



DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter—February 2023



Dear Parents & Carers

As another wonderful term draws to a close at Dalmain, we have so much to celebrate and feel proud of. In my last newsletter, I spoke about our incredible Debate Mate Team who won the regional Debate Mate Cup. As a result, they were invited to the national finals at Oxford University on Monday this week, where they competed against 8 teams from across the country. They spoke with passion and confidence, and we couldn't be prouder of how well they represented the school at such a prestigious event. A big thank you to the staff members who worked with the team and arranged the trip, but most of all a huge well done to all of the children involved!

We wanted to share some of the lovely comments we received recently when we had a team of reviewers visit Dalmain. We regularly invite external professionals in to audit our provision to help us learn and grow as an school, and this one focused on our teaching of Maths and Writing:

The review team agreed that the behaviour of pupils around the school is exemplary. Pupils are mature and articulate, and able to discuss their work thoughtfully.

Pupils, including the more able, are stretched and extended well by their work in mathematics. In discussions with them pupils confirmed that they find the work in lessons challenging and that they do have to think hard. They also indicated that they like to be challenged and that it makes learning 'fun and interesting'.

There is a systematic approach to the delivery of skills. Pupils have regular opportunities to practise and develop their fluency. The mastery approach is embedded and it is clear how it has been constructed to promote progression.

The visit to the Nursery and Reception classes shows that there is a strong foundation for early mathematics and writing through the early years provision. The opportunities for learning are rich.

There is clearly an outstanding curriculum in art where the development of skills and knowledge is built up sequentially and delivered very effectively.

Teachers were very positive about the support they receive from the school for their personal and professional development needs. They feel there is a positive culture in the school.

There is passionate and enthusiastic leadership of mathematics and writing. The impact is evidenced by the good progress made by pupils and their positive attitudes towards their learning.

A huge well done to everyone in the Dalmain Team, and thank you for continuing to deliver such a vibrant, creative and academically aspirational curriculum for our wonderful children.

Earlier this term, the amazing musicians of our community treated us to an evening of music and entertainment – the Friends of Dalmain Music Night had finally returned after a 4-year hiatus. And it was worth the wait! From the incredible standard of performances to the passion and energy of everyone involved, it was a night to remember! They raised an incredible £1229 for our Music Department that will go towards funding music lessons and instruments for our school. Thank you to all who gave their time so generously to this event and to everyone who came out to support it.

As always, you will find out about the vibrant array of activities from Term 5 within this newsletter. We loved having Spirit of the Wild in this week, our pupils have enjoyed numerous school trips and of course we all got involved in the Reception Pirates Day on Monday. Looking ahead to next term, we have a lot going on, including Sports Day and the Friends of Dalmain Summer Fair. We will send further communications next term and please keep an eye out on our website for updates under the Current Information / Whole School Information tabs.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Half Term break, and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 6th June 2023.

Best wishes

Ms Eisele – Headteacher

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



Dalmain Primary School
where creativity meets educational excellence

Nursery—Hubble Class



Hubble class were thrilled to return to the Nursery at the start of the new term. They were keen to engage with our newly installed veterinary surgery in the home corner and their interest was further sparked by the picture books, posters and related literature. Here are a few comments from the children: 'I loved playing with the white dog and I was the vet.' Phoebe

'My dog fell over and hurt his nose and his head.' Travis

'My dog hurt himself and I fixed it in the vets.' Rafi

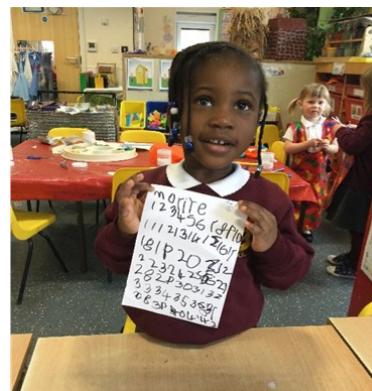


In our effort to promote reading, we have introduced the children to early reading on the carpet with a friend. It is satisfying to hear the range of vocabulary and the buzz generated by this activity. They are enjoying this experience and now automatically chose a book before settling on the carpet during 'Hello' time.



We are pleased that most of our children are beginning to identify initial sounds and are

continuing to enjoy our daily phonics sessions. They are extremely proud of their efforts in learning to form letters and numbers, and remain on task throughout these activities. We have also been focusing on allowing them to use tape measures and non-standard methods for measuring their heights and objects of their choice.



We are pleased to be continuing our Forest School sessions on Mondays after the interruption of the Bank Holiday breaks. The children noticed the seasonal changes in the flora and fauna within the environment and, were intrigued by the stickiness of the cleavers (Galium aparine) as they helped to clear overhanging foliage and thorny bushes from the paths.



Nursery—Hubble Class

The children are enjoying our weekly Design and Technology sessions where they engage in a range of activities including cooking, woodwork and designing 3D structures. We encourage collaborative interactions to develop their problem solving, negotiating and communication skills. During their cooking sessions, they are also learning about textures, changes in materials, measuring and other life skills. We are grateful to Andy and Jack for designing and making our new woodwork bench. This sturdy new addition to the woodwork area will enable us to increase the number of children who can access the space during the sessions. Well done and thank you, Andy and Jack!



In our ongoing effort to provide experiences which inspire awe and wonder in our children, we were delighted that the Reception class allowed us to view and to handle the chicks during their life cycle project. The air was filled with squeals of delight as eager hands extended to have a turn at stroking and cuddling the chicks. This was indeed a memorable experience for the children.



Our weekly PE sessions are progressing extremely well. The children are displaying high levels of engagement and willingness to have a go at challenging manoeuvres. We are impressed by their use of the apparatus and we celebrate their achievements by encouraging them to demonstrate their skills to the rest of the class at the end of each session.

Our hair salon is proving to be a big hit with the children, and they were exceptionally pleased to have a visit from Ms Eisele. Well done Ms Eisele, please be sure to book your next appointment soon!



We are always keen to involve our children in historical and topical events, and the Coronation was an ideal opportunity. The children thoroughly enjoyed decorating their own crowns and dressing up in their royal costumes. It has been an exciting term, and we are pleased that the children are so enjoying their learning journey. Well done, Hubble Class, for being such enthusiastic participants in your own learning.



