



DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter—July 2023

It has been an incredible year at Dalmain Primary School and memorable in so many wonderful ways. The school has received so much positive feedback across the year, and we promise to continue to work relentlessly and to go from strength to strength for the children and families of the Dalmain community.



We have also completed some wonderful projects to improve our school space, including brand new KS1 toilets, a wonderful new School Library and a new Calm Area for the playground.



We also have exciting news about a new climbing frame (see page 3) that will be installed at the start of term, thanks to the incredible fundraising efforts of FoD this year for 'Project Playground'.

I would like to say a very heartfelt thank you to our brilliant staff who really go above and beyond every day, and who genuinely care for the well being and progress of every child. Whether teachers, support staff, office or premises teams, all have demonstrated uncompromising commitment, passion and skill, and have worked tirelessly throughout the year to provide Dalmain's pupils with the highest standards of education.

Also, we have to recognise the enormous contribution that the Friends of Dalmain continue to make to our school to support all pupils throughout their time with us; we are incredibly grateful for your exceptional dedication, expertise and the many hours of hard work you put in. And of course a huge thank you to all parents and carers. You have supported the children in so many ways and your dedication to the school makes it the special place that it is. We couldn't do it without you!

I wish you all a safe, restful and exciting summer, and we look forward to welcoming you back to the new 2023-24 academic year on Wednesday 6th September 2023.

Best wishes

Ms Eisele

Headteacher



Dalmain's school councillors have such an important role to play in school and they have had a great impact on our school development this year— a huge thank you to them for working so hard.

School Values

The whole school, expertly led by our school councillors, has undertaken a project to re-think our school values. Every child in the school explored the idea of what a value is and what values were important to them. They worked on their own to decide on their top three values, then as a class voted on what they thought were the top three values for our school. School councillors then had the important job of adding all the votes across the school. We are pleased to announce that these are our new school values.

Adventure Acceptance Teamwork

School councillors then had the important job of thinking about what these values looked like at Dalmain. I am sure you will agree with me that they did a fantastic job at describing them.

Adventure

For every child to reach their full potential in life, we want our children to have a 'can do' attitude and the confidence to try new things, knowing that setbacks are a stepping-stone on the way to success. Children are encouraged to take risks in their learning, explore new ways to be challenged, develop their imagination and become expert problem solvers through our enriched curriculum offer.

Acceptance

We welcome every member of our school community to Dalmain and celebrate the fact that every single person is unique. We are proud of our curriculum that actively promotes equality and diversity. We want everyone at Dalmain to not just show that we know someone is here, but to show that we really care they are here.

Teamwork

At Dalmain, we want all of our children to develop the skills of teamwork both inside and outside of the classroom. Our children have opportunities to work collaboratively across the curriculum in pairs, small groups, as a class, as a year group and as a school through our new house system. Children are taught the importance of not only having their voice heard, but also to actively listen, support each other and value everyone's contribution.



In response to feedback from school councillors we have made changes to our school playground. We now have a quiet area where children can spend time reading, drawing and relaxing. Thank you, school councillors, for your invaluable ideas and helping to design the new quiet area.

Coming soon to Dalmain ...



After many years at Dalmain, we will be saying goodbye to Ms Brown, Mr Alasow, Ms Hill and Ms Clarke at the end of term. They have given so much to our school and we wish them all the very best in their future endeavours, which, for most, will be outside education. Please join me in thanking them for their hard work and commitment during their time at Dalmain. We also will be wishing Ms Gott a temporary farewell; she is taking a year's sabbatical, travelling and teaching in Malaysia. We look forward to welcoming her back to Dalmain in 2024.

We also look forward to implementing our new leadership structure. Following strong applications and interviews, which firmly demonstrated their commitment to the school as well as their substantial talent and skills, Ms Biggs and Mr O'Donovan have been appointed as Assistant Headteachers from September 2024. This will see them support me and the Senior Leadership Team in key areas of curriculum and school improvement. Congratulations to them both on their appointments. We will also be welcoming back both Ms Udoyen, who will support Ms Biggs and Mr O'Donovan in class, and Ms Ricote, who will be joining our Leadership Team as the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator.

This year, we have seen a higher than usual number of teachers leaving the school, mainly to leave the profession. This, as widely reported, has become a common trend. Happily for our school, recruitment for next year has been highly successful and the calibre of teachers applying to join Dalmain was very impressive. I am delighted to be welcoming some very experienced and highly qualified new staff members to Dalmain in September.

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

I cannot believe that we have come to the end of yet another busy term. We started this term in high spirits with our annual visit to Godstone Farm. The children had a wonderful time observing and learning about animals and their habitats. Here are some comments from the children. Manuela: 'I liked the owl because it can fly.' Zack: 'I liked the tree frog.' Nabiha: 'I liked the tiny chicks because they were so cute.'



The children were thrilled to discover that we would be learning about journeys and immediately requested that we started with a pirates theme. Shiver me timbers! As you can see from our images, they wasted no time in immersing themselves in role-play and remained in role throughout the session.



Maths Week was a welcome invitation for the children to use natural objects to make shapes in the outdoor environment. They rose to the occasion by working in pairs to find objects and suggested ways of making their shapes. We were extremely proud of their effort and their approach to learning.



Nursery—Hubble Class

We were exceptionally pleased to have Haley reading to the class for the second time. The children were attentive and responsive throughout the session. Thank you Haley, we truly appreciate your time and effort. We also welcomed- for the first time- Scott (Travis's dad) to talk about his job as a first responder. Well done Scott, the children enjoyed testing out your special helmet and handling the walkie-talkie. Thank you so much for sharing your experiences with Hubble Class.



We have been very busy experiencing new activities and building on what we have already learnt. We celebrated Windrush Day by creating a replica of the liner in our home corner. The children had hours of fun engaging in role play and dressing up for the occasion. We even had a visit from Miss Brown and Galaxy Class to join in our Windrush experience.



Our Forest School sessions continues to inspire feelings of awe and wonder in our children. They look forward to climbing trees, exploring habitats, making natural pictorial representations and feeding the birds. A visit to the Wildlife Garden is one of the highlights of the week!

