



DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter—December 2022



Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a long, yet incredibly eventful half-term, and what fun we have had! A personal highlight for me must be the outstanding Winter Performances and seeing how much the children loved being on stage, performing to their families in person for the first time in three long years. Each year group did themselves proud, and it was such a delight to be able to share these special moments with the whole community. Despite the arctic weather, we hope that you all enjoyed attending. It was truly magical to celebrate this time of year together.

As I said in my letter earlier this week, a huge thank you to all parents and carers who provided feedback in our recent survey. We were overwhelmed by the positive feedback received, confirming what a special place Dalmain is to learn and how much children enjoy attending every day. We work extremely hard to provide each child with the best education possible and remain committed to improving every day. To name just a few areas that we will be working on, we are very excited about implementing our new approach to playground management through a programme called OPAL, and cannot wait to get going with more trips, face to face Parent Teacher Meetings and improvements to the school facilities. We will also be changing the way in which we circulate information to parents and carers, switching from sending individual emails to utilising our school website as a 'one-stop shop' for key information. Look out for further communication about this in Term 3.

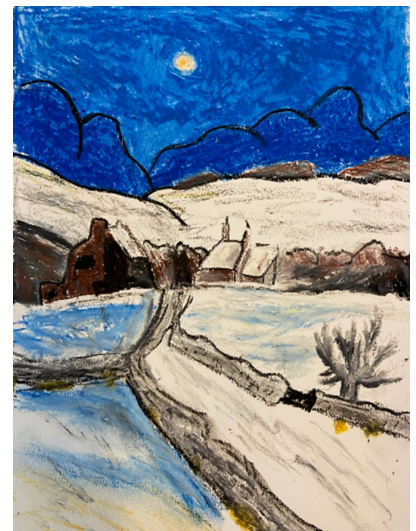
I must say a huge thank you to our wonderful Friends of Dalmain team, who yet again pulled off a magical and memorable Winter Fair. It was a treat for all, evidenced by the huge smiles and joyous laughter across the fair, and how many people have been buzzing about it since. They raised a phenomenal £5,500 – wow! This money is invaluable to the school for additional events and activities, in addition to school improvements. Current fundraising will go towards 'Project Playground', an ambitious plan for the outside areas at our school. This long-term project will take a few years to complete but, once we have concrete plans and have consulted with the children on what they feel they would benefit from in the playground, we look forward to communicating this with families. Thank you all for your support with this – it will make such a difference.

And finally, a huge thank you to our wonderful staff team at Dalmain. Their hard work, passion and dedication make this the special community that it is, inspiring the next generation and always having the children's best interests at the core of all they do. Their service and commitment to Dalmain is commendable, and we are so lucky to have them all.

I hope that you enjoy this newsletter, which is packed full of the fun and learning from this term. The children love sharing their school experiences with you and we are greatly looking forward to more events with families next term. Look out for our International Day on Friday 3rd February, Parent Teacher Meetings on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th January, and also Writing Week which will take place between 6th-10th February, to name just a few. We can't wait!

Have a happy, safe and restful holiday, and I look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 4th January 2023.

Ms Eisele - Headteacher



Applying for Free School Meal funding is vital for us to continue offering these amazing opportunities to our children!

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Nursery—Hubble Class

In true Nursery fashion, Hubble Class jumped into action at the start of the new term with the help of their favourite Superheroes. The theme was suggested when the children were asked what they wished to learn about during our discussion at the end of last term. The carpet was abuzz with conversations about their favourite and most powerful superheroes. The children asked if they could also have some dressing-up and some action figures and we did not disappoint them. They were thrilled when they returned to find a wide selection of costumes, figures and gadgets to choose from. The following are a few of the children's comments.



Rafi: 'I want to be Spiderman because he does webs and I would have powers from my hands.'

Amos: 'I am Batman because he has all the powers. He can do light theories. Light theories are powerful powers.'

Nate: 'Spiderman has red sticky hands and he can wrap up the bad guys.'

It was truly delightful to see the superheroes helping each other to get in and out of their costumes. It really took the pressure off the adults.

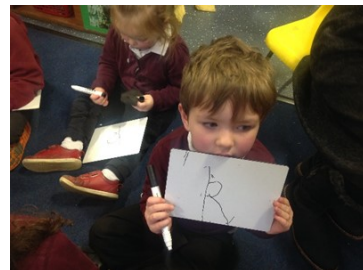
We next focused on traditional stories in order to support and develop their speaking and listening skills. The story of Goldilocks and The Three Bears was instrumental in introducing children to the characters and the sequencing of events. We extended their learning by incorporating cooking, roleplay and numeracy to enhance their learning experience. The children thoroughly enjoyed making porridge, learning about the threeness of three, exploring size, ordering and measurement. We further explored a range of stories with the children immersing themselves in the characters and being very eager to participate in a variety of related activities. The story of the Three Billy Goats Gruff inspired the children to collaboratively construct a number of bridges for use in their roleplay.



Nursery—Hubble Class



During one of our mark making activities, we set the children a challenge to have a go at writing a series of tricky letters. To our utter amazement, the children rose to the challenge and produced the most amazing letters. Well done, Hubble Class, for always accepting challenges and being prepared to persevere even when you find things difficult.



This term also saw the start of our Forest School sessions. The children were thrilled to experience learning in our wildlife garden and we continued our attempts to attract birds to the garden by replenishing the bird feeders. We are proud that many of our children are confident when taking risks, as they engaged in tree climbing, bird watching and minibeast hunting. The varied experiences catered for the growing and developing needs of the children to explore nature independently and enhanced their love of the outdoors.



What better way to complete a busy day of outdoor learning, than to enjoy a lovely cup of hot chocolate. However, the children had to wait a bit longer for this special organically grown chocolate, and for some, it was well worth the wait. They experienced the preparation and the taste of Jamaican home-made chocolate, and although it was not to the taste of everyone, most children enjoyed it.



To round off a busy and productive term, we have been practising for our Christmas performance and are looking forward to a well-deserved rest. Happy holidays everyone!!



Reading Volunteers

Thank you so much for the response to our Reading volunteer training. We were delighted by the positive responses and the number of people from our community who have volunteered to support our children. A confirmed timetable has been emailed to you all this week.

Thank you so much!



We are looking forward to our volunteers starting on the week beginning **9th January**.



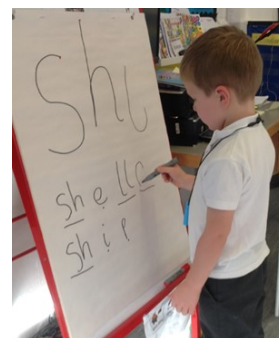
Reception—Galileo Class

We have had a fantastic time in Galileo Class during Autumn 2. The children have settled well into the routines of each day; they've also been building some wonderful friendships and have learned so much!



A real highlight of this half-term has been our adventures in the wildlife garden. The children love to climb the trees, hunt for signs of animals, search under leaves and logs for insects, as well as sing songs, play games, and engage in lots of imaginative play. The wildlife garden has sparked many curiosities and has been a catalyst for much of our play and conversations. It is definitely something that everyone looks forward to each week, and we cannot wait to see how the garden changes throughout the upcoming months and seasons.

This half term we began working on our Phase 3 phonics. These new sounds and common exception words have opened up a new world of exciting writing opportunities. We wrote lists of items we would take to space, labelled an astronaut's equipment, wrote receipts and tickets for our Halibut Jackson clothing shop, wrote invitations for a tea party- and so much more!



Our mud kitchen has been very popular with the children! They have been busy adding, stirring, and baking some fabulous goodies.