It has been another successful half term with Action Tutoring. We are really proud of all the children who come to school early and work so hard. Congratulation to the following children for their 100% attendance.

Year 5

Taylor
Malika
David
Chloe
Enita

Year 6

Blake
Esther
Lewis
Oria
Aaliyah
Tremaine
Akeelah
Sariah
Matilda

We can see how much impact the tutoring sessions have on the children, but don't just take our word for it: read some reflections from Year 6!

'It has helped me with my SATs because the tutors go slowly and explain things really thoroughly. I have really made progress in fractions, times tables and division.'

'I did Action Tutoring in Year 5 and Year 6! They explain things so clearly and in a small group it is really easy to understand and ask questions. I feel a lot more smarter than I did before!'

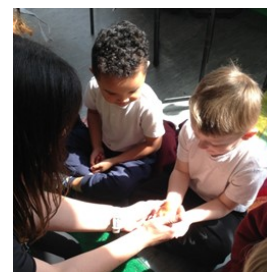
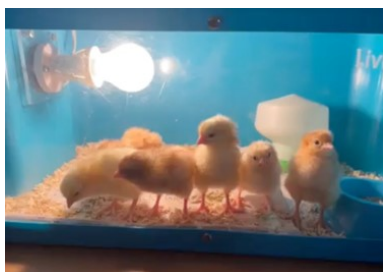
'Before Action Tutoring I really struggled with long division but now I feel like I have improved and am good at it now.'

'Before I started I struggled with shapes. They let us choose what we do in the sessions based on where we need to improve and what we struggle with. I spent a lot of time going over shape and now I feel much more confident.'

We would like to thank our tutors for an amazing chance to expand our learning. We all feel more confident and prepared for secondary school.

Reception—Galileo Class

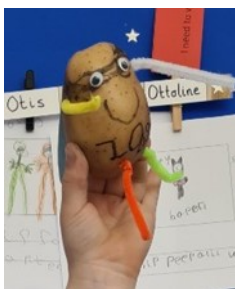
Summer 1 has been an incredible term! On our first day back from the holidays, eight little eggs arrived in our classroom, kept warm in an incubator. With great anticipation, the children watched as the eggs began to hatch and the chicks began to grow. The children carefully observed the changes they could see, taking notes and keeping chick diaries. As the children were so careful and respectful, they all had an opportunity to gently hold the chicks and learnt how to take care of them! We were very sad to see them go but are glad they now have more space to peck around in back at the farm.



The children of Galileo class have done some fantastic learning at Forest School this term. They have had so much fun exploring the outdoor environment, and used different crafts to create earth decorations using found materials. The children have been so engaged, finding tadpoles, making rafts, creating leaf prints as well as shelters for hedgehogs! They have also shown their abilities to be very gentle and thoughtful when handling creatures they have found, such as multiple worms and snails!



In preparation for the Coronation of King Charles III, the children enjoyed reading books such as 'The King's Pants', learning about what would happen in the ceremony. The children created beautiful crowns, wrote invitations to the King and made cucumber sandwiches for our own Coronation celebration! We danced the afternoon away in the sunshine and enjoyed taking turns sitting on some fancy thrones of our own!



Recently, Evil Pea tried his best to cause havoc in our classroom, kidnapping some poor vegetables and fruits! Luckily our army of handmade supertatoes were around to save the day. We explored what makes a good hero and villain and wrote letters to Evil Pea in order to advise him how to be more kind! We then moved from vegetable-based heroes to real life ones who help us and those around us in our communities. We were so lucky to have some very special visitors come to talk to us! We were visited by paediatric nurse and a carer for elderly people. The children were fascinated to hear all about their jobs and were able to explore this through our role play areas and craft making e.g. stethoscopes.



The final week of this term began in swash-buckling fashion with a fantastic pirate day! The outfits were incredible, and we even did an entire phonics lesson in our best pirate voices – ARGGHH!! The children walked the plank, with deep water below! They created their own hooks and eye patches, drew pictures of terrifying pirates and learnt about the life on a pirate ship. We discussed their treacherous journeys on sea and the children designed fantastic treasure maps!

Reception—Peake Class



We say it every term, but my goodness.. WHAT A TERM! We were greeted on the first day back with the arrival of 8 eggs. With great anticipation, the children watched as the eggs hatched and fluffy chicks emerged, ready to be transferred from the incubator into the brooder box. The children carefully observed the changes they could see, taking notes and drawing diagrams. As the children were so careful and respectful, they all had an opportunity to hold the chicks and learnt how to take care of them! We were very sad to see them go, but are glad they have more space to peck around in now.



The children in Peake Class show great care for living things and for our environment. We celebrated Earth day by learning about how to keep our oceans and beaches clean and plastic free. We also made beautiful earth decorations using recycled materials. The children have been so engaged in Forest School this term, finding tadpoles, making rafts, creating leaf prints and even shelters for hedgehogs!



In preparation for the Coronation of King Charles III, the children enjoyed reading books such as 'The King's Pants' and 'I do not want to be a Prince'. They learnt about what would happen in the ceremony. The children created beautiful crowns, wrote invitations to the king and made cucumber sandwiches for our own Coronation celebration! We danced the afternoon away in the sunshine and enjoyed taking turns sitting on some fancy thrones of our own!



Reception were also invaded by some pesky and sneaky Evil Peas, but luckily Supertato was there to save the day! We explored what makes a good hero and villain and enjoyed lots of imaginative play, acting out our own thrilling hero stories! This led us on to explore real life superheroes. We were so lucky to have some very special visitors come to talk about their role in the community. We were visited by a paediatric nurse and a carer for elderly people. The children asked lots of questions, and through their play in our own baby hospital we could see that they had learnt lots from the experience!



ARRRR!! The final week at school, began with a Pirate day! The children walked the plank, with deep water below! They created hooks, drew terrifying pictures of pirates and learnt about the life on a pirate ship. We discussed their diets and their journeys on treacherous seas, and the children designed fantastic treasure maps! It's safe to say we've had an amazing term, full of special memories!



Eco-Council

Dear Parents and Carers,

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 following Earth Pledge.



