



# DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Newsletter—February 2023

15th place  
Nationally

DEBATE  
MATE

7th place  
In London

Dear Parents & Carers,

Spring has finally sprung, and here we are already at the end of another exceptionally busy and eventful term. As always, I know you will enjoy reading about the many highlights of the term in this newsletter, full of celebrations and pictures of the different activities that have taken place across the school community.

We have to start with the incredible achievements of our Debate Mate Team, who have amazed us all with their passion and enthusiasm about a range of hot topics throughout the year. They have taken part in multiple competitions and have now been ranked an incredible 15<sup>th</sup> nationally! It has been a privilege to hear the team speak, to see their confidence growing, and to see how wonderfully they have supported each other throughout. Every member of the Debate Mate Team is a credit to our school and we couldn't be prouder of you.

We love books, reading and everything literature based at Dalmain, and the staff recognise how important it is to foster this love throughout children's primary education. The new School Library is now up and running, and we were delighted to share this fantastic new resource with families a few weeks ago. The children were equally excited to share their work from Writing Week with you during Week 1, and went on to enjoy Reading Week hugely later in the term. The costumes on World Book Day were incredible, too! Our creative approach to the teaching of writing is a real strength of the school, as we engage children through a range of high quality texts across a wide variety of genres. Using their accurate understanding of spelling, punctuation and grammar, pupils continue to develop their 'writing voice', and it is humbling to see the incredible developments of their written and spoken work this term. The future is bright for our young authors!

There are a number of exciting events run by the Friends of Dalmain coming up that I know you will enjoy – the Music Night is back on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April and we are also greatly looking forward to the Summer Fair on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July. Look out for further communications about both events. If anyone can spare some time this Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, the Friends of Dalmain will be doing some gardening at the school from 11am-1pm. Please pop by if you can.

I hope that all within our Dalmain community will enjoy the break with their family and loved ones, and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 8:45 am.

Best wishes

Ms Eisele - Headteacher

**FAMILY GARDENING DAY**  
**IN DALMAIN PLAYGROUND**  
Sunday 2nd April 11am-1pm

**KIDS WELCOME**  
TEA AND BISCUITS WILL BE PROVIDED

PLEASE BRING GARDENING GLOVES AND TOOLS: SECATEURS, TROWEL, FORKS ETC IF YOU HAVE ANY, WE DONT CURRENTLY HAVE ANY TO LEND, SORRY

**KEEPING DALMAIN GREEN**

MAYBE A CHEEKY LITTLE EGG HUNT FOR OUR LITTLE HELPERS :)

GARDEN SOIL

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

Teacher's professional development

Educational workshops

Curriculum resources

Curriculum clubs

Educational visits

Music lessons

Tutoring



Apply now at [www.fsm.lgfl.net](http://www.fsm.lgfl.net)



## Nursery–Hubble Class



This has been another extremely busy and productive term in Hubble Class. We started our term with our scheduled Forest School session. The children were thrilled to be back, engaging in a wide range of activities including feeding the birds, experimenting with sticks, tying knots and climbing trees. In recent weeks, we have been busy clearing away litter that unknown persons have both left and thrown in the garden. It is absolutely shocking!!



We celebrated Shrove Tuesday in our time-honoured tradition of making pancakes with the children. It was an instant hit, as requests poured in for favourite toppings and second helpings.



During Science Week, we carried out several experiments to observe changes in materials and forces. Not all went to plan, but the children enjoyed exploring, making hypotheses and testing theories.



## Nursery–Hubble Class

Spring has sprung in the Nursery garden, though we continue to battle with our resident squirrel, who is altogether too fond of eating our tulip bulbs and overturning our plant pots! We have also started to plant fast-growing herbs indoors to enable the children to observe the growing process.



The children were very shocked to see the overturned pots and our bulbs thrown on the floor.

Red Nose Day was well supported by our parents and children. We joined Peake and Galileo Classes for our sponsored dance in the lower hall.



We continue to promote reading in Hubble Class and the children are encouraged to read at every given opportunity. We enjoy learning and use every experience as a learning tool. Well done, Hubble Class.





For Red Nose Day, Nursery and Reception did a silly walk and dance for Comic Relief. We had so much fun and are so excited about how much money we raised.

In Year 1, we had a huge red nose which we asked for help to cover in coins! We raised £63, and are delighted with how much money we raised.

Year 2 raised money by telling jokes; every time we made someone laugh we asked for £1!! Here are some of our favorite jokes!

What do you call a pile of cats?

A meow-tin!!

Where did the cow go on Friday night?

The moo-oo-vies!!!

Why did the magician throw a clock?

To make time fly

What nut has no shell?

A doughnut!!!



A huge thank you to the 'Dalmain Dames' for entertaining us during assembly with their impressive dance routine, and really making Red Nose Day the best school day ever!



We must tell you about the Pegasus Class fundraiser! We had a reading marathon, reading in strange places around the school for an hour. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience; it was new and fun. Mercury Class had sponsored non-screen time at school and at home. Thank you for all our sponsorship money.

Sally Ride Class held a fantastic Red Hunt, hiding items from red trucks to spoons and challenging others to find them! Lots of children came to enjoy this occasion, and we hope you all enjoyed it. If you are a regular at our Cake Sales, I am sure you will agree that Newton Class put on a fine spread -we have never seen so many delicious home baked cakes and biscuits! We are really proud that we raised nearly £90, so thank you for all your support.

Stella Class took part in a sponsored walk to Redhill! Everyone participated and enjoyed 16 laps around the Pen, and there were red balloons given out as prizes afterwards. We enjoyed our sponsored run very much! Thank you to those who donated and helped make Dalmain so proud of their fund-raising achievements. Also testing their physical skills, Johnson Class organised a penalty shoot-out with Graham in the playground after school.

Al-Sufi Class really enjoyed painting faces and making children happy. Thank you, Mr Roberts for helping us. Hawking Class organised a second-hand sale, selling a wide variety of books, clothes and toys.

**A huge thank you to our school councillors for all their hard work organising events for Red Nose Day. You should be so proud of helping to raise so much money. Well done!**

We raised a grand total of ...

**£846.89**

Thank you for all your support and donations

## Reception—Galileo Class



Another fantastic few weeks of learning, growing, and building friendships in Galileo class! This half-term we have focused on change and the growth of plants and animals. We looked at what plants need to grow and planted our own runner bean seeds. We also examined the lifecycles of oak trees, butterflies, and frogs! It has been a busy but beautiful term!

Spring is upon us! The children have loved searching for signs of spring in the wildlife garden during our Forest School sessions. We searched high and low for buds, blossoms, and signs of new life. The children in Galileo class have grown in confidence when it comes to exploring in Forest School and trying new things.

We were overjoyed to have our Dragon Dance Workshop this half-term – better a little late than never! The children spent a wonderful day learning a fan dance and waking the dragon for a dance to celebrate Lunar New Year. Thank you to all our wonderful parents and caregivers for coming to watch and support us.



