



DANEGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# School Newsletter

JANUARY EDITION 2026

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope that this edition of our newsletter finds you all well. It has been a great start to the New Year, with children getting involved and excited by their spring topics. Children really do become engaged with learning and are excited by new topics and what they learn. The effort and enthusiasm that children put into their learning is wonderful to see, and goes such a long way to help develop a love of learning and a self-believe that supports them as they grow into young adults. Your children are amazing, and their eagerness to learn is such a credit to you as parents.

**We really need your help! Attendance continues to be a major concern at Danegrove**, with our current percentage being 93.8% (national expected percentage is 96%), putting us at 81 out of 90 Barnet schools and in the lowest 20-30% of schools nationally. We really do need our percentage to improve and this can only happen if **ALL our children are regularly attending school**.

Our children know how to be a **HERO - Here, Everyday, Ready, On time**, they know that being in school is not only important for them individually, but can help their class win the **'Heroes Unite'** weekly award. They are so excited to see which teacher is going to wear the **Heroes Unite Superhero Cape** for the best attended class on Ridgeway Avenue and Windsor Drive respectively, and are so proud when it is their teacher who wears the cape for the week.

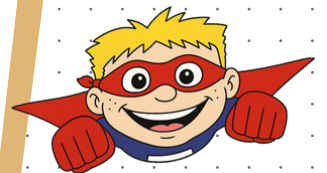
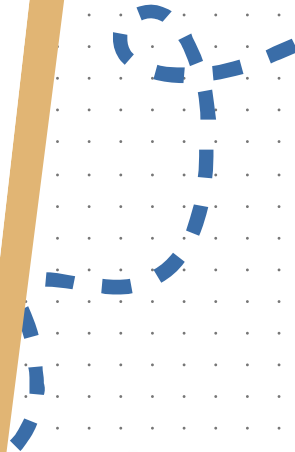
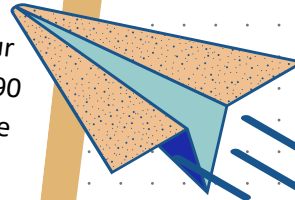
Lower attendance can negatively impact a child's attainment, wellbeing and confidence. Schools are a place for interactions with other children, fostering social skills, teamwork, and creating an environment that provides emotional wellbeing support. Regular attendance allows children to form friendships, develops resilience, improves confidence, and promotes a sense of belonging within the school community. Feeling part of a school community is known to have a positive effect on a child's wellbeing, academic attainment and self-esteem, all being essential attributes for children as they grow into young adults.

I appreciate that life throws so many, many things at families and sometimes it may seem easier to keep your child at home than send them to school. We want to support our families, if any parent/carer needs our help in regard to getting their children to school, then please do not hesitate to contact the school - we want to help.

**Improving attendance at Danegrove is possible with the support of our amazing parents – please help us to make all our children Attendance Super Heroes.**

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Oliver





# Attendance



WELL DONE

Congratulations to all the children who earned their badges. We're so proud to see you wearing them! Your commitment to showing up every day is truly something to be proud of.



We kindly ask all parents to notify the school office of their child's absence by 8:45AM at the latest. You can call the school office on 02084494024 or alternatively email on [Attendance@danegrove.barnetmail.net](mailto:Attendance@danegrove.barnetmail.net).

Wherever possible, please schedule appointments outside of school hours.

If an appointment during school time is unavoidable, kindly provide evidence in advance to inform the office staff.

# Parking

POLITE REMINDER

**We cannot stress this enough: Please drive carefully around school zones.**

## Parking Safely

DO NOT park or pull up on the zig zag marking outside school or near the cones as this area is designated for our families and children to cross safely. Please be mindful not to block other people's driveways



# RECEPTION



Reception have had a wonderfully busy and imaginative month exploring our topic Poles Apart. We began by diving into the story Poles Apart, learning about different environments and the animals that live there. The children were fascinated by the journey from the South Pole to the North Pole, which led us beautifully into our next book, The Emperor's Egg. The class loved discovering how emperor penguin parents care for their chicks and enjoyed lots of penguin-inspired activities.



More recently, our learning took an exciting twist as we moved on to the story of The Three Little Pigs. One morning, the children arrived to find a mysterious crime scene: scattered straw, broken sticks and some very large footprints. This sparked brilliant discussions and predictions - who could have caused all this?