Dalmain Primary School

Earth Pledge

Our commitments 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 use these 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

Members of staff added their ideas, and now we would like some feedback from our Parents and Carers. We are keen to hear what else you think we could do to create a more sustainable school!

Please follow the Google link to share your views - <https://forms.gle/HdupeeG24mdMEBUs9> .

Once we have everyone's views, the Eco Council will finalise the Eco-Pledge and we will share this with every member of the Dalmain community.

Best wishes,

Eco-Council & Ms Sewani

Eco-Council

Dear Parents and Carers,

We, the Eco Council, have been learning about the impact that the food we eat can have on our environment and our bodies.

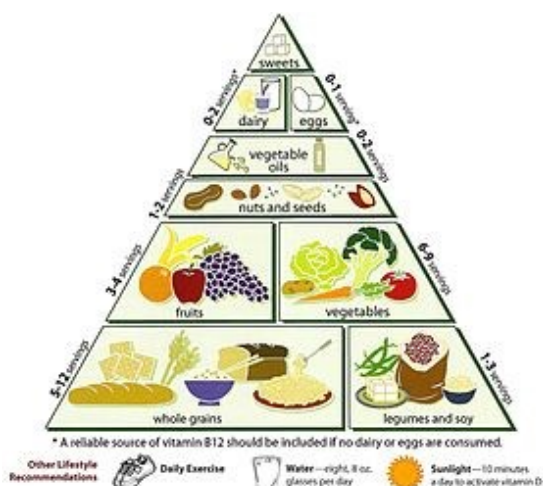
Did you know that the industrial meat industry causes many problems including deliberate wildfires and destruction of the rainforest, human rights abuses as the workers are not paid properly and it increases risk of disease including heart disease and cancer? We were really shocked to find this out!

So...we had a great idea!! We would like to have a go at being veggie for one school week – from the 12th – 16th June 2023. Eating a healthy and balanced plant-based diet is better for our planet and for our bodies and our school chef has designed an amazing menu with delicious vegetarian recipes. He is very excited to share it with you and so are we!

So during the week commencing 12th June, school dinners will be veggie for everyone. If you usually have a packed lunch, we invite you to join us by bringing in a plant-based packed lunch. We know that this might seem like a big challenge for some of you meat-lovers but we urge you to embrace the veggie spirit and give it a try. We think that this will be an exciting challenge for us all and we hope that you will all take part and more importantly, enjoy the amazing vegetarian food that our chef will make.

Best wishes,

The Eco-Council and Miss Sewani



Year 1—Milky Way Class

Milky Way class have had a jam-packed half term!



We found a lost penguin in our classroom and we wrote instructions about how we could help him. After reading Oliver Jeffer's, *'Lost and Found'*, we retold the story of the lonely penguin in our own words. Then the children discovered some rather mysterious snowy footprints and a very messy classroom... a yeti was on the loose! After writing newspaper reports to inform others about what had happened, we then wrote on our own stories inspired by Nadia Shireen's *'Yeti and the Bird'*.



In Maths, we have explored addition and subtraction within twenty. We made the most of the sunny weather and took our learning outside to practice counting back and along a number line to support our calculations. We also used our fantastic knowledge of number bonds to ten to support our fluency with number bonds to twenty. Keep it up Milky Way!



In Science, we classified animals into the five animal groups by comparing their features. We compared animal diets and named a variety of common animals that are carnivores, omnivores and herbivores. Finally, we carried out an investigation to see what wildlife we could identify in Forest School, using insect pooters and magnifying glasses. We then grouped these insects based on their similar features.



In Geography, we have learnt about our island home. We named and located the four countries of the United Kingdom and their capital cities, with the help of a rather catchy song. We identified various human and physical geographical landmarks around the UK. The myth of the Loch Ness monster was certainly a class favourite.

Well done on yet another fantastic half term, Milky Way Class! Have a lovely break.



Year 1—Saturn Class

What a busy and exciting term it's been for Saturn Class!

In English we have been reading the book 'Lost and Found', by Oliver Jeffers. The book is about a lost penguin, and the children thought of different ways by which we could help him find his home. They produced some beautiful work and loved exploring different styles of writing.

In Maths, we have been exploring using number lines to add and subtract. We have had great fun drawing number lines with chalk in the playground and jumping forwards and backwards along them.



In Science we have been looking at different animal groups. We have had many fun sessions in the wildlife garden looking for various insects. The children were delighted to see the tadpoles and watch their progress over these past weeks. We now have two frogs in our wildlife pond!



Both Year 1 classes were lucky enough to have a visit from Spirit of the Wild, a company that bring the largest and most diverse range of wildlife right to your school! The children absolutely loved it and were so calm and respectful towards the animals.

We learnt some very interesting facts about the animals and their habitats, and the children were even able to hold some of them!

"I liked the owl because he was fluffy and cute." Hezikiah

"I liked the snake; it felt nice and smooth." Ethan

"It felt nice when the owl flapped its wings." Emmeline





Netball



May 2023

Years 5/6 Boys & Girls

The Netball festival was hosted by Sydenham secondary school on their amazing outdoor multi use games court.

Six students from Sydenham School were our official umpires and did a sterling job, thank you and well done.

The quality of the netball played was outstanding with lots of children showing what they had learnt in their PE lessons and after school clubs.

The matches were mainly very close with just the odd point winning a game. However, I did also see a couple of high scoring games.

There were 3 teams who finished with the same points to claim joint 2nd place, that's how close it was!

The winners received a gold medal each and a trophy for their school. The runners up were presented with silver medals. Every child went home with a certificate.

Results

- 1st Haseltine
- 2nd Fairlawn
- 2nd Beecroft
- 2nd Kilmore
- 3rd Dalmain
- 4th St Mary's
- 5th Horniman



DALMAIN

Dave McLaren & Graham Curtis
Sports Coordinators

Year 2—Curiosity Class

This term's learning has been based on the Great Fire of London, which destroyed much of our city back in 1666. We loved learning about the fire – how it started because Thomas Farriner didn't put his fire out properly, and how Samuel Pepys' diary means we know so much about what happened in those terrible days. We also learned how London was rebuilt after the fire, with buildings made of brick and concrete rather than wood, straw and pitch.



