



DALMAIN SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

December 2019

Headteacher's report

It has been a busy and exciting term at Dalmain and we are delighted to celebrate this in a bumper edition of the newsletter. Inside, you will find pictures and reports on the exceptional learning that has been taking place this term, both inside and outside the classroom, and we hope that you will enjoy reading about what we have been up to.

We loved sharing our **Christmas performances** with you last week and I am sure you will agree that they were quite spectacular. Key Stage 1 wowed us with their beautiful singing, as did Year 3 & 4 who also shared some of their wonderful poetry on stage. EYFS children performed the Christmas Nativity and Year 5 & 6's production of Scrooge had the audiences crying with laughter.

We are proud of all the children at Dalmain and need to say a very big thank you to our incredible staff who facilitated these performances in addition to all the academic work they have done with our children this term. We are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated and passionate team who work tirelessly to give our children the very best education possible! A huge thank you also to parents and carers for being so involved in the education of our young learners. We are very grateful for all that you do to support Dalmain; your

ongoing engagement is invaluable.

As noted in our recent Ofsted report, **writing** at the school is now a real strength and this term has been no exception. Writing across Dalmain has continued to flourish and we are thrilled with the progress that all children have made, particularly in regard to the development and use of high quality vocabulary and the ability to embed spelling, punctuation and grammar in a range of contexts and subjects.

We are delighted to announce this term's **Writing Laureates** (see below). Please do come in to the school to see our new display that celebrates their incredible work.

Reception: Lukas & Oliver
Year 1: Liam & Aoife
Year 2: Beatrice & Malou
Year 3: Leo & Osayame
Year 4: Shaheem & Takumi
Year 5: Zarina & Sophia
Year 6: Katia & Taylor

A huge and very heartfelt thank you to the Friends of Dalmain who transformed our playground into a magical **Winter Wonderland** for this year's school fair. For the first time, we hosted a pantomime as part of the celebrations and the Festival was illuminated by lanterns made by all of our children. Parent/carer volunteers, staff, governors, pupils and members of the community worked

incredibly hard to make the Winter Festival such a success, and we are immensely grateful to all of them for the co-operation, organisation and many months of preparation behind the scenes. A phenomenal **£5,100** was raised! This will support learning and enrichment opportunities across the school and help provide our children with the best start to their education.

The **library project** continues to be the main focus of all fundraising. There has been a lot of work completed to move this project forward and our next step will be to organise books into categories, ready to go on shelves. If any parents or carers are able to help us get all of our new books organised then please make contact with FoD who will be supporting the school with this in the New Year. I cannot thank you all enough for the huge impact your generosity has already had; the new library will further develop our children's love of literature and be an amazing resource for children across the school to enjoy, thanks to your enormous support.

We are sad to say goodbye to two members of staff who leave Dalmain at the end of this term. A very big thank you to **Mr Walker and Miss Emily** who have given so much to the school. In addition to his class

responsibilities, Mr Walker has led our PE department, inspiring so many pupils over the years. Miss Emily has nurtured our young learners, contributing to the team who ensure that all of our EYFS children are well looked after. We wish them the very best for a successful future.

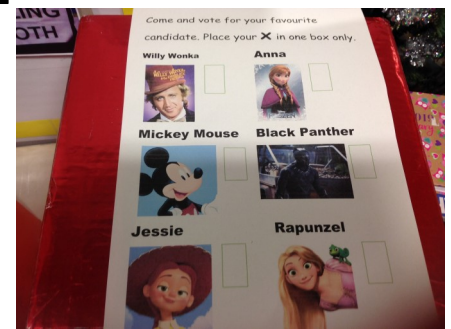
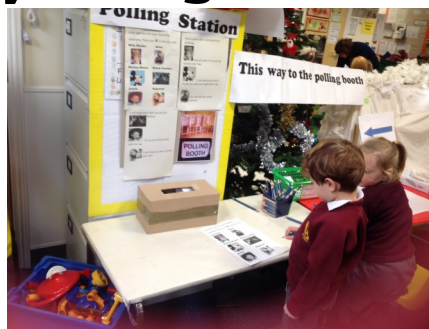
Looking ahead to the Spring Term, we are excited about **Reading Week** and **Writing Week**. The latter will be linked with an incredible art exhibition focused on sustainability and how to minimise our impact on the environment. Due to popular demand, our hugely successful **Bedtime Stories** will return on Tuesday 21st January where teachers will read stories to any Dalmain children who want to come back to school – pyjamas and pillows encouraged! We also warmly invite you to attend our **Reading Open Morning** on Thursday 23rd January: parents/carers can see whole-class reading in action across the school and can participate in a workshop with Miss Bissell to learn some top tips for supporting reading at home.

Finally, we wish all parents and carers, pupils and staff a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

Best wishes,

Ms Eisele, Headteacher

Marley class goes to the polls



Not wishing to miss an opportunity for involving the nursery children in topical issues, we conducted our very own election with some very interesting candidates. The children were very keen to participate and we ensured they followed the guidelines governing the secret ballot. We almost had a hung parliament situation, until the final voter tipped the balance in favour of Willy Wonka who won by a very slim margin. See photos above.



Black History Month

By Miss Reid, Black History Month Co-ordinator

It was my immense pleasure to kick-start this year's Black History Month events with a whole-school assembly. There was a definite buzz in the air as the children entered the hall to the infectious rhythm of the djembe, played by our very own Kenny (Thunberg Class) and me. When asked if they enjoyed walking in to the sound of drumming, the children responded with a resounding roar of 'Yes!' and one child declared 'It made me feel powerful.'