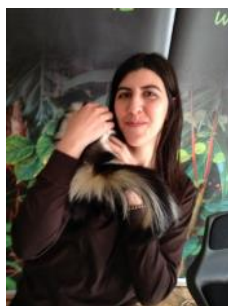


Nursery—Hubble Class

Our Nursery garden is teeming with exciting plants which have attracted butterflies, bees and a wide range of minibeasts to the garden. The children thoroughly enjoyed removing the seeds from the allium plant for replanting and foraging for yummy berries. Here are some comments from the children. Drew: 'The berries were tasty.' Jack: 'I liked the berries because they tasted sour.'



Sports Day was so much fun! We practised for our events during our weekly PE lessons and the children exceeded all our expectations. Our parents were also amazing, and did not need much prompting to participate in the adults' races. Well done, everyone!



Sadly, we said goodbye to Miss Stef a few weeks ago, but we are pleased that she has been in touch to inform us that she is recovering well from her surgery. We all are missing you, Miss Stef!

This will be my final newsletter, as I will be retiring at the end of this term. Thank you all for your support over the years. It has been a pleasure getting to know you all and to have the pleasure of teaching your lovely children. I appreciate all your hard work and encouragement. Thanks again, and have a wonderful summer.

Miss Reid

Maths Week

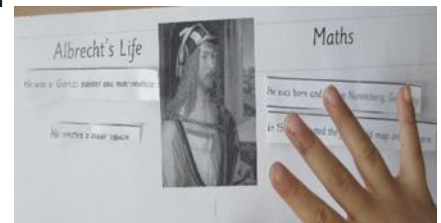
Million mania swept through the school during Maths Week as the children embarked on various mathematical challenges and investigations. Our focus of the week was 'How Big is a Million?'. EYFS and KS1 explored this concept through the wonderful book, 'How Big is a Million?', by Anna Milbourne, and KS2 used the book 'How Much is a Million?', by David Schwartz. Our big question of the week was: "Do we have one million of anything at Dalmain?" There were some creative responses to this!



Throughout the week each year group started successive days by going on a maths hunt- and lots of parents came along too. In small teams, the children had to search for mathematically interesting items from a list and take pictures or draw the items they had found. The activity was about discovery, creative thought, and looking at things from a different perspective, attributes which are fundamental in mathematics.



As well as our reading our wonderful stories, each year group carried out research into some famous mathematicians and created biographies and fact files.



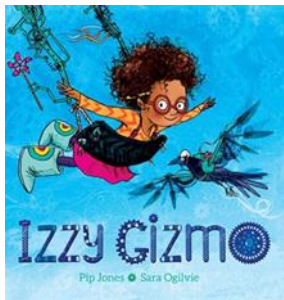
On Thursday the amazing team from Roots2grow came to our school with their 'Maths Moves' problem-solving workshop. The workshop provided an exhilarating day of colourful and hands-on problem-solving maths enrichment activities and challenges. Ori (Y4): 'My favourite activity of the week was the workshop because there were lots of different activities that were incredibly difficult and I like to challenge myself!'



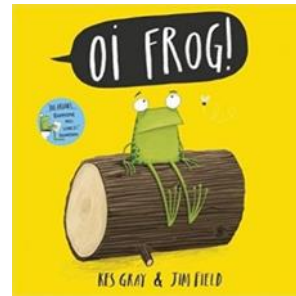
Everyone's favourite activity of the week was creating our own board games. On Friday afternoon the whole school sat outside with their marvellous creations and played together. Rosie (Y3): 'My favourite activity was when we made board games and the whole school, came out to play them.' Newton Class: 'The best bit of Maths Week was when we made our board games because we got to share our love of crafting, art and maths!'



Reception –Galileo Class



Summer 2 has been a busy and brilliant term! We began the term reading 'Izzy Gizmo', by Pip Jones and Sara Ogilvie. The children explored things that had gone wrong for Izzy – writing her a letter of encouragement – and then went on to invent their own gadgets and gizmos to help a creature or a pet, just as Izzy helps the crow in the story. The children also enjoyed reading 'Oi Frog', by Kes Gray and Jim Field, and learning about rhyming pairs. The children performed in role as the bossy cat and created rule posters. They also had a go at thinking up their own version of a rhyming narrative.



Galileo Class did more exploring and discovering in Forest School this term. They enjoyed learning about the importance of bees and spotted many of them visiting the flowers. They have also kept a close eye on the pond and observed the tadpoles growing larger, and have also seen some tiny little froglets appearing! Galileo children have enjoyed some amazing nature crafts this term, making homes for hedgehogs, insects and foxes, making 'leaf people', and even a miniature sports day course for the animals. They have continued to be respectful towards the natural environment around them, taking care of the plants and animals they find in the Wildlife Garden .



For Maths week we read books linked to Maths, and especially loved 'How Big is a Million?', by Anna Milbourne. The children really enjoyed learning about the concept of a million, and how big it really is! We also did a shape scavenger hunt in the playground and around the school, spotting 2D and 3D shapes. We even created our own maths related board games to play!



We also celebrated Windrush Day and learned about why Windrush is such an important historical event to remember. We discussed the contributions Caribbean people have made to the culture of the UK and the injustices which so many suffered. The children also enjoyed the book 'Coming to England', by Floella Benjamin.



The children were immersed in creativity over Art Week. We were fortunate to have an Art Workshop by local artist and Dalmain parent, Natasha Bizarre! The workshop began with exploring movement; this was then translated onto paper with oil pastels. The children worked collaboratively to create vibrant and intricate abstract art. What a fantastic morning they had! Throughout the rest of the week children learned about and were inspired by a variety of artists, including Henri Matisse, Alma Thomas, Yayoi Kusama and Van Gogh, and created many more fantastic art works.



Towards the end of this term, we had an incredible Sports Day, where everyone showed excellent team work and had a fantastic time cheering one another on. The children did so well at remembering that it's the taking part that counts! The children also had an opportunity to meet their new teacher and visit their new classroom. We discussed how some children may have some big feelings about the change and transition to Year One, and we gave the children many opportunities to discuss their feelings through class discussions, circle time and story time. We also visited the playground, and got to grips with the monkey bars! Well done for an absolutely fantastic final term in Reception Galileo, you're all more than ready to take on Year 1!



Reception—Peake Class



Maths Week, Sports Day, Art Week... where do we begin?! Peake class have had another wonderful term! As the weather warmed up, the children enjoyed setting up their own ice-cream stall, making signs and creating menus full of tantalising flavours- blueberry, bubblegum, rainbow flavour. Despite the extortionate prices the children decided upon, nobody could resist! It was wonderful to see the children immersed in imaginative play and finding purpose for their excellent writing skills.