We also took some time this term to look at where our class name Galileo comes from. We learned some facts about Galileo Galilei and about the planets in our solar system. Creating our own rockets was a blast!



Reception—Peake Class

It has been wonderful to see the children grow in confidence this term both academically and socially. We are delighted to see the children entering the classroom happily each day and taking pride in their work! It has also been very special to welcome parents into the classroom each Friday to read stories during our free-flow time, and we look forward to doing this again next term!



We have been learning all about festivals that are celebrated around the world, including Diwali, Halloween, Bonfire Night as well as Christmas and Hannukah.

One of the children's favourite books this term was *Halibut Jackson*. This story is about a boy who was very shy and so designed beautiful suits to blend into any place. This led to some interesting conversations about feeling shy and what we can do to overcome this. We set up our own clothes shop, making shop signs, tags and receipts. We had brilliant shopkeepers- and some very keen customers too!

'We learnt our letters' – Gelilia

Having our class named after the amazing astronaut Tim Peake gave us the perfect excuse to learn all about space. Their prior knowledge was impressive and they loved learning what it was like to travel to space from watching Tim Peake! The children talked and wrote about what they would like to see in space, and they built rockets, created their own aliens and other fabulous artwork with Mr Roberts!



'Space week was fun because our class is named after Tim Peake!' – Ella



Peake class have been learning lots about numbers too, whether they are odd or even, for example, and how to build numbers in different ways. We have started to explore patterns around us and enjoyed creating natural patterns at Forest School. Speaking of Forest School, the children have loved our Monday afternoon sessions. They go fairy-hunting and bird-watching as well as making dens and having campfire chats. We have enjoyed reading stories in the outdoor classroom and these stories inspire our learning in the wildlife garden. Can you guess which book we read from the pictures below? The children have also learnt about calculating risk and how to stay safe. We have been amazed with some of their climbing skills too!



'I enjoyed playing school with my friends' – Lucy



The children were great helpers for the Christmas fair, making stars for the Nutcracker scavenger hunt in the wildlife garden! We also have a new market stall in the playground (which has been a huge hit), and the children enjoyed making their own version of the Christmas fair here. Finally, we would like to say how proud we are of all the children and how well they performed 'The Nativity'. The children really impressed us with their acting, speaking and singing skills, and we think they are total superstars! Well done, Peake class!

LAMDA

We have had a lovely second half of the term with our pupils at Dalmain, and the children have been working on some fun seasonal poems in the build to Christmas. Year 1 children have enjoyed 'The Chubby Little Snowman' and made up some very creative actions, while the Year 5 children compared their Christmas experiences to 'A Week to Christmas', talking through what happens in their house in those exciting days.

Our Year 6 children have now chosen their exam prose piece from their favourite books, and have started the challenging task of learning one whole page and bringing it to life using expression as they recite it. They have made some fantastic progress over the past few weeks and we can't wait to see the results of the work they will do over the holidays.

Next term, we are looking forward to the pupils being introduced to their own individual poems: we wish all those entering the Bromley Festival of Music and Speech the best of luck!

We hope all the pupils at Dalmain have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



LAMDA is an internationally recognised award for young people and is widely considered as an outstanding platform for developing children's confidence and performance skills. Places are still available for pupils at Dalmain, so if you would like your child to be involved in lessons, please email info@armstrongspeechanddrama.com for more information and a booking form.

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Year 1—Milky Way Class

Milky Way have had another brilliant term in Year 1. We have been very busy with all sorts of exciting topics and challenges.

In English, we enjoyed reading Michael Rosen's '*Send for a Superhero*', which provided us with lots of opportunities to share our knowledge of heroes and villains. We wrote our own superhero story inspired by the book, complete with fantastic comic-strip style illustrations. Miss Sheehan was delighted by the fabulous stories we produced, especially with all the amazing adjectives we included



in our work. We finished our topic with a special superhero party to celebrate all our hard work. We had lots of fun dressing up and playing games, especially the game 'Don't touch the Kryptonite!'. We have finished the term reading Nadia Shireen's, '*Billy and the Beast*', with a focus on retelling this story in the past tense.

In Maths, we have continued to explore part-part whole models and partitioning numbers to 5. To end the term we have carried out lots of practical activities to help us investigate 2D shapes. In particular, we loved exploring a range of shapes to create tangrams.



In Science this term, we have been exploring our senses. We carried out a scavenger hunt to find different objects using our sight and then we went on a sound walk to explore our hearing.



In History, we have continued our work on heroes by looking at significant individuals in our community and from the past who have contributed to national and international achievements. We had a visit from the London Air Ambulance and looked at how Florence Nightingale changed nursing. We were fantastic at asking lots of questions about the different roles in the air ambulance crew, and some of us even got to try on the special uniform!



Have a lovely Christmas holiday, Milky Way Class.

Thank you for all your amazing work this term.

Year 1—Saturn Class

It's the most wonderful time of the year... because we get to look back at the entirety of the Autumn Term and celebrate the many achievements of Saturn Class- and look forward to Christmas, of course! The children were already strong in Maths and have worked so hard this term to develop their writing skills to the same level. I have hugely enjoyed working with them this term on several big writes, including a super story about heroes and villains. The progress they have made in such a short period of time is astounding and I could not be prouder of them.



Talking of heroes, our History focus this term was on figures throughout history that have had an impact on our lives today. After a fascinating visit from the Air Ambulance crew, we thought about what modern healthcare is like and compared it to the work Florence Nightingale did during the Crimean War. We agreed that we also wanted to celebrate everyday heroes, such as our amazing NHS staff and the women who stepped in to keep the country running during the war. We also learned about the impact the Suffragettes and Rosa Parks had on furthering gender and racial equality. This tied in nicely with our PSHE lessons, in which we discussed diversity and inclusivity and all the ways we can respect and celebrate our differences.

In Maths, we continued to master comparing things. Whilst before we were comparing numbers, this time we compared quantities such as height, length and mass. We really focused on developing our mathematical language, ensuring we could accurately describe what we were doing. We moved on to partitioning the numbers one to five before ending the term with a geometry topic: we have been learning to recognise and name a variety of 2D shapes.



The children's imagination was really captured during our English lessons by *Send for a Superhero!*, by Michael Rosen. As well as producing some excellent writing inspired by the text, we created our own superheroes and thought up some unique names and powers for them. We have now moved on to *Billy and the Beast* by Nadia Shireen and have loved acting out the story, especially the cute woodland animals and the terrible beast.

Saturn Class explored the five senses for their Science topic. We started by identifying various body parts and then used that knowledge to help us understand where our senses are located, why they are important and how they help us in everyday life.



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Year 2—Curiosity Class

In Curiosity Class, this term has been all about saving the planet

We have read two different books with the environment as their key theme. The first one we read was called *Journey Home*, by Frann Preston-Gannon. This book showed us how people's actions are spoiling the habitats of elephants, pandas, orangutans and polar bears. In the book, these endangered animals went to visit a dodo, which reminded us that sometimes animals do become extinct. We wrote speeches with a strong message: 'Stop Deforestation Now!' We thought about all the reasons people chopped down rainforests, and then – inspired by videos of Greta Thunberg – we wrote speeches to say this had to stop. Now! We then read *We Are Water Protectors*, by Carole Lindstrom. This book is based on the true story of a Native American community that fought against a new oil pipeline in 2016. We learned about the damage that oil spills can do, and how people can make a difference to protect their community.



We worked hard to write our speeches and our diary entries about these books, and we are all trying hard to join our letters more and more!

