

October 2019 Newsletter

Headteacher's report

Dear Parents & Carers,

As many of you will have seen during our **Harvest Festival** last Friday, the children and staff have been busy this term! We were treated to a wide selection of high-quality, incredibly beautiful and unique work which had a range of topical messages threaded throughout. This celebration was just the tip of the iceberg as all children have been hard at work across the curriculum this term. Some of you may have seen the outstanding **displays** that have been going up around school and that we have shared on Twitter, and I know that our **new strategy towards the teaching of art** has already been a huge success. We are utilising our Art Room daily for lessons and, under the supervision of our specialist teachers, the results have already blown us away. Do keep an eye on Twitter for regular updates and examples of what goes on at Dalmain.

It is that time of year again when we are starting to prepare for Christmas. I read an article recently about the impact of **Christmas crackers** on the environment – 150,000,000 pieces of plastic go into the ocean or landfill every single year from the UK alone, a statistic that I was appalled by. We would like to do our bit to reduce this waste. This year we will not be buying commercial crackers for Christmas lunch; instead we will be reducing our impact on the planet while learning key design technology and art skills by making crackers from scratch, designing them, assembling them and even writing the jokes.

But we need your help! For the inner tubes of the crackers, we need empty toilet rolls (at least 500 of them), and also, if you have

any small trinkets that you no longer want (keyrings, mini puzzles, small cards or dice... anything that has been lurking in "that drawer" that you would like to get rid of) we would love to have them to go inside with the jokes and hats. Please could we avoid any sharp objects. If you are able to help, please drop them off with Mrs Edwards on Reception and thank you in advance for your donations.



Dalmain Climate Strikers—see further report on page 2

We have new members of the **Friends of Dalmain Committee** and I am delighted by the exceptional work that they are doing to carry on this very strong tradition at Dalmain. The School Council have met with them to discuss ideas for the FoD Christmas festivities and we are most definitely in for a treat.

All of FoD's fundraising events are crucial for raising money for additional learning opportunities, but also for day-to-day resources. For example, Year 6 have been using palette knives in Art and have created some absolute masterpieces (again, have a look on Twitter). These resources were provided directly from FoD from last year's fundraising. So many of our trips are funded this way—our sincere thanks to all who support this fundraising, which enables us to maximise learning opportunities across the curriculum so that all children can have the best education possible.

Please see the update from FoD on page 7 which has details of how you can contribute.

This half term, the following children have been chosen to receive our **Dalmain Laureate Award** for their exceptional progress, use of high-quality vocabulary and application of literary skills across the curriculum. Please come and have a look at our new Laureates' work on display by the main reception area!

R: Finley & Sequoia

Year 1: Zainab & Lyova

Year 2: Jasper & Cillian

Year 3: Lucy & Emily

Year 4: Gabriel & Husni

Year 5: Julian & Maeve

Year 6: Rhys & Hetty

We are continually looking at ways to keep parents and carers updated, and to have the best communication possible

between school and home. If any of your circumstances have changed or contact details need updating, please can you inform the office team as soon as possible.

We wish you a safe, restful and relaxing holiday, and look forward to seeing you all on Monday 28th October.

Best wishes,

Ms Eisele, Headteacher

A reminder: at the beginning and end of the school day, all playgrounds become very busy. Please could I remind all that we do not allow cycling, scooting or running during these times for the health and safety of both pupils and adults. Also, please do not use your mobile phone at all while in the playground.

Thank you for your support to ensure that we have a happy and safe playground.

Kahlo class assembly

By Lucy & Leila-Rose, Kahlo class



Our class name is Kahlo, named after Frida Kahlo. She was the first internationally famous female painter. She was born and lived in Mexico. She is very inspirational to us because she had a hard life but never gave up and always followed her dreams.

Frida had polio as a child and then was involved in a horrible bus crash that meant she found it very difficult to walk. She was in a lot of pain all her life but still stayed happy and produced so much beautiful art.

We had the first assembly of the school year! We were nervous but worked so hard on it and even added a song.

Everyone had a line to learn and learned it well. Ms Robinson got us to make some great pictures inspired by Frida and the Mexican festival the Day of the Dead. Mrs Jackson helped us with our song to make it extra beautiful and Mr Gwinnett was so proud of us that he promised he'd bake us a cake. We still haven't had the cake...