During the assembly the children were introduced to influential figures through the medium of power point presentation, role play and video footage. These little known personalities included Queen Amina of Nigeria, portrayed by Miss Florence, and her royal aids played by Kyla and Jaydon (Rapinoe Class) and Joe (Turing Class). We are indeed privileged to have the expertise of Miss Florence and we are grateful for her willingness to contribute to this event on a yearly basis.

To conclude our assembly the children were treated to another round of rhythmic drumming and they joined in by clapping as they left the hall. This is what Kenny had to say: "I felt happy and proud that people liked my drumming and were interested in the djembe."

This year I had the pleasure of collaborating with Miss Udoyen, our History coordinator, who was instrumental in planning follow-up activities and workshops for the school.

Special thanks also to Miss Sewani for arranging our annual visit from the multi-talented Mr Talmud Bah. He conducted a whole-school assembly and carried out workshops and storytelling sessions with pupils in EYFS, KS1 and KS2.



Teachers work very hard to ensure a wide coverage of topics relating to Black History, not only during October but throughout the academic year. We are very proud of the work undertaken by the teachers and pupils of Dalmain and wish to extend a huge thank you for all their input.



Did you know that the school website contains a news feed from ParentInfo? This provides useful articles related to helping your children stay safe online. Visit <http://www.dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk/parents-zone/e-safety-news/>

Black History Month Workshops

By Lady & Charlie (Hawking class)

During Black History Month we learned that it does not matter if you have different skin colour, we should all be treated equally. We learned about slavery and how black people were treated badly. In America they had to sit at the back of the bus.

We also learned about the Windrush and that black people were in England a long time ago before Windrush.

We met a DJ, a photographer and another DJ. We really enjoyed learning about their lives. We were inspired to try new things and learn more about different music and to go and take pictures of our family, so we can share these things in the future.

We loved meeting new people, and they live close by so hopefully they will come back again next year!





Year 1 LPO Bright Sparks Concert

By Miss Rowse & Bocelli class

In October, Year 1 were lucky enough to watch the London Philharmonic Orchestra performing 'Zog' at the Royal Festival Hall. The children were very sensible during our long walk to Catford Bridge and enjoyed the train ride to London Waterloo.



The Royal Festival Hall was very impressive and we were treated to an introduction to the musical instruments in the orchestra, followed by a screening of 'Zog' which was accompanied by the orchestra playing the live soundtrack.

We asked the children what their favourite part of the day was. Here is what some of them had to say:

Rhys: 'The Zog movie!'

Bonnie: 'My favourite instrument was the violin.'

Yawar: 'I liked going on the train.'

Nina: 'We went on a train and it was fun.'

Lucas: 'Zog is cool!'

Thank you to all the adults who came along and well done to the children for their impeccable behaviour and wonderful enthusiasm on the day.

Do you have a child that is due to start primary school in September 2020?

You can apply for up to six schools, whether in Lewisham or outside the borough.

You list them in order of preference.

The closing date is on 15th January 2020. Apply online at www.eadmissions.org.uk

School Council trip to the Houses of Parliament

By Tilly & Harry (Yousafzai Class)

On Tuesday 12th November, exactly a week after Guy Fawkes Night, Dalmain School Council went to the Houses of Parliament to learn about how the country is run.

First, we saw the gates where the monarch (the Queen) enters once a year to give her speech. Her speech tells everyone what the government is planning to do.

Next, we visited the two chambers. They are called the Commons and the Lords. The seats in the House of Lords are red because you had to be rich to be a Lord and red was an expensive colour. On the other hand, the colour of the House of



Commons seats are green because green used to be a cheaper colour to buy.

The visit included a workshop where we voted on different scenarios, such as

coming from school and having to eat vegetables. After each scenario, we watched a video projected everywhere about the Suffragettes and how they fought for votes for women.

It made us angry to imagine that, in those days, women weren't allowed to vote. These brave women tied themselves to the railings of the House of Commons balcony to make their point. This peaceful protest continues to happen today, when people stand up for their rights – for example, children protesting against climate change on our planet.

We enjoyed the day and learned lots about our democracy. We hope you voted on 12th December!



Diversity Role Models workshops

By Ivan & Lacey, Weiwei class

On Friday 1st November Wei Wei class met Jac and Jude who taught us about diversity, which means that even though people are different we should all be treated equally.

Jude told us about her wife, Vicki, and their son, Joseph, who is six. She also had two sisters who were married to men and had children, too. We had lots of questions for Jude – all about her life, her job (in the

NHS), Vicki and Joseph. We really wanted to know about Joseph – what hobbies does he have and does he like sport.

It was really interesting, and we all agree that you should people equally, no matter how different they are.



At Dalmain we welcome and celebrate diversity. We like the fact that everybody is different—being different is good!

London Gay Men's Chorus workshop

By Sayaka & Sohan, Jemison class

The London Gay Men's Chorus was amazing!

Within the music assembly we started off with warming up our voices. After that, we started singing "This is Me" from The Greatest Showman. To learn this they gave us some actions to remember the words.

Some people got to go up and sing solos to teach us the verses. While this was hap-

pening, some people got to sing harmonies to make the song sound harmonic.