In Maths, we have done lots of work on addition, and even more on subtraction! We spent a lot of time learning about the word 'difference' and what it means in Maths. When we thought about the 'difference' in age between us and our siblings or friends, it all started to make sense!

In Art this term, we have learnt about using contouring skills, and we have also made a collage out of pictures of buildings. Meanwhile, in Science, we have learned about different animals and the importance of food chains. We have also played lots of football in outdoor PE, and shown our gymnastic skills in indoor PE.



In RE we have been learning about Christianity. We have learned about the 10 commandments that guide Christians, and we have learned about the story of Jesus and his birth, which Christians across the world celebrate at Christmas.

Did someone mention Christmas? The big highlight of the term was our Christmas performance. We loved learning the song 'I Wish it Could Be Christmas Every Day.' We were very proud to sing the song – with actions – to parents at our two Christmas concerts, and we loved the hats we made especially for the occasion! We also loved seeing the other Year 1 and Year 2 classes singing their songs; we think everyone did brilliantly.

It's been a very busy term in Year 2 – September feels like a long time ago. But when we look back through our school books we can see all the hard work we have done and the progress we have made. We're looking forward to even more new learning in 2023!

Year 2—Galaxy Class

In Galaxy Class we have been learning about so many exciting things this term!

In Writing, we learnt about different environmental issues and how they affect other animals as well as humans. We read a book called *The Journey Home*, which taught us about deforestation. We created a class slogan: STOP DEFORESTATION NOW! This made us very passionate about this cause. We saw how Greta Thunberg protested for climate change so we decided to have a class debate. Some of us had to speak for deforestation and some of us spoke against deforestation. Even though cutting down trees helps to provide jobs and give us things like paper for books and writing on (and toilet paper!), we know that it is harmful to our environment and to the animals. This information helped us to write our own speeches in order to STOP DEFORESTATION NOW!

After that, we moved on to a book called *We Are Water Protectors*. This taught us about water pollution and how oil spills affect sea life. We created a class river and wrote down all the reasons why water is important, such as helping us to nourish our bodies as well as allowing us to express ourselves if we need to cry. We decorated it with beautiful sea animals and plants. We created our own slogans such as: STOP WATER POLLUTION NOW! PROTECT OUR WATER! We continued our learning around this in Science, as we learnt about animals and their habitats.



In Maths, we have been learning to use different methods to add and subtract. We learnt words like addend, subtrahend and minuend. We used number lines, bead strings, part-part whole models and bar models to help us. We also learnt strategies of adding and subtracting tens by using a hundred square. We've also been doing lots of investigations and now we're able to notice patterns when Miss Brown tries to trick us!



In PSHE we celebrated a very important matter: Anti-Bullying Week. We learnt about bullying, what it looks like and what to do if we think that it may be happening. We also learnt about what to do when there is conflict, and what we can do to help resolve problems in the playground and with our talk partners.



The Friends of Dalmain



A message from Friends of Dalmain



Together we raised:

£5,558

*At the Christmas fair
2022*



We're delighted to announce that the Christmas Fair 2022 (alongside other FoD Christmas fundraising activities) raised more than £5,500!! Thanks so much to everyone who helped on the day and in the run up, it really was a fantastic team effort!

We're hoping to spend the money towards revamping the playground, exact plans and timelines are still tbc but hopefully we'll have some exciting updates for you soon.

In addition, we're very pleased to say that FoD funded the revamping of the pond in the wildlife garden in autumn and we're looking forward to more green projects in 2023.

There will be some exciting news about the school library soon so watch this space and meanwhile please don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions you might have. Or, if you'd like to find out more about how you can get involved with FoD, drop us a line at friendsofdalmain@gmail.com

Happy Holidays!

Daniela, Jocelyn, Amy, Miriam & Katie x

The Friends of Dalmain



Thank you!!

Year 3—Mercury Class

We cannot believe we have finished our first term in Year 3!

We have worked so hard this term and Miss Rochester is so proud of us and how much we have progressed. Our topic this term was the Indus Valley; we learned all about how the Indus Valley was discovered and what a day would have been like for a child who lived in there. We even made our own versions of Indus Valley houses using lego!



In Writing, we have read two beautiful books: *Cloud Tea Monkey* by Elspeth Graham and Mal Peet, and *Nen and the Lonely Fisherman* by Ian Eagleton and James Mayhew. *Cloud Tea Monkeys* is a beautiful book about a little girl called Tashi, whose mother is very ill and is unable to work and earn money, so Tashi has to go to work on a tea plantation. While she is picking tea, she makes friends with some monkeys who help her to pick it. The tea is so good that the Royal Tea Taster buys it, and Tashi is then able to buy medicine for her mum.

We created a double page spread called 'The Magic of Tea' filled with 'Facts' and 'Opinions' about tea. We were even lucky enough to be able to smell real monkey picked Oolong tea! *Nen and the Lonely Fisherman* was a magical tale of a merman's search for true love: he and a lonely fisherman find each other but their special connection is met with dismay by Nen's father. We really enjoyed writing our own version of the story.

Our Teaching of Reading book was *Two Weeks with the Queen*, a story about Colin's battle to save his brother Luke.

Maths has been really fun. We have been learning all about the metric system and finding out how we measure length, mass, volume and capacity. Converting was really tricky, but we kept practising. We also have been adding and subtracting the different units of measure.

In RE we have been learning all about peace and Christmas. We really enjoyed doing our Christmas performance and we especially enjoyed painting our glorious food posters! We are so grateful to Miss Emily for teaching us the songs we sang.

That's not all we've been doing. In Science we have learned about recording information in bar charts, and in Latin we have found out lots about the origins of modern languages and words. In PE, we have been learning basketball skills and gymnastics. We also learned about relationships in PSHE. We've been busy!

We hope you enjoyed our Christmas performance.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Year 3—Pegasus Class

Pegasus Class have had another fantastic term. The children have settled into their routines in Year 3 so well, and are beginning to take on a lot more responsibility both in the classroom and the wider school community. Two examples of this are our lovely School Council and Eco Council representatives (Eddie and Megan, Ivy and Jasiel). This is the first year the children have been involved in something like this and they are all doing a fabulous job of representing our class at the meetings. Well done!



Our highlights this term are just too long to list! In English, we read two books, one of which was *Cloud Tea Monkeys* by Elspeth Graham and Mal Peet. Amberlie's favourite part of this term was when we got to take on the role of 'Royal Tea Tasters' for the day and smell and comment on different types of tea. It was a fantastic activity that excited all the children about the book.

In Maths, we have been focusing on measure. This included a very exciting lesson where we went out to the wildlife garden and estimated and measured a variety of natural objects. We used different instruments to measure, such as rulers, meter sticks and measuring tapes. We represented our findings in different units to test our knowledge!



In our topic work, we have been looking at the Indus Valley civilization- which is Freddie B's favourite. He especially loves looking at Indus buildings and thinking about how the people might have lived. It is an interesting topic for us to study, as historians still don't know much about the Indus Civilization and how they lived, which means we can come up with our own conclusions and act like real historians!

Of course, we have been getting into the festive spirit and our Winter Performance is right around the corner. We have been busy painting props/set pieces which link to our songs. I have to say, we have many talented singers in this cohort!

On behalf of Pegasus Class, we hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and New Year.



CLUBS & MUSIC

All clubs & instrumental lessons will resume from the week beginning 9th January.

All dates can be found on the school website.

We can't wait to see you next term!