We think everyone loved it. Mrs Rose said we were great and asked us and the rest of the school questions about Frida. The Year 6s even danced to our song! We definitely loved our assembly and will remember it for a long, long time.

Climate strike—20 September

A number of Dalmain children attended the climate strike in Central London on 20 September (see photo on front page). Ptolemy and Ivo Reed's placards from the march have been chosen for an exhibition that will open at the Towner Art Gallery in Eastbourne, which will open in

November and is curated by Green Party MP Caroline Lucas.

Ptolemy got to meet Caroline and talk about why he decided to go on the march and why it was important to think about the environment and the future.



Kamkwamba class assembly

By Aaliyah & Walter (Kamkwamba class)

Our class assembly was all about the famous William Kamkwamba. He is a Malawian inventor and author and has inspired us all.

When Malawi was going through a crippling famine, he invented a wind turbine made out of an old bicycle wheel which powered a water pump. This allowed his village to grow crops all year round, and saved thousands of lives.



Since his invention, he has written a book called 'The boy who harnessed the wind.' They even made it into a film, which we would

recommend you watch on Netflix. He now does inspirational talks all over the world.

Before our assembly we created artwork showing his invention.

Year 4 trip to the Primary Proms

By Julya & Hanad (Jemison class)



On 9th October, Year 4 had the opportunity to go to the Primary Proms. When we arrived, we could not believe how beautiful the building was and were amazed by how many children were already inside. We sat at the very back, up high, looking down at the performers below in awe!

This concert was performed by young people, for children like us, and we felt very honoured and special to be there. Lots of us play instruments in the class, and it inspired us to practice more as one day we might wish to perform. After the concert ended, we ate our lunch in front of the Albert Memorial. When it was time to go home, we were sad to leave.

Year 2 trip to Cadogan Hall

By Lady & Stepas, Hawking class

We went to Cadogan Hall for a Classical Roadshow. We left the school at 9.30am, walked to the train station and went on a train to London Bridge. There we took an underground train to Moorgate station and walked 5 minutes to Milton Court. We ate a quick snack and went into the huge room.

And we were a part of the performance. We sang and the instruments played. We heard a violin, a clarinet and a strange piano. We had a great time!



Yousafzai class assembly

By Freddy, Uzziel, Harry & Gabriel (Yousafzai class)

Last week, Yousafzai Class represented the inspirational young woman, Malala Yousafzai, in their class assembly.



It went as expected, as everyone projected their voices and didn't rush their lines.

This incredible woman from Pakistan has been through a bumpy rollercoaster throughout her lifetime, including being shot at by the Taliban. We learned that Malala was targeted for writing a blog about girls not being allowed to go to school in the Swat Valley of Pakistan. Since recovering in the UK (she was very lucky to survive), Malala kept on fighting for people's rights, of girls in particular.

Yousafzai Class made their own acrostic poem which describes her personality. They decided that she was a role model of determination, kindness and generosity, and that she must have a heart filled with joy. Each child held up a decorated letter spelling out her name. This is now on display in our classroom to inspire us all.

Jeans for Genes Day

On 18 September we celebrated Jeans for Genes Day. This is the annual fundraising campaign for Genetic Disorders UK, the national charity that supports children affected by a genetic disorder. The money raised on Jeans for Genes Day provides grants for day-to-day support, equipment, respite and events which help affected children and their families.

We are delighted to report that we raised nearly **£300** for this important work.

There are between 4,000 and 6,000 diagnosed genetic disorders. It is estimated that one in 25 children is affected by a genetic disorder and therefore 30,000 babies and children are newly diagnosed in the UK each year. Some genetic disorders are apparent at birth while others are diagnosed at different stages throughout childhood, and sometimes into adulthood.



Find out more here:

<https://www.jeansforgenesday.org/our-work>



We're saving Team GB stickers for a chance to win £20,000 to build a health legacy!

Please pick one up whenever you spend £30 in any Aldi store and bring them into school.

World Mental Health Day

By Sumaiyah (Rapinoe class) & Lalique (Thunberg class)

Last week was all about Mental Health and Well-being. To begin with, Miss Mann gave a 'Wellbeing in Schools' talk at Google. Then we had a bubble filled assembly to celebrate World Mental Health day.

We talked about some of the different things we could do to improve our wellbeing. Our favourite one was Mindfulness and breathing exercises.