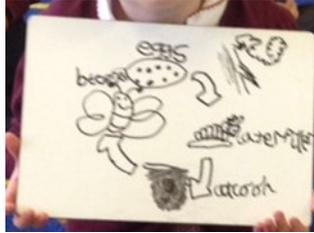
This half-term we also celebrated World Book Day. The children had a fantastic time talking with their classmates about their favourite characters, costumes and books! We also had a guest author visiting our class! His name is James Allen and he wrote the story *Hugasaurus*. It was so cool to meet a real author and ask him lots of questions!

The celebrations continued as we also learned about Lent, marking Shrove Tuesday by making pancakes! We also had Red Nose Day – we LOVED the Silly Walk Fundraiser in the hall!



## Reception—Peake Class

Spring has indeed sprung, and Peake Class have had a wonderful half-term, learning all about living things and how they grow. We have read many classic books this term, including Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Tiny Seed*. As well as this, we have enjoyed poetry by Joseph Coelho, Judith Kerr's *The Tiger who Came to Tea*, Benji Davies's *Tad* and Sam Boughton's *The Extraordinary Gardener*.



The children are becoming really confident mathematicians, deepening their understanding of addition, doubling and sharing skills, learning the days and months of the year as well as becoming experts on 2D and 3D shapes!

Forest School has been full of the joys of growing and blooming this term! We have made tally charts for all the spring flowers we have found, learnt how to sow seeds and take care of plants, gone on all sorts of fairy, dragon and dinosaur hunts and made our own special frames for cloud spotting.



We can't wait to see what we will discover in the Summer term!

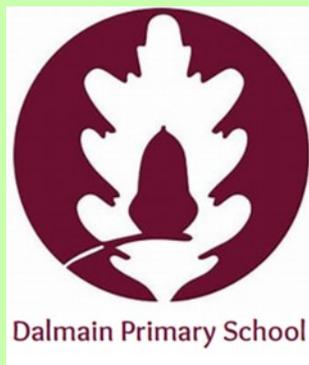
There have been many special occasions this term, too! Peake class LOVED making pancakes outdoors with Ms Hayley, dressing up for World Book Day and performing their hilarious silly walks in the Pen for Red Nose Day. We're not finished with embracing celebrations yet! In our final week this half-term, we will be learning about different festivals that children in our class celebrate, such as Ramadan and Easter. We will finish off this term in style by having an Easter Bonnet Parade in the playground!



## Eco-Council

This term the eco-council have been thinking about how we can make sure we create an environmentally responsible school. Through discussions in our classes, we came up with the Earth Pledge below.

After the Easter holidays, we will be writing to parents and carers to get your input into our Earth Pledge; we are keen to hear your ideas as well!



### **Earth Pledge**

*Our commitment is to create an environmentally responsible school and community.*

#### **Bees, trees and sustainability**

We will start and/or participate in initiatives within our schools and the wider community which enhance learning about, and the protection of, biodiversity.

#### **Resources**

We will only take and use the resources we need and we will make sure we use them responsibly.

#### **Rubbish and recycling**

We will try to reduce and re-use resources before recycling them.

We will dispose of rubbish appropriately, including recycling, both indoors and outdoors.

#### **Healthy children, healthy planet**

We commit to meat-free Mondays and weekly screen-free hours

## Year 1—Milky Way Class



Time flies when you are having fun, and time has certainly flown this term for Milky Way Class!

In English, we loved reading Michael Foreman's *Dinosaurs and all that Rubbish*. We produced beautiful pamphlets to help the main character in the story with some ideas on how to look after the world. We also loved dressing up as our favourite characters for World Book Day! The children were eager to share their stories with each other and they all looked fantastic.

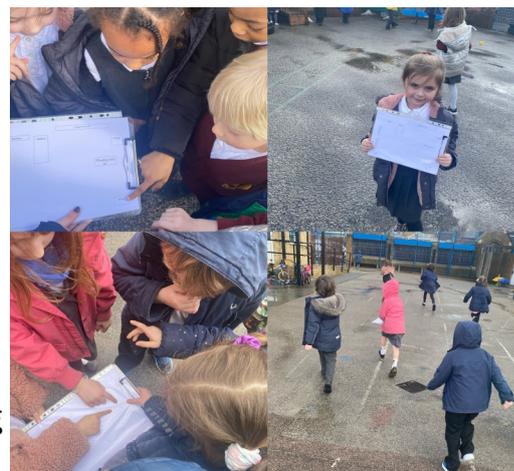
In Maths, we have explored augmentation and reduction, using 'first, then and now' stories to solve addition and subtraction problems. We enjoyed drawing our own 'First, Then and Now' stories and writing equations to match. We even created addition and subtraction problems to swap with our friends and challenge each other.



In Science, we have explored seasonal changes and weather patterns. We identified and drew the evergreen and deciduous trees in our surroundings. Next, we explored weather patterns. We had a brilliant time writing and presenting our own weather forecasts. There are certainly some budding meteorologists in Milky Way Class!



In Geography, we have continued to explore the outdoors. We have used our fieldwork and observational skills to study our local surroundings. We observed and recorded things that we could see in and around our playground, recording our evidence in tally charts. We have since learnt about human and physical geographical features, and we are now beginning to identify examples of these in our local environment.



As part of our Religious Education, we visited the local church, St Saviour's. We asked the priest some brilliant questions about Christianity and found out about baptism. Year One were a credit to the school, and they should be very proud of all their hard work this term!

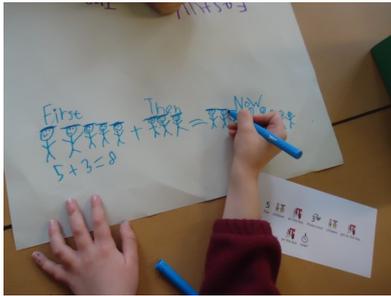
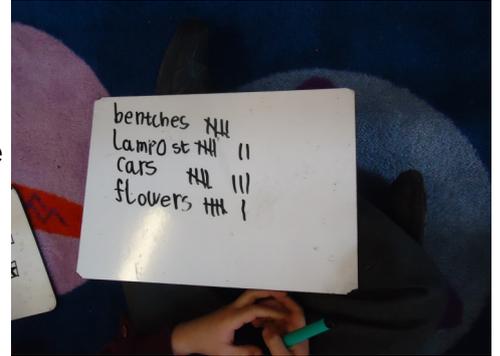
We wish you all a lovely Easter break!



## Year 1—Saturn Class

In Saturn Class, the book we have based our learning on this term is *Dinosaurs and all that Rubbish*, by Michael Foreman.

The children have really enjoyed this book, and have been so passionate about the ways we can help the environment! We have created a pamphlet with instructions on how to look after our planet! In Geography we have been looking at human and physical features in our environment, even making a tally chart to help us count them all. We noticed there were a lot more human features than physical ones!