Phone: 020 8699 2675

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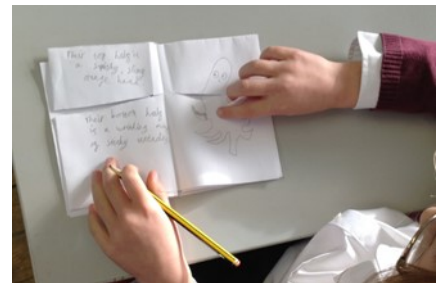
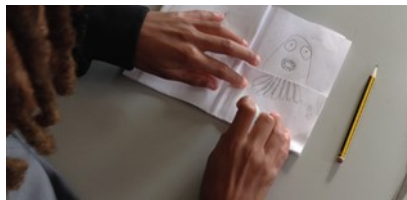
Year 4— Sally Ride Class

What another great term in Year 4!

Our topic in History has been the Ancient Egyptians, but we have also been looking at them in English and Reading! We have learnt so many weird and wonderful things about the Ancient Egyptians and how they lived. We have learned about many of their inventions that have had an influence on the way lots of people live today. We also learned about their many gods, but the most exciting part was learning all about the process of mummification (even the gruesome bits!).

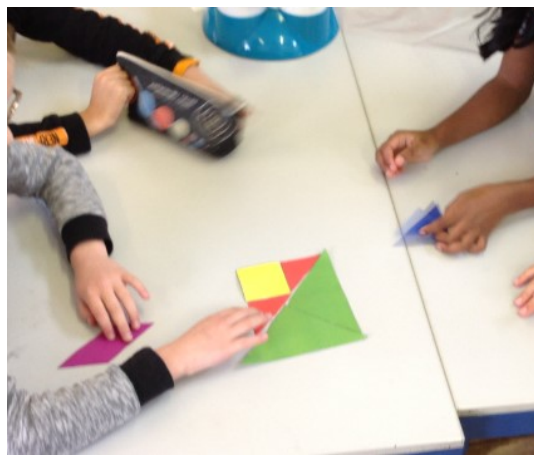
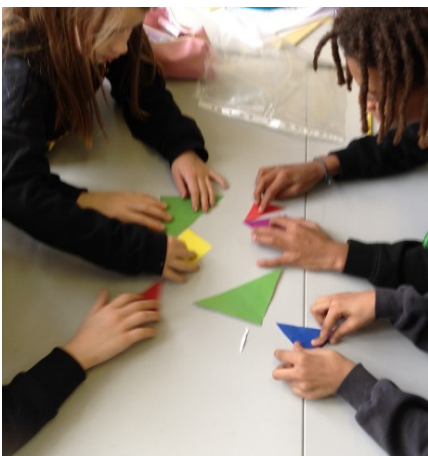
In Writing this term, we have been looking at more Ancient Egyptians – specifically through the book *The Discovery of Tutankhamun*. We learnt about Tutankhamun's childhood and his mysterious death. We then learned all about Howard Carter and the amazing discovery of the tomb! We were all so surprised to see the wonderful things they found inside. This inspired our biographies about Howard Carter's early life and the fascinating discovery. Some of us even chose to write about the curse...

After this, we read a story called *The Mermaid of Zennor*, which motivated us to write our own legend stories. We needed to create legendary mercreatures, so we created flipbooks to help mix and match until we found our perfect creature.



In Maths, we have covered so many topics! We have learnt how to round numbers and used the phrase “5 alive, 4 to the floor” to help us remember what to do. We even played a game where Miss Clarke would shout a number and following that rule we either had to stretch to the sky or get as close to the floor as possible – this really helped us remember whether to round up or down. We've also been looking at using our knowledge of multiples of 10 within 1,000 to solve real life problems.

In Science we were amazed to learn that Earth is such a special place, as it is the only place so far discovered where water exists in three states of matter: solid, liquid and gas.



We loved having our Philosophy sessions and it has really helped our whole class discussion in all our subjects! Mr Worley, even taught us some new tricky games to play that make us work as a team!

We have also loved making lots of different props for our Christmas show, which we hope you enjoyed!

Year 4—Newton Class



This half term has been very exciting and super-busy for Newton Class! In writing, we began the half-term by reading *The Story of Tutankhamun*. We have loved delving into the history of Ancient Egypt and learning about the world-changing discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. After doing a lot of research and reading, we created our own Ancient Egypt fact files, full of interesting facts, pop-ups and fantastic drawings!

In History, we also learnt about the process of mummification, Egyptian Gods and the afterlife within. Did you know that a hook was used to pull their pharaoh's brains out? Overall, we really enjoyed learning about Ancient Egypt and the secrets of Ancient Egyptian life!

In Maths this half-term, we learnt all about rounding numbers to the nearest ten, hundred and thousand. We worked hard on using our place value knowledge to support the learning process, and were eventually able to round 4 digit numbers! We continued to learn different methods for addition and subtraction such as the redistribution 'same difference' method, which we now use when working efficiently. We are now working on using this knowledge to solve word problems and bar models, as well as learning our times tables and trying to get quicker at recalling them! We have completed many word problems and used bar models to find the answers.

As a class, we loved reading the book *The Polar Bears Explorer Club* in Teaching of Reading, so much so that many of us have made it our personal reading book and cannot wait to find out what happens to Stella during her expedition to the Icelands!



In RE, we have been looking at Christianity and Jesus. We loved acting out different scenarios that showed how the Ten Commandments can be followed, and we also learnt about Jesus's life, and how Christians celebrate this through special festivals such as Christmas, Lent and Easter!

In PE, we have been practising and performing a variety of gymnastic movements such as the side support and front support within groups, and learning basic passes in Netball.



In Science we investigated states of matter and learned that water (and other substances) can exist as solid, liquid and gas. We also learned about the water cycle and produced some excellent diagrams to show our understanding.

Finally, in PSHE, we discussed the importance of friendships, important relationships and ways to solve arguments and disputes in our lives, and used the class floor book to record these ideas in an eye-catching and informative manner!

This has been another fantastic term; Newton Class have focused and produced amazing work to prove it. Well done Newton Class, and have a lovely Christmas holiday!

Information about support available to help with the cost of living



Support with Food Costs

[Sydenham Community Supermarket](#) offers low cost, healthy groceries on your doorstep.

[Pepys Social Supermarket](#). If you qualify for £3.50PW you can buy approximately £25 worth of food, end of line toiletries and household essentials.

[Lewisham Food Bank](#), if you need help from Lewisham foodbank there are a few simple steps to follow. – **Please remember- if you need a referral to our local food bank Mrs Woodhall is happy to do this for you.**

[OLIO](#) is a free app allowing neighbours to offer perfectly good, unwanted food to each other.

[Too Good to Go](#) is an app that lets you rescue unsold food from shops and restaurants to save it from going to waste.

Enjoy company and conversation with others from your local area over a delicious meal, prepared with care by Food Cycle volunteers. [Find out more here](#)

Over 1600 eligible families in Lewisham are missing out on payments to buy vegetables, fruit, legume/lentils/beans and milk. For more info on and how to apply visit the [healthy start](#).



Benefits Information and Financial Support

[Childcare Choices](#) – Enter your details on the website to help find out how you can save money on your childcare.

[entitledto's](#) free benefits calculator can help you find out what you might be able to claim.

[Financial help if you have children](#). Includes help when having a baby or adopting, child benefit and tax credits, support for childcare.

Lewisham Council are supporting households as well as signposting people to other support you could be eligible for. Visit their [Cost of living crisis webpage](#).

Apply for [free school meals](#) and extra support for your child for Lewisham Council.

The [South London Healthy Homes](#) programme provides a free winter home, financial and health support package to those most in need.