During our Calm Club we started to make games that would help other children feel calm or more positive. It gave us lots of ideas to share with our friends. On Friday Miss Mann went off to the Civic Centre to run workshops for teachers in Lewisham. This was so that they'd know how to help children improve their mental health and well-being.



We have some tips for anyone who is feeling like they need to calm down:

Mindfulness Tip 1

Sit with your legs crossed. Close your eyes. Flap your arms and legs like a butterfly! Breathe out slowly.

Mindfulness Tip 2

Sit down. Close your eyes and smell a beautiful lavender flower. If you don't have lavender you can try it with cinnamon.

Year 6 PGL School Journey

By Zainab & Marceline, (Thunberg class)

On 30th September, Year 6 went to PGL on the Isle of Wight. After a speedy journey on the coach and ferry we arrived at PGL two hours earlier than planned, so we all went to the A Zone and met some PGL leaders and played some games such as Splat.

After this, we met our PGL leader Ropa, who would be looking after us during our stay. She showed us to our dormitories, which were beautifully situated next to the river. Each dormitory at PGL is named after Canadian provinces - ours were called Victoria and Quebec. After we had unpacked our things, it was time for our first evening meal...it was plentiful and delicious! As well as a choice of different main meals there was also an endless supply of salad, fruit, bread and



squash...nobody went hungry! All our food requests were taken care of.

We were meant to have a campfire on the first night but it was a total washout because of the rain. Instead we had indoor activities: we were all split into teams and we then competed against each other in different games! We started off with a drawing competition where we each had to draw a portrait. This was followed by a quiz and then a fashion show. The teachers were



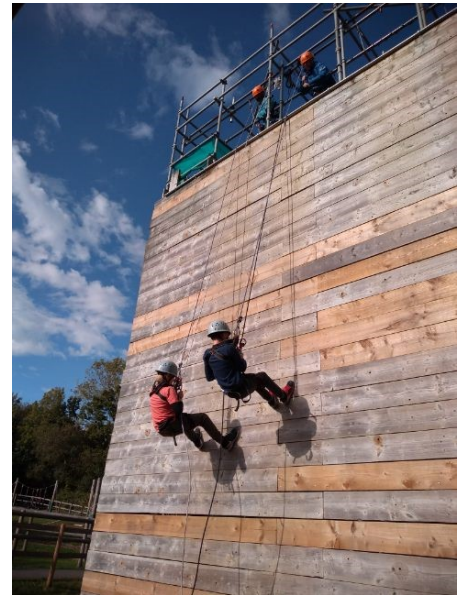
the judges. However, their judging skills were slightly biased! After this it was bedtime and we were all tucked up in bed by 9.30 and asleep...Miss Biggs said this was a first!

Every morning we were woken up by Miss Biggs and Miss Kempster, who had found an annoying alarm clock, to wake us all up! After we were dressed we had a delicious breakfast and room inspections (the teachers were really pernickety ...if our shoes were not lined up straight enough we would lose points!) Our marvellous hospitality skills were even tested... and then the fun began!

Over the next few days we took part in many exhilarating and exciting activities such as zip wire, trapeze, vertical challenge, sensory trail, abseiling. I loved the sensory trail because we got extremely muddy and smelly It was great fun. (Zainab). My favourite activity was the giant swing; some people were worried because it was very high...but I wanted to go higher! (Marceline)

During the week we used a lot of our Dalmain values: perseverance, collaboration and risk-taking to achieve goals we never thought would be possible, like facing our fear of heights.

On Thursday our final evening activity was the disco. Everyone was excited about this and we all danced the night



away, including the teachers! All the PGL leaders dressed up and we took part in dance battles with the other schools. Obviously, Dalmain were the better dancers!

On Friday it was finally time to leave, we were sad to leave but we were looking forward to seeing our parents and having a much needed bath!



Year 5/6 Football Festival

On 26 September our Year 5 and 6 football players went to St Dunstan's Jubilee Ground for two football tournaments. In the first, our boys' team made it to the quarter final of the ALPSS Games. They then went on to finish in third place in the Lewisham inter-school festival.

Our girls' team won all their games and were crowned champions at the inter-school festival! This is a fantastic achievement—well done all players!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR OUR FOOTBALL TEAM AND ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS AT THE SAME TIME?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PRIVATE SPONSORS FOR OUR TEAM KIT THIS YEAR—IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE SPEAK TO GRAHAM OR THE OFFICE STAFF.

