

Chinese New Year at DCPS!



Year 3 spent an exciting afternoon in Forest School, enjoying the text (Ice Palace, by Robert Swindells) they are using in English in new and creative ways. They imagined they were being chased by wolves, made Starjilk's sledge and kept warm by an open fire. Lots of fun for everyone!

By Mrs Hunt,
Forest School Co-Ordinator



Happy 'Year of the Rat'! Chinese New Year, or the Lunar festival, kicked off on Saturday the 25th January, to mark the New Year according to the traditional Chinese calendar. Celebrations have been taking place all over the world, and not least, at Dean Close School!

The children have embraced this festival by leaning about the ancient rituals and customs of the Chinese during this ancient celebration, which was presented to the whole school by our international students during Headmasters assembly last week, in the run up to festivities.

The Children were treated to a fantastic 'Ancient Lion Dance' during Afternoon Buns this week, believed to chase away evil spirits and bring good luck for the coming year! Boarding students also got to sample the delights of Chinese cuisine on Monday evening, as we hosted a Chinese New Year feast in the dining hall!

This year is the year of the rat, and in Chinese culture, rats represent hard-workers and thriftiness. Celebrations will continue until the next full moon, on the 8th February.

'Xin niǎn kuài lè' to everyone at Dean Close!

By Mrs Azam, Marketing Co-Ordinator

Now 'check out' what else has been
happening at Dean Close Preparatory School



Academic Insights



The BBC have reported this week that in countries such as the UK, overall satisfaction with the democratic process is falling. Our work in School has so much to offer to change this: from events such as the DCPS Election we held in December to links made in history lessons, to discussions in PSHCE lessons, we provide children with the opportunity to think about and voice their opinions on the world around us. The democratic system we are lucky to live in is not an inevitable feature of society: history teaches us that all it takes is enough people disengaged from the principle for it to fall apart. Democracy requires engagement, confidence to speak up, the willingness to protest and the ability to think about how to change things. These are all concepts we try to encourage through our progressive, thought-provoking teaching at DCPS and through always being willing to answer questions. An idea for the week ahead therefore might be: ask as many questions as you can.

By Mr Donnelly, Director of Studies

Headmaster's

Review

Flourishing partnerships

This week the Prep School hosted a talented group of musicians at our combined schools, 'Brass and Woodwind Day'. Pupils from a range of schools were guided through ensemble workshops by Mr McVittie (Director of Music) and our inspiring Music Department, with the day culminating in a fabulous concert for visiting parents and guests. Particularly pleasing, was to see children collaborating and learning together, as well as learning from each other. Music, academic, sporting and creative opportunities abound. We look forward to offering similar opportunities for partnership in the terms ahead, as we seek to forge stronger links with other schools in our locality.



Year 7 English



7A were given a most welcome interruption to their creative writing activity (making notes for woodland brook poems) down at the brook last week when a friendly fox made himself known and marked his territory by raising a hind leg a fair few times! At least we think he is a fox and not a vixen!

Can you think of any metaphorical/figurative language to describe these beautiful creatures? e.g. A simile; Mr Cahill is as sneaky as a sly, old fox or Miss Eelbeck is as cunning as a wily, wise vixen. A metaphor; The snooty fox is a tower of strength in looking after his family. Some alliteration; forgetful, frenetic, ferocious and fearless fox or the viscious, victorious, vile and versatile vixen. Some personification: The twigs groaned as the spritely fox trampled on them underfoot! Can you make up a simile with the comparison made with a DCPS teacher? Why not read 'Fantastic Mr Fox', by Roald Dahl if you haven't already? Did you know that surprise Premiership winning team from a few years ago, have the nickname 'The Foxes'? Can you come up with name for the Dean (Den) Close Fox. Why not let Mr Cahill or Miss Eelbeck know?

By Mr Standing, English Teacher

Science Challenge



Year 6 - Year 8 Science Challenge:

Identify the birds that visit your garden (www.rspb.org.uk).

Investigate how humans could live on the Moon.

The deadline for submitting your entries is Friday 28th February

By Mr Fraine, Head of Science

Girls' Sport

A mixed bag of results for the girls yesterday. There were a lot of very close matches and a really good standard of netball on show. The U13A, U13B, U12B and U12D teams all had good wins against Cheltenham Ladies' College.