Lewisham Local have created this [helpful leaflet](#) for those who might be worried about money, which will signpost you to useful services available.

Find information about on the [Mayor of London's website](#) on benefits, grants and discounts you can get if you're in financial difficulty.

Money Advice Service Free, impartial help for all your money and pension choices. www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk

Step Change Debit Charity Advice and support for those in debt www.stepchange.org

National Debtline Free and independent debt advice over the phone and online. www.nationaldebtline.org

Money Talk Team, Parents and Families Advice to help you make the most of your money. www.parentclub.scot/articles/who-are-money-talk-team



Help with Energy Bills and reducing Household costs

[SELCE](#) can help you to reduce your energy bills and keep your home warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.

[Follow the Energy Trust quick tips and advice](#) for quick and easy ways to save energy, lower your bills and reduce your carbon footprint.

[Martin Lewis](#) has information about reducing energy bills on his website.

[Help for vulnerable residents](#) to stay warm and healthy

Funding is available for low-income households in properties with low energy efficiency rating. [Find out more and check if you are eligible to apply.](#)

Many people on some benefits may be able to get cheaper broadband with what are often called social tariffs. There's a [full list on Money Saving Expert here.](#)

From Tuesday 1 November Lewisham Council will be offering a Warm Welcome in our local libraries across the borough, where people can come together and use the facilities in a warm, welcoming environment. [You can see opening times here.](#)

Community groups are offering warm spaces where people can pop in. Please [check each listing at Lewisham Local](#) for opening times and services provided.

Local Support Organisations



BLG Mind provides a range of high quality mental health support services for adult residents in the borough of Lewisham. This includes specialised support for people from Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee communities, for new mums, and for anyone needing help with benefits.

Visit blgmind.org.uk/ for more information.



Citizens Advice Lewisham offers the people of Lewisham, especially the most vulnerable, the advice and support they need on a range of issues.

Visit citizensadvicelewisham for more information.



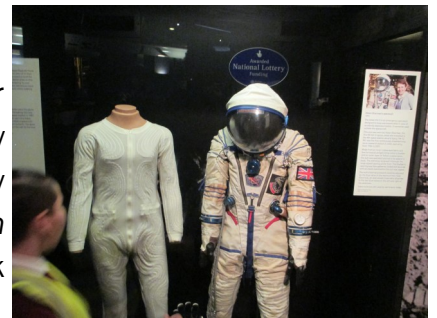
The Early Years Alliance Children and Family Centres provide 1:1 Family Support, Parenting Courses and Domestic Abuse Recovery Programmes to families facing difficult periods and challenges in their lives.

Visit our [Support Page](#) for more information.

Year 5—Johnson Class

It has been a very enjoyable second term in Year 5 for Johnson Class.

Our topic this term has been Earth and Space. This has linked to our Teaching of Reading lessons as we have been reading *Cosmic*, a story which we loved for the amazing figurative language and funny punchlines. In Writing, Johnson Class have been reading *Hidden Figures*, a remarkable story about the achievements of four black women who helped send astronauts to space.



As part of their writing, we produced newspaper opinion pieces on why we should remember these wonderful women. These were truly amazing! Our second book this term has been *Curiosity – A Story of a Mars Rover*; we created amazing narratives, filled with suspense and drama, about a lone rover surviving on a foreign planet.

In History, we learnt all about the Industrial Revolution and explored whether the benefits of the Industrial Revolution outweighed the negatives. This culminated in a very thought-provoking debate between both Stella and Johnson Classes! A huge well done to both classes for this stimulating debate.



As part of our learning in Science, we had the opportunity to visit the Science Museum, where we saw some of the machines that have taken people into space, and we also enjoyed the WonderDome experience in school, which helped us compute the size of space. We have also learned a lot about the solar system and how the planets and their moons move in relation to each other.

In Maths, Johnson Class have shown great resilience this term! We have been learning all about multiplication and short division. We have really stretched ourselves here, attempting really difficult reasoning and problem solving questions which we have shown great determination to work through.

Here are some quotes from Johnson class about their favourite parts from this term:

‘This term, I really enjoyed designing a fairground in Maths and using my reasoning skills to calculate how much profit we could make!’ – Lukas

‘I really enjoyed PE with Coach Graham; we played football and other competitive sports such as Hockey’ – Silas.

‘I liked designing a Mars Rover in Art and writing all about it in our Writing lessons’ – Billy.

‘I enjoyed going to the Science Museum and having the WonderDome installation in our top hall. It was extremely fun!’ – Olivia.

‘Maths was fun this term because I found it challenging! Short division was really difficult but we persevered!’ – Imaan.

‘I enjoyed being at school this term with all my friends!’ – Thea



Year 5—Stella Class

It has been a very productive and pleasant term in Year 5 for Stella Class.



This term, we have been learning all about Earth and Space. In Writing, Stella Class have been reading *Hidden Figures*, an incredible story about the achievements of four black women who helped win the space race. Stella Class worked exceptionally hard to produce outstanding pieces of writing as they studied this book. They truly amazed members of staff with their heartfelt speeches, powerful news reports and wonderful opinion pieces on

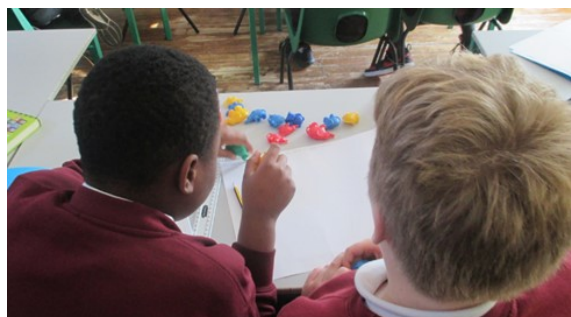


why we should remember these remarkable women. As part of our learning in Science, we also had the opportunity to visit the Science Museum and thoroughly enjoyed the WonderDome experience in school which helped us deepen our understanding of space. We have also learned about the planets and their different day and year lengths. Did you know that Venus's day is longer than its year!

In History, we have learnt all about the Industrial Revolution, and why this period of change is so significant in British history. Stella Class were amazed and stunned at the lifestyles of children during the Industrial Revolution. They have done brilliantly well in evaluating whether the Revolution caused more harm than good.

In Reading, we have been reading *Cosmic*, a story which we loved for the powerful vocabulary and interesting idioms.

Stella Class have persevered wonderfully in their Maths this term! We have been learning all about multiplication and short division. It has been a pleasure to see Stella Class develop their reasoning and problem solving skills.



Here are some quotes from members of Stella Class about their great start to Year 5.

"I really enjoyed writing a news report in English for *Hidden Figures*. I didn't know much about the four women but I can see how amazing they are now" – Taylor.

"Learning about earth and space this term was so much fun because I like space. I'm convinced that there is life on other planets." – Lucas



Action Tutoring has gone from strength to strength this term; the children have been working really hard and the impact can be seen in the classroom as well as in the morning sessions. Well done to all the children for your hard work and dedication.

A special mention to the following children for 100% attendance at Action Tutoring—amazing!

Year 6

Blake
Esther
Fauziat
Jahvid
Lewis
Oria
Shayla
Aaliyah
Tremaine
Akeelah
Sariah
Matilda

Year 5

Josiah
Simon
Taylor
Malika
Imaan
Gabriel



Year 6—Al-Sufi Class

It has been another busy half-term in Year 6!