Year 5/6 Sports Hall Athletics

By Narmir (Rapinoe class)

On 9th October we made our way to Sydenham School for the sports hall athletics festival. A number of young leaders assisted us in organising events such as javelin, basketball, speed bounce, long jump and running races.

First were the field activities, where everyone tried their absolute best and it was really impressive to see how well everybody co-operated with the helpers and competitors from different schools. All pupils did exceptionally well in their sections.

Next we started the track events, and not one contestant wasn't screaming for their teammates or sprinting their

heart out themselves. The atmosphere was absolutely electric! With four schools cheering as loud as they could, the noise was deafening. The acceleration, pace and teamwork shown was incredible. By the end of it all, fatigue had set on all of us. Excitedly, the four teams sat down in single-file lines. In the end, Dalmain came third.



Thank you to the young leaders who helped arrange and prepare the athletics, and well done to all the schools that contributed and represented themselves fantastically well.

Year 5 Parliament Week workshops

By Tristan, Joe & Isla (Turing Class)

On Monday 14th October, Year 5 had a workshop all about the UK Parliament. First of all, we split into two parts and sat across from each other, face to face - just like in the House of Commons. Three bills relating to school were proposed to us, banning smart phones, a weekly compulsory walk and eliminating single use plastic. We voted by saying Aye!

As the specially selected speaker, it was Angel's job to decide which bill had the most 'Ayes'. Single-use plastics was the outright winner. In order to have your opinion heard, you had to stand up and then the speaker chose who could speak first.

After much debate, we decided to ban single-use plastic. This was then brought before the House of Lords-

the beginning of Parliamentary Ping Pong! Some issues were raised such as the use of plastic in medical equipment and straws that are necessary for some people's needs.

By the end of the workshop we appreciated the amount of work and discussions that were needed in order to create one single law.

A Message from our new Friends of Dalmain team

By the FoD Team

Hello all,

Firstly, another quick thank you to all of you that made it to our first social event. We were delighted with the number of people that managed to make it out on a Wednesday night and offer such brilliant feedback and thoughts to work from. A special thank you to the ex-FoDders for all their advice and support.

Secondly, a really key point we wanted to raise awareness about. We were pretty naive about the funding for school trips prior to joining the Friends of Dalmain team. We now realise that almost all trips are only possible if

funded by FoD - money raised by the parents, carers, teachers and children. Thousands of pounds each year is required to make sure that our children can have all those brilliant experiences. We wanted to let you know so that it hopefully encourages you to support FoD events whenever you can and also offer the chance to make donations via Paypal and Facebook any time. If your child is attending a free trip, we'd love to invite those that can to contribute a nominal donation in support. This will help more than you could imagine so thank you so much in advance for any support you can give!

You can find the donate button on our holding page here...

<https://friendsofdalmain.wixsite.com/donate>

Or use the SHOP NOW button on our Facebook page...

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofDalmain/>

Finally, we have our very own newsletter out ahead of half-term that gives you lots more info about the Winter Festival and your chance to get involved in the music part of the night so please keep an eye out for that!

Hoop



Some parents and carers will already be familiar with the 'Hoop' app and website.

For those that do not know about it, Hoop is an app that makes it easy to find and book fun things going on for kids aged 0-11 years old. Through the app you can discover everything happening near to you, including thousands of activities that are completely free.

Everything comes with recommended ages, so you will only see things that are right for your family.

You can also visit their website: hoop.co.uk

Walk to School Month / School Travel Plan

We celebrated International Walk to School Month with a whole school assembly which looked at the benefits of walking to school.

Next half term children will complete the annual hands-up survey to find out how many children travel to school by car or public transport and how many walk, cycle or scoot.

We were disappointed to find out that we have been downgraded from Gold to Silver level for our School Travel Plan.

The STARS team from TfL said that from looking at our hands-up surveys,

"car usage was up to 17% from 12% the previous year.

"As this is a 2% reduction from the baseline we could award SILVER but not Gold."

However, they also said:

"Looking at their stories, they have some really good work going on in the school and I would think that if they keep going the way they are and focus on trying to get the car usage back down to 12% they'll be a Gold school next year."