In History, we compared how firefighting has changed since 1666, and we had a great time when we visited Forest Hill Fire Station and saw how firefighting is done in 2023. The best bit was going into the Command Unit, which was a bit like a fire truck. We saw the special clothes that firefighters wear and we asked lots of questions. We found out that firefighters have to be changed and in the fire truck within 60 seconds of hearing the siren. They then have 5 minutes to get to the fire.



The theme continued in our Art lessons, where we were inspired by the work of Georgia O'Keeffe and applied her techniques to our paintings of flames. Mr Roberts thought our work was fantastic!

We had a great time in Maths this term, learning about money and time. It was fun to be able to play Maths games and explore what we have been learning in this way.



In Science, we have been learning about plants. We planted our own sunflower seeds, and kept a diary that recorded how they grew. This showed us what a plant needs to grow (water, light, soil, space, time). We got to take them home to replant, and we have told Mr O'Donovan we will send him a photo of any plants that grow into sunflowers. Whose will be the tallest?

In RE, we have learned about how the importance of food in different religious celebrations. We thought about the chocolate eggs we'd eaten at Easter, we learned about how Muslims celebrate the end of Ramadan with huge Eid parties where everyone eats delicious food, and we heard how Hindus eat special food at Diwali and Holi.

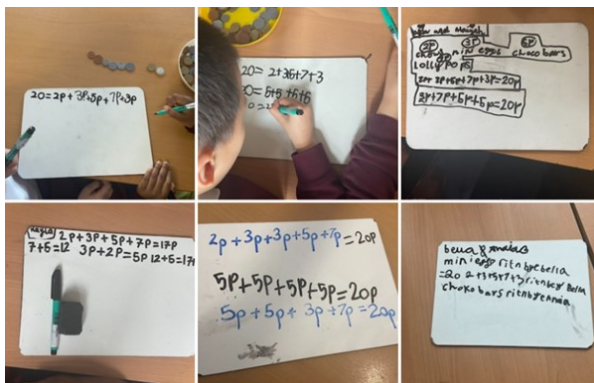
This term saw King Charles III's coronation, and we had a party to celebrate. The coronation of the previous King Charles, King Charles II, featured in Samuel Pepys' diaries, so we imagined we were Samuel Pepys' great-great-great-great-great grandchild and wrote a diary entry about the new King's big day.

We also had our SATs quizzes last week. We tried our best, and Mr O'Donovan and Miss Katie were very, very proud of us. We are the last Year 2 children to have to do these quizzes, which we think is cool. We had ice lollies and a party at school to celebrate.

It has been a busy few weeks. We read 'Ada Twist, Scientist' and 'Hotel Flamingo'; we learned about medicine in PSHE; played and sang our hearts out with Miss Jackson in Music and had great fun doing PE with Graham.

Next term is our last term in Year 2. We'll be learning about architecture, bridges, China, measurement and animation – and getting ready to move upstairs for Year 3!

Year 2—Galaxy Class



In Galaxy Class, we have been doing so much learning!

In Maths, we have learnt how to tell the time, how to use tally charts, and we've also been learning about how to use money! We even turned the classroom into a pretend Sweet Shop and were able to buy whatever sweets we wanted – our budget was only 20p, though!

In Writing and History, we have been learning about The Great Fire of London. We learnt that it began on Sunday 2nd September 1666! It lasted 4 whole days and 4 whole nights. It kept going until the King said, 'BRING DOWN THE HOUSES!'. Did you know that the king at that time was called King Charles II? We were lucky enough to learn all about this at the same time of King Charles III's coronation! What a funny coincidence!



We learnt that the fire was caused by Thomas Farriner's maid. He's the man who owned the bakery on Pudding Lane. Other people believed otherwise. We held court in class to determine who was responsible. Miss Brown was the judge. Was it Thomas Farriner's fault, his maid's fault or the King's fault? The court ruled that it was Thomas Farriner's responsibility to make sure the fire was put out properly. Naughty Mr Farriner!

To finish our learning on this topic, we made posters about everything we had learned. We then visited the local Fire Station to see how the fire equipment has changed since 1666. We saw the uniform they wore, the units they drove in and a huge, long ladder – the longest ladder that we had ever seen. Miss Sarah got to go in it. She went so high up in the sky that we couldn't see her anymore!

It was so much fun!





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 EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE MUSIC NIGHT LAST MONTH. WHAT A FAB NIGHT IT WAS! TOGETHER WE MANAGED TO RAISE £1,229!!!

ALL MONEY RAISED GOES TOWARDS SCHOOL WITH FUNDS ASSISTING MUSIC RESOURCES, INSTRUMENT SUPPLY, LESSONS AND PROJECTS.

Where can you find us?

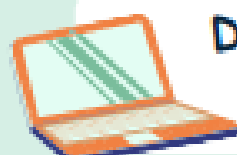
-  facebook.com/friendsofdalmain
-  [instagram: friends_of_dalmain](https://instagram/friends_of_dalmain)
-  [twitter: FoDalmain](https://twitter/FoDalmain)
-  Our website: www.gifs-events.co.uk/friendsofdalmain
-  WhatsApp groups you could join... (just type the links into your browser to find the group)

Who are we?

- Co-chairs: Jocelyn & Daniela (both are Yrs 10/3 parents)
- Co-treasurers: Amy (Yrs 10/3 parent), and Miriam (Yr1 parent)
- Committee: Katie (Yr10/3 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

In the pipeline...

- Summer Fair, 1st July
- School Discoes 13th and 14th July
- Uniform sales - each Friday after a break
- Cake sales - last Friday of term
- Coffee mornings - first Friday of each month



The Friends of Dalmain



Year 3—Mercury Class

What an amazing term we have had in Mercury class!

We are in shock at how fast this term has gone!

In Teaching of Reading this term, we have been reading an amazing anthology called 'I am the Seed that Grew', with a poem for everyday of the year selected by Fiona Waters. We identified the changes between the different times of year and discussed how we can tell this through the content of the different poems. We loved playing Karaoke Poetry and thinking about other different ways we can enjoy poetry.

In Writing this term we read an amazing book, 'The Heart and the Bottle', by Oliver Jeffers. Despite this being quite a sad story about a little girl whose grandfather had disappeared, we really enjoyed writing our own versions of the story.