Boys' Sport

A busy day on the Astro with all the boys in Year 5, 6, 7 and 8 playing in matches. All the U11 and U10 sides spent the afternoon in Oxford playing against Magdalen College and the Dragon. Of the 7 fixtures played Dean Close won 5 and drew 2. A 7-5 win for the U11A side proved to be highly enjoyable. Meanwhile the 1st team enjoyed a 3-1 victory over the Cheltenham College.

The House swimming gala was a huge success with 85% of the school taking part for their house teams. A number of records were broken and it was great to see the enthusiasm and commitment shown by all swimmers.

Junior Boys - Yeaman

Junior Girls - Deacon

Senior Boys - Oaksey

Senior Girl - Deacon

Junior Relay - Oaksey

Senior Relay - Deacon

Overall - Oaksey

@DCPSmusic

A fantastic brass and wind day was enjoyed by 30 of our prep school musicians, as we invited grade 2 and above players from other local schools to join us in a noisy musical day. Learning film music in smaller ensembles, we came together after lunch playing two pieces from Harry Potter to start our final concert. Colours of the Wind from Pocohontas, The Bare Necessities and Mission Impossible were played by the various groups before the fabulous day was rounded off with Soul Bossa Nova from Austin Powers played by the full forces of the 70 players.



Artist of the Week



Year 8 have been exploring the process of jelly plate printing, layering textures and shapes to create interesting papers which they will be using in their mixed media collages.

News from Chaplaincy

This week, the Chaplaincy Team and friends have been hosting our annual Think Big Week. Each day, we have been asking some of life's biggest questions and encouraging pupils to wrestle with possible answers over doughnuts during morning break. Every session has been hosted either by members of the Chaplaincy Team, Associates from Lymington Rushmore Holidays, or Rev'd Greg Cushing. We would like to thank everyone who came and made these conversations so interesting.



the week

ahead

Monday 3rd February

12.45pm Boys' County Indoor Cricket Competition at Pittville School
Boys' Hockey – U11 IAPS Regional Qualifier at King's College Taunton
4.30pm Junior and Middle Christian Union
5.15pm Senior Christian Union

Tuesday 4th February

Sevenside Cross Country at Wycliffe College Preparatory School 3.00pm
4.35pm Deacon House Teatime Concert

Wednesday 5th February

8.15-9.30am Year 5 and 6 Parents' Coffee Morning in Centenary Atrium
Hockey v The Dragon – 1st VII, 3rd XI Home 2.00pm; 2nd VII and 4th VII Away 2.00pm
Boy's Hockey v Hatherop Castle – 4th and 5th VII Home 3.00pm
Boys' Hockey v Clifton College Preparatory School – U11A, U11B, U11C, U11D Away 2.00pm
Boys' Hockey v Magdalen College U10A, U10C Home 2.15pm;

U10B Home 3.00pm
Netball v Royal Grammar School, Worcester – U13A Away 4.00pm
Netball v The Elms Preparatory School – U13B, U13C, U12C Home 2.30pm
Netball v St John's on-the-Hill Preparatory School – U12A Home 2.15pm; U12D Home 3.15pm
Netball v The Dragon School – U11A, U11B, U11C, U10A, U10B Away 2.30pm

Thursday 6th February

House Music Competition Finals Day
Swimming Gala v Cheltenham Ladies' College Year 7 and Year 8 Away 4.45pm
4.30-5.30pm Drama at Teatime in CH3 and CH4

Friday 7th February

Boys' Hockey – U13 IAPS Regional Finals at Cheltenham College Preparatory School
U13 Girls' Netball Tour U13A and U13B v The Downs, Malvern 4.00pm
* U9 Festival is not on Saturday 1st Feb, we have rearranged a triangular with Clifton and BGS, 21st March 10am

Get to Know Our Staff



MISS CICELY TREVASKIS

Caldecote Gapper

Question: How would you describe yourself?

Answer: Determined, enthusiastic and creative.

Question: What's your favourite meal of the day?

Answer: Any meal involving pizza.

Question: Do you have a secret ambition?

Answer: To travel to as many countries as possible.

Question: What's the best piece of advice you have ever been given?

Answer: Never ruin an apology with an excuse.

Question: If you could do any job for a day, what would it be?

Answer: A professional food critic.

Question: What accomplishment has made you most proud?

Answer: Completing Year 12 exams and graduating from school.

Old Decanians



T.M.A. Cooper

This is Mr T.M.A. Cooper, the Science Master of Dean Close School, pictured in his laboratory in 1898. Mr Fraine's labs have luckily come a long way over the last 122 years!