



Danson Primary School Newsletter

Head Teacher's Notice Board

Dear Children, Mums, Dads and Carers,

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome back all our Danson pupils this week! It has been lovely hearing the hustle and bustle of the corridors and the joy and laughter of pupils playing at break time and lunchtimes. The children have been so excited to be back, we have completed our first full week and long may it continue! I do understand for some it may not have been as easy, please keep using the materials we have sent home to help and support.

As part of our return to school please remind your child about the importance of following the behaviour expectations when moving around the school, when in class and on the playground and to speak to a grown up if they need help or support with this.

Thank you for making sure your child has returned in correct full uniform and correct footwear. If you have any difficulties in being able to do this please speak to the school office who will do their best to support you.

I would ask to again be mindful of our residents and how we park and queue outside their properties, we are all part of the same community and if we work together we can do great things in keeping ourselves safe outside the school gates.

Covid-19 Update

Even though we are all back at school we must still be vigilant to continue keeping each other safe as we hopefully work towards making our way out of lockdown. To help us please remember to keep socially distant and wear face masks when queuing to enter and whilst on school grounds. Please keep reminding your children about the importance of handwashing and hygiene when coughing/sneezing 'catch it, bin it kill it'.

If you or anyone in your household has symptoms please book a test (PCR not Lateral Flow) and let the school know so that they can support you in following the correct procedure for self isolation/return to school and next steps via our dedicated email address C-19Queries@danson.bexley.sch.uk and **not** via the school office email.

If you have any queries please refer back to the Frequency asked Questions and Covid-19 information that has been sent out to you. This information is also available on the school website.

Just after half term we celebrated Book week and World Book Day. I would like to thank Miss Hickmott, Mrs Hui and Miss McCulloch for organising such a great week and to all the teachers who make the week such an enjoyable immersive experience and particularly enjoyed the Masked Reader!! Please see below some of the fantastic learning that was completed by the children across the school during this fabulous reading week!

Staff said a final farewell to Mr Mitchell at his funeral this afternoon. We keep in our thoughts Sue, his wife and his family at this difficult and sad time. He was a great man and will be greatly missed by us all.

As always, take care and stay safe.

L. Basey



Danson's Book Week and World Book Day



This year, Book Week at Danson was all about continuing our enjoyment of reading during lockdown. As a school, we believe reading to be of utmost importance for all pupils. This includes both reading to learn and for pleasure. Therefore, we weren't going to let lockdown get in the way of our Book Week! We are pleased that every year group enjoyed a range of activities throughout the week to celebrate. Details of these activities, including live events, illustrating and doodling, reading resolutions and more, are covered in the year group sections below.

The Danson staff also enjoyed being involved in a whole school 'Masked Reader' competition. We disguised our faces and voices and read an extract from one of our favourite books. It proved to be a popular activity and it was fun to chat to pupils about their guesses!

Thank you to parent and carers for your engagement with the live lessons and the reading tips and resources sent out for celebrating Book Day at home. It was fantastic to see so many performances of poetry, audios of pupils reading aloud, book nooks and photographs of children reading. Thank you also for your continued support with daily home reading and recording in Reading Records. By working together with reading in and out of school, we are really giving Danson pupils the best chance of future success and happiness.

Dress Up Day

It was wonderful to see so many amazing outfits on World Book Day, with characters such as Matilda, The Cat in The Hat, Harry Potter and Greg from Diary of a Wimpy Kid. Some children were chosen as 'best dressed' in their year groups and will receive a certificate! Well done to everyone who took part.

Nursery – Maggie Moore (Butterflies)

Reception – Matas Kalbis (Elm)

Year 1 – Oliver Nightingale (Sparrow)

Year 2 – Ellen Ham (Pepys)

Year 3 – Elise Hoath (Brunel)

Year 4 – George Hopkins (Dahl)

Year 5 – Jinmi Feyisetan (Henry)

Year 6 – Esther Lawani (Franklin)

Extreme Lockdown Reading Photograph Competition

We were impressed by your creative ideas for this competition! Who knew that lockdown could give us so much inspiration? Well done to everyone who entered a photo of themselves reading in a weird and wonderful place!