We also read a beautiful book called 'The First Drawing' by Caldecott Medallist Mordicai Gerstein, which is all about a little boy from the Stone Age telling his story about the first ever drawing. Did you know some of the oldest drawings were created over 30,000 years ago?

In addition to Writing, we have also been learning about the Stone Age in History. We made our own cave paintings, and had to do our

own research to create a presentation to show the class what we found out



about the different types of farming in the Stone Age.

Maths this term has been really fun; we have been learning all about non-unit fractions. We made our own fraction walls and used all of our knowledge to help us to add and subtract fractions with the same denominator. We also learnt about polygons: our favourite lesson was going on a polygon hunt around the school. Miss Rochester is so proud of



how much resilience we have shown this term in Maths!

In RE we have really enjoyed learning about Buddha and how he became Buddha, and we also learned about the Four Noble Truths. In Science this term, we have been investigating all of the things plants need to grow and stay healthy. In Art, we have really enjoyed painting flowers which have been inspired by Mondrian. Mr Roberts has been very impressed with our painting skills.

Our term did not end there! In PE we have been practising our tennis skills, in PSHE we have been discussing different risks and how we might manage them, in Latin we have continued learning about verbs and different verb endings and in Computing we have been practising our research skills.



We are really looking forward to next term, as we know we have so many more exciting things to look forward to.

Year 3—Pegasus Class

It has been a remarkable term in Pegasus, filled with exciting discoveries!

In our history lessons, we delved into the world of the Stone Age. Through the pages of "The First Drawing," we embarked on a fascinating journey, exploring the lives of our ancient ancestors. We

studied artefacts, comparing and contrasting our own lives with those of the Stone Age people.



In Maths, we have been studying shapes, including making our own patterns. We categorised shapes in a shape party and went on a shape hunt around the school, finding lots of interesting irregular polygons!

We have been loving our beautiful new library, and spending some quality time in there finding new books. Our librarians rotate every week, so we all have a chance to use the scanners- I can see a future career for some of us!



In RE, we explored the teachings of Buddhism. Through the story of Buddha, we discovered invaluable lessons that can be applied to our own lives. We got a lot of meditation practice in too, the children commenting that they felt much more relaxed after a calm and serene session.

A highlight of this term was our trip to the National Theatre to witness a mesmerising performance of "Firebird." We were spellbound by the magical spectacle before our eyes. We even got involved ourselves, beautifully singing the song that Mrs Jackson taught us!



CLUBS & MUSIC

All clubs and music lessons will resume in the school week commencing Tuesday 6th June, for five weeks.

Catch-up sessions for clubs or lessons missed during Bank Holidays and strike days will take place at the end of this five week period.

Please see the school website for full details.



Phone: 020 8699 2675

Email: office@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk



On Monday 22nd of May, six children from the Debate Mate team travelled to Oxford University for the National Final of the Debate Mate Cup!

During May, several rounds of the Debate Mate Cup were held across the country. The winners of each regional debating competition then had the chance to become National winners in Oxford. These regional competition narrowed the schools down from 120 to just the top 8 from across the country and Dalmain Primary School was one of them!

We all had to get up very early in the morning to be able to leave school at 7.30! It felt like a long journey but we made the most of it by rehearsing our debates for the first motion: 'This house believes that it is better to give to homeless charities than to give to homeless people on the streets'. Sadly we lost our first debate but had great feedback from the judges who said our speeches were really strong and well researched. He said it was a very high scoring debate, and although we were pipped to the post it was all to play for in the second debate.

For the second debate the motion was: 'This house would not allow children under 16 to enter televised competitions'. This was an unseen debate so we only had 15 minutes to prepare. It was also a closed debate which meant that we didn't find out who won. We all gathered in a lecture hall and the two finalists were announced; sadly we weren't in the final, but we were still in the top 8 out of 120 schools across the country!

During the final debate we were asked for floor questions, which are questions for either team to answer as part of their summary speeches— Esther won a prize for the best floor question!



As well as a day of debating, we were also given a tour of Oxford University from some of the students. We saw where they lived and talked about all the different subjects you can study at university. We were also told about the amazing history of the university itself. A highlight of the day was eating our lunch in the Great Hall where Harry Potter was filmed!!



It was a really fun experience, and we can't wait to enter more competitions like this. A huge thank you to Graham for driving us to Oxford; we really appreciated him giving up his time for us.

Year 4—Newton Class

This term we have been reading 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' in Writing and using the story line to write our own innovative narratives! The story was very inspiring and we loved creating our own mythical words, as well as the portals our main character became lost within.

We are now looking at the poem 'Jabberwocky' in Writing, and will be creating and performing our own nonsense poems with words that we have converted from real words! Do you know what 'gyre and gimble in the wabe' means?

In Maths, we have been learning all about fractions, fractional parts and mixed numbers. Now we are going onto subtraction of fractions. As a class, we have really enjoyed working with fractions and are now ready for more challenges in our learning. We have also been practising our times-tables for the multiplication check in June! We have been testing our speed and memory as a class and individually through playing fun online games.

For RE this term we are learning about Islam, focusing on Ramadan and fasting! As a class, we have discussed what it means to be dedicated and the importance of thinking of those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

In Geography, we have been using the ipads to research the physical and natural features of Greece. This has been a great opportunities to practise our researching skills and using digimap.

We have had a great experience learning about cricket and being taught some of the interesting rules and techniques within the game by professionals!

Finally, in Science we have been learning about animals and their digestive systems as well as animals and classification. Our amazing trip to the Natural History Museum gave us the opportunity to look at different vertebrates (birds, mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibian) and invertebrates (animals without backbones)!



Overall, it has been a superb half term and we look forward to the final summer half term!

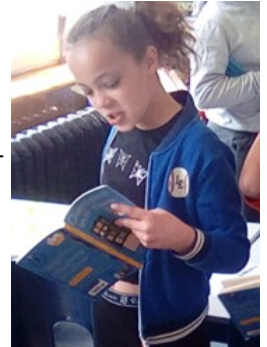
Well done, Newton Class, you're doing amazingly well!