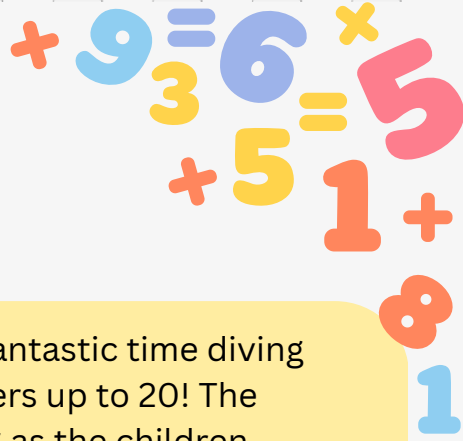
The children decided it must be the Big Bad Wolf and set to work creating wanted posters to help track him down. To everyone's surprise, the wolf herself came to visit! She explained that she hadn't meant to cause trouble—she just has very big breaths and gets very excited. Reception showed incredible empathy and took the opportunity to teach her how to calm down using slow breathing and finger breathing techniques.

It has been a month full of curiosity, creativity and kindness, and we are so proud of how confidently the children have explored each new adventure.





# YEAR 1



Year 1 have been having a fantastic time diving into place value with numbers up to 20! The classroom has been buzzing as the children explored numbers using exciting hands-on resources such as cubes, tens frames and number lines. They loved building, breaking apart and comparing numbers to discover how they are made from tens and ones. Through fun challenges and practical activities, the children confidently found one more and one less and explained their thinking using brilliant mathematical language. It has been a joy to see their enthusiasm, teamwork and growing confidence as they became true place value experts.

With the warmer weather arriving, year 1 have been making the most of our outdoor classroom and absolutely loving it! The children have enjoyed exploring, investigating and learning through play in the fresh air. From building and creating to observing nature and working together on challenges, the outdoor space has inspired curiosity, teamwork and creativity. The children have been developing their problem-solving skills while staying active and engaged, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they learn in a new environment. Outdoor learning has brought lots of smiles, excitement and discovery to our days.





# YEAR 2



Year 2 have been busy little artists this term. In art, the children learned how L.S Lowry uses size and position to make objects appear closer or further away, and applied these techniques to create their own Lowry-inspired scenes. They carefully added buildings and background details, thinking about how to show distance in their drawings. The children showed great focus and creativity throughout the project. They took great pride in their finished pieces, which beautifully captured the busy, storytelling style of Lowry's work and demonstrated how much their artistic confidence has grown.





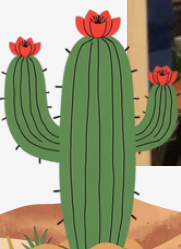
# YEAR 3



It has been a busy start to the year after a well-deserved winter break. The children have been learning that deserts are not all hot and that the two largest are actually cold. They learned how the water cycle works and that because of the lack of water sources there is little evaporation and therefore no condensation or precipitation (rain). They have also created their own rock formations.

In science the children have had great fun investigating forces. They have let cars go down ramps covered in different materials to test friction and they have had fun with magnets (testing materials for being magnetic or not and understanding how they can attract or repel each other).

George's Marvellous Medicine is capturing their imaginations and next week they will be creating their own medicines or potions. They are also all creating some Quentin Blake inspired drawings.

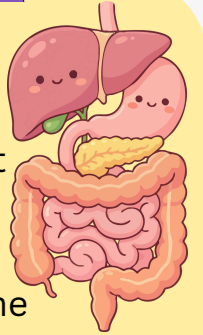




# YEAR 4



Year 4 have been delving into the fascinating world of the human body by exploring the digestive system. The children learned about the different organs involved and the important role each one plays in breaking down food. To bring their learning to life, they carried out a hands-on experiment that demonstrated how digestion works, from chewing and mixing to breaking food down into nutrients. The class showed great curiosity and enthusiasm, asking thoughtful questions and making clear links between the experiment and real-life digestion.