We liked this assembly because everyone got to join in and have fun. This was very exciting since we got to see the men sing and a pianist play while we all sang.

Our favourite part was when we had learned the song and we sang it in rounds.

Rainbow Laces

Once again this year we demonstrated our support for Stonewall's Rainbow Laces campaign to "make sport everyone's game".

Our sports teams and staff wore rainbow laces to show that at Dalmain there is no room for bullying or homophobia in sport.

(See photo of our basketball team on page 9.)

LEGAL STANDARD: Under the Public Sector Equality Duty, outlined in the Equality Act 2010, we are required to actively promote equality of opportunity and eliminate discrimination. The Equality Act legally protects people from discrimination based on several characteristics, including disability, religion, race and sexual orientation.

Rowling Class assembly

By Beatrice, Taylor & Soadhi, Rowling class

On 22nd November, Rowling Class had their class assembly. First, Kimarlee welcomed everyone to our class assembly. Next, we shared many interesting facts about J.K. Rowling's life, including her troubles and struggles. Did you know that she was rejected by eight different publishing companies before she finally got her big break?

We discussed why J. K. Rowling was so inspirational – she had a great growth



mindset. We decided that she was a resilient turtle because she never gave up.

After that, Rowling's very own Harry Potter (Arthur) taught the audience a spell. Can you believe he managed to turn Kairo into a frog? Everyone in the audience burst out laughing. It was a great moment!

We think everyone thought our assembly was 10/10.

Summer Reading Challenge



Nina Bennett
 Jackson Lumley-Noble
 Robyn Lumley-Noble
 Narmir Huggins
 Shasvatha Satheyaseelan
 Lukas Vanursky
 Leo Baggs
 Jasper Baggs
 Emily Avila
 Archie Avila
 Georgia Mae Woodall
 Finley Woodall
 Younes Sadouni
 Anis Sadouni
 Lilia Sadouni
 Iris Siveter
 Sophie-Ella Kent
 Eli Milne
 Ethan Milne

This summer a number of our pupils took part in the Summer Reading Challenge. The 2019 theme was **Space Chase**, an out-of-this-world adventure inspired by the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing.

Children taking part in the Challenge joined

super space family, The Rockets, for a thrilling mission to track down books nabbed by mischievous aliens!

Congratulations to the following children who were awarded a certificate for completing the challenge:

"Spirit of the Wild" workshops

By Ali class



On Tuesday 12th November we welcomed Ben from 'Spirit of the Wild' back to Dalmain. The children were able to learn about and handle some wonderful wildlife that they wouldn't normally be able to get up and close and personal to.

Ben started the day off with a whole school assembly where he showed a wide range of animals, ranging from falcons to



meerkats and even a snake! Later on that day, the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 4 had a chance to handle some of the animals. The children in Ali class wrote about their experiences:

"I held a parrot today. It bit my finger!"
Elise

"I loved the snake." Margaux



"I was scared but brave when I saw the snake." Lilia

"I learnt that meerkats can climb." Jasiel

"I got to see a spider today!" Lucian

"The tarantula felt tickly." Finley

A huge thank you to the Friends of Dalmain for funding this visit!



Anti-bullying Week

By Millie & Lois, Rapinoe Class

Last month our school took part in Antibullying Week.

On the Monday, we had an assembly where we watched some videos and listened to a song called "Hopeful" by Bars & Melody about how a child feels when they have been bullied.

On Tuesday, we had an interactive assembly about Who Wants to Be An Antibullying Superstar? It was like Who Wants to Be A Millionaire? and was

really fun and informative at the same time.

On Wednesday a lady from the NSPCC came in to do a "Speak Out. Stay Safe." assembly which was about our rights to stay safe. We did a few activities like the sack of worries, where we had to name adults that we can speak to like our teachers and parents. Every time we named an adult a worry came out of the sack.

On Thursday the Year 5 and Year 6 classes had a "Speak Out. Stay Safe." session in class where we got into more detail.

On Friday we had more special guests come in called the London Gay Men's Chorus, and we sang songs in rounds and in harmony.

What a busy week!

"Speak Out. Stay Safe." workshops

By Haley, Thunberg Class

On the 14th November, Key Stage 2 had an assembly given by the NSPCC. It was to encourage us to speak out if we feel abused or neglected. They were careful to say it wasn't children's fault if this happens, and that the best way to deal with this was to speak to a trusted adult or call Childline.

Although they said that the types of abuse and neglect they told us about were quite rare, it would be best to know how to deal with it if we felt threatened.

After the assembly, Y5 and Y6 had workshops with the volunteers (these also included some things on child bullying as well). We watched a video about a boy who was so neglected that he rarely went to school or had a decent meal. He suffered for a while without doing anything, but when he finally called Childline he was given very good advice about how to deal



with the situation - talk to his teacher - and things began to improve.

Although it was quite difficult to hear about some of the things that can happen to abused and neglected children, it made us feel more secure knowing that there was a way to get help if it ever happened to us or our friends.

Fundraising

Thank you to all the children who took part in **Buddy's Big Activity** to raise money for the NSPCC.

We are delighted to report that we managed to raise over **£2,100**—this is a fantastic achievement!

The NSPCC were so impressed that they are giving us our own Buddy the Speech Bubble to keep in school. Buddy helps children to speak out and find a safe adult to talk to if they are sad, worried or feel unsafe.