Year 4—Sally Ride Class



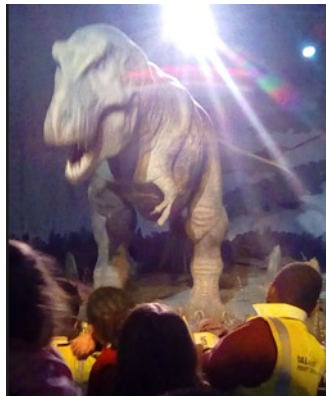
What a fantastic term we have had in Sally Ride class!

In both Reading and Writing we have been exploring performance poetry! Reading and exploring a variety of poems from Joseph Coelho, we have investigated new and exciting ways to communicate meaning. We experimented with body percussion, movement, choral reading, tone, volume and sound effects, discovering a variety of ways to enhance the meaning.

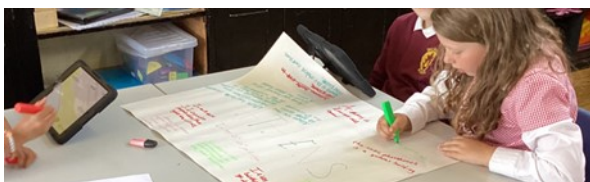


In Maths, we have been looking at mixed numbers! At first we found this concept quite tricky but have had so much fun investigating how mixed numbers are made up of whole and fractional parts. We used paper to mix and match, add, subtract and solve mixed number problems.

We finished this term of Science with a trip to the Natural History Museum! We have been learning about animal classifications and the differences between these classifications. All this learning was put to good use on our visit. At the museum, we boarded a virtual submarine and explored ocean habitats to investigate and explore the life within the depths of the ocean. The submarine captain was impressed with all our useful knowledge! After this, we had some free time and explored the museum. Some of us looked at the dinosaurs and the animatronic t-rex, while some of us went and experienced what an actual earthquake would feel like!



In Geography, we have been looking at physical and human characteristics of Greece. We have been using computing research skills to investigate and expand our geographical knowledge. We have combined this research to create some beautiful brochures encouraging tourists to visit Greece!



We have absolutely LOVED computing this half term as we have been learning how to create stop motion animations! In small groups we took on the roles of director, camera man and prop control. We would rotate these roles so we were able to learn a variety of skills! We had so much fun creating these short animations; some of us may even want to become animators in the future!

Congratulations to Jasper for achieving his gold level swimming

Spirit of the Wild

The whole school has absolutely loved a two day visit from our animal friends! We have learnt so much and thought we would quiz you too!

1. Spiders eat 180,000,000 million tons of insect a year, which is more than the weight of every human on earth ... True or False?
2. True or False ... stick insects have wings?
3. Why is Flinty the parrot so colourful?
4. What does the fruit bat have in common with humans?
5. True or False ... marine toads need to lay eggs in fresh water?
6. Huskies have two coats ... True or False?

Did you know that only 2% of sunlight reaches the ground level of a rainforest?

Perfect for spiders!

The answers are at the bottom of the page. How well did you do?



Meet Flity!

Did you know that his eyes are on the side of his head so he can look in all directions for potential predators?



1. True
2. True
3. To show how healthy he is!
4. They have hands like humans with thumbs!
5. True
6. True

Year 5—Johnson Class

It has been a very enjoyable Summer 1 for Johnson Class!



In Writing, we read 'Beowulf', the story of the famous warrior prince and his daring quests. We really enjoyed role-playing parts from the story and writing our own version of this epic poem! In History, we have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons and why they moved to England. Our final piece saw us produce a wonderful double page spread about the them in our topic books!

In RE we have been learning about Buddhism, which led to us learning about the meaning of Dharma and why Buddhists strive to reach enlightenment. We answered key questions such as 'What is Dharma?' and had great discussions about the importance of the Buddha in Buddhism.

In Maths, we have been learning all about fractions. It has been great to see Johnson Class challenge themselves and seek to answer questions that involve greater reasoning skills.

In Science, we really enjoyed attending Spitalfields City Farm and interacting with all the different animals! We have been learning about the life cycles of different animals so it was really lovely to see the children observe and interact with animals at different stages of their life cycle.



Finally, as part of our PE lessons we attended a two week swimming crash-course at Forest Hill pools. The progress Johnson class made was nothing short of inspiring! They were resilient, encouraging to their peers and a true testament to the school with their behaviour in public! A super term, Johnson Class! Here are some quotes from Johnson Class about their favourite part of this term.

"I really enjoyed making our quesadillas in DT – they were delicious" – Connor

"I liked drawing the spiders in Art, it was really enjoyable" – Billy

"I loved making a video about our trip to Spitalfields Farm; being able to edit the video with Mr Alasow was really fun!" – Thea

"I enjoyed reading Beowulf and making our own version of the exciting story" – Cillian

"I liked learning about life cycles in Science this term, I also really enjoyed going to Spitalfields City Farm and learning all about it" – Hamour



Year 5—Stella Class

Stella class have had another brilliant and exhilarating term at Dalmain!

We have experienced a lot of growth and progress across the curriculum, and in personal and social matters too. In Teaching of Reading, we have enjoyed reading *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* by Gawain Poet. This is a magnificent, medieval tale of the tall and strong Sir Gawain, who accepts a challenge from a mysterious 'Green Knight.' We have used our excellent reading skills to analyse and summarise Sir Gawain's journey to be successful in his challenge, and his return home to report on his quest.

In English, we have been studying Michael Morpurgo's version of 'Beowulf', and it has kept us enthralled during our lessons. We loved learning about Beowulf's terrifying quest to destroy the monster Grendel, a horrible sea-hag and a monstrous fire-dragon. Our teacher has been particularly impressed with our editing skills when redrafting paragraphs, using the imperative tone in an advisory letter, and using a plentiful amount of figurative language.

In Maths, we have been developing our knowledge of fractions.

In Science, we have enjoyed learning about the different life cycles of a wide range of animals. To support our understanding of life cycles, we visited Spitalfields City Farm, a farm with rare breed & rescue animals. We found this trip really fun and interesting; we were also surprised by how friendly the animals were! We completed our activity booklets and identified which stage of the life cycle the animals on the farm were at.



We continued our Science learning at school with a visit from Spirit of the Wild.