In Maths we have been exploring addition and subtraction. We have used the 'First... Then...Now...' structure to investigate how a quantity increases or decreases.



We love cooking and had so much fun with Mr Roberts cooking pizza. We learned about healthy food and what we should eat for a healthy diet. Our homemade pizzas were as delicious as they were healthy!

In RE we have been learning about Christianity. We had a school trip to St Saviour's Church, where the children learnt about different roles within the church.

'I liked it when Father David played the organ': Leo

In Science this term, we have been learning about Plants and Seasons. The children have taken a great interest in this. We went on a walk around the playground to identify what we saw, and discussed the different stages of growth of the trees and plants.

As part of our Reading Week- as well as World Book Day, when the children loved dressing up as their favourite character from a book- we were visited by the author James Allen!

The children were so excited and listened so beautifully as he read them his story.

They then had the opportunity to ask him questions:

'How long does it take at the printers?'

'Who drew the pictures?'

'How did you get the idea?'

James Allen said how impressed he was with their questions and how engaged they were!



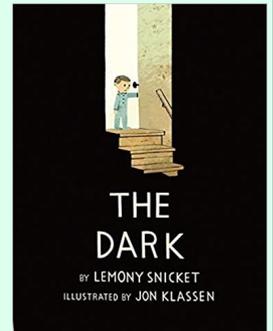
We wish you all a lovely Easter holiday!

## Reading Week at Dalmain

This term we have had a wonderful Reading Week at Dalmain! The week was started by World Book Day, and we were amazed by all the fantastic costumes worn by the children (and teachers!) to celebrate our favourite stories. The presentations were fantastic and gave a great insight to the many different book titles, genres and authors which are loved by the children. The love of reading shared throughout the school was demonstrated by the eloquence and confidence of the way the children spoke. Our winners were dressed as a variety of characters, from a T-Rex from *Jurassic Park* to Stella Starflake from *The Polar Bear Explorers' Club*. Throughout the day the children enjoyed a book trail throughout the school, decoding carefully placed clues leading to books in unexpected places.



During the week, we also had Drop Everything and Read, a favourite with the children, where all learning was paused and the children were able to enjoy their books no matter what the subject currently being taught was. Another one of the highlights of the week was the Book World Cup, an event held over each day to discover the most loved book in the school! This was conducted in a World Cup style knock-out, with books voted for across different year groups. *The Dark*, by Lemony Snicket, was crowned the winner!



We were also very lucky to have three authors visit Dalmain, sharing information about how they write their books and the different ways they became authors. In EYFS and KS1, James Allen read his story *Hugasaurus* to EYFS, and completed a workshop with KS1. In the workshop, they asked lots of questions about writing stories and the up-and-coming books that he is planning to write. In Years 3 and 4, Hannah Moffatt, the author of *Small!*, came to visit. During her workshop session, the children wrote swamp stories based around the characters from her book. They also created comic 'zines which brought their stories to life, using lots of different writing techniques shared by Hannah. Jo Clarke, the author of *Libby and the Highland Heist*, visited our Years 5 and 6 classes and told us about her journey of becoming an author. She also conducted a workshop about writing stories full of mystery and suspense. We were really excited to use the tips and tricks that she showed us, including clues and red herrings!



## Year 2—Curiosity Class



We have had a great term! We have been learning about all sorts of different things – from the symbols of Easter to the coastline of Somalia to learning to divide numbers into equal groups.

One of the highlights was making our own stained glass windows with Mr Roberts. They look amazing and we can't wait to bring them home.

We also saw some real stained glass windows when we visited Father David at St Saviour's Church. We saw how Jesus and Mary were shown in the windows, and also St Peter, who was shown holding the keys to Heaven. We also looked at the font used for baptisms, and we counted around 100 crosses, which we had learned was the most important symbol in Christianity. We acted out Jesus and his disciples heading in to Jerusalem at the start of Holy Week – some of us were Jesus's twelve disciples, while the crowd shouted, "Hosannah!" right at the end. Father David played the church organ very loudly! It was a fun way to end a great afternoon.



We have also been learning lots about Africa, and in particular Somalia. In Geography, we have learned about its coastline, which is the longest coastline in Africa. We have also learned about its animals in Science, making Top Trumps about the different facts we learned, including the adaptations they have made to survive in Somalia's deserts.

We learned more about Somalia – and other African countries – when we read the brilliant book *Africa, Amazing Africa* by Atinuke. We learned that Sir Mo Farah, probably Britain's greatest ever athlete, was actually born in Somalia. But we learned about other countries too – Angola's deserts, Botswana's diamonds, Lesotho's skiing, Malawi's inventors and Namibia's foggy coastline. No wonder the author described Africa as the most diverse place on the planet!

Two other fabulous books have helped us with our writing. We read *Ocean Meets Sky*, by the Fan brothers, a beautiful story of Finn, whose dream reminds him of his love for his grandfather. We also read *Journey*, a wordless book by Aaron Becker, which shows how a bored girl discovers a magic crayon that sets her off on a magical adventure.

We have really enjoyed Maths this term – Mr O'Donovan says we have made amazing progress in our times tables, but we have also used our times table knowledge to learn more and more about division – learning to divide has been lots of fun!

What else? Well we've been mastering our joins in Handwriting lessons, learning about how humans and other mammals give birth in SRE, as well as how we change in all sorts of ways as we get older. And in computing, we have learned about how programming means being very precise in your instructions.



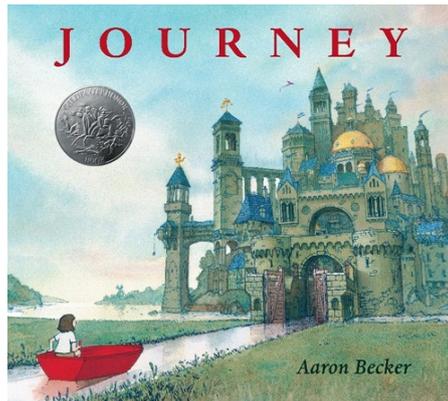
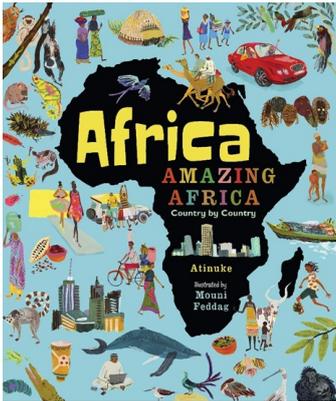
Next term we're learning about the Great Fire of London, among other things. Sounds great!

## Year 2—Galaxy Class

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

In Maths, we continue to develop our multiplication and division skills, and we have learned that division is the inverse of multiplication. We used fact families to help us understand this. We then began learning about shapes, starting by doing a shape hunt around the school. There are shapes everywhere!