The children also loved learning about the Empire Windrush and the people who travelled across the sea to start a new life here in Britain. We read the book 'We Sang Across the Sea, the Empire Windrush and Me' by Benjamin Zephaniah. The children imagined taking the journey on the ship and, through drama, explored how people must have felt when they arrived in England all those years ago.

As masters of rhyme, Peake Class LOVED reading 'Oi Frog' and 'Oi Dog', by Kes Gray, and had lots of brilliant ideas of what other animals could sit on!

"Cheetahs sit on burritos"-Emily. "Storks sit on forks"- Robin.
"Cats sit on hats"- Lucy. "Pigs sit on wigs" - Ayla.



Peake Class are keen mathematicians and we were thrilled to start Maths Week off with the book 'How Big is a Million?', by Anna Milbourne. After much discussion and even more questions we moved on and learnt about a famous mathematician called Euclid.

"Euclid was a Greek man" – Alexis
"He was very good at shapes" - Jasna



Using their knowledge and skills in drawing different shapes, the children used a step-by-step guide to draw their own picture of Euclid. The class also went on a shape hunt to find lots of different shapes in the outdoor areas, and enjoyed examining the book 'Ship Shapes', by Stella Blackstone, to further consolidate their learning on 2D shapes.



Across in the Wildlife Garden, the children enjoyed observing the changes in the pond, building ant obstacle courses and snail B&Bs, as well as climbing and swinging on the trees. During our weekly PE sessions we worked on lots of sports day activities and races, and learnt about the importance of cheering each other on and making sure that we had fun, whilst also trying our best. We were blown away with the children's sporting skills and camaraderie on the big day and thought they all were Sports Day champions!



As the term was nearing the end, we began to prepare for Year One in our circle times, sharing how we felt about the changes and discussing the exciting challenges ahead. The children have also spent time getting to know their new playground and classroom and are showing great excitement about the year ahead! Huge thanks to all the parents for being so supportive- it has been a joy to teach your children. Well done to Peake Class; it has been a great end to the year!

Eco-Council

This term our eco-councillors have continued to inspire their classes on ways to make the school even more eco-friendly – well done!

Thank you to all the parents who gave their feedback on our Earth Pledge. We have added a point on travelling by foot, scooter or bike whenever possible, and we know that a lot of us already commit to this. A few of you suggested that we go plant-based at lunchtimes and this is something we trialled during Vegetarian Week, during May. In our eco-council meetings, we discussed the impact of Vegetarian Week, and whilst the majority of the children enjoyed it, there were a small number of pupils who said they preferred the regular menu. We will try this out again next year with our new catering company to see if it makes a difference.

One parent suggested an eco-friendly clothes swap, and this is something we will explore next year.

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 that enhance learning about, and the protection of, biodiversity.

Resources

We will only take and use the resources we need and 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.

We will try to travel to school by foot, scooter or bike whenever we can.



We had an eco-stall at the Summer Fair this year where you could make your own seed bomb. It was really popular and it was fun to get our hands a bit dirty! If you missed out, don't worry – you can follow the instructions here to make your own seed bomb at home this summer!



On the subject of planting, our rain planters are looking lush and beautiful and have really enriched our environment in the past few months. We have been watering them to make sure they don't dry out over the summer.

Lastly, we have a message for our young nature-lovers: the eco-council needs you! Why don't you consider putting yourself forward to be an eco-councillor next year? You can make a difference to your school!

Year 1—Milky Way Class



What a fantastic term to end the year!

Milky Way Class have made excellent progress this year and it was lovely to display this at our report party. The children should be so proud of all that they have accomplished.

We have retold the story 'The Magic Bed', by John Burningham, focusing on describing our own dreams using ambitious adjectives. We also enjoyed reading Andrea Beaty's 'Iggy Peck, Architect'. We used a range of materials, including spaghetti, to construct our own towers and then we wrote instructions on how to build them.

In Maths, we have been learning how to tell the time to the hour and half-hour. The children were fantastic at spotting the minute and hour hand on the clock face. We also explored money this term, having fun playing shopkeepers to help us recognise the value of coins, and using our two, five and ten times tables to help us to add different amounts of coins together.



In Science, we have continued to look at animals, this term with a focus on their differing habitats. We have used the i-pads to research and watch wildlife videos, and then created bug hotels to explore and record which animals live in the wildlife garden.

In Geography, we have explored our local area through a range of maps. We used Google Earth to identify different human and physical features. We then used Ordnance Survey maps to explore map symbols and features in our local area, Forest Hill.

We had a fantastic Sports Day and the children showed excellent sportsmanship cheering each other on.

Here are some of the children's highlights from over the year:

Ava: "I enjoyed visiting the Horniman Aquarium and seeing the clownfish

Quinn: "I enjoyed the visit from Spirit of the Wild and the giant tarantula!"

Rome: "I have loved Science and seeing whether things sink or float."

Ruby: "I enjoyed the visit from the scientist."

Kit: "I enjoyed making cars with Mr Roberts."

Charlotte: "I loved climbing trees in Forest School."

Esme: "I liked reading Iggy Peck, Architect."

Shae: "I loved racing at Sports Day!"

Well done, Milky Way, you have all been superstars this year!



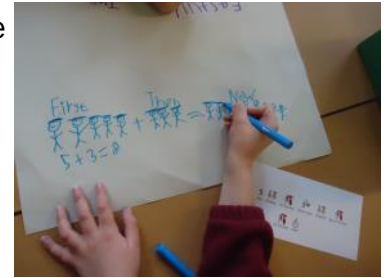
Year 1—Saturn Class

Saturn Class have had an amazing last term in Year 1. We have been practising lots of the skills we need for Year 2, such as independence and being curious in our learning.

In English we have been reading 'Iggy Peck, Architect', by Andrea Beaty. The children loved the book and enjoyed being architects themselves, designing their own buildings and creating their own tower constructions!



In Maths, we have been learning about time. We can now tell the time to the hour or half-hour, and are beginning to be able to draw this on a clock. We have also looked at position and direction, learning how to turn objects a quarter, half and full turn clockwise and anti-clockwise.



The class had a fantastic time on Sports Day! It was lovely to see them altogether trying their best and cheering on their friends. They demonstrated great sportsmanship which will be celebrated in our end of year Sports Assembly. Saturn Class particularly enjoyed watching the teachers' tug-of-war!