Well done to Hawking and Kamkwamba classes who won certificates for the highest percentage of children that took part.

NSPCC/O2 e-safety workshops for parents & carers

By Mrs Woodhall, Safeguarding & Behaviour Lead

On Friday 15/11/2019 we held a parent workshop about keeping your child safe online. The workshop was delivered by the NSPCC in partnership with O2.

This followed on from us taking part in the Speak Out Stay safe programme throughout the week, educating the children in how to keep safe in all aspects of their life.

There was an hour-long session to help parents and carers keep their family safe online. The session was a mix of slides, questions and general discussion.

At the end, a perspective of what online issues we deal with in school was shared with parents, and this led to a discussion about how parents can avoid these issues arising.

The workshop was well attended by parents who have since given positive feedback about it.

The NSPCC have left us some extra leaflets called 'Your Child's Online World – a guide for parents'; if you would like one of these please see Mrs Woodhall. They will be given out on a first come, first served basis as they did not leave enough for every parent.



Nursery news

A huge thank you to all parents who attended the settling in reviews during this term. Your feedback regarding your children's progress to date has been extremely encouraging and they have settled very well. Our aim is to stimulate and inspire every child by providing a creative curriculum which takes account of their interests and uniqueness. They are all enjoying their experiences so far.

Willy Wonka

Willy Wonka fever has engulfed the Nursery children. This was inspired by a whole class discussion about factories led by Mrs. Golding.

This is what Eliza had to say: *'I liked it when I put the golden ticket in the pretend chocolate.'* Jacob: *'I liked the juicing factory'.* Fred said *'I liked when we juiced leaves, flowers to feed to the birds.'*



Healthy Eating Fruity Party

Continuing with our healthy EYFS project, we hosted a Fruit and Veg party where the children tasted a range of exotic fruits such as pomelo, pineapple and Galia melon. They helped in the preparation of the fruit and vegetables and were encouraged to sample as many as possible, particularly ones they had not tried before. Following its success, we will



be organizing similar parties on a regular basis.

We need your support

The development of our outdoor area continues and we will require the assistance of parent/carer volunteers to paint, refurbish and resource the learning space. We will be in touch during the spring term when the weather is more favourable.

Mr. Bah

Talmud Bah took time out of his busy schedule to share a story with the children. He drew cartoon characters based on discussions he had with the children and framed his story around the figures. They were then able to recall the story in the correct order and impressed Mrs. Golding with their accuracy.



We always have time for pasta

Mr. Mameli (Dario) volunteered to share the art of authentic home-made pasta with the children. He did remarkably well with managing the enthusiasm and excitement of the children. The children enjoyed having a go at the pasta machine and were amazed at the elasticity of the stretched dough. This is what Kaiel and some of the children had to say: *'The pasta was red.'* (home-made sauce) Robin: *'The sauce looked like tomato sauce and I am*



not allowed to have tomato sauce. I had the pasta without the sauce and it was good.' Elijah: *'Dario was cooking the pasta and it was so good. Dario's machine made the pasta go bigger and bigger.'*

Encouraging boys to engage in mark making activities

We have come up with some effective ideas of encouraging our boys to mark make and to develop their pre-writing skills. This has so far fired their imaginations and they are very eager to have a go. This is what Hameed had to say about his experience, after engaging in one of the activities: *'Miss Reid, you have to get some paint and paint the tyres and then roll it. It made colourful paint and it was so beautiful.'* Milo: *'You had to get the wheel and put it in the box and then in the paint. Then you roll it on the paper.'*

This idea was extended during outdoor



play where the children used chalks to trace the grooves on the tyres. They were fascinated by the raised imprints created by rubbing the chalk over the writings on the surface of the tyres. It was interesting to see the high levels of concentration and the collaboration amongst the participants. This was messy play at its best and parents were handed some rather colourful children at pick up time!

Year 6 Bikeability

By Gus & Jada-Kay, Rapinoe class

14th to 18th October was Bikeability Week at Dalmain. During Bikeability we practised many skills to improve our knowledge and confidence.



First we learned how to get on the bikes, and the ABC check was important to do first. We practised cycling through tight gates and stopping and starting safely. We then practised riding around a junction that the instructors made for us. We also learned hand signals and hand exercises so when we went on the road we would be able to indicate our directions to drivers.

We practised some real scenarios such as roundabouts and junctions, and then assessed how we did as a group. In the final stages of the week, we took these skills to the road, which was enjoyable! As a result, I feel more confident on my bike and am pleased to have learned new skills and safety rules, whilst having fun.

Road Safety Week & assembly

By Alice & Leo, Kamkwamba class

We enjoyed Road Safety Week which was from 18th to 2nd November. We especially enjoyed how Graham explained road safety in a clear way in the assembly. He told us how important it is for children to follow the appropriate rules to make sure we are safe.

We learned about the health benefits of scooting, cycling and walking to school compared to driving. However, we have also become aware of the dangers and



how we can help to stay safe. We went over the Green Cross Code and "Stop, Look and Listen".

We learned about the two types of crossing: zebra and pedestrian, and we even learned that in Hungary and other countries it is illegal to cross the road without a green light.

We now feel more confident when coming to school.

'Sleeping Beauty' - trip to Greenwich Theatre

By Thomas, Rapinoe Class, & Tilly, Yousafzai Class

On 4th December, children who came into school every day last year (and some other children who were chosen because they showed courage in adversity) went to see Sleeping Beauty at Greenwich Theatre.