In History, we have explored the lifestyle and achievements of a group of farmer-warriors who lived in Britain over a thousand years ago: the Anglo-Saxons.

Amazingly, we have had the fantastic opportunity to have swimming lessons at Forest Hill Pools. We thoroughly enjoyed every single lesson and appreciate having the opportunity to develop our skills with the support of the passionate swimming teachers.

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



THE SEND FACTOR
INFORMATION, ADVICE
AND GUIDANCE

Lewisham

Secondary transitions for children with an EHC Plan

Supporting children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), and their families to get ready for the next phase of their education.

For parent / carers of a child with an EHC Plan, transitioning to secondary school in September 2024

Come and find out:

- ✔ The phase transition process for children with an EHC Plan

When and where:

- 📍 Thursday 1st June | 10am-11am
Virtual session on Microsoft TEAMS

Session link:

- 🔗 Microsoft Teams meeting
Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

Contact:

- 🏠 local.offer@lewisham.gov.uk if you have any questions about the session.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 332 766 352 851
Passcode: kf2RPF

The Lewisham Parent Carer Forum is holding a series of Kim Barclay workshops on Depression, Anxiety and Boundaries over the next few weeks. Please copy and paste the link below into your browser for further details.

<https://mailchi.mp/lewishamparentcarer/depression-anxiety-and-boundaries-workshops-with-kim-barclay-for-lpcf>

Year 6—Al-Sufi Class

It has been another exciting and busy time for Year 6.



After months of anticipation, we finally did our SATs! The week was a roller-coaster of emotions – excitement and a few nerves. The assessments tested more than our knowledge – a growth mind-set and resilience was most definitely needed. Despite some of the tests being harder than we thought, we survived, and overall most of us enjoyed the experience. It was good practice for when we have to sit

future tests. We are all now desperate to know our results! During the week, we loved coming into school every morning for SATs breakfast and then having a pizza party in the pen at the end of week! This was a brilliant way to celebrate all the hard work and effort that we have put into our learning.



In English, we have just finished reading 'The Last Wild' by Piers Torday. The book is set in the future where almost all the animals have died from a disease called The Red Eye. It is about a boy called Kester who is mute, but has discovered that he can communicate with animals. Kester and some other animals go on a journey to save the world. We really enjoyed reading the story and we were keen to create our own dystopian adventures.

In Maths, we have been developing the skills and attitudes that are needed to understand money and finance. We are currently working on a 'futures project'. We have been thinking about what job we want in the future, how much the salary would be per annum and per hour. Then we have had to consider what tax and deductions we would be paying. We soon realised that there are a lot of deductions, even before we had to pay our rent and household bills. Through these lessons we are beginning to understand and learn how to manage money effectively, as well as having the opportunity to consider the important financial decisions that we will have to make in the future. These lessons have given our brains a good work out, but they have also been fun.

In DT we have been developing our culinary skills and we have created some interesting savoury canapés! Firstly, we learnt how to make our own pastry cases, after this we created a goat's cheese mousse. The mousse was put into the pastry cases and we then drizzled some honey and balsamic vinegar reduction on

top. We finished off our tasty creations with some beetroot. 'Personally, I think they turned out to be amazing and Mr Robert's cooking skills are not bad!' – Aaliyah.



Finally, as part of Year 6 junior citizenship, James from the TfL safety and citizenship team came in to school to deliver a workshop. The aims of the workshop were to promote safe, responsible and respectful behaviour on and around London's transport system, especially now, when many of us in year 6 are beginning to travel independently to school. Furthermore, for some of us when we travel to secondary school our mode of transport may change, so it was important for us to consider how we can be safe and mindful of other transport

users. We all enjoyed the TfL Workshop – 'The most helpful thing that I learnt from the workshop was the information given about zip cards. I thought I had to wait until I was 12 to apply for one, in fact I need one now.'



Year 6—Hawking Class

Smash glass shattering everywhere. I hear a voice saying "the venom will take over." I wake up from my slumber. I am in a room, a room full of darkness. I can barely see anything. *Flash* a bright light shines in my eyes; it's blinding. I put my head up to see I am chained to my bed. When everything goes blank. The only thing I can hear is the clicking of the tortoise switch, the rattles of my chains, and the teardrops falling from my cheeks. I yell "where is

In Writing, we have been creating our own narratives based on 'The Last Wild' - some of us writing over seven pages for our stories! We have also started 'Viking Boy', which has been a lot of fun and provided lots of information about Norse mythology. Teaching of Reading has also been really fun - we are reading a non-fiction book about different explorers and the adventures that they have been on.

In Maths, we have started looking at our future and learnt about tax, salaries and wages- which has made our heads really hurt! We have looked at how different jobs will pay different amounts of tax, and have been shocked to see how much money people take home every month.

During the TFL workshop, we learnt about how to keep safe when getting on board the bus and the tube. We are really looking forward to using these skills when we get to secondary school. We learnt about how to use a zip card, and what happens if people use someone else's card by accident or even on purpose. We also learnt what to do if you need to speak to a member of TFL and how to identify them.

It has been a super busy term for Debate Mate; lots of us went to compete in the regional Debate Mate Cup. We took part in many different motions including: 'This house believes we should fear the rise of robots', 'This house would make the school week four days' and the final motion was 'We believe that we should introduce esports into the Olympics'. The best part of the Debate was when we



found out we were going to the final - four of the finalists will be going to Christchurch College in Oxford to take part in the final against schools from all over the country. We wish them all lots of luck!



Finally, we have completed our SATs! All of the hard work from every member of the class has paid off, and everyone managed to complete the papers with great perseverance and dedication to their learning. At the end of the week, we had a pizza party which was so much fun! We got to play games, listen to music and dance around to celebrate the fact that the exams were over!



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: Zion & Gelila

Year 1: Ismael & Hila

Year 2: Ruby & Kevwe

Year 3: Anna & Ramadan

Year 4: Muriel & Ayaan

Year 5: Connor & Enita

Year 6: Seth & Otto

“YOU CAN'T USE
UP CREATIVITY.
THE MORE YOU
USE, THE MORE
YOU HAVE.”

Maya Angelou

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.