Here is a list of the winner from each year group who will receive certificates:

Reception – Uthara Prem Kumar (Ash)

Year 1 – Thomas Waugh (Robin)

Year 2 – Fraser Duhan (Shackleton)

Year 3 – Eloise Waugh (Barfield)

Year 4 – Tabitha Price (Blackman)

Year 5 – Luca Blake (Victoria)

Year 6 – Adam Albu (Franklin)

Congratulations!



Nursery

The Nursery featured 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson & Lydia Monks. The children listened to the story and were encouraged to re-enact it using role play and small world figures. They were also asked to make a ladybird using their own choice of materials. During the week the children listened to a number of other stories written by Julia Donaldson in collaboration with other illustrators.



Reception

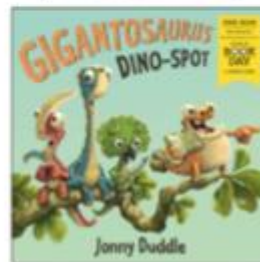
In Reception, we listened to the story, 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson and Lydia Monks. We made theatre boxes to act out the story. Our big question for the week was 'What is rhyming?' so then we completed some work on rhyming words. We enjoyed a 'Live' session where Lydia showed us how to draw some of the characters. We had a go at this at home. Rob Biddulph, who is the illustrator for World Book Day 2021, showed us how to draw the bookmark characters and some of us drew along with him. We enjoyed decorating potatoes as book characters too. We enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day and showing our friends in the Show and Share session.



Year 1

In Year 1 we listened to the story of 'Gigantosaurus Dino Spot' by Jonny Duddle. We enjoyed our live session with the author and we learnt how he did the illustrations for his books and that he had been interested in drawing from a very young age. We made dinosaur Trump Cards using information from the book and thought of questions we could ask about the story. We thought about the big question 'How do you know when you like a book?' and shared all of our ideas on a jamboard electronically. A second book we used was called 'Staying Home' by Sally Nicholls and Viviane Schwarz which shared with us how life had been for a family during Lockdown. We then thought of our own ideas about what we had been doing in Lockdown with our families and made an extra page for the book. We found some very interesting places to do our Extreme Reading and dressed up in some great book costumes for World Book Day. We liked trying to guess who the Masked Readers were and we performed and recorded our poems and rhymes to share with everyone too.

We had lots of fun during Book Week and read lots of books we had not read before as well as enjoying some of our old favourites!



Year 2


In Year 2 we enjoyed reading the text 'Protect the Planet'. We learned all about the importance of looking after our planet Earth and we realised that it doesn't matter how young you are, everyone can make a difference! We completed an art task drawing the sky, land and sea and then labelled our drawings using a range of adjectives.

We recorded pledges and shared the small changes we would make to help save the planet. Children pledged to walk to school, turn off the tap when brushing their teeth and to recycle! We wrote poems about our ideal world and thought about how our specific personality traits could help people and animals live in harmony.

We also enjoyed hearing about the teacher's favourite childhood books. We hope you discovered some fantastic new authors over the course of the week!



Year 3

Click on the shape box on the row above to be able to draw a circle around the image that is manipulated. 
Look at the images below. Can you circle the images you think are real? How did you decide this? Can you spot how they have been manipulated? Why do you think they have been manipulated this way? Is this right or wrong? What effects might the manipulation have?



Safer Internet Week
8th - 12th February 2021

Every day this week will be giving you an online activity. At the end of the week, you'll have a certificate. You'll need to use the internet safely and wisely. It's a positive or negative activity. You must explain why you think it is positive or negative to all the teachers in your class every day now and add it to the page.

It is positive because you can find out if something is real or not.
You can find out if something is real or not by looking at the information on the internet. You must explain why you think it is positive or negative to all the teachers in your class every day now and add it to the page.