We took a coach there and when we arrived we settled into the giant theatre. When the lights dimmed and the show began, everyone roared with excitement! The performance was hilarious and thrilling. During the interval, tubs of strawberry, vanilla and chocolate ice cream were handed out to each child and adult.

Overall, it was the funniest panto that Dalmain has ever seen. Everyone had an



awesome time and really enjoyed it. The whole audience laughed their hearts out when the characters became babies and

when the ghosts came out of the bed. We all loved it.



Year 3/4 Sports Hall athletics pathway

By Graham Curtis, Community Sports Co-ordinator

The sports hall athletics festival for years 3 & 4 was held at Prendergast Ladywell School on 31 October. There were many schools squeezed into the hall which created an amazing atmosphere. Children were all cheering, clapping and supporting each other.

The children took part in a number of field events including javelin, high jump, chest push and long jump. This was combined with track events that really tested the children's fitness!



A very well done to all athletes, for many of whom this would have been their first time competing in a sporting event.

Our team was voted by other schools as the most respectful team so we got the ALPSS "Respect the Games" Award. A special mention for Olive who received a medal for speaking about sporting values, and Henry who received a certificate for demonstrating the sporting value of Honesty.

Year 5/6 high 5 netball pathway

On 12 November the Year 5/6 netball team went to St Dunstan's College to take part in the Lewisham Primary Sport (ALPS) high-5 netball pathway tournament. Sports co-ordinator Graham Curtis said "The team was absolutely fantastic playing some amazing netball—a massive credit to Miss Bissell and her netball club."

We came top of our group beating Rathfern 2-0, St George's 5-0 and Stillness 6-0! The game with Brindishe Manor ended in a 1-1 draw.



Unfortunately we lost 1-0 to Tidemill in the semi final, in a very closely contested game.

A special mention for Kenny, who won an award for honesty: he gave the ball to the other team after he had made an error, even though the umpire hadn't declared it. We are even more proud of this than we are of reaching the semi-final!

Well done Kenny for showing such great sporting values, and well done to the whole team for doing so well.

Year 5/6 basketball festival

By Graham Curtis, Community Sports Co-ordinator

The basketball festival on 4 December was hosted by Sydenham secondary school in their amazing sports hall. A number of young leaders from Sydenham assisted in umpiring the games and organisation of fixtures.

The atmosphere in the sports hall was electric with games being played at a frantic pace and many hoops being scored from all angles and distances! The standard of basketball was extremely high, and most of the games were evenly contested.



Congratulations to our incredible Dalmain team who won the festival without losing a single game! They were absolutely fantastic, showing amazing determination and great teamwork.

Children were presented with a gold medal each and a trophy for the school.

We hope that some of the children will be inspired to continue playing and look at London Thunder who are our local basketball club.

Note the team's rainbow laces! (See report on page 4)

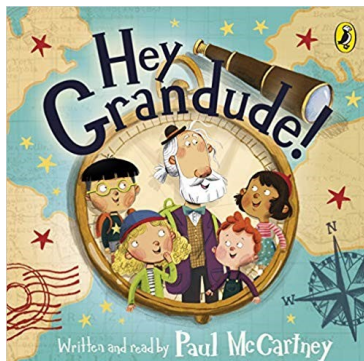
Equal Choices & Equal Chances

By Miss Biggs, Thunberg class

As part of our PSHE topic on Equal Choices and Equal Chances, Year 6 children have been thinking about their dreams and aspirations and about how they might achieve these.

To help the children think about future goals we asked parents and carers of Year 6 pupils to come in to school and discuss their career choices and what steps they took to reach their career goals.

Ted's grandmother Lilian came in to



school to talk about her job in the music industry. She has worked with many interesting people, including Paul McCartney.

When he found out about her visit, Paul very kindly donated two copies of "Hey Grandude!", a book that he recently wrote for his grandchildren, for our new library. The book isn't even released yet!

We are very grateful to Lilian for taking the time to visit us—thank you so much!

Respect Workshops

By Grace & Tekifah, Yousafzai class

On Friday 22nd November, an energetic man called Talmud came to school to help us learn about working together, empathy and respect.

First, Tal taught us the ground rules. We played many games to help us to remember them. After that, we paired up into partners and began some activities

that encouraged positive communication, such as Thumb War and the Not Connected game.

As the session went on, Talmud told us some of his own stories, including a real and gruesome story about his finger!

We enjoyed all of it because it allowed us to work together in a different way to how we usually work in the classroom. It reminded us about the importance of respect and collaboration, two of Dalmain's central values.

We hope very much that Talmud can visit the school again soon.

National Tree Week

To mark National Tree Week in November (23 November – 1 December 2019), the Mayor of London gave away 55,000 free trees to be planted in London this autumn and winter. Members of our Eco Council got busy planting trees in some of our empty planters. They also replaced a dead tree just outside the school. Eco Councillors have the job of watering and caring for the saplings to make sure they remain healthy.





Maths Moves! workshops

By Milo W & Katia, Thunberg class

On Tuesday 5th November we had an exciting Maths Moves! workshop in the top hall. The experience was a joyful session of puzzling questions, full of fun problem-solving maths enrichment activities and challenges.



During the session, we explored and played with a variety of puzzles, where we were encouraged to use mathematical reasoning, as we tried to find a solution, as well as building and developing our knowledge and skills of maths. Throughout the afternoon, we had to use teamwork to find the answers, whilst forming bonds with people other than our close friends. All over maths!

