Class



Miss Bennett



Miss Cat

Our Learning

What have we learned?

In history we have been learning about the reasons why the Wright brothers wanted to invent and fly a plane. This week we learnt about modern planes and had Captain Jim come in and talk to us all about his exciting job!

In English this week we have been learning to create our own e-books using the laptops. We have learnt how to add pictures, animations and sounds to our story of Grandad's Island.

In Maths we have been learning about halves and quarters of a shape and quantity.

Our highlights:

We have enjoyed learning some songs with Melly in our music lessons. They have been great fun!

In other news

Thank you to those who attended our phonics screening workshop.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

How to write a recount.

Key festivals in Buddhism

Trips and events:

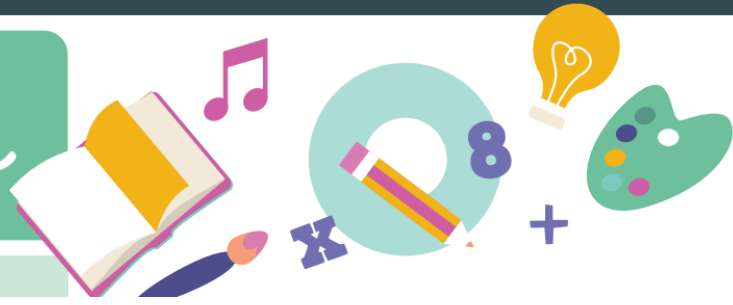
- 14th May Church visit

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

- Eli
- Eymen



Class Updates



MarshClass



Miss Webster



Mr Lloyd



Miss Susie



Miss Tejas



Ms Melissa

Our Learning

What have we learned?

Over the last two weeks we have finished writing our instructions on how to grow a potato plant. We have also used them to plant some seed potatoes in the school garden ourselves and we will observe their progress over the last half term.

In Music we have been very enthusiastic to start learning to play TooTs (a small flute-like instrument).

In History we have learnt about improvements made to hospitals since the Crimean War and in Computing we have been using different methods to present information e.g. quizzes and fact files.

Our highlights:

We had a lovely trip to Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha in Hounslow. Listening to music in the prayer hall, hearing more about Sikh values, and marvelling at just how much material is needed to wrap a traditional Sikh turban.

In other news

As the weather gets warmer, please ensure that your child has a water bottle with them every day, as well as a hat and suncream if required.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

Next week we will start to plan and research for our upcoming piece of writing in English - a biography of Mary Seacole.

Trips and events:

13th May – Wetland Centre Trip

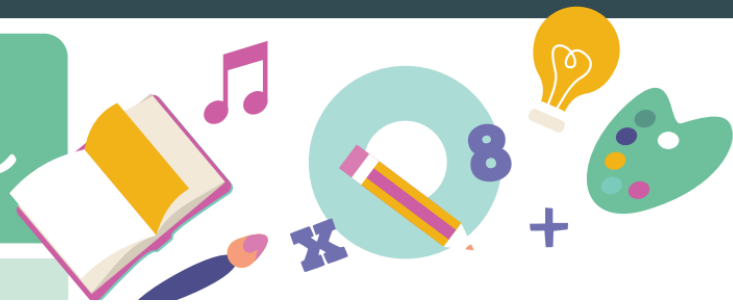
21st May – DT Day

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Jasper and Nathan



Class Updates



Fallow Class



Miss Brandvik



Mrs Kisby

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Trips and events:

13th May – Wetland Centre Trip

21st May – DT Day

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Amiah and Mark



Class Updates



Muntjac Class



Miss Forshaw



Miss Tejas



Our Learning

What have we learned?

This week in English, we planned and designed our own comic strip. We thought carefully about the layout, using different shot types of shapes of speech bubbles to convey emotions. In our writing, we used prepositional phrases, fronted adverbials and a variety of pronouns and nouns to make our writing cohesive.

We are revisiting fractions in Maths, finding unit and non-unit fractions of an amount. We will be moving onto money, converting between pounds and pence and finding change from a given amount. Please do speak to your child about money, and encourage them to use it, find the change and add and subtract different values of coins to contextualise their maths!