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In Year 3, we thoroughly enjoyed celebrating Danson's Book Week! Our main text to learn about was '20 Fantastic Football Stories' which was a collection of interesting biographies of famous footballers from around the world.

Our reading focus for the week was understanding unfamiliar vocabulary so we looked at a selection of the biographies and thought about how we could use clues in the text to help us to understand the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary. This gave us a much better understanding of the text as a whole.

Other fun reading activities in the week included making our very own bookmarks, creating our own football badge that described us as a person. We also enjoyed taking part in World Book Day where we dressed up as our favourite characters and showed them during Show and Tell.

What an amazing Book Week - the Year 3 teachers were all amazed with your effort, especially during home learning!

Year 4



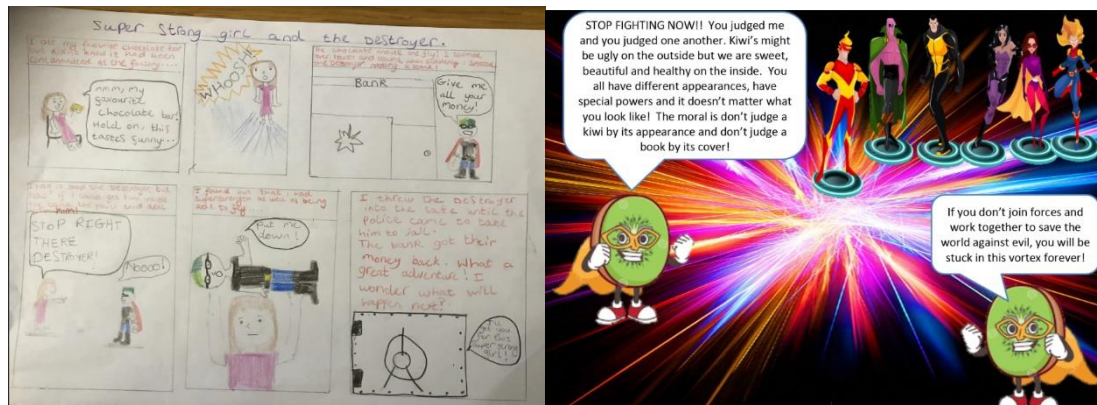
In Year 4, we had lots of fun lessons all about reading to celebrate Danson's Book Week! Our main text to learn about was 'Little Badman and the Radioactive Samosa' which was a funny story based on one of the authors who wrote it!

Firstly, we listened to and read an extract from the new story and answered some inference questions based on it. We had to use our detective skills to work out the answers using some evidence from the text. Then, we took part in a live lesson where the authors of the book were present. They shared their inspiration for the text and told us about the theme of 'don't judge a book by its cover'. After this, we read a small chunk of the text out loud to practise our fluency skills and aimed to read loudly and clearly in under 60 seconds.

Next, we were motivated by the text and wrote our own comic strip superhero story where the main character ate or drank something, got special powers and defeated an evil villain! Finally, we took part in another inference quiz about the second half of the extract where we worked out that the main character, Humza, was surprised by seeing a giant hamster!

Other fun reading activities in the week included thinking about stories we have read so far in Year 4 altogether and choosing characters from them to make a brand new story. We chose characters from *The Littlest Viking*, *Beowulf and Grendel* and *My Friend Walter*. We also read books on Oxford Owl, recommended our favourite books by doing video or audio presentations about them, tried to other read texts out loud in under 60 seconds, made book marks, wrote our "top 5s" for author/ books/ characters/ illustrators, listened to an audio book and took part in World Book Day where we dressed up as our favourite characters and showed them during Show and Tell.

What an amazing Book Week - the Year 4 teachers were all so impressed with your effort, especially during home learning!