Our trips to the Wildlife Garden have been as eventful as ever! The children have made some imaginative Bug Hotels which they placed in carefully chosen spots to encourage bug activity. We returned the following day with a tally chart to see who had moved in to our hotel. It proved very popular with spiders and woodlice!



Overall, the children should feel immensely proud of their achievements this year; they have all made great progress and continued to develop their ability to become confident and independent learners. I am very proud of everything they have achieved, and I am sure they will enjoy their last few days in Year 1. They have already met their new teacher, and are ready for Year 2 in September. Well done Saturn Class, you have been fantastic!

Year 2—Curiosity Class

In our final half-term in Year 2, we have learned lots about bridges. We learned about Tower Bridge, and wrote a leaflet describing how it works and some fun facts about the bridge. We also made our own bridges – one out of spaghetti and one out of lolly sticks (much stronger!).



We loved Maths Week! We made and played our own Maths games, did word searches, went on a scavenger hunt and wondered about a very big question, inspired by a wonderful book – ‘How Big is a Million?’, by Anna Milbourne.



That’s not the only book we’ve read – another favourite was ‘Grimwood’, by Nadia Shireen, a hilarious book featuring Sebastian Silver’s wicked plan to destroy Grimwood. We also read a funny poem called ‘On the Ning Nang Nong’, by Spike Milligan, which we also performed in class. The great books we’ve been reading have inspired our writing, including our ‘free-write Fridays’, when we have really enjoyed developing our writing skills in our own way.

We had such fun at Sports Day, and PE with Graham all term helped to get us ready for the big day. Mr O’Donovan was very proud of how we cheered each other on and of how we kept on smiling whether we won our races or not. Some of us went to the Summer Fair a couple of weeks before Sports Day – we thought it was the best one ever!



One thing we enjoyed learning to do was to make animations, using the ‘I can animate’ app. They were only short animations, but we loved creating our own little worlds and stories with all sorts of crazy things happening.

We’ve also learned about another country: China. We compared China to the UK and Somalia (which we learned about in the spring term), and also learned what happens during Chinese New Year celebrations.

So Year 2 is over for us. We’ve had lots of fun. Here are some of the things we loved learning about: wolves; the Great Fire of London; Sir Francis Drake; the world’s seven oceans; the book ‘The Bear and the Piano’; the new version of Goldilocks we read in September; Tower Bridge; the time capsule we worked on with Mr O’Donovan when we met him last year; Somalia; money; time; penguins in PE and pizza in DT. It’s been great!

We’re looking forward to moving upstairs to Year 3. We want to learn Latin, understand more about volcanoes, become even better mathematicians and even more amazing writers. What fun we will have!



Year 2—Galaxy Class

Galaxy Class has had a fun-filled Summer Term!



The term began with lots of Maths fun! It was Maths Week and we enjoyed so many interesting activities. We learnt about the artist and print-maker, Albrecht Durer, who produced the first known magic square in Europe. It's a 4x4 square with numbers whose columns and rows all add up to the same totals! We had a go at making our own magic squares, which took a lot of

time, but we got there in the end after much perseverance. We also created our own Snakes & Ladders games; it was so much fun playing them!



In Science, we continued our learning about plant and animal habitats. We gathered books from our library and did some research about different species you can find in a variety of habitats. We had a scavenger hunt in the Wildlife Garden to find various plants and animals that have a woodland habitat. We found spiders, woodlice, worms, snails, logs, leaves and so much more!



In Writing, we read a book called 'Rosie Revere, Engineer', by Andrea Beaty, which is about a young, curious girl who really enjoys constructing things. People laugh at her for her crazy ideas but she is resilient and follows her dreams. We decided to construct a plan for a brand new design of Tower Bridge. We pretended that Rosie Revere needed our help so we did some research about it to learn more. We were also lucky enough to have a Zoom workshop with a Tower Bridge expert. Did you know that in 1952 a bus actually jumped over the gap in the roadway as the bridge was opening? That bus driver was a hero because if he hadn't accelerated at the right moment there would have been a terrible accident!



After reading 'Rosie Revere, Engineer', we read a book called 'Change



Sings', by Amanda Gorman. It is about a young girl who wants to help the world become a better place. It taught us that change is a part of life, and that everyone can do something to change the world for the better, no matter how small that change may be. We decided to make Trees of Change, writing on its leaves about the personal changes that we have made as well as changes to the world that we would like to see. We wrote things like: neater handwriting, more patience with others, tidying up after ourselves, not littering, sharing with others and more!

Well done, Galaxy Class, and on to Year 3!



The Friends of Dalmain



FRIENDS OF DALMAIN

Dear parents and carers,

Another academic year is coming to an end

Another school year is coming to an end and whilst some of us might be feeling slightly emotional about our children moving on to a new year group or perhaps even leaving Dalmain to move onto secondary school, we thought it would be a good time to reflect on events and activities FoD have delivered in the last 10 months and projects we have funded and supported.

- We finished off the academic year with a glorious **Summer Fair** on July 1st. What a way to finish the year!
- In April, we had the **Music Night** which was organized by a team of volunteers around Miss Reid, Eboné Logie and Justin Davidson. What a fantastic evening it was!
- In March, we hosted a **Quiz Night** at school which was great fun and a wonderful success.
- At the end of November 2022, the new FoD committee started off with the **Winter fair** and other **Christmas fundraising activities** such as Christmas tree deliveries, tea towels and Christmas cards designed by the children.

None of this would have been possible without the support from a group of fantastic Dalmain parents and the staff at Dalmain. Everyone from FoD wants to say a heartfelt "Thank You" for your support this year.

With the money we have raised, we funded the following projects and activities since the beginning of the school year:

- Project Playground - Calm Area: £13,530
- Project Playground - Climbing frame (to come shortly): £11,000
- Reading sheds: £1,628
- Wildlife garden pond: £3,235
- Other: coach for nursery trip, Christmas gifts for fair, End of year school discos.

To continue supporting Dalmain through fundraising activities, we need your help. If you have any time to give – no matter how small – please get in touch with us. We're also looking for a new co-chair from September and have some other roles available. If you're interested in finding out more, please let us know. Also, watch out for more information on our social media channels.

Have a relaxing Summer!