We are really keen to regain our Gold status, which we have held for a number of years, and we urge parents and carers to leave the cars at home and walk, cycle or scoot to school and back. You might also want to consider public transport options if you are some distance from the school.

For those that do have to come to school by car, please make sure you do not double park on Grove Close—we must be mindful of neighbours who need to get their cars out in the mornings.

Attendance

This half term's attendance to date (16.10.19) is **97.47%**. The target for this year is 97%, so this is a great start.

Our I'm Here Club continues this year and children will be included in the club if their half termly attendance is under 85%. The Local Authority monitors all children under **95%** attendance, and this is why:

If your child has 95% attendance at the end of the year they will have missed 9 days of schooling. If your child has 90% attendance they are having on average one day off every fortnight.

What can I do to minimise my child's time off school?

One of the best ways to help your child is to make all appointments (doctor, dentist, optician) after school hours.

Another is to make sure your child is never late for school. It is sometimes the case that tummy aches and headaches come if a child is inwardly worrying about being late.

Why can't my child take a little bit of time off for a family holiday?

If your child has a week off school they will miss out on important steps in their learning. This can put them at a disadvantage compared with their classmates, and makes it difficult for the teacher who needs to help them catch up.

Please remember that if you take your child out of school and this has not been authorised by the Headteacher, the Local Authority may take legal action and you may be fined.

ABSENCE REPORTING

You can now report absences on the ParentMail app.

Please don't use this function for future absences—for these you will still need to complete the Absence Request Form.

This is purely for reporting absence on the day of absence, for example sickness.

School Council & Eco Council

Congratulations to the following children who have been voted by their classmates as School Councillors and Eco Councillors this year.

Class	School Council	Eco Council
Rowling	Lakeland Mabel	Mark Naomi
Hawking	Thea Thierry	Grace Stepas
Kahlo	Monty Leila-Rose	Dylan Robyn
Kamkwamba	Imogen Leo	Anton Aaliyah
Jemison	Jude Aurelia	Jaina Charlie
Yousafzai	Harry Tilly	Eli Iden
Wei Wei	Umar Lacey	Harvey Polly
Turing	Sharna Anis	Mary Joe
Rapinoe	Shasvatha Adams	Jada Kay Miles
Thunberg	Marceline Taiwo	Cheryl Kenny

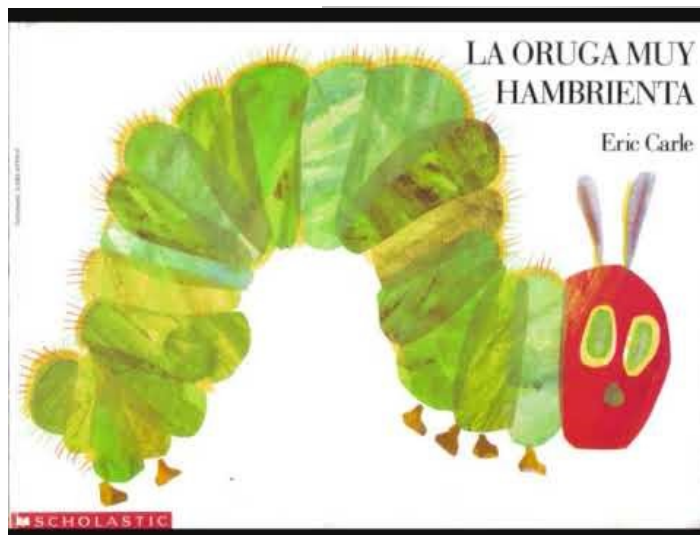
European Day of Languages

By Anton (Kamkwamba class)

The 26th of September is European Day of Languages. At Dalmain Primary School, we always have a special assembly led by Ms Sewani as she is passionate about learning lots of languages.

As she was born in Spain, this year she decided to teach us some Spanish. She started off by teaching us some words, e.g. ice cream in Spanish is 'helado'. She then read a story to us but didn't reveal what the title was - our challenge was to guess it. The tricky thing was that she was reading it in Spanish! We listened very carefully for clues in the vocabulary and also in the rhythm of the story.

Leila-Rose in Kahlo class correctly identified that it was The Very Hungry Caterpillar (La Oruga Muy Hambrienta). We then read the story again and learned some new words. I thought it was a great assembly and I enjoyed listening to a story in another language.