In Science, we learnt about the different parts of the flower, understanding how there are male and female parts. We then looked at how these parts play a role in the process of pollination. We understood that pollinators also play a vital role in pollination, and went to see some in action in the garden!

We learnt about Boudicca's rebellion in History, igniting some interesting conversations about rights of women during the past! We also learnt about why the Romans left Britain; we learnt that barbarian invasions, Celtic rebellions and money problems contributed to the Romans leaving Britain, and the ultimate collapse of the Roman Empire.

- Our highlights:

- Dissecting a plant to see all the different parts of the flower.
- Our trip to Kew Gardens – we learnt a lot about seed dispersal!

In other news

DT day is fast approaching! Please bring in any spare buttons, sequins, ribbons or scraps of material you may have for the children to use to decorate.

We are still in need of some more volunteers! Please let us know if you can help.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

We will consolidate our learning from Kew Gardens and learn about different types of seed dispersal.

In RE, we will learn about the Ten Commandments and how Christians believe these teach them right from wrong.

In computing, we will be combining all our skills and creating a Google Slides presentation all about ourselves.

We will use oil pastels in Art to replicate the style of Pablo Picasso. We will think carefully about perspective, colour, angles and shape to create a self portrait.

Trips and events:

Mental Health Awareness Week

We will take part in two workshops during this week.

Monday 20th May – Joseph Coelho

We will travel to the Rose Theatre in Kingston to attend a workshop by Joseph Coelho.

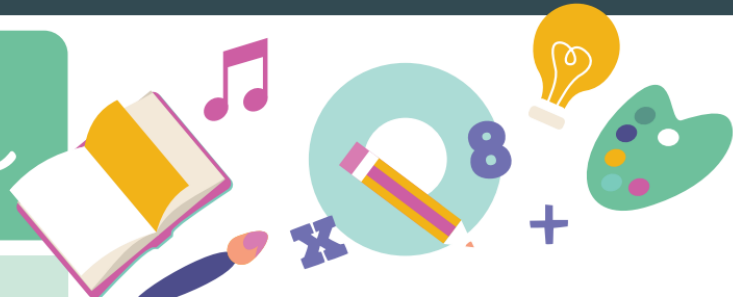
Friday 24th May – DT Day

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Elaine, Ted



Class Updates



Kashmir Class



Miss Cutter



Ms Barbara

Our Learning

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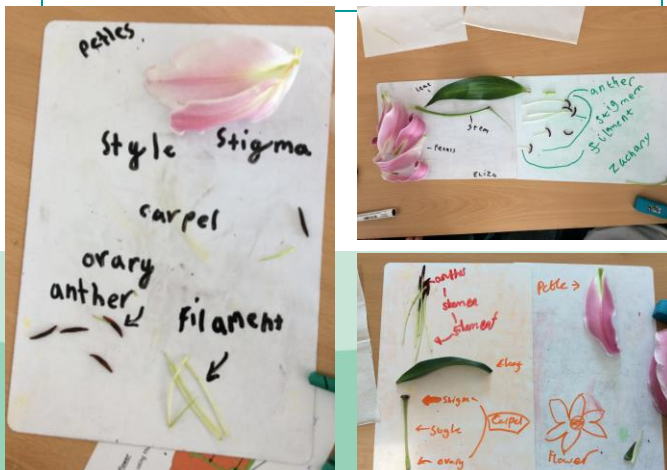
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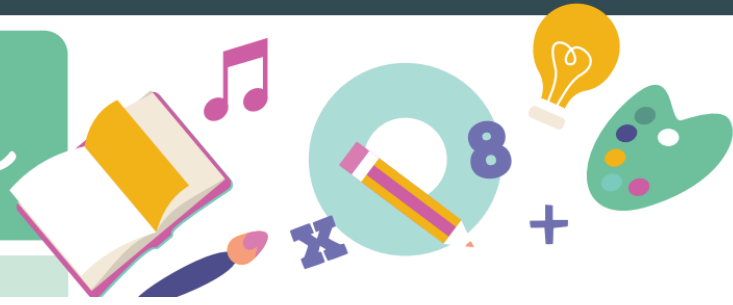
Greg
Anais



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Class Updates



SikaClass



Miss Cowing



Miss Lauren



Miss Mandy

Our Learning

What have we learned?