Daniela, Joss, Miriam, Katie and Amy x

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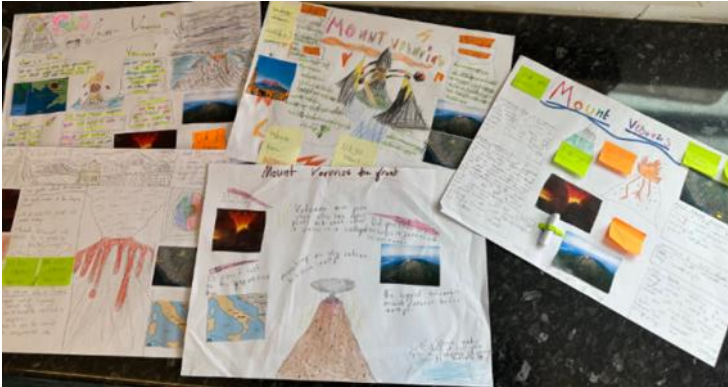


The Friends of Dalmain



Year 3—Mercury Class

Can you believe it? We have finished Year 3! We have had so much fun this year and cannot believe how quickly the time has gone!



This term we have done all things volcano!

In Writing, we read two amazing books: 'The Escape from Pompeii', by Christina Balit, an incredible story about how Mount Vesuvius erupted and destroyed the Roman city of Pompeii, whose residents thought the mountain was there to protect them. We wrote newspaper articles imagining we had witnessed the events of that terrible day.

We have also been reading 'The Firework Maker's Daughter', by Philip Pullman, a book set "a thousand miles ago", which tells the tale of a young Chinese girl who sets off on a danger-filled journey to discover the secrets of firework making.

We really enjoyed Maths Week, creating paintings inspired by Piet Mondrian's geometric shapes. We read an amazing book, 'How Much is a Million?', by David M Schwartz, and we tried to imagine having a million of different things. We definitely do not want a million brussel sprouts! We also completed an investigation about telling the time to help Captain Jake get home in time for dinner.

We had an amazing time on our trip to the Natural History Museum and really enjoyed taking part in the earthquakes and volcano workshop!

Mr Roberts showed us some really exciting videos of erupting volcanoes, we drew our own pictures of volcanoes and finally we made a volcano which erupted in the playground!

In RE, we continued our studies of Buddhism and learned something about their community and different celebrations that they take part in. We learned about the Five Virtues of Buddhism and thought about how we could apply them to our own lives.



In PE, we practised the athletic events that we had so much fun doing at Sports Day. We were so excited to have so many parents there cheering us on. Our favourite event at Sports Day was definitely the seated throw!

In Science we continued our work on plants and how they reproduce and grow. We particularly enjoyed finding out about how and why seeds are dispersed- our favourite was the squirting cucumber! They might be poisonous but they certainly know how to disperse their seeds!



As always we have loved our music lessons with Ms Jackson.

Miss Rochester is very proud of how much progress we have made this year!

We have loved being Mercury Class and though we will miss Year 3, we can't wait for Year 4.

Year 3—Pegasus Class

We have had a wonderful time in our final term of Year 3! Pegasus are more than ready to move to Year 4, and they are showing exceptional maturity and hard work in their learning.



This term, we have delved into the exciting world of volcanoes. We explored Christina Balit's captivating story, 'Escape from Pompeii,' and were transported back in time to the fateful eruption of Mount Vesuvius. We wrote newspaper articles about the aftermath of the Pompeii disaster, considering what survivors may have seen and heard! In Art we continued to increase our volcano knowledge, and Mr Roberts planned amazing sessions which culminated in making our very own erupting volcano. We also remembered our work on rocks from earlier this year and knew that igneous rocks are formed when magma or lava cools down

In Geography, we looked at the causes, locations, and timing of volcanic eruptions. Did you know that volcanoes are mostly found along the edges of tectonic plates? To

deepen our understanding further, we went on a trip to the Natural History Museum where we had an interactive workshop which brought the science of volcanoes to life. We now hold a Natural History Museum accredited 'Diploma in Earthquakes and Volcanoes'!



In Maths, we enjoyed both learning about time and participating in Maths Week. We now know how to read an analogue clock at quarter past and quarter to, and even made our own clocks! In

Maths Week, we loved taking inspiration from Piet Mondrian and painting in his style. We also had an



opportunity to make and play our very own board game which was fun and collaborative!

As the term draws to a close, we have been reflecting on our amazing memories and progress this year. The adults that work with Pegasus Class always comment on how enthusiastic and well-mannered they are, and I'm so proud of everything they have achieved this year!



CLUBS & MUSIC

We have a wonderful array of clubs on offer in the Autumn term.

Club	Day	Time	Year Group
Karate	Monday	8:00- 8:45	Beginners
Drawing	Monday	3:30 – 4:30	3, 4, 5 & 6
Dance	Monday	3:30 – 4:30	1 & 2
Netball	Monday	3:30 – 4:30	3, 4, 5 & 6
Football	Monday	5:00 – 6:00	3 & 4
		6:00 – 7:00	5 & 6
Multi-skills	Tuesday	8:00 – 8:45	1 & 2
Karate	Tuesday	8:00-8:45	White Belts
Lego	Tuesday	3:30- 4:30	Reception, 1 & 2
Games	Tuesday	3:30- 4:30	1 & 2
Football	Tuesday	4:30– 5:30	Rec
		5:30 – 6:30	1 & 2
Arts & Crafts	Tuesday	3:30 – 4:30	1 & 2
Artful Coders: Thinkers Coding Club	Wednesday	3:30 – 4:30	3 & 4 5 & 6
Cosmic Yoga	Wednesday	3:30 – 4:30	Reception & Year 1
Drama Club	Wednesday	3:30 – 4:30	5 & 6
Tennis	Wednesday	3:30- 4:30	4,5,6
Karate	Thursday	8:00-8:45	Red Belts
Yo Ballet	Thursday	3:30 – 4:30	Reception, 1 & 2
Arts & Crafts	Tuesday	3:30 – 4:30	3 & 4
Multi-skills	Friday	8:00 – 8:45	3, 4, 5 & 6
Cricket	Friday	3:30-4:30	4,5,6
Choir	Friday	3:30 – 4:30	3, 4, 5 & 6

Clubs and instrument lessons will start on the week beginning 18th September. Details on how to sign up will be available at the start of the Autumn Term.

We teach **LAMDA** — Exams & Qualifications

Welcome to LAMDA lessons at Dalmain Primary School run by Armstrong Speech and Drama. As a company their aim is for students to develop into confident young adults: to explore, to take risks, to learn and of course, to have fun. This leaflet will introduce you to what is involved in LAMDA lessons. Our primary aim is to encourage and develop confidence and communication skills in our pupils. We do this by introducing them to a range of poetry across the year.

LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) is one of the UK's oldest and most respected awarding organisations having offered practical examinations in communication and performance subjects for over 130 years.

At the heart of LAMDA examinations is the recognition that the qualifications are for everyone. Across the globe, the examinations unite learners of all ages, abilities, backgrounds, and cultures in enthusiasm for the English language and a desire to develop skills for life.

INTRODUCTORY Years 1-3

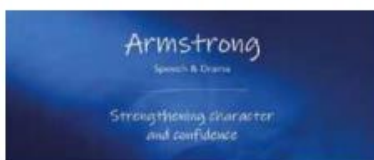
Our Introductory exams are the perfect start for both young learners and those who have never taken an exam before. By learning the words of a fun poem from the likes of Michael Rosen and Valerie Bloom our Introductory learners are developing the ability to express themselves clearly while also improving their memorisation and recall.

SPEAKING VERSE AND PROSE Years 4-6

Our Speaking Verse and Prose learners develop a whole host of skills, from speaking clearly and using voice projection, to improving memorisation and building an understanding of poetry and prose which supports studies in English literature. As learners progress through the levels they interact with the texts, responding to them with imagination and using body language and expression to engage an audience.

RECEPTION

Reception classes aim to give the little ones a taster of what LAMDA is all about and introduce them to poetry and performance! The classes should ignite a love for poetry in the children and allow them to explore their words and feelings together as a group.



“LAMDA LESSONS HAVE HELPED MY CHILD GROW IN CONFIDENCE

How does our year look?

Students will have a 30 minute lesson each week in a small group. The lessons will help develop their communication and performance skills. We have split our year into three clear sections:

Winter Term – Prepare. Pupils will develop their presentation and performance skills and will learn poems as a group.

Easter Term – Practice. Pupils will now be introduced to their own individual poems and will learn them at home. They will bring their own unique expressions to the performance. We also enter pupils into the Bromley Festival where have had great success over the years.

Summer Term – Perform. This is when all the hard work is paid off with pupils performing in our LAMDA Showcase as well as enter their optional LAMDA exam.

Lessons cost £10.00 plus VAT per session and are invoiced termly. To terminate lessons, a full half term's notice is required in writing. If this of interest for your child please complete the attached booking form and we will be in contact with more lesson details.



For all enquiries about clubs and instrument lessons please call us on 020 8699 2675, or email the office at office@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk

Kaigaishii Karate School

At Dalmain Primary School



BEGINNERS CLASS

Available for Year's One to Six
Monday's at 8am



Sign up for Autumn Term 2023

Taught Full Time and Professionally by Sensei Beth McCloskey
Over twenty years experience in karate
Finalist in the London Borough Youth Games
DBS Checked, Fully Insured and First Aid Trained

Trained by an Ex-England International and seven times National Gold Medalist.

Part of the well-established Kaigaishii Karate Association with schools all over South East England.



For more information please call:

Sensei Beth: 07983 544 592 or

Email: sensei_bethany_mccloskey@hotmail.com



www.kaigaishii-karateschool.co.uk



Find us on Facebook



Year 4—Newton Class

Newton Class have had a jam-packed final half-term. We learnt about the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain, the importance of Ramadan, how to survive in the wild and so much more! We also went away on our first residential school trip to NaturesBase, and some of us went to Devonshire Road Nature Reserve.



In writing this term, we read 'Weslandia', by Paul Fleischman, a story all about a young boy called Wesley who created his own civilisation. As a class we discussed what a civilisation was and created our own civilisations, writing brochures to persuade tourists to visit. This was a great opportunity for us to exercise our writing to persuade skills, as well as opening up our imaginations to a new world.

In Maths, we have been learning how to add and convert mixed and improper fractions, skills we have now mastered as a class. In addition, we learnt how to read a 24 hour clock, which is a life-skill we've been working really hard to understand and utilise.

In Science, we have learned how animals can be classified into groups according to shared characteristics, such as vertebrates and invertebrates. Some of us were surprised to learn that humans are mammals!

In Teaching of Reading, we continued to read 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe', by C.S Lewis, a captivating story about an unexpected portal into the magical world of Narnia.

In History, we have learnt about the difference between the Roman Army and Celtic Warriors, focusing on their different war strategies, rituals, uniforms and their individual reasons for fighting. We also looked at historical figures during that period, in particular Boudicca and her influence on the Roman invasion of Britain.

During our RE lessons, we continued to learn about Islam, focusing on the different stories of the prophet Ibrahim. We have discussed the importance of moral meanings in stories and what people can learn from them. It has been very thought-provoking to think about whether a religious story holds significance for those who do not follow the religion.

This final term has been amazing! Newton Class have become active learners and gained many independence skills from NaturesBase and over the year in general. To end the term, we performed at SongFest with two other schools, and we were absolutely fantastic! Overall, this year has been a great success and we look forward to what Year 5 brings!



Year 4—Sally Ride Class

What a busy final half-term we have had in Year 4!

In week 3, lots of us went to Wales for NaturesBase! It was such an amazing trip. We had an epic scavenger hunt, we had team building exercises, craft activities where we made soap, felt animals, and spears, we went on a great walk to the beach where we made theme parks for crabs and on our final night Gyles taught us very silly songs around the camp fire! Congratulations, Ash Room for winning tidiest dorm, and Badgers as team-building winners!

“My favourite thing was probably feeding the chickens and going to the beach because I like animals and we got to eat ice cream at the beach!” – Enes.

“I really enjoyed being with all my friends and I found out lots of new things like how to build a theme park for crabs,” – Muriel

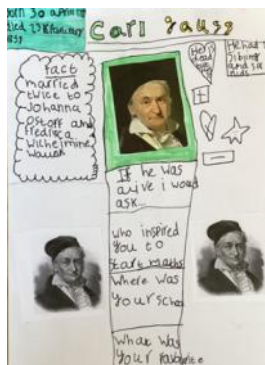
“My favourite thing was shelter building because it was a good time to interact with my friends!” – Alara

“I really enjoyed when we got to help make the food and serve it to the rest of the group. I also really enjoyed the beach and ice cream!” – Olive



Those of us who stayed at school also had a jam-packed week of activities! We did stick-whittling and baked bread over an open fire at Devonshire Road Nature Reserve, we made the best paper aeroplanes and relaxed in the Wildlife Garden with ice-creams. We even made our very own movies using iPads!