In Writing, we read books called *Ocean Meets Sky* and *Journey*. We created our own versions of each. They are both about magical worlds where children get lost in their own imaginations. We learned words like: awe, enchanted and reminisce. Did you know that *Journey* is a picture book with no words?



In Science and Geography, we have been learning about the beautiful country of Somalia. Somalia is in East Africa and we also learned more about it from our Teaching of Reading book, *Africa Amazing Africa!* Did you know that the Olympic Champion, Mo Farah, is from Somalia? Somalia also has one of the longest coastlines in Africa. The temperature is extremely hot and it has lots of deserts. Animals like camels, snakes, lizards and tarantulas live in this country. We also learned about different adaptations that animals have to survive such extreme temperatures and aridity.

In RE, we have been learning all about Easter. We learned about different symbols of Easter and how Christians celebrate it. For example, chicks are a symbol of Easter because they represent new life. This is what Jesus represents for Christians at this time. We were so lucky to visit the local church. St. Saviour's, which some of us go to on Sundays. We asked Father David so many questions about how the church celebrates Easter. We asked questions like: What does the cross represent? Why are the church windows so colourful? Why did Jesus die? (We even asked if Jesus goes to sleep!) Thank you, Father David, you helped us learn so much.



We hope you all have a lovely Easter holiday!





# The Friends of Dalmain



## Welcome from FoD

Friends of Dalmain (aka FoD) is the school Parent-Teachers association. Welcome to Dalmain!

### What is FoD?

As Dalmain parents and carers we are all automatically members of FoD, and we would like to take this opportunity to ask you to get involved!

FoD is a charity and works in a variety of ways to strengthen connections between the school community and provide opportunities for parents and staff to enrich school life.

We have three main goals...



### Thank you!

A HUGE THANKS TO THOSE OF YOU WHO CAME TO OUR QUIZ NIGHT ON MARCH 10

Together we managed to raise £603! All money raised will go towards "Project Playground" - plans to be revealed shortly so stay tuned!

### Where can you find us?

-  [facebook.com/friendsofdalmain](https://facebook.com/friendsofdalmain)
-  [instagram: friends\\_of\\_dalmain](https://instagram.com/friends_of_dalmain)
-  [twitter: FoDalmain](https://twitter.com/FoDalmain)
-  Our website: [www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofdalmain](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofdalmain)
-  Whatsapp groups you could join... (just type the links into your browser to find the group)

### Who are we?

- Co-chairs: Jacelyn & Daniela (both are Yrs 1&3 parents)
- Co-treasurers: Amy (Yrs 2&3 parent), and Miriam (Yr1 parent)
- Committee: Katie (Yr1&3 parent), Anna (Reception parent), Hannah (Yr1 parent)

### How can I help?

Even if you are new to school, think you only have a little bit of time to spare or even none at all, we'd still love you to get involved! Bake a cake, be a class rep, help run a school uniform sale, join our meetings, bring your fresh ideas and enthusiasm. It all helps. Many hands make light work.



### Drop us a line

[friendsofdalmain@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdalmain@gmail.com)

### In the pipeline...

- Summer fair planning meeting, 24th April
- Music Night, 28th April
- Summer Fair, 1st July
- Uniform sales - each Friday after a break
- Cake sales - last Friday of term
- Coffee mornings - first Friday of each month



# Football



February 2023

## Years 3 & 4 Football



On Thursday February 27<sup>th</sup> the years 3 & 4 football festival took place at Bellingham leisure centre on their amazing astro pitch.

All of the games were very competitive and played in a great spirit. There were some fantastic goals scored by all teams along with some great goalkeeping and all round play.

There was a great atmosphere with spectators cheering on their team with words of encouragement. It was amazing having so many spectators watching

Congratulations to all of the children who represented their schools extremely well and had a thoroughly good time. All players went home with a certificate, the runners up received medals and the winners took home the trophy.

### FINAL POSITIONS

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | ST MICHEL'S |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | DALMAIN     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | PERRYMOUNT  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | ST MARY'S   |

**DALMAIN**

Dave McLaren & Graham Curtis  
Sports Coordinators

## Year 3—Mercury Class

Can you believe that we are at the end of our second term in Year 3?!

This term has most certainly been our busiest term so far!

In Teaching of Reading, we have been reading an amazing collection of short stories called *A Necklace of Raindrops*, by Joan Aiken. We have really enjoyed these stories. Our favourite one was the title story, which was about a girl called Laura and her very jealous friend Meg, who told a lie to steal Laura's necklace.

We really enjoyed Reading Week – and of all the exciting activities we particularly enjoyed doing the picture book World Cup!

In Writing, we read a beautiful story- a magical book called *Leon and the Place Between*, by Angela McAllister. We wrote our own versions of it filled with lots of magical events and mystical unknown places. Miss Rochester was so proud of our stories and how amazing our writing has been this term.



In Maths we have been working very hard on fractions, beginning with unit fractions (it's a fraction with a numerator of 1, in case you were wondering!). We made our own fraction walls and started to learn about how to find fractions of amounts!

In History, we have been learning about British leisure and entertainment and how this has changed over time. We learned about the history of *Cinderella*: did you know that the story of Cinderella has been around for hundreds of years? The first known version of the tale comes from Ancient Greece in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century BCE!



In RE we have been learning about the Bible and what Easter means to Christians.

We have also been really busy with Graham this term in PE, developing our basketball skills in the Pen. In Science with Mr Clarke we have been investigating light, how it travels and how shadows are formed. We have had lots of fun with Mr Roberts this term in Art, designing and making Wang shadow puppets. Thanks to our Science lessons, we know how to make the shadows bigger and smaller when we need to.

Mercury class would like to wish everyone a happy Easter.

## Year 3—Pegasus Class

Pegasus Class has had a terrific term!

In Maths, we have been learning about fractions. Many of the children were really excited about this topic, which is lovely to see. We started by considering what a 'whole' was, and linking this to our Geography knowledge. If the UK is a whole, then London is a part! Then, we thought about equal and unequal parts, and how many parts a whole has been split into. We have always tried our best to use mathematical vocabulary to explain our reasoning, and shown lots and lots of perseverance!

In English, we read *Leon and the Place Between*, by Angela McAllister. This was a great book to look at due to the amazing illustrations and the author's use of descriptive language to describe the circus so effectively. We wrote our own stories based on Leon's story, and because of this have really come on in the use of adjectives, similes and imagery in our writing this term.

In History, we have been learning about entertainment from the 1900s and beyond. We looked at different ways the tale of Cinderella has been told throughout history, from early oral versions to printed versions and then to being one of the first films developed for Disney. This has sparked lots of interesting discussion about entertainment on screens in general. We have been inspired to complete a 'Screen Time Challenge' on the last week of term, where we all tried to cut down on our screen time and think about what people did pre-technology. We even turned off our interactive whiteboard for the week!