Our school journey to Kingswood, in Norfolk, was actually last half term, but we haven't had the chance to tell you about it yet! Everyone that went had a fabulous time, and shared a cabin with friends! The activities included team tech, orienteering, quidditch and nightline (which was

definitely a Year 6 favourite! And the food was awesome – from delicious cooked breakfasts to zingy curries...everything was scrumptious and we even had seconds (maybe even third helpings for some!). Laughter was shared, happiness was shared, and now there will be “never-forgotten” memories in our minds! There were some issues regarding the mysterious ‘Norfolk weather’, but we won't go into that; all we can say is that the Year 5s are in for a wonderful surprise next year!



For those of us who remained at school, we all had just as much of good time. From exciting science experiments and a trip to the Science Museum to learning how to make gnocchi with Mrs Rose! Mr Clarke even bought us all an ice-lolly!



In Art we have just finished working on our amazing ‘London Reimagined’ project. It has been a wonderful experience to work with professional architects to learn about how cities are planned and developed. For our own reimagined cities, our school budget wouldn't stretch to actual bricks and mortar, so we had to be creative with lolly sticks! Some of the Year 6 children represented Dalmain at the ‘Architecture in Schools’ award ceremony in Canary Wharf. We were delighted that we came first in the model making category; as well as receiving a certificate we also received a key to the city! This opportunity has made us realise that there are so many different and varied jobs that we could do when we are older, from architects to urban planners, from project managers to graphic designers...etc.– The world is our oyster, so watch this space! A huge thank you to Mr Roberts for organising the activity and to everyone at Allies and Morrison, who generously shared their time and expertise with us.

Year 6—Al-Sufi Class

In English, History and Teaching of Reading our Topic this term has been Activism & Social Change. It builds on from our topic from last term where we looked at the migration of people with a focus on the Windrush pioneers. In History, we revisited the Battle of Lewisham. We have learnt how the changes in the immigration laws in the late 1970s caused social unrest and racism within the borough and beyond. We have also been learning about the important work that has been achieved by two social activists of this time: Claudia Jones and Rhaune Laslett O'Brien. These two women fought for justice and sought harmony during this turbulent moment in history.



In Teaching of Reading, we are reading *Politics for Beginners*. This has given us a better understanding of the world around us- as politics is everywhere- and how it impacts our everyday lives. We are also learning about how and why political decisions are made, as well as about the people who have the power to make them.

In English we are reading *Suffragette: The Battle for Equality*. The year 2018 marked a century since women first won the vote in the United Kingdom, and *Suffragette* tells the story of their fight. We have just written some powerful speeches to raise awareness of the plight of the Matchstick girls, whose protests about their working conditions were another key turning point in social history.

In Maths, we have just moved onto fractions and we have been using our prior knowledge to complete equivalent fraction puzzles. Some children in Year 6 go to Action Tutoring on a Tuesday morning and are enjoying the sessions immensely, 'It has boosted my confidence in so many ways.' – Sariah.

At this very moment we are gearing up for our Winter performance with Year 5; it will be a lovely opportunity to share what we have been learning in dance this term.

Visit Our Y6 Award Winning DT Project:

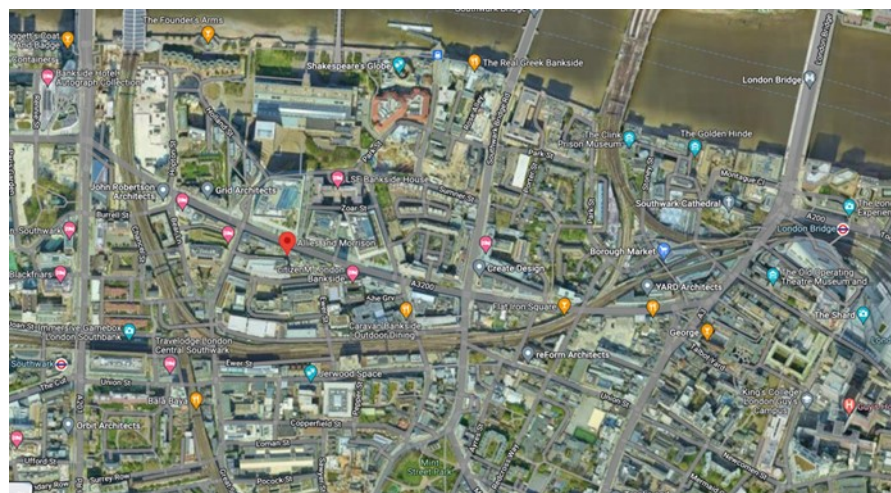
This term our Y6 DT Project, in collaboration with OpenCity.org and Allies and Morrison, won the model-making category at the London Architecture in Schools Awards. They were so impressed with the design and model work- and our children- that Allies and Morrison asked if they could display our model at their London Head Office, located at 85 Southwark Street, near London Bridge. It is now in pride of place between the incredible models created by their model workshop! This is a tremendous honour and is a testament to the hard work of the children and the architects involved. Y6 parents and carers have been invited to see the model on the 19th December (the Monday after we break up), between 2-4pm: refreshments will be provided for you. I for one can't wait to go and see it!

It would be great to see you there as well!

Mr Roberts



Allies and Morrison
85 Southwark Street
London
SE1 OHX



Year 6—Hawking Class

It has been another busy term in Hawking Class; we have put all the team-building skills that we developed from Kingswood into practice and collaborated well in all our learning. All of the children are superstars, and we are so proud of their commitment to their learning, especially with their homework and reading journals.

In Writing, we have looked at the suffragists. We started broadly, but then looked at the Victorian match girls. We studied the Bryant and May match factory, and how the women had to work under such unfair conditions. We all had very strong feelings about this subject, and wrote very powerful speeches about this inequality. Some writing techniques we used were the subjunctive mood and rhetorical questions.

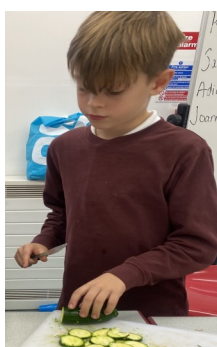
In Maths we have learnt how to do long division and how to multiply two 2 digit numbers, so it has been quite challenging! We have also learnt how to find the area of parallelograms as well as different types of triangle. It has been challenging applying these ideas to reasoning questions, but we have been very resilient with our learning.

In Teaching of Reading, we have been learning all about politics. We have learnt about right-wing and left-wing parties, and how these have come about. We have also had many different debates in class, for example, should children should be allowed to vote in general elections. Many of us have put the skills we learnt from Debate Mate to the test!

In History, we have been learning about the battle of Lewisham, and how it was a clash between the National Front and ALCARAF (the All Lewisham Campaign Against Racism And Fascism). We were shocked to find out that 111 people were arrested during the protest. It was a very fun lesson and a good way to learn history. We wrote newspaper reports to ensure more people are aware about the events that took place.

In RE, we have been learning about Christianity and what happens when people die. It has been an interesting topic, as no one knows what actually happens. We have learnt about Christian beliefs in heaven and discussed if we agree or disagree with these ideas. So we have created our ideas about what heaven looks like. We have also been learning about other religions and their views about death.

By Cosmo, Lucy and Dylan.



Writing Laureate Award

Since the start of this school term, we have been absolutely astounded by the standard of writing that our pupils have produced. 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. We are so impressed to see what they have achieved and are looking forward to their writing being displayed in school.

Look out for these future authors!

Reception: Ilya & Lily

Year 1: Ava & Leo

Year 2: Chiemerie & Shrinithaa

Year 3: Calvin & Mae

Year 4: Olive & Lola

Year 5: Kimarlee & Silas

Year 6: Stefanie & Esther

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE!