“My favourite thing was when we made paper aeroplanes because it was fun and it was a good experience to test how different styles fly, because some people’s worked really well and some didn’t,”



We also turned into all-day mathematicians for Maths Week at Dalmain. We created beautiful fact files about Carl Gauss, we went on a Maths hunt with some of our parents and classmates and had an epic workshop with so many Maths games and investigations to enjoy.

“I enjoyed creating the fact files because we used the iPads to research and then got to be creative in showing what we found.” – Nariyah



In Writing this half term, we have been reading the book ‘Weslandia’, by Paul Fleischman. It told us all about a boy called Wes, who created his very own civilization with a staple food crop and its own language and currency! We then created our own civilizations inside shoeboxes!

We finished this term with a wonderful showcase of musical talents at Songfest! Both Year 4 classes travelled to Sedgehill School to perform some wonderful songs alongside other South East London primary schools, with musical accompaniment from students at Sedgehill School!

We have had a fine time in Year 4, and are very much looking forward to Year 5.

Sports Day 2023



The sports day activities were really fun, I loved them all! The parents' races were the funniest to watch.

Javelin was our first event, I was good at it even though it made my arm ache! We helped each other to hold the javelin correctly so it would go far—it was good team work.

Bean bag throwing was the best, it was a challenge for me because I had to sit down and throw!

The teachers' tug of war was the best part of sports day!



The hurdles were bigger than I am used to but I really enjoyed it.

Skiping was one of my favourite activities. I was on the white team, I am hoping they won!

Speed bounce was my favourite activity although it was hard to keep a count of some people's turns!



I liked all the sportsmanship that everyone showed. We were all cheering each other on and congratulating people on all the teams.

Year 5—Johnson Class

As we bid farewell to another eventful school year, I want to take this opportunity to recap the exciting activities and accomplishments of Johnson Class in the Summer 2 term. It has been a joy to witness their growth and continuing enthusiasm on their learning journey.



In Writing, we delved into the enchanting world of 'Firebird', by Saviour Pirotta. Through reading this captivating tale, our students were able to explore their descriptive writing skills, painting vivid pictures with their words as they crafted detailed descriptions about this mythical bird. A highlight of this term was

undoubtedly the trip we took to Catford Broadway, where the children had the opportunity to witness a magnificent performance of 'Fairy Tales and a Firebird' by a live orchestra. A truly enriching experience!



In Geography, we learnt all about earthquakes. Through engaging discussions and hands on activities, we learned about the causes and effects of earthquakes, as well as the regions most susceptible to them. In RE, we focused on the Sangha, the Buddhist community, and the principles they follow. We discovered how the community works together to support all Buddhists and how they strive for compassion.

In Science, we explored the life cycles of mammals, birds, amphibians and insects. Did you know that some insects, such as butterflies, undergo a complete metamorphosis from larva



(caterpillar) to adult, whilst others such as grasshoppers go through an incomplete metamorphosis: the young (called nymphs) just get bigger and grow wings.

Johnson Class loved Sports Day, and we can't wait to hear what team colour has won this year!

As we draw near to the end of the year, I would like to express my immense pride in all the progress your children have made throughout Year 5 and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful and rejuvenating summer break. Thank you once again for your ongoing support and partnership throughout the year. It has been an honour to teach your children.



Year 5—Stella Class



Stella Class have had a sensational and exhilarating final term! Our hard work, perseverance and dedication has paid off. Sadly, we say farewell to Year 5 but excitedly look forward to Year 6, which we are well prepared for.

In Teaching of Reading, we have been unpicking and exploring a poem called 'The Listeners', by Walter de la Mare. This poem kept us fascinated as we identified its important themes including alienation, isolation and the mystery of life. There was lots of archaic language used by Walter de la Mare, so we used dictionaries to understand the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary.



In English, we have been studying 'Firebird' by Saviour Pirotta. This wonderful tale was brought to life when we visited The Broadway Theatre to watch 'Fairy Tales And A Firebird', performed live by the Trinity Laban Symphony Orchestra.



In RE, we have been exploring the importance of the Sangha to Buddhists. In Geography, we have been studying earthquakes. After each lesson, we wrote an article to be presented as if we were on the BBC as the geology correspondent. We also discovered how seismometers are used to measure earthquakes.

In Science, we have been learning about the life cycles of insects, mammals, birds and amphibians. By drawing a scatter graph we found out that the bigger the mammal the longer its gestation period is- except for humans and other primates!



In PE, we have been doing athletics in preparation for Sports Day. We had a fantastic time on Sports Day and not only did we display our brilliant athletic abilities but we demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and team work.

Enita – 'I enjoyed practicing my javelin and shot put skills for Sports Day.'

Amaka – 'I liked meeting my new teacher and watching the amazing Year 6 production.'

Lucas – 'I loved everything about this term!'

David – 'I loved watching the Year 6 production.'



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

SEND in Lewisham

Here are some services and groups currently on offer from Lewisham over the coming months.

You can find further information on Lewisham's SEND Local Offer on their website: <https://>

Kaleidoscope Drop-in Information and Advice Sessions



Who can attend:

- Any parent/carer with a child who has a disability or additional needs.
- Your child does not need to attend.

What is it about:

- Free, confidential advice sessions with support staff.
- No appointment necessary.

Where is it:

- Kaleidoscope Children's Centre, 32 Rushey Green, London SE6 4JD
- Find us on Kaleidoscope's ground Floor.
- Please add your name to the list at reception and we will call you.

When is it:

- Term time only.
- Please see the attached calendar for times and dates.

* If you want to speak to someone in particular, please ring them beforehand to make sure they will be there.