Our trip to Forest Hill Library was a great success. We discussed public libraries and their purpose, as well as look at how the books were organized. Then we had some relaxing free time reading a new book. It inspired us to try out new genres of books we may not have considered before.

We also were lucky enough to have a visit from Trinity Laban students who performed their immersive piece 'Ninjas!' to us. It was incredible to witness such amazing talent!

We hope that you all have a lovely holiday, and look forward to seeing you at the start of the summer term.



## CLUBS & MUSIC

All clubs & instrumental lessons will resume from the week beginning 24th April for ten weeks. All dates can be found on the school website.



We can't wait to see you next term!



# LAMDA



On the 11th and 18th March, a number of LAMDA pupils from Dalmain took part in the Bromley Festival of Music and Speech. Pupils performed a piece of poetry in front of an audience and received feedback from an industry professional. The pupils took part against children from other schools across London. All the children did incredibly well and should be so proud of their achievements. Particular congratulations go to Dora Short in Year 6 who won a silver medal, and to Mirabelle Walker in Year 3 and Iris Siveter in Year 6, who both won gold medals. The standard of the competition was so high that for any pupil to win a medal was an incredible achievement.

If you would like for your child to be involved in LAMDA lessons at Dalmain or would like more information on our classes, please contact us on [info@armstrongspeechanddrama.com](mailto:info@armstrongspeechanddrama.com).



Following on from our success at the first round of the Urban Debate League held at Dalmain, we entered the second round at Rotherhithe Primary full of confidence. As in the first round, we had no idea what the motions were for the two debates until we got there, neither did we know whether we would be debating for or against the motion!

After we were told the motions and our role, we only had 15 minutes to go to our debating room, prepare our points and put together our debates. It really is not a very long time!

The first motion was: 'This house believes that the use of electronic devices should be banned during weekdays'

The second motion was: 'This house believes that all sports should be banned during school hours'

We did really well with both motions and won an incredible five out of six debates. We were so proud and excited to share our news when we got back to school.

Since then we have been waiting nervously for the results. Finally on Friday 24th March the wait was over.



15th place  
nationally



7th place  
In London

We are so proud of all of the children who have taken part in the competition- what an achievement!

Our debating days are not yet over, however. Next term we have the Debate Mate Cup, a one day debating competition in April. Wish us luck.



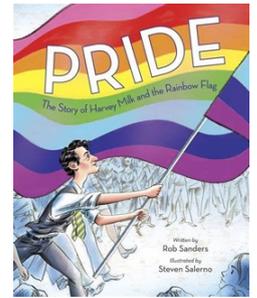
## Year 4—Newton Class

Red Nose Day was an resounding success! Newton Class's Bake Sale was a phenomenon! Every single student contributed and we had a amazing amount of cakes, cupcakes, doughnuts and cookies for sale.



This half-term we have been very busy in Newton Class! However, we have been ensuring that we all make an effort to look after the eco-system in school and at home. Whether that is recycling, watering plants or reducing our screen time, an effort is being made by all of us.

In Writing, we have been writing speeches based around the book *Pride*, by Rob Sanders. In our speeches we used abstract noun phrases, rhetorical questions, repetition and alliteration to make sure our speeches were captivating and gripping for the audience! We have really enjoyed class discussions surrounding equality and individualism- everybody is unique in their own special way.



In Maths, we have been concentrating on multiplication and division, alongside our 7, 9 and 11 times tables. We have been focusing on finding the most efficient and reliable method when working out calculations such as  $56 \times 8$ . As a class we persevered with our learning and took any challenges in our stride.

We have been reading the poem *Undefeated* in Teaching of Reading. It is a powerful poem which recalls the struggles and oppression African-American citizens have faced over the years. We enjoyed looking at the stunning artwork on each page and had many powerful discussions surrounding race, equality and empowerment, which linked well with our Writing work.

In Geography, we have begun to learn about the different types of mountains and their locations around the world. It has been great to use our prior knowledge about the seven continents of the world and how their movement on tectonic plates affects the formation of mountains.

As a class, we really love Science and we thought the Science Assembly during Science Week was great!



Our new topic is based on food and eating. We have learned about digestion- which involves breaking food down so that it can be absorbed by the body- and where it occurs, and about the role that different types of teeth play in this process. Next term we will be constructing food chains and food webs, thinking about how living organisms in an eco-system depend on each other in a variety of ways.

In PSE, we have been learning about and discussing puberty and growing up! Newton class have been so respectful and understanding when contributing to the class discussions- well done, everyone!

Finally, our topic in RE is Christianity, focusing on places of worship. To begin this topic we identified what a place of worship is and thought about how they differ depending on religious beliefs.

A big well done to Newton Class for completing two solid weeks of swimming! Every single one of you should be proud of your improvement in swimming, confidence and independence.



## Year 4—Sally Ride Class

What a busy term it has been! Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed the intensive swimming course we have been taking part in every day for two whole weeks. All the children have made so much progress from that very first session. So many children have overcome nerves, worries and fears, pushing themselves to develop really strong swimming skills. The swimming coaches were very impressed and commented on many occasions that all the children were putting in so much effort and making great progress. It was also lovely to hear members of the public compliment the school on how well behaved and polite the children were in using public transport. Well done, Year 4, you should be very proud of what you've achieved!



We were also very proud of our class assembly, where we shared with the whole of KS2 why we chose Sally Ride as our class name! She inspires us to shoot for the stars and follow our dreams. We chose to share this quote from her, 'I would like to be remembered as someone who was not afraid to do what she wanted to do, and as someone who took risks along the way in order to achieve her goals'. We believe this is such a fitting message for our class!



In writing this term, we have been reading *Pride*, the story of Harvey Milk and the rainbow flag. The story introduced us to Harvey and his dream of equality. We followed him on his journey through difficulties and triumphs and the designing of the very first rainbow flag – which hangs in the Museum of Modern Art! It inspired us to create placards, make speeches and most importantly to stand up for what you believe to be right!

In Maths, we have enjoyed learning to use different methods to multiply two and three digit numbers by single digit numbers! We needed to spend time understanding factors and factor pairs which are quite tricky. We've also started the 99 club to help build our times tables knowledge. We complete the quiz twice a week – if we get 100% twice, we move on to the next quiz. They get trickier and trickier! We've loved tracking our progress and moving our way up the club ladder.



Reading Week was a fantastic experience for Year 4. Our costume competition was epic and it was so difficult to choose just one winner! All the children put a lot of effort and skill into their costumes, and had wonderful explanations as to why these characters felt so important to them. Later in the week, we were lucky enough to spend a writing session with the author Hanna Moffat! She took us into the world of swamps and goblins to create our very own monster stories! The creatures created were truly hideous and impressive – we very much enjoyed writing about them.



## Family Fun Day at the Migration Museum

Friday 14 April | 11am-3pm | FREE – Donations welcomed

Join us during the Easter holidays for a fun day of free activities suitable for the whole family, including:

- Make your own zine inspired by the amazing places and art in Lewisham with artist and educator Biancha Samuel-Reid.
- Enjoy book readings, crafts and games led by Desreee Asomuyide, founder of award-winning brand Little Omo.