At the beginning of the session, we were greeted by an intriguing introduction, where it was explained to us what the expectations were and what activities we

would be investigating. Before we were let loose on the activities, we then worked as a class to solve the first puzzle creating different shapes using large foam blocks. If we happened to get stuck, the kind, helpful instructors were always on hand to give us small hints and pointers to get us started.

At the end of the lesson, we were rewarded with certificates, which were packed with websites that we could check out with our parents at home! Together, as a class, we all did one more



question before we returned to class. All the other children were disappointed to leave, as they really enjoyed the maths lesson, which, honestly...isn't normal!

In conclusion, we think this was a great learning experience for us all, and helped us expand our maths knowledge. I would recommend a maths moves session to all children who enjoy learning, and would like to boost their maths knowledge and skills too!

Amnesty International workshops

By Chloe D & Josiah, Hawking class

One morning we met Hannah, a lady from Amnesty International. She told us about our rights as children.

We learned about human rights and what they mean, and we watched a video that had fun cartoons. We talked about what was a right and what was a want. Then we worked in pairs to draw our favourite rights.

She then gave us a class book to read called We Are All Born Free.

We were all really interested to hear about Hannah's work.





Turning of the Year Concert

By Ptolemy & Maeve, Turing Class

On Tuesday 3rd December we went to Blackheath Halls 'Turning of the Year' concert, to perform our songs. Altogether, there were seven schools!

We arrived and 18:30 and waited apprehensively for half an hour. At 19:00, the concert began and we sang our won song- 'Jazz is cool!' After this, we

proceeded to sing 'The Turning of the Year' with all the other choirs.

The concert was exhausting, but it was amazing and one to remember forever. We also sang *Sing up it's Christmas*, *This Winter's Night*, *Tingalayo* and our grand finale....with fake snow...twice for good

luck... *I WISH IT COULD BE CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY!*

Everyone loved it, and there were many other songs sung by the other school choirs as well.

Summed up: the night was fabulous!

Club dates—Spring 2019

Please make a note of the weeks when clubs are running, and of the weeks when there are no clubs.

Spring 1 (before half term)	Spring 2 (after half term)
13.01.2020 – 17.01.2020	24.02.2020 – 28.02.2020
20.01.2020 – 24.01.2020	02.03.2020 – 06.03.2020
03.02.2020 – 07.02.2020	09.03.2020 – 13.03.2020
10.02.2020 – 14.02.2020	16.03.2020 – 20.03.2020

EYFS Christmas Performance

On the 9th and 10th of December the children from Nursery and Reception treated their parents and carers to a wonderful Christmas show, re-telling the story of the birth of Jesus. The children had practised over several weeks to make sure that they spoke clearly and confidently and sung beautifully.



All of the school adults thoroughly enjoyed the performance and we feel very proud of the children's musical singing and clear

self-confidence in front of an audience. Well done Nursery and Reception!



We asked some of the children what their favourite part of the show was. This is what some of the children said:

Ramadan:
"I loved dressing up as an angel."

Mirabelle:
"My favourite song was 'It was on a starry night' because it's the calmest song."

Tom:
"I liked all the songs!"

Lottie:
"I liked the bit when Mary and Joseph



came to us and asked if we had any room and we all shouted, "No...we're full!" It was fun!"

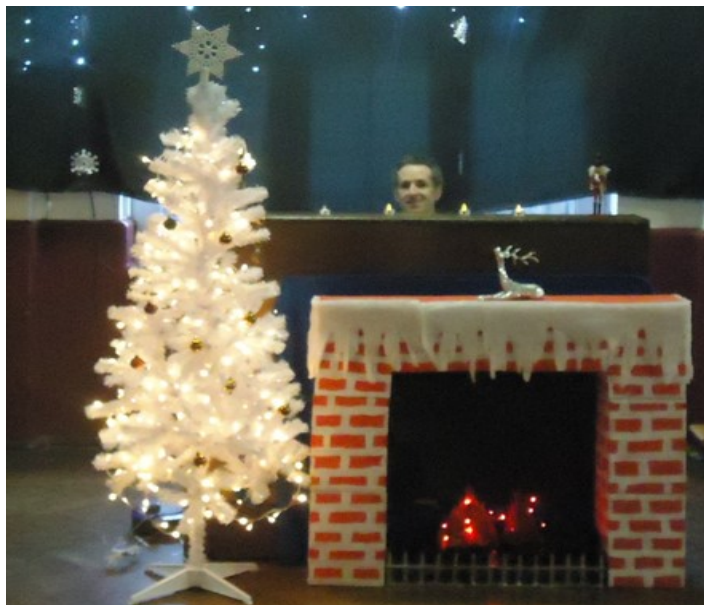
Jasiel:
"I loved all the singing, especially 'The Virgin Mary had a baby boy.'"

Charlotte:
"I really liked speaking on stage. I was a little bit nervous but I just said my line and I felt happy afterwards."



Y1/2 Christmas Concert

By Thea, Taylor, Beau & Nayan,



We had so much fun singing in our Christmas performance last Tuesday night and Thursday afternoon.

When we walked in the hall, it felt like the Christmas magic was spreading: there were snowflakes on the ceiling, a magical fire-place, sparkly lights and a white glittering Christmas tree. Seeing the hall made us feel less nervous and more excited instead. Our singing was so good it blew our teachers away!