Citizenship Award

We are proud to announce the first winners of our new Citizenship Award at Dalmain. These awards are in honour of two long standing governors of the school, Ms Butler-Wright and Ms Murray-West, who went above and beyond to support the school. These special awards will be given each half-term to children across the school in recognition of their contribution to the Dalmain community.

The Ms Butler-Wright Award, for **outstanding contribution to school life—Harmony, year 2**

Harmony is a role model for the whole school. Every day she comes to Dalmain with a smile on her face and works hard. She is so determined to make the best of school life, enjoying every moment, Well done, Harmony!

The Ms Murray-West Award, for **outstanding contribution to our community.—Chiana, year 3**

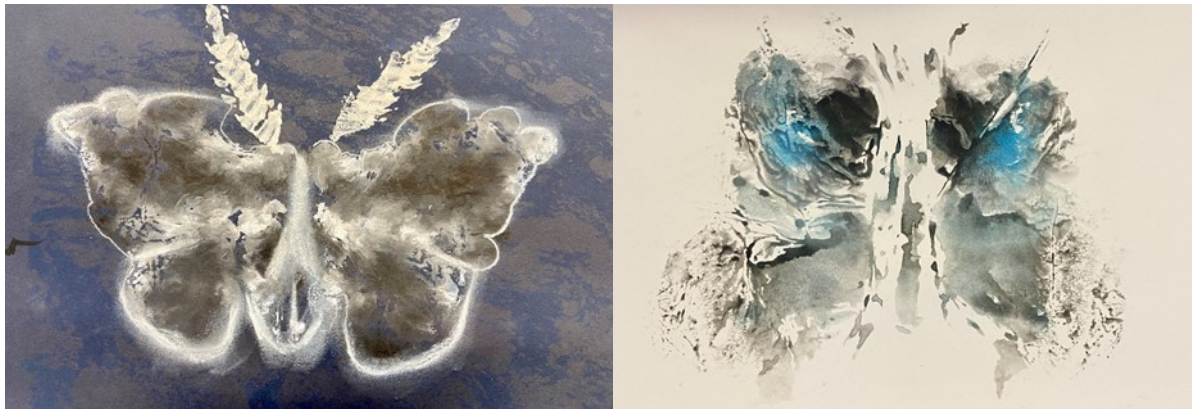
Chiana has been organising fundraising activities to raise money for local charities and also completed a zero wastage challenge, for which she won an award for from her local Brownie Group. Good work, Chiana!

From drawings of the Orient to flavours from the Punjab, it has been a busy term- and award winning one!

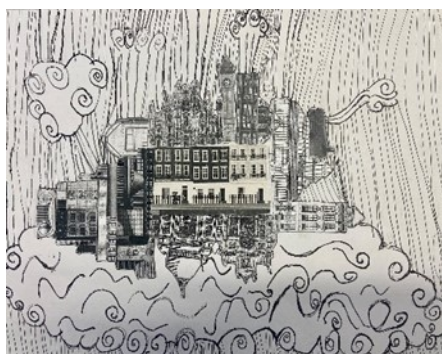
Reception classes have continued to produce wonderful work this term, ranging from drawings of Halibut Jackson to paintings of galaxies and nebulae. Children also created a stunning collaborative print painting inspired by Anansi the Spider.



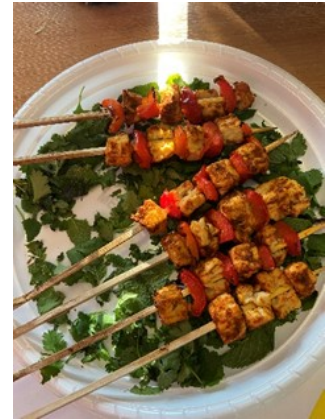
Children in **Year 1** have been learning about moths this term, studying the monochrome works of artist Sarah Gillespie. Children began with step by step and observational drawings before creating their own foil templates to paint beautiful monochrome creations.



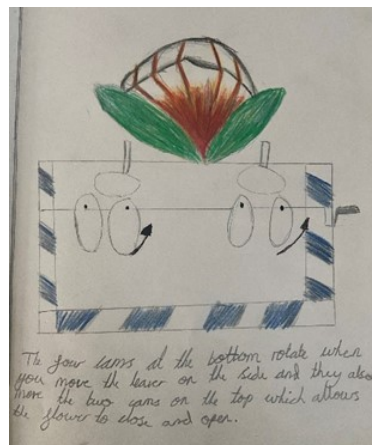
Year 2 have been creating beautiful line work and sketching as part of their drawing media focus this term, studying representations of landscapes and the photographic collage of Anastasia Savinova to create their own stunning mixed media narratives.



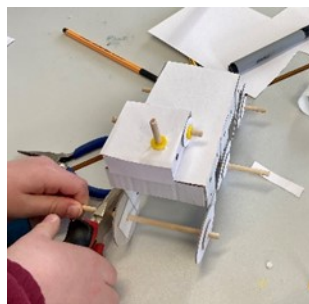
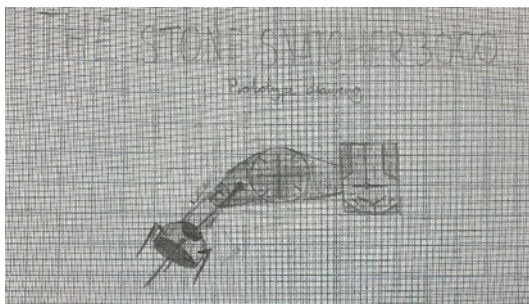
Children in **Y3** have been learning about flavours from the Punjab this half term, discovering herbs, spices and tasty recipes and also taste-testing new flavours. Our children ended the term by making tikka kebabs and handmade flatbreads with coriander. The results were very tasty indeed and much enjoyed by children and staff alike!



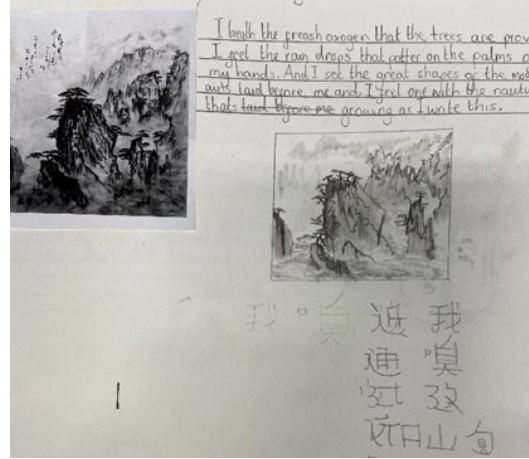
In **Year 4** children have been learning about different mechanisms, and as part of DT designed and built their own working toys using cams, gears and linkages.



In **Year 5** children have been working in teams designing their own All Terrain Rovers for interplanetary exploration. Children thought about the requirements needed for travelling on alien surfaces and what astronauts would need for research and survival, creating blueprints and prototypes!



Year 6 have been learning about poet and artist Wang Wei this half-term, and have been creating their own poems, which they have translated to complement their final watercolour landscape paintings. The children experimented with different watercolour washes which they then used to create their masterpieces!



Last term Year 6 worked with Allies & Morrison as part of our collaboration with OpenCity.org. We are proud to announce that the children won the Model Making category at the Architecture in Schools Awards 2022!



In **Drawing Club** this term we have been looking at Dragons. Children from KS2 have produced some truly spectacular results!





10% off in our
shop with
this flyer!

Family Fun Day at the Migration Museum

Saturday 17 December 2022 | 11am – 3pm | FREE

Join us for a day of fun activities for the whole family to celebrate International Migrants Day.