No booking required – drop by anytime between 11am and 3pm to join in the fun.

**Migration Museum**  
Lewisham Shopping Centre  
London SE13 7HB  
[www.migrationmuseum.org](http://www.migrationmuseum.org)



# Science Week at Dalmain

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March saw us celebrating Science Week with a visit from Sublime Science, who entertained (and educated!) KS1 and KS2 with a fascinating series of demonstrations of scientific phenomena.



From making a steel rod vibrate 3000 times a second (making the most amazing high-pitched noise) to producing giant smoke-rings and smoke-filled bubbles from a special machine, the children were enthralled by the show from start to finish.

We saw a polystyrene cup being split in two by acetone: this substance changes the structure of the polystyrene so it becomes loose and stringy. Balancing a ball on a jet of air from a leaf-blower showed us how the upthrust from air can counteract the force of gravity, and, fortunately for some children, we saw how well a super-absorbent polymer can absorb water- up to 300 times its own weight!

The Bernoulli Effect (you'll have to look up the science on this one!) was demonstrated very effectively, as Dylan, our presenter, was able to fill up an entire wind-tube with just one breath!

The final demonstration used a plasma ball to show how electricity always tries to reach the ground, and we also learned that electricity creates an electro-magnetic field- just holding a fluorescent tube near the plasma ball caused it to light up.

This really was a great show, thoroughly enjoyed by children and adults alike. Thank you, Sublime Science, and hopefully we'll see you again next year!



## Year 5—Johnson Class



It has been a very enjoyable term for Johnson Class!

In Maths, we have been learning about converting between units of measurement. It has been great to see Johnson Class challenge themselves and seek to answer questions that involve a greater depth of reasoning skills.

In Writing, we read *Freedom Bird*, a story all about an enslaved brother and sister who are inspired by a majestic and mysterious bird to escape to freedom. We really enjoyed writing our own version of this narrative!

In Geography, we have been learning about the continent of North America and its unique physical geography. Our final piece saw us produce a wonderful double page spread on California in our topic books!

In RE, we have been learning about Jesus the Divine; this led to us learning about the Holy Trinity and why it is so important to Christians. We answered key questions like ‘What is the significance of the 12 apostles?’ and had great discussions about the importance of Jesus in Christianity.

In Science, we really enjoyed our Science Week workshop and watching the different experiments come to life before our eyes!



Johnson Class also really enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day and all the exciting activities we completed during Reading Week. It is a shame there weren't many fans of Mr Alasow's superman costume!

Finally, as part of our PE lessons with Trinity Laban, Johnson Class had the amazing opportunity to perform at Catford Broadway as part of Lewisham Live Dance.



## Year 5—Stella Class

It has been a delightful term for Stella Class with the children continuing to work hard.

In English, we explored a powerful book called *Freedom Bird*. We thoroughly enjoy reading and analysing this tale of hope and encourage. The main characters, John and Millicent, are truly inspiring; we used lots of thought-provoking descriptive language to depict their journey from enslaved people to escaping and freedom.

In Teaching of Reading, we have been studying *Black and British: A Forgotten History*, by David Olusoga. We now understand that Black people have lived in and been part of Britain for centuries, and that their history in Britain should no longer be forgotten. World Book Day was really memorable, as we got to dress up as our favourite book characters. An incredible author called Jo Clarke gave us a masterclass on how to write a captivating mystery book. We have studied a book called *The Good Thieves* so we enjoyed sharing with Jo how other books we have read also follow similar themes and structure to the one she wrote.



Stella Class have maintained their resilient and enthusiastic attitudes towards their Maths learning as they learned to convert units of measure and calculate with decimal fractions.

In Science, we have been learning all about forces: beginning with air and water resistance and moving on to discovering how simple machines make work easier. We had a really fun science workshop which was led by scientist called Dylan. He showed us a series of fascinating experiments which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

In Art, we visited the artdog gallery- just down the road from the school- and worked with an award winning artist called Teakster to design geometric patterns inspired by Islamic art.



Geography has continued to fascinate us this term as we have been using some special software called Digimap to explore the physical features of North America. In RE, we have studied the life of Jesus, deepening our understanding of why Jesus is so important to Christians.

Stella Class had the fantastic opportunity to participate in the Lewisham Dance Showcase at The Broadway Theatre. It is a prestigious annual showcase organised by staff at Trinity Laban. We worked so hard during our dance sessions, and with expertise and support of our dance teacher, Maria, we put on an outstanding performance. Our parents and teachers were so proud of us! We really enjoyed the whole experience, attending dress rehearsals, having our very own dressing room and performing on a stage that many famous people have performed on.



## Cycle Confidence at Dalmain

Year 5 had the amazing opportunity to participate in Bikeability, the government's national cycle training programme. It took us one week to complete our intense but really enjoyable training course. On Day 1, we practised the skills that we need to ride safely on the road. We also learnt how to look after our bikes. Most of us already know how to control our bikes but our instructors gave us special tips to improve our skill.



On Day 2, we learnt how to signal and how to keep our balance efficiently when riding.

On Day 3, we cycled on the road for the first time, using a snake formation. We put our bikes on the visibility line and then exited out of the door zone while practising our slow manoeuvring.



On day 4, we cycled on a major road and checked down a T-junction. We practised how to do a U-turn, as this is an important skill to master in case we take a wrong turn. We ended this exhilarating week by having a fantastic cycling session on the road. We are really thankful to our wonderful, patient instructors, who helped us improve our knowledge of bikes, our cycling ability and our ability to ride safely on the road.

“I found it really interesting to learn about safety on the road” – Toby

“It brought me so much joy to practise my skills on a public road” – Soadhi

“It was a fun learning experience” – Billy

“It was really helpful to learn how ride safely on the road” – Connor

“I found it very exciting to signal to the side when a car is behind me” – Shervin

“I enjoyed being taught by professional cyclists who are passionate about cycling” – Nicholas

## Inclusion Team

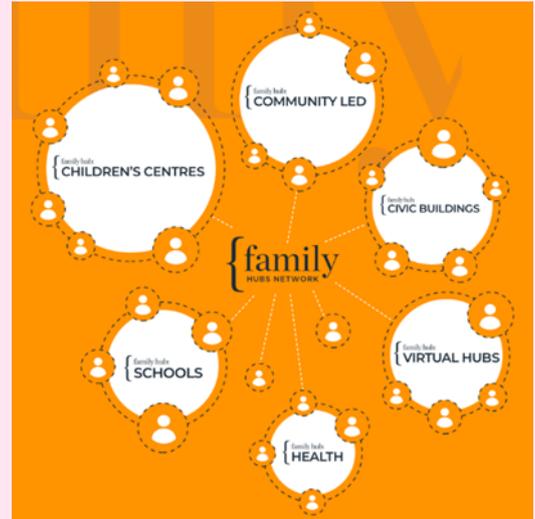
For other support you may need over the half-term holiday, we have a list of agencies and their contact details on our website under Home / Parents & Carers / Safeguarding & Wellbeing

### Lewisham Family Hubs

Parents and carers – share your views on local support services.