World Book Day Top 5s

My picture of my favourite picture in a book

My top 5 authors	My picture of my favourite picture in a book	My top 5 favourite illustrators
1. Emma Cox		1. Joe Sulphin
2. J.K. Rowling		2. August Ro
3. Abi Elphinstone		3. Nick Sharratt
4. Marie Basting		4. Sam Usher
5. Amy Raphael		5. Martin Brown
5. Alice Hemming		
Top 5 favourite lines in a book	My top 5 favourite characters	My top 5 favourite books
1. You a wizard Harry	1. Merlin	1. Malkin Moonlight
2. She's transforming	2. Arthur	2. Merlin
3. It's your destiny	3. Malkin Moonlight	3. Princess BMX
4. You can't kill me	4. Hermione Granger	4. The Forest of Moon and Sword
5. Your magic is no match for me	5. Roux	5. Harry Potter
	5. Molly Pecksniff	5. The Midnight Unicorn

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Year 5

To celebrate Book Week in Year 5, we focused our English lessons on 'The River Whale' by Sita Brahmachari. This text is one of the £1 World Book Day texts that children can purchase using their voucher. We were so pleased to hear that many Year 5s had purchased their £1 books already.

We enjoyed asking a range of questions about the text based on the front cover and blurb, drawing and describing our own 'Dreaming Room', answering questions about the text and even hearing from the author herself in our live 'Share a Story' event. It has given us a lot of inspiration to write our own stories, create our own characters and do a bit of our own dreaming!

Throughout the week, we also took part in some other reading-focused activities. We created reading resolutions such as 'I will read a different genre of book each month' or 'I will read for 10 minutes every day'. We will keep referring back to these to check that we are supporting each other to keep our resolutions. Additionally, we practised our reading fluency by timing ourselves reading aloud for 1 minute and trying to beat our personal best score! We will also continue to practise this weekly. Finally, we listened as our teachers shared their favourite books. Then, we created our own book recommendations page which was a chance to express ourselves!

The Masked Reader and Show and Tell Book Week Takeover were also highlights of the week. Overall, we have sparked our curiosity for different authors, appreciated our enjoyment of books and will be using our motivation to read, read and read some more!



Poems by Krisztina

My Dive into the Ocean

Schools of fish dash across my eyes as I dive in a world of wonder
The touch of the ocean soothes me while I explore.
I hear the fishes swimming through the water as I wander.
Then a turtle comes, now one more!

The coral's vibrant, various colour gives me excitement,
their residents are the fish.
In the glimmering, bright sea light they came and went.
I would like to stay here if I could wish!



Year 6

It's been an action-packed week of learning in Year 6 over **'Book Week'**! The story we've been working with across the week is Derek Landy's Apocalypse Kings (part of the Skulduggery Pleasant series).

We began the week by examining the front cover and predicting what the story will be about. We then read the blurb to see whether our initial ideas were accurate, or to make a new prediction. We then read the opening pages of the story and demonstrated our understanding by answering a range of questions about it. We were also tasked with creating our own questions to challenge our peers. We explored how one of the main characters in the story (Adedayo) was portrayed and used quotes from the text to make inferences about him. Lastly, we wrote our own ending to the story, considering whether Adedayo, Valkyrie and Skulduggery defeat the dreadful gods and save the world. It's very exciting that with our World Book Day £1 token, we can all buy a copy of this for ourselves!

The Book Week takeover of our last (hopefully!) remote learning Show & Tell gave us opportunities to share our favourite reads and talk about what makes them so enjoyable, as well as share our own attempts at being authors where we have taken the Macbeth narrative and made it our own. At the end of the week, we also enjoyed the virtual event, 'Books and the Real World' organised and hosted by World Book Day, and learnt how published authors found inspiration for their writing, and listened to popular author Katherine Rundell read an excerpt from her latest mini-title: Skysteppers, which many of us now want to buy with our £1 tokens!

We had such a laugh trying to guess the Masked Readers, using our acute reading and detective skills as well as background knowledge to work out who the teachers were! Thinking up new ways of entering the Extreme Reading Competition in lockdown did require a lot of ingenuity too. We have certainly had a very entertaining and inspiring Book Week!