We really enjoyed performing in front of our friends and families. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Y5/6 Christmas Panto

By Marceline & Milo, Thunberg Class

The Year 5 and 6 pantomime was a seasonal extravaganza which filled the hall with laughter as four different casts performed the roles in a Scrooge-inspired pantomime. Written by Mr Roberts and based on Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", the show opened with a lively rendition of 'Money, Money, Money' by ABBA which introduced us to the story of the miserly Scrooge and his terrible behavior.

It was a great success, with humour, powerful singing and strong all-round performances. Miss Kempster's costumes also dazzled the crowd - they were amazing! We really enjoyed performing on the stage as it was a totally thrilling experience.

Scrooge was visited by various ghosts and by the end he was transformed into a kind and giving person. This pantomime really does highlight the meaning of Christmas giving. It was so much fun to learn our lines, rehearse and work together to turn a traditional favourite into a comedy blockbuster.

Y3/4 Christmas Concert

By Esther & Santus, Jemison Class

Last week was a super busy week for Year 3 and Year 4 as we prepared for a seasonal musical concert. We made our own Santa hats and reindeer hats to add to the festive cheer. Then, after many singing and poetry rehearsals, we performed different Christmas and winter songs to a lively audience who clapped, cheered and sang along.

The songs included 'Oh I Wish it Could be Christmas Every Day' and 'Twelve Days of Christmas' and we even had different actions that the audience could join in with. Playing the drums and bird whistle also added to the joyous occasion and adults commented on how much they enjoyed the lovely singing and beautiful poetry.



By Edie, Grace & Scarlett, Yousafzai Class

On Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th December, Years 3 and 4 gave their Christmas performance, and we all really enjoyed it. In Yousafzai class, as we got on stage, our hands trembled and our hearts started to thump. But when Nick began to play his piano part, our nerves melted away and the whole class sang with energy.

Everyone remembered the words and – in the second performance at least – we all remembered our actions. All of the other classes were brilliant too – Mrs Jackson was really impressed by the singing here at Dalmain.

There were six songs in total, and they were: The 12 Days of Christmas, sung by Jemison; Sing Up It's Christmas, sung by Khalo; Love Shone Down, sung by Kamkwamba; and Must Be Santa, performed by Yousafzai class.

Finally, the whole of Year 3 and 4 sang I Wish It Could Be Christmas and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. Our sparkly accessories, Santa hats and reindeer antlers helped to get parents and carers into the festive mood.

Merry Christmas everyone!



FoD Christmas Fair

by the FoD Team

A quick message from all at FoD to say thank you once again for your support and help at the Winter Festival. We are delighted to say that the final total raised was a whopping **£5101.00!** We can't believe it and are so excited about organising where those funds will go to in the school.

A special mention goes to the Year Six students who worked extra hard on the night. They are pitching to buy hoodies for their football team and we're very pleased to support them and help fund that in the new year.

Date for the diary... If you are planning to buy any new uniforms next term, keep **after school on Monday 13th January** free. We will be holding another uniform sale and this time it will include brand new uniform from the school stock.



Don't forget it's still not too late to join us on the committee: we are especially keen to have a secretary to help us out with a small amount of admin and social media tasks. If you are interested please contact us on:

friendsofdalmain@gmail.com.

Finally, a merry bloomin' Christmas to you all! Have a great break and see you all in 2020.

FoD Team xxx



LEWISHAM FOODBANK

We all have times of crisis in our lives. If you find yourself in a crisis situation and feel that you need to visit a Food Bank, we are able to give you a Food Bank voucher to help you through. Please see Mrs Woodhall if you need support. We will always treat requests with complete confidentiality.

Tea Dance for Little People visit

by Rosie & Aoife, Brunel Class

On Friday 13th. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 had a very special visitor. He was called Paul and he was a dock worker from the past and he wore old clothes. He told us the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a mean old man that did not like Christmas at all!

Paul acted out the story and it was very interesting. It was funny when he shouted "Bah humbug!" The story taught us that we must not be rude to others. Instead we

must always be kind and generous to people that might need help.

After the story, we all sang and danced to the song 'The 12 days of Christmas'. Paul was very talented because he could play the violin and the guitar! All of the children stood up and joined in, it was great fun and made us all feel very excited for the Christmas holidays!





Pupil achievements

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this half term

Joanie Allam—Swimming Stage 2

Zarina Blair—won tournament as DAGFC striker

Miller Bridges-Delaney—Ju Jitsu yellow belt

Olivia Burton-Brown—primary ballet with Distinction & Swimming Stage 5

Sequoia Dixon-Greenhill—Trampoline Level 2

Oliver Hammond—bronze & gold football club medals

Arthur Johnson—Ju Jitsu orange belt with stripe

Colette Lin—Trampoline Level 7 & Swimming Stage 6

Ethan Lin—Trampoline Level 6

Leo Martin—Grade 2 Ukulele with Distinction

Olive Miller—Swimming Stage 3

William Mullen—Swimming certificate for 5m

Jude Parsons — British Gymnastics Award Level 5

William Parsons—Grade 2 Piano with Merit

Jasper Rider—Swimming Stage 2

Joelle Sealy—Competed in English National Basketball League

Eva-Celeste Sheehy—South Essex U19 Irish Dancing champion

Olivia Skiendzilewska—Swimming Stage 2, Gymnastics Level 7

Lukas Vanursky—Swimming Stage 3 & Blue Peter Sport Badge 2019

Amelia Zouggari—now seven months in remission and clear of leukemia! She featured in the Autumn Chartwell Charity magazine & was selected to meet the Mayor of Bromley at the Air Smiles Day (Biggin Hill).