In English, we have been looking at examples and features of a persuasive piece of writing. We are finally nearing the end of our decimals unit in Maths, with rounding to the nearest whole number, comparing and ordering this week. In Science, we set up an experiment to see how badly different drinks affect our teeth enamel and in History we have been looking at artefacts and what they tell us about life in the Shang Dynasty.

Our highlights:

The trip to Thames Young Mariners was an incredibly rewarding experience. The children learnt to work as a team, communicate with each other and had to be extremely resilient (as well as the teachers!) Sika blew me away with how laid back they were with trying lots of new experiences, how calm they were when things weren't quite what they expected, but at the end of the day, how they kept on smiling throughout it all!

In other news

It is due to get much warmer over the next few weeks. Please ensure your child has a full water bottle each day, sun cream and hats.

DT day is Week 6. If anyone has any fabric scraps that are not needed, please begin to bring these in for our task of making book jackets.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

- Money
- Writing a persuasive letter
- How to look after our teeth
- Who is Fu Hao?
- Making a spreadsheet

Trips and events:

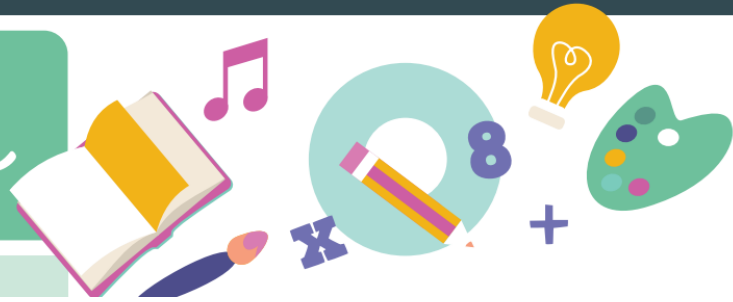
- 13/5 - Mental Health Awareness Week
- 17/5 - Africana Author Visit
- 20/5 - DT Day

Upcoming stars of the week:

- Week 5 – Frieda
- Week 6 - Ilya



Class Updates



Taruca Class



Mrs. Baily



Mrs. Wilson



Mrs. Bhatti



Ms. Melissa

Our Learning

What have we learned?

We have learnt about persuasive writing in English, looking at many different real-life examples.

In Maths we continued to learn about decimals; comparing and ordering different numbers.

Our egg experiment is ongoing in Science - which liquid will decay the eggshell the fastest? What about the inside of the egg?

In History, we have been researching different artefacts found during the Shang Dynasty.

Our highlights:

Thames Young Mariners was an incredible adventure last week. Taruca Class showed their resilience and team working skills, taking part in many different and exciting activities. We built rafts, paddle boarded, and learnt how to light a fire amongst many other things. Not much sleep was had, so I think they may well be already looking forwards to the weekend!

Well done to those who managed to pack ALL their possessions and bring them home...anything left is now in lost property!

In other news

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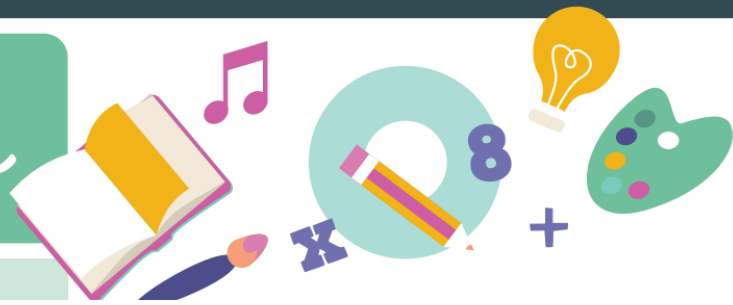
Trips and events:

13/5 - Mental Health Awareness Week
17/5 - Africana Author Visit
20/5 - DT Day

Upcoming Stars of the Week: Giselle (Week 5), Yaaniv (Week 6).