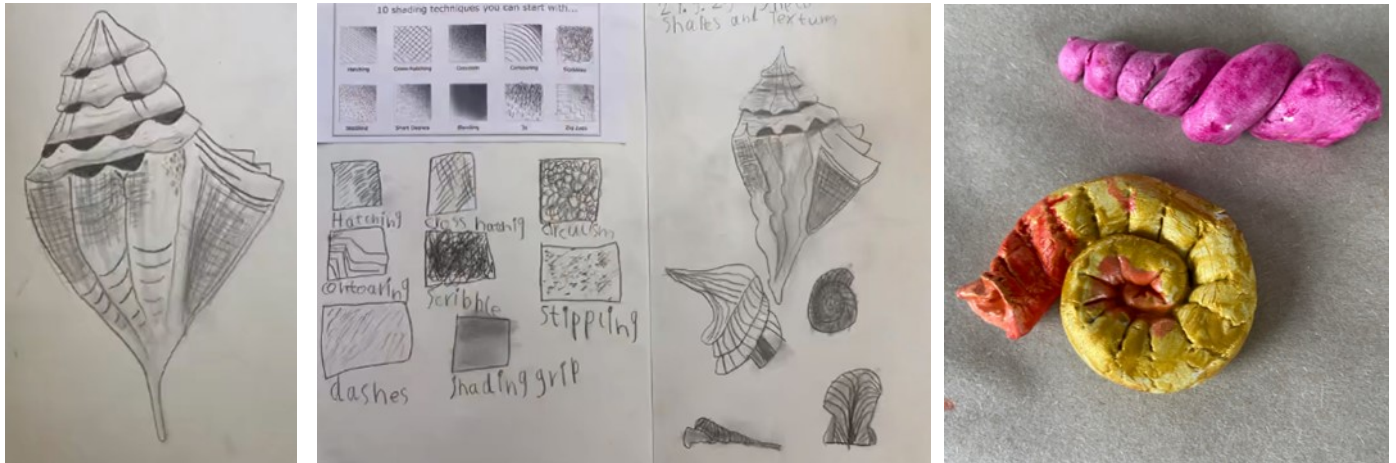
The Ms Butler-Wright Award, for outstanding contribution to school life — Hank

Hank showed great dedication in his role as a school councillor all year, most recently during the voting process for the theme of next year's class names. He was particularly involved with helping the younger children to cast their votes, showing great kindness and understanding.

The Ms Murray-West Award, for outstanding contribution to our community.— Hassan & Musa

This term we have two winners of our Citizenship award, brothers Hassan and Musa. Both boys worked tirelessly as part of their scout group to raise money for the earthquake in Turkey earlier in the year. They helped to raise a staggering £3,000 by selling homemade cakes and second-hand items outside their mosque in Lewisham. Congratulations to them both, a shining example of thinking of others and supporting people in our global community.

The summer term has got off to a fabulous start with a broad range of beautiful work, from culinary masterpieces worthy of a Michelin Star to striking artwork from our gifted children across the school.



Children in Year 1 have been learning about Coral Reefs and seashells this half term in Year 1 as part of their sculpture focus, learning about the artist Beatriz Chachamovits. Children started by doing stunning observational drawings of shells and coral before moving on to making examples in clay and painting them with iridescent paints.



Year 2 have been learning about The Great Fire of London as part of their History topic, a perfect opportunity to paint dramatic fires! Children looked at the painting techniques of renowned American painter Georgia O'Keefe and used wet washes to paint these wonderful artworks!



Children in Year 3 have been studying the abstract work of Mondrian, particularly deconstructing forms into shapes and patterns. Children used pallet knives to mix warm and cool colours to create dramatic, textured abstract plants which they then overlaid with lines and shapes to reflect their visions of the plants life cycle and how the plants move.

In Year 4, children have been learning about nutrition as part of DT. We looked at fictional foods, tasted aromatic herbs and spices before flexing our cooking muscles to make a delicious roasted peach and mozzarella salad. As you can see, the children went to town on their presentation skills!



In Year 5 children have also been learning about Nutrition, focusing on Mexican street food. Stella and Johnson Class made tasty vegan quesadillas!



Year 6 made these savoury goats cheese and chocolate canapés, making their own chocolate short crust pastry cups that were filled with homemade goat's cheese mouse, roasted beetroot and a balsamic reduction. A bit late for the coronation, but still fit for a King!



In Drawing Club this term we have been looking at drawing water droplets and fire. Children used a combination of tonal values and chalk pencil to create reflections, shadows and flames.

DALMAIN SPORTS CAMP!



Tuesday 30th May- Friday 2nd June

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

£20 for a full day

£12 for a half day



To book contact Graham Curtis
on 07872 304 385

Term Dates 2022–2023

Monday 5 June	INSET day
Tuesday 6 June	Children back in school
Wednesday 7 June	Year 6—Living Memory project starts
Thursday 8 June	Year 6—Believe workshops start
Friday 9 June	Nursery visit to Godstone Farm
	Friends of Dalmain coffee morning
Monday 12 June	Year 4—Naturesbase residential trip
	Al-Sufi Class start swimming lessons
	Year 3 & 4—cricket festival
Wednesday 14 June	Reception Welcome morning for new starters
Monday 19 June	Whole school Maths week
Tuesday 20 June	Reception—Vision & hearing screening
Friday 23 June	LAMDA showcase
	Friends of Dalmain—Own clothes day
Monday 26 June	Hawking Class start swimming lessons
Friday 30 June	Year 5—Fairytale & a Firebird at Catford Broadway
Saturday 1 July	Summer Fair
Wednesday 5 July	Year 4—Songfest
Thursday 6 July	Year 1 & 2—football festival
Friday 7 July	KS1 Sports day
	Friends of Dalmain coffee morning
Monday 10 July	EYFS Sports day
Wednesday 12 July	Year 5—Horniman Museum
Thursday 13 July	Year 3 visit to the Natural History Museum.
	Years 3 & 4—Disco
Friday 14 July	KS2 Sports day
	Year 5 & 6—Disco
Monday 17 July	Meet your new teacher morning
Tuesday 18 July	Open afternoon & pick up reports
Friday 21 July	Cake sale
	Last day of the summer term

Term	First Day	Last Day
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.

Covid Absences—DfE changes since September 2021

Unfortunately, should your child have 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.