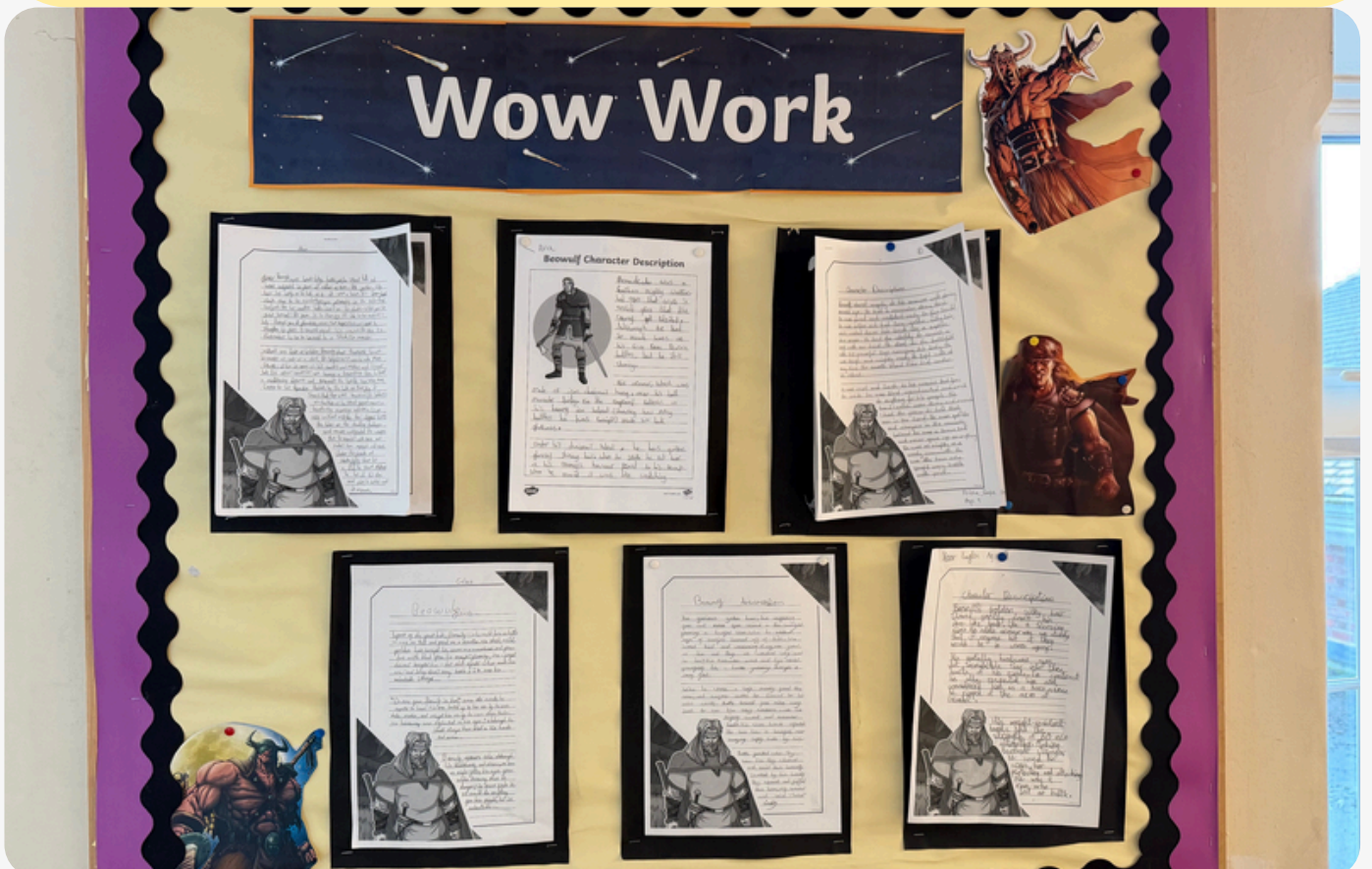
# YEAR 5

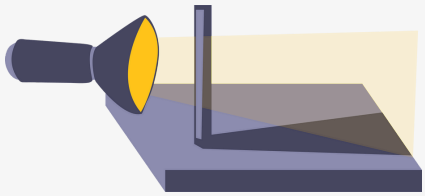


It's been a busy and exciting time in year 5! This term, the children have begun their journey into space, sparking lots of curiosity and big questions about planets, stars, and what might be out there beyond Earth. Closer to home, we've also been exploring biomes, learning about the incredible variety of environments around the world and the animals and plants that live in them.

In English, the focus has been on character descriptions, with pupils developing rich vocabulary and imaginative ideas to bring their characters to life. It's been wonderful to see their confidence grow as their writing becomes more detailed and expressive.

Excitement is also building as we prepare for our upcoming trip to the Science Museum in London. The children are buzzing with anticipation and are very much looking forward to a day of hands-on learning and discovery.





# YEAR 6



Year 6 pupils have been exploring the fascinating properties of light through a hands-on science investigation. As part of their learning, the children carried out an experiment to demonstrate that light travels in straight lines. They also investigated how changing the distance of a light source affects the size and clarity of the shadows cast. Through careful observation, measuring, and discussion, pupils developed their scientific enquiry skills while gaining a deeper understanding of how light behaves in the world around us.



# SPORTS UPDATE



## Girls Football

Congratulations to our girls team, who have secured their place in the league playoff finals with a fantastic 3-0 win against Church Hill. It's been a fantastic season so far for the girls who have won all their league games and only conceded one goal. Well done to everybody who has played their part in this success.



## Netball Update

Our netball team have been in action this month and played their first match of the new year against Underhill. Despite the result, the team played with fantastic character and resilience. Well done to everybody who took part in the match.



## Inter-House Dodgeball Competition

Last term, our pupils played in the latest of our new inter house competitions which was Dodgeball. There was some amazing matches played, with pupils demonstrating their amazing throwing and dodging skills. Congratulations to Saturn House who won with a fantastic score of 218 points!