Class Updates



Elk Class



Miss Thomas



Miss Naz



Miss Bhatti



Mrs Hazell

Our Learning

What have we learned?

Over the past couple of weeks in maths, we have been plotting and solving problems with coordinates, translating shapes, identifying lines of symmetry and completing reflections.

In English, we have written brilliant epilogues for Helen Ward's 'Varmints', telling our audience what we imagine becomes of the characters and their habitats.

We have really enjoyed exploring artefacts and researching trade and daily life in the Indus Valley Civilisation. Some children have made some brilliant Indus seals as part of their homework – well done!

In RE, we have compared the places of worship, worship practices and lifestyles of the three Dharmic religions – Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism.

Our highlights:

On Tuesday, we visited the Science Museum. We got hands on in the 'Wonderlab' where we enjoyed the friction slides, explored pulley systems and used problem-solving skills to build electric circuits. Our 'Feel the Force' workshop was energetic, exciting and educational!

In other news

It is due to get much warmer over the next few weeks. Please ensure your child has a full water bottle each day, sun cream and hats.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

- Adding and subtracting decimals
- Persuasive speech – Plastic pollution
- Earth's magnetism and creating temporary magnets
- Creation stories and reincarnation in Dharmic religions
- Creating a layered piece of art in the style of Hundertwasser

Trips and events:

13/5 - Mental Health Awareness Week

17/5 - Africana Author Visit

20/5 – Literary Festival – MG Leonard at the Rose Theatre, Kingston

23/5 – DT Day

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Ethan and Ishan



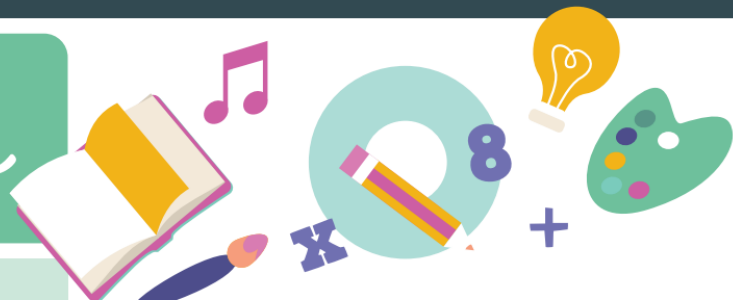
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Class Updates



RedClass



Miss Williams

Our Learning

What have we learned?

Over the last few weeks we have been looking at the causes and consequences of the American Revolution. The analysis of specialist maps have helped us understand more about where and why the key battles took place.

In Science, our continued learning of 'Forces' has seen us looking at the impact of levers on a force. We plotted our data collected on a graph, and found that it created a positive trend, showing a negative correlation in an exponential curve.

In French, this term Red class have been learning how to say and spell some of the different countries and the relative capital cities in the French-speaking world in their unit 'Le monde et moi'.

Our highlights:

It was fantastic seeing all of the amazing Year 6 work in the art exhibition last week and well done to those who entered and won prizes.

Year 6 are very motivated and ambitious artists. In art lessons over the last two weeks, with a focus on the style of Charlie Mackesey, Year 6 have been learning how to use lines to represent figurative movement.

In other news

Ahead of the SATs next week, make sure you have a restful weekend. Don't forget to join us for breakfast on Monday at 8am. We look forward to seeing you there!

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

- What drag force is and how to make objects more streamline
- Comparison between leadership of Ancient Greece and America
- How to create charts and graphics using Excel software
- How to plan and cook a four-course meal

Trips and events:

- 13/05/24 - Mental Health Awareness week
- 16/05/24 - Supporting Refugees with Mental Health parent talk
- 17/05/24 - Africana Workshop
- 20/05/24 - Year 6 trip to BAPs Mandir
- 21/05/24 - Year 6 DT Day

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Lola and Reyansh



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