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person? If so, we want your views on how new local services can support you and your family and give your children the best possible start in life.

We're excited to open the first of our Family Hubs later this year. These will provide a one-stop-shop for families and young people, making it easier for them to access vital services, advice and support in one place.



We're asking for your views to ensure that these new hubs are delivering the right services and types of support. If you're a parent or carer of a child or young person, please complete our online survey and help us to develop our hubs so they meet the needs of you and your family. We look forward to sharing more news about our Family Hubs in the near future.

Shaping Family Hubs and the Start for Life Programme ~ <https://consultation.lewisham.gov.uk/++preview++/targeted-services-and-joint-cyp-commissioning/shaping-family-hubs-and-the-start-for-life-progra/consultation/intro/>

### Parent / Carer Coffee Morning

This term our Coffee Morning focused on sensory processing needs and how we can support them. It was great opportunity to come together and hear from parents and share experiences and strategies together as a community. We talked through the eight senses: There are the ones we know – sight (visual), taste (gustatory), touch (tactile), hearing (auditory), and smell (olfactory). We also then went through the three we're not so familiar with, which are the vestibular (balance), proprioceptive (movement) and interoceptive (internal) senses.



Next term, we will be focusing on the following topics in our Parent/ Carer Coffee Mornings:

- Supporting the siblings of children with SEND
- Lewisham's Local Offer and upcoming Family Hubs and what they have to offer families of children with SEND.

If there are any other topics you would like covered during these sessions, please do not hesitate to get in touch via [senco@dalmain.lewishm.sch.uk](mailto:senco@dalmain.lewishm.sch.uk).

## Year 6—Al-Sufi Class

This term in Al-Sufi class we have had so many marvellous opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities and to meet some incredible visitors who came to our school to share their talents. -Blake

### Reading week:

Reading is magical, whether you're travelling through dimensions on the way to anywhere, slaying Kronos in *Percy Jackson* or even slaying spiders in *Dread Wood*, books are a way to be transported to other worlds. Reading Week gave us the chance to celebrate this. We had a visiting author, Jo Clarke, author of *Libby and the Highland Heist*, who did a writing workshop with us. She showed us how to effectively plan and write a riveting mystery story. We also enjoyed Drop Everything And Read (which is by far my favourite event of the week). We were overjoyed and thrilled to have this momentous opportunity to cherish and celebrate our favourite books. Well done to Orla, who gave a super World Book Day presentation, and won the class vote. – Walter.

**Reading Buddies:** We love our reading sessions with Year 3 on Mondays.

**Science week:** To celebrate all things science, we had a fantastic science show hosted by Dynamite Dylan. He brought the exciting world of science alive, with an interactive learning experience and a range of exciting- and sometimes weird- science experiments before our very eyes. We were thoroughly entertained and enthralled.

### Debate Mate:

This term, children from Year 6 took part in Round 2 of the Urban Debate League at Rotherhithe Primary School. We competed in three teams and we took part in six debates.



Amazingly, we won 5 out of our 6 debates! Our debating skills are now legendary throughout Lewisham! We hope that our victory was enough to put us through to the finals, which will be held at the Houses of Parliament!  
– Leo, Tremaine, Kayano, Amalia.

### Eco-Council:

Our Eco-Council representatives have been very busy this term, from organising incredible poster competitions to highlighting the damaging effects of food waste and vehicles idling outside our school. They have many exciting projects under way and we are keen to be green and to look after our planet. –Henry & Pippa.

### Red Nose Day:

On Red Nose Day we wore something funny for money. In our class we had a skier, a ballerina and a Superhero! After school, we set up a face painting stall to raise money for the various charities. Mr Roberts gave Mr O'Donovan a fabulous make over and Ms Kempster and Ms Carol entertained us with their questionable dancing skills! We had a superb day.

### Golden time & Show and Tell:

Year 6 is incredibly, busy and requires a lot of hard work so it is nice to have opportunities to share some of our own amazing talents. This week, Renee has been demonstrating her musical skills on the cello to the class. She has progressed from strumming the strings to using a bow. Well done, Renee! Meanwhile, some of the girls in the class created a puppet theatre and entertained us royally!

### Class Talks: Ramadan

Raisa and Younes told us about all the things that they do at home and in their community to acknowledge and celebrate Ramadan. Raisa: "In my country we give food during Ramadan for good Iftar. We also give beautiful clothes. During Eid-al-Fitr family and friends all eat together." Younes: "For Suhoor (breakfast) we have dates and water or milk and a main meal at around 3am! We then fast from dawn to sunset."



### Lego play therapy.

Seth, Kayden and Renee told us about what they get up to during their Lego sessions with Ms Margaret. They also showed us an incredible model that they had built together, using over 60 pieces. They had to work collaboratively to build it. One person is the architect, another is the builder and finally there is a brick supplier! To build the Lego model they have to follow precise instructions given by other members of the group.



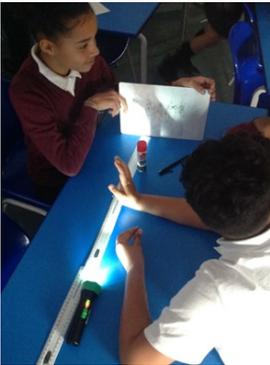
We hope that you all have a restful break.

## Year 6—Hawking Class

We have had a very busy term in Year 6! We are so impressed with the hard work the children have put into their learning, and this has been shown with the fantastic results from our mock SATS week. Thank you so much for the ongoing support and consolidation of learning at home; the impact has been great! One of the highlights of this term was the Debate Mate competition held at Rotherhithe Primary School. This was an amazing experience for us as we have been looking forward to this competition since Year 5. It was so exciting to debate with different schools and discuss lots of interesting topics.



In Maths, we have learnt about ratio and linked this to our understanding of fractions, percentages and decimals. We have been answering reasoning questions with key vocabulary and explaining our answers. In English, we have been reading the book *The Last Wild*, a dystopian novel about a boy living in a world infected with a deadly virus. We wrote a police report and a character description of the protagonist Kester; we were also very excited to write our own narrative based on the story. In Teaching of Reading, we have learnt about the poem *The Caged Bird* by Maya Angelou. We have spent the term dissecting the vocabulary selected by the author, the symbolism and the imagery of the free and caged bird, as well as the impressions we can infer. We compared this poem to different songs which challenge racism by artists Sam Cooke and Dave.



In Science, we have learning about light and shadows. We have conducted many experiments in class to see how light is reflected using mirrors and how shadows change in size. We also had a visit from the amazing Dynamite Dylan who showed us some excellent experiments including a plasma ball and bubbles full of smoke!