Thank you for your support

Thank you to all parents and carers for their support at a time when school budgets are stretched.

By supporting our **Book Fair** in November, you helped to raise vital funds for school books.

By purchasing your child's individually designed **Christmas cards** you helped to raise **£170** for school funds.

Our cake sales this term raised **over £200** for the Friends of Dalmain, who work tirelessly to raise funds for various projects that improve our pupils' educational experiences.

By coming along to our second hand **uniform sale** in September you helped to raised **£123.45** for FoD projects.

Your donations after the Christmas performances raised over **£520** for Crisis at Christmas. This will provide eighteen homeless people with a warm welcome and good company, three nutritious meals including a Christmas lunch, a bed for the night and advice on housing, employment and benefits.

Past pupil news

Ex pupil Otis Marshall-Harris is a member of American Football Team "The Exiles", who were invited by the NFL to take part in the Jacksonville Jaguars vs Houston Texans game on Sunday 3 November at Wembley Stadium.

Otis was one of the flag bearers. During half time he took part in a game and scored a touchdown!

Otis has previously trained with an ex Jacksonville Jaguars' star player Jalen Ramsey and won some head to heads, so he is fast becoming a player to watch!

We are so proud of him and will be keeping a very close eye on his progress.





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Dates for your diary

Thursday 19 December	15.15	Break up for Christmas holiday
Tuesday 7 January 2020	08.45	Start of Spring term
Wednesday 15 January	15.45	Y1/2 multiskills festival
Mon 20 – Fri 24 January		Reading Week
Tuesday 21 January	15.30	Bedtime Stories
Weds 29 & Thurs 30 Jan		Parent teacher meetings & Book Fair
Tuesday 4 February		Y3/4 football development festival
Tuesday 11 February		Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 12 February	13.30	Inclusive multiskills festival
Thursday 13 February		Y5/6 girls football pathway
Friday 14 February	15.00	FoD Valentine Cake Sale
Mon 17 – Fri 21 February		Spring half term
Thursday 27 February	16.00	Year 3 swimming lessons start
		Y3/4 6-a-side football festival
		Tempest Photography class photos
Tuesday 3 March		World Book Day
Thursday 5 March		Writing Week
Mon 16 – Fri 20 March		Year 5 to Classical Roadshow
Monday 16 March		Writing Open Morning
Thursday 19 March		Living Eggs arrive in Reception
Monday 23 March		Tempest Photographers: class photos/
Tuesday 24 March		Writing Exhibition in playground
Friday 27 March		EYFS Easter Celebration
Wednesday 1 April	09.15	KS1 & KS2 Easter Celebration
	10.15	
Friday 3 April	15.15	cake sale
		Break up for Easter holiday
Tuesday 21 April	08.45	Start of Summer term
Wednesday 29 April		The Big Pedal Day
	18.30	Naturesbase parents' meeting
Thursday 7 May		Y3/4 Mini red tennis finals pathway
Friday 8 May		VE Day Bank Holiday
Mon 11 – Thurs 14 May		Year 6 SATs Week
Tuesday 19 May		Y5/6 kwik cricket
Friday 22 May	15.00	FoD Cake Sale
Mon 25 – Fri 29 May		Summer half term
Monday 1 June		INSET day – children not in school
Thursday 4 June		Y5/6 mini orange tennis pathway
Friday 12 June		FoD Own Clothes Day
Monday 15 June	13.00	Y3/4 kwik cricket festival
Wednesday 17 June	10.00	Reception Welcome Morning
Saturday 20 June		FoD Summer Fair
Mon 22 – Fri 26 June		Year 4 Naturesbase camping trip
Friday 3 July		Sports Day
Monday 6 July	15.30	FoD AGM
Tuesday 7 July	09.15	Ensemble performances
	10.15	Music Concert (soloists & small groups)
	14.15	Open Afternoon & report collection
Thursday 9 July	16.00	Year 1/2 6-a-side football festival
Tuesday 14 July	19.00	Year 6 Leavers' performance
Friday 17 July		Nursery end of year party
Tuesday 21 July	15.15	Break up for summer holiday

Attendance

This term's attendance up to 18 December was **96.78%**. Although not quite at our target of 97%, considering the level of sickness which we have experienced this term we think this is really good. Well done everyone.

If we continue to make medical appointments out of school hours and avoid taking holidays in term time, we will be able to meet our target of 97%.

Well done **Kamkwamba class** who have the best attendance so far this year, and **Hawking class** who have the best punctuality.

A polite reminder: it is proven that high levels of attainment are linked to good attendance. If your child does not attend school every day on time this reduces their chances to achieve. If your child's attendance is under 90% you may be fined up to £2,500 and/or given a custodial sentence: Section 444 of the 1996 Education Act states that "If a child of compulsory school age ... fails to attend regularly ... their parent is guilty of an offence."

We will continue to work with all parents and carers to make sure that all pupils attend school every day on time. If your child is going to be absent please call and let us know the reason for the absence.

DON'T FORGET YOU CAN REPORT PUPIL SICKNESS ON PARENTMAIL