Discover the incredible migration stories of the Migration Museum and explore your own personal connections to migration, with a range of free activities for all ages.

Including:

Festive cross-stitch workshop led by Amanda

A treasure hunt coordinated by Very Puzzled's Patrick Adom

No booking needed – drop in anytime to join in the fun!

**Migration Museum
Lewisham Shopping Centre (Central Square)
London SE13 7HB**

www.migrationmuseum.org



Term Dates 2022–2023

Wednesday 4th January	Spring Term starts
Friday 6th January	FoD coffee morning FoD Second hand Uniform sale
Friday 13th January	Philosophy starts for year 5
Wednesday 18th January	Year 1 and 2 Multi Skills Festival
Friday 20th January	Year 4 to the Science Museum
Wednesday 25th January	Parents' evening
Thursday 26th January	Parents' evening Reception Lunar New Year celebrations
Friday 27th January	Year 2 trip to the Golden Hind
Friday 3rd February	FoD coffee morning
January TBC	Year 3 trip to the synagogue
Wednesday 8th February	Saturn Class trip to the Horniman Museum
February TBC	Year 6 trip to the Synagogue
February TBC	Year 5 trip to Hindu Temple
Monday 6th February	WRITING WEEK
Wednesday 8th February	Inclusive Multi-Skills Festival
Friday 10th February	FoD Cake sale
Tuesday 28th February	Milkway Class trip to the Horniman Museum

Term	First Day	Last Day
Christmas Holidays	Friday 16th December	Tuesday 3rd January
Spring Term 1	Wednesday 4th January	Friday 10th February
Half Term	Monday 13th February	Friday 17th February
Spring Term 2	Monday 20th February	Friday 31st March
Easter Holidays	Monday 4th April	Monday 18th April
Summer Term 1	Monday 17th April	Friday 26th May
Half Term	Monday 29th May	Monday 5th June
Summer Term 2	Tuesday 6th June	Friday 21st July

Inclusion Team

For support you may need over the Half Term, we have a list of agencies and their contact details on our website under Home / Parents & Carers / Safeguarding & Wellbeing

This term we hosted two successful Parent Coffee Mornings.

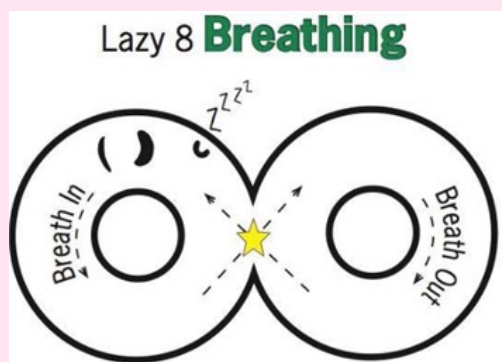
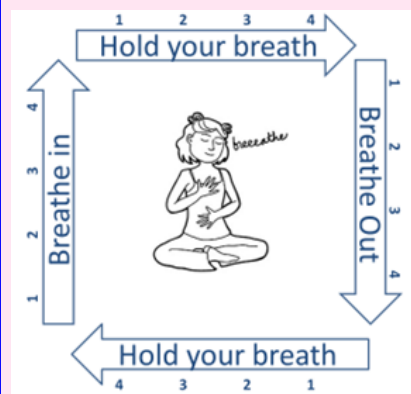
Zones of Regulation: supporting your child's emotional regulation

Transition and Change: supporting your child in the lead up to the Christmas holiday



It was great to meet together and share experiences and ideas between the group. We will be hosting more coffee mornings in the Spring Term and will let you know the dates when we come back from the Christmas holidays.

This term has also seen the launch of Calm Club in Key Stage 2 at lunchtimes on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This is an opportunity for children to meet together and get creative. We have enjoyed a range of activities from drawing and colouring to Playdough and Lego, and it has been great to see the brilliant talent and designs the children have created. We have also been focusing on learning a range of breathing techniques. Here are three you can try at home:



Attendance

Your child's attendance at school every day is vital for their progress and attainment, both academically and socially. Poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships, which is a vital part of growing up, and of course we don't want any child falling behind academically at this crucial time in their educational careers.

We have high aspirations for every child, and we are committed to enabling all of our pupils to achieve and sustain the highest level of attendance, believing that every lesson counts. We encourage good attendance for these reasons and to fulfill our statutory safeguarding responsibilities.

90% Threshold for Absences

We work directly with families to support good attendance and punctuality. When a child has **20 or more days off school during the year, their attendance will be 90% or below.**

Attendance Letters

If your child's attendance falls to 90% or below, you will receive a letter regarding this. If your child's attendance does not improve in four weeks you will receive another letter, and if your child's attendance still fails to improve then you will be invited into the school for an attendance panel meeting.

Sessions Missed

Each 'session' equates to half a day; if your child has missed 10 sessions for example, this means that they have missed 5 days of school.

Covid Absences—DfE changes since September 2021

Unfortunately, when your child has Covid this will now affect your child's attendance as per the DfE guidelines which changed at the start of last academic year.

How to Contact Us

When your child is off school, please confirm this in writing via email. You will be asked to provide proof of any appointments your child may have to the School Office either in person, so that the school can retain a photocopy, or you can attach any relevant documents via email.

Please email attendance@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk by 9:00am (when registers close) if your child is not going to be in school, indicating the specific reason for their absence. Alternatively you can report absence via ParentMail under Absences.

Thank You For Your Support

We know that you, as your child's parent/carer, want your child to get on well in life. Children only get one chance at school, and your child's chances of a successful future may be affected by not attending school every day on time, so we thank you in advance for your support with this matter.



WHY DOES GOOD ATTENDANCE MATTER?

Above 97%	Less than 6 days absence a year	Excellent attendance! These young people will almost certainly get the best grades they can, leading to better prospects for the future. Pupils will also get into a habit of attending school which will help in the future.
95%	10 days absence a year	These pupils are likely to achieve good grades and form a habit of attending school regularly. Pupils who take a 2 week holiday every year during term time can only achieve 95% attendance.
90%	19 days absence a year	Young people in this group are missing a month of school per year; it will be difficult for them to achieve their best.
85%	29 days absence a year	The Government classes Young People in this group as "Persistent Absentees", and it will be almost impossible to keep up with work. Parents of young people in this group could also face the possibility of legal action being taken by the Local Authority.

WHY DOES GOOD PUNCTUALITY MATTER?

Being late to school can have a considerable impact over the whole school year. The table below shows you how much time can be missed over a year by being late to school every day.

5 minutes late every day = 3 days of school lost a year
10 minutes late every day = 6.5 days of school lost a year
15 minutes late every day = 10 days of school lost a year
20 minutes late every day = 13 days of school lost a year
30 minutes late every day = 19 days of school lost a year

School mornings can be very busy but when your child is late for school they are missing out on vital parts of their education and in particular the start of the school day. It is also disruptive for the whole class if pupils arrive at different times throughout the morning. If your child arrives 30 minutes after the register has been taken they will have an unauthorised absence for the whole session.

General school email: admin@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk

Other Contacts

For specific queries, please use the below contacts:

Admissions incl. Nursery & Reception intakes, attendance, meal choices, breakfast or after school

clubs: attendance@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk

Finance, curriculum clubs, instrumental lessons, trips, medicines or allergies: office@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk

Covid 19 related issues incl. reporting a positive case: covid@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk

Afterschool club: please note the After School Club number is 07710 362 100, operating from 3:15 - 6pm. This number should be used for pickup arrangements for the school's after-school club only.