We have learnt even more about South America this term in Geography, in particular the wide variety of biomes across the continent. We have been amazed to learn about all them and the diversity of habitats, flora and fauna within them.

World Book Day was a wonderful day of celebrating reading in Hawking Class. This is my favourite day of the year, because you see all sorts of magical and bewildering costumes. We loved Drop Everything and Read, as we had so many opportunities to enjoy our favourite books. We also loved the visit from the author Jo Clarke, who told us all about her books on the theme of heists! We even got the plan our own heist story, with inspiration from our guest author who told us lots of different ways to include clues and red herrings in our writing.



## 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: Aruna & Clodagh**

**Year 1: Illi & Elean**

**Year 2: Alaiyah & Milo**

**Year 3: Rosie & Ivy**

**Year 4; Arlan & Rosie**

**Year 5: Chloe.C & David**

**Year 6: Christopher & Matilda**



CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE!

## Citizenship Award

Our aim is for all the children of Dalmain Primary School to leave us with a sense of belonging to their school, local and global communities. We want them to have the confidence and aspirations to make a difference and to know that small acts of kindness have a big impact. The following children have been chosen to receive our Dalmain Citizenship award in recognition of their contribution to our school and local community.

**The Ms Butler-Wright Award, for outstanding contribution to school life — Sophie**

Sophie is a positive role model for all the children at Dalmain. She shows commitment and enthusiasm in all areas of her learning and in her role as an Eco-Councilor. She works extremely hard to ensure she is always making progress and to ensure that she is supporting all her peers. Well done Sophie!

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

Dora worked tirelessly for Red Nose Day and played a significant part in raising our grand total of £846.89! She encouraged children across the school to take part, and set up and ran the year 6 Secondhand Stall on her own, even staying late to tidy up and sweep the hall! A great example of how small acts of kindness have a big impact.

This term has seen further incredible artwork from our gifted children. They have produced beautiful work across the school.



Reception classes have been exploring printing this term, creating these beautiful flowers by cutting out shapes to create flowers fit for any garden!



Children in Year 1 have been learning about healthy diets and food pyramids this term. After taste-testing fresh herbs and combining them with passata, children made their own healthy vegan pizzas. They were almost unanimous in agreeing they were the best pizzas they had ever tasted!

For our sculpture focus, Year 2 have been learning about phenomena, myths and legends of the oceans and sky, linked to their literacy book *Ocean Meets Sky*.

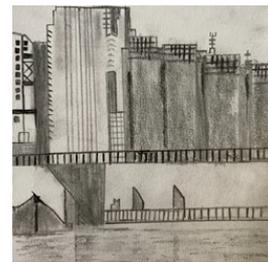
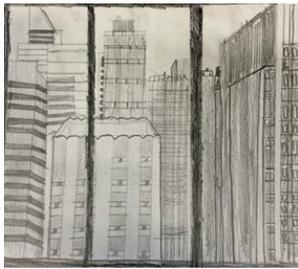
Using clay, the children made their own monuments inspired by their favourite stories. The final results are spectacular!



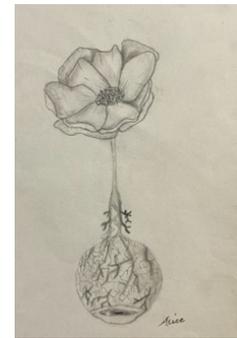
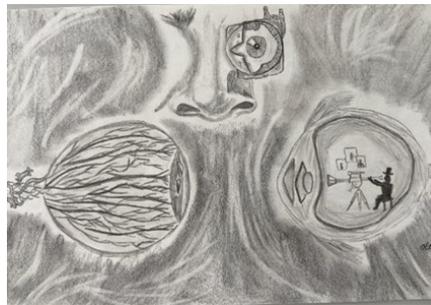
Children in Y3 have been learning about Indonesian shadow puppets in DT this term. They have made their own puppets inspired by story characters, making linkages to enable their puppets to move.



In Year 4, children have chosen various drawing media to create beautiful mountain landscapes inspired by the artworks of William Haskel, Lawren Harris and Crista Rejnveld. Their work is truly magnificent, exploring bold shapes and vivid colours.



In Year 5 children have been exploring views from a window, learning about artists such as Edward Hopper, Matteo Pericoli, Hugh Ferriss and Keith M Ramsay! They have created stunning artworks in various drawing media of their own choice, focusing on depicting mood through colour and setting. Children also had the opportunity to work with internationally renowned mural artist Teakster earlier this term, working on creating tiles inspired by Islamic patterns. Next term he is coming back to work with the children on a mural inside the school playground!



At the beginning of the term Year 6 finished their final anatomy images, with spectacular results. In DT, children have been learning facts about farm animals. Using this information, the children designed enclosures that maximized the animals' quality of life, including stimulating activities such as puzzles and mazes to keep them occupied! Children in Y6 also learned about the architectural structures and buildings in some of the poorest parts of the world, including homes in Shanghai and the favelas of Rio and Sao Paulo. They discussed ways by which residents try to lift the appearances of their homes and recreated stunning ink sketches of the buildings.



In Drawing Club this term we have been looking at Human figures and are now exploring the elements fire and water. Children from KS2 have produced some truly spectacular results!

## Term Dates 2022–2023

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Monday 17 April  | Johnson Class swimming lessons   |
| Friday 21 April  | Second hand uniform sale   |
| Friday 28 April  | Year 6 Debate Mate Cup (selected year 6 children only)<br>Friends of Dalmain Music Night |
| Monday 1 May     | Bank Holiday   |
| Tuesday 2 May    | Stella Class swimming lessons  |
| Wednesday 3 May  | Year 4 & 5 Hockey Tournament   |
| Friday 5 May     | Friends of Dalmain Coffee Morning  |
| Monday 8 May     | Bank Holiday   |
| Tuesday 9 May    | Year 6 SATs week   |
| Tuesday 16 May   | Year 4 Natural History Museum  |
| Wednesday 17 May | Year 5 Spitalfields Farm   |
| Thursday 18 May  | Year 5 & 6 Netball Tournament  |
| Wednesday 24 May | Spirit of the Wild visit for whole school<br>Year 3 Bright Sparks concert                |
| Thursday 25 May  | Spirit of the Wild visit for whole school  |
| Friday 26 May    | Friends of Dalmain Cake Sale   |

| Term            | First Day         | Last Day          |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 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   |
| INSET day       | Monday 5th June   |                   |
| Summer Term 2   | Tuesday 6th June  | Friday 21st July  |

### 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.

#### How to Report an Absence

When your child is off school, please complete the form on ParentMail by 9:00am (when registers close) under the absences tab, indicating the specific reason for their absence.

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.

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto:attendance@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk)

**Finance, curriculum clubs, instrumental lessons, trips, medicines or allergies:** [office@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:office@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.