At home I read stories in English and French and after the assembly I have felt inspired and am learning Spanish too! If you want to learn another language, you could try out the Duolingo website (www.duolingo.com). It's a great way to learn other languages!

Pupil achievements

Congratulations to the following pupils for their recent achievements :

Sophie Andrews	Dancing - certificate & reward for end of year grading
Lev Appleton	Swimming Stage 2 Excellence certificate from Take Flight Academy of Performing Arts.
Clover Bigmore	LAMDA Level One Award in Shakespeare with Distinction Karate orange belt
Melissa Cecaj	Swimming stage 3
Cillian Donnelly	Beano competition winner
Katia Dowling-Jones	Trumpet Grade 3 with distinction
Iden Duli	Ju jitsu orange stripe
Enes Duli	Swimming Stage 2
Walter Fairweather	Karate yellow and white belt
Arthur Johnson	Ju jitsu yellow belt
Sayaka Kondo	Gymnastics class 3
Lucas Kooij	Karate green belt with Merit+
Noah Littler	Bronze swimming award
Gabriel Littler	Bronze swimming award
Thea Martin	RAD Primary Ballet with Distinction Primary Tap with Merit
Lakeland Sheehy	Irish Dancing - won the U7 intermediate Yorkshire Rose Championships
Eva-Celeste Sheehy	Irish Dancing - won the Yorkshire Rose U10 Championships
Iris Siveter	Grade 1 Freestyle dance Highly Commended Ballet class exam with Merit
Scarlet Symes	Grade 1 Violin with merit
Scarlett Taylor	Ju jitsu yellow belt
Ines Tucker	Grade 2 Violin with merit
Aurelia Ward	Skiing Proficiency Award - Level 4
Arlan Ward	Skiing Proficiency Award - Penguins level

PARENTS/CARERS OF CHILDREN IN YEAR 6:

**Don't forget:
to apply for a
secondary school
place for September
2020 the deadline is
31 October 2019.**

PARENTS/CARERS OF 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS:

**If you have a child
who will be starting
in Reception in
September 2020
the deadline for
applications is
15 January 2020**



Dalmain School

**Grove Close
Brockley Rise
London SE23 1AS**

**020 8699 2675
info@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk
Twitter: @dalmain-school
App: search for 'Dalmain' in the
app store**

DALMAIN APP

Did you know we have a school app? Search for 'Dalmain' in your app store to find information about music lessons, clubs, diary dates, Pen football sessions and much more, all in one place.

Dates for your diary

Mon 21 – Fri 25 October

Wednesday 30 October	
Thursday 31 October	10.00
Friday 1 November	
Mon 4 – Fri 8 November	
Monday 4 November	
Thursday 7 November	09.00
Friday 8 November	
Mon 11 – Fri 15 November	
Monday 11 November	15.45
Tuesday 12 November	
	10.00
Thursday 14 November	
	10.00
Friday 15 November	09.00
Tuesday 19 November	19.00
Friday 22 November	
Friday 29 November	16.30
Tuesday 3 December	19.00
Wednesday 4 December	
Monday 9 December	14.00
Tuesday 10 December	09.30
	14.00
	19.00
Wednesday 11 December	14.00
	19.00
Thursday 12 December	14.00
	19.00
Friday 19 December	15.15
Tuesday 7 January 2019	08.45

Autumn half term

Year 1 LPO Bright Sparks Concert
Year 3/4 Sports Hall Athletics
Diversity Role Models workshops for Year 5&6
UK Parliament Week
Flu vaccinations Reception to Year 6
FoD Christmas Fair planning meeting
Amnesty workshops for Year 2
Antibullying Week
Year 5/6 Basketball
School Council trip to Houses of Parliament
Year 5/6 High 5 Netball
Year 5&6 Speak Out Stay Safe workshops
Year 5/6 Sports Hall Athletics pathway
NSPCC e-safety workshop for parents & carers
Music progress concert
FoD Own Clothes Day
FoD Christmas Festival
Turning of the Year—choir perform at Blackheath Halls
Trip to Greenwich Theatre for 100% attendance children
EYFS Christmas performance
EYFS Christmas performance
Year 3&4 Christmas performance
Year 1&2 Christmas performance
Year 5&6 Christmas performance
Year 3&4 Christmas performance
Year 1&2 Christmas performance
Year 5&6 Christmas performance
Break up for Christmas holiday
Start of Spring term