Date:	Time:	Room:	Who will be there:
September 2023			
Wednesday 20 th September	10.00 – 12.00	G.05/06	SENDIASS
October 2023			
Monday 2 nd October	10.00 – 12.00	G.05/06	Lewisham Autism Support (Please arrive for a 10.00 start)
Tuesday 3 rd October	10.00 – 12.00	G.05/06	Healthwatch
Wednesday 11 th October	10.00 – 12.00	G.02	SENDIASS
Wednesday 11 th October	10.00 – 12.00	G.05/06	Lewisham Parent and Carers Forum
Tuesday 17 th October	10.00 – 12.00	G.05/06	Contact
November 2023			
Thursday 2 nd November	10.00 – 12.00	G.02	Down's Friendship & Creativity Group
Monday 6 th November	10.00 – 12.00	G.05/06	Lewisham Autism Support (Please arrive for a 10.00 start)
Tuesday 7 th November	10.00 – 12.00	G.05/06	Healthwatch
Tuesday 14 th November	10.00 – 12.00	G.05/06	Contact
Wednesday 15 th November	10.00 – 12.00	G.05/06	SENDIASS
December 2023			
Monday 4 th December	10.00 – 12.00	G.05/06	Lewisham Autism Support (Please arrive for a 10.00 start)
Tuesday 5 th December	10.00 – 12.00	G.05/06	Healthwatch
Thursday 7 th December	10.00 – 12.00	G.02	Down's Friendship & Creativity Group
Tuesday 12 th December	10.00 – 12.00	G.05/06	Contact
Wednesday 13 th December	10.00 – 12.00	G.05/06	Lewisham Parent and Carers Forum
Wednesday 13 th December	10.00 – 12.00	G.02	SENDIASS



LEWISHAM GIRLS SOCIAL GROUP

[FACEBOOK](#)

(Group name to be decided by the girls!)

Introducing a new social group for autistic girls age 10 to 18, in Lewisham!

WEDNESDAY 12TH JULY 6-8PM

Lochaber Hall, Manor Lane Terrace, SE135QL

The first session is for mingling, perhaps do some arts & crafts, and to give the girls an opportunity to tell us what they would like for future sessions.

No diagnosis necessary, everyone welcome.

Parents/carers must stay on site for the duration of the event. If possible, please leave younger siblings at home.

Numbers limited so book early to avoid disappointment!

Please book your **FREE** place through [EVENTBRITE](#). (One ticket needed per child, ticket not needed for accompanying adult).

Contact details – info@lewishamparentcarer.org.uk – 07534568020



Family Hubs
Parent and Carer Advisory Group



Starts: 18th July
9.30 - 11.30 am

Civic Suite, SE6 9SE
Then every 8 weeks

Who are the Parent and Carer Panels for?
Any parent, carer (or expectant parent or carer) living in Lewisham with a child aged 19 or below (or 25 for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – SEND)

Call Lou on
0790 900 1310 to find out more
Sign up here: bit.ly/3CJD0hr

Watch our launch video here: bit.ly/3pbH0o5



Read more here: bit.ly/3qN08ZJ



Would you like to help shape how services are delivered to families within Lewisham's Family Hubs?

Would you like to meet others from the community and have your voices heard?

Then join our Family Hubs Parent and Carer Advisory Group!

What's in it for me?

- A warm welcome
- Help shape services
- Vouchers for your time
- Have your say!
- Refreshments
- Meet other community members
- TFL travel expenses
- Guest speakers and training

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

Dalmain's Calm Club

We have had a great term at Calm Club. The children have really enjoyed learning how to make different animals with origami paper, creating vehicles and buildings with Lego and also hosting very impressive culinary competitions with Playdough.

These sessions have been a great opportunity to join together and work cooperatively and creatively together as a group.



Anna Freud
building the mental
wellbeing of the
next generation

9th August 2023

14:00 - 14:45

Online – live via Zoom (joining instructions will be sent to the email address you booked on with at least one working day before the event)

Transition to secondary school: supporting your Year 7 child

The move from primary school to secondary school can feel both exciting and overwhelming for your child. It can also be a anxious time for you as a parent or carer as your child takes the next step in their education.

This free webinar for parents and carers will explore ways that you can support your child during this period of change.

About this webinar

This webinar will be run by mental health and education experts from Anna Freud.

It will cover:

- potential difficulties or worries associated with the transition to secondary school
- how best to support your child
- a number of different coping strategies and techniques for dealing with change.

<https://www.annafreud.org/training/training-and-conferences-overview/booking-basket/>

Year 6—Al-Sufi Class

This term, we have been really busy in Al-Sufi Class, from the Year 6 production to swimming, from SATs to 'Make £5 Grow'.



At the beginning of the term we had an exciting writing project. Throughout it we learnt about our rights and campaigning to preserve them; we then developed our own campaign plan based on the idea of saving Lewisham Hospital. Though this project we learnt that as children we have a powerful tool—our voice. Even though we are children, we can still exercise our right to speak out, influence change and contribute positively to the development of our local community. It was great to stand outside our school and hold a mini-protest, holding our banners up high for the world to see our messages.



Our Topic this term has been the Benin Kingdom. We have been exploring how the Benin Kingdom began and what was life like for the Edo people in the Benin Kingdom. We have also considered the impact that the British colonisation of Benin has had. We have also been reading 'Children of the Benin Kingdom', by Dinah Orji. The story is based on the rainforest and the Edo city where a young girl and a boy go on an adventure to discover who they are and where they fit in society. One of our writing tasks was to create our own jungle survival guide.



At last, it was finally Year 6's time to go swimming. It was really good to go every day because we were able to develop and perfect our swimming skills. Some of us even learnt how to swim! 'It was great to learn different things to what we normally do in the classroom; I had the opportunity to perfect my backstroke' – Blake. Over the two weeks everybody made phenomenal progress, and everyone had lots of fun as well.



We have enjoyed taking part in the 'Make £5 grow' enterprise. We have learnt many entrepreneurial skills including how to develop a business idea and how to make a profit. It was brilliant to set up our own stall at the Summer Fair and test out our sales skills on the local community. Across our four Year 6 stalls we made £489.30; after we repaid our business loans our profit was £249.73! We then used our money to go to Lewisham Lanes bowling!



This term some girls from across the year group have been taking part in 'Believe' workshops. 'This has developed my confidence and prepared me for secondary school' - Ruby. 'Throughout the project we have been thinking about secondary school and we shared our worries. They have also given us lots of tips about what we can do to make our transition to secondary school a success!' - Raisa.

Finally, this term we have been rehearsing and then performing our Year 6 production 'Somewhere over the Rainbow.' It has been a great way to end our time at Dalmain—working collaboratively across the year group on a shared project. The end result was spectacular!



beam!

24
JUL

DISCOVERING THE BEAUTY IN ME

An interactive and creative BEAM workshop for 8-11 year old girls supporting them in finding tools to explore the journey of self-discovery and self-love.

26
JUL

BEAM SUMMER TRIP WILD GOOSE

A Trip for Girls 8-11 to Explore and develop team building and decision making skills in a fun and interactive way.

31
JUL

BEAM- CELEBRATING ME

An interactive BEAM workshop for girls aged 8-11. A space created to celebrate girls and all of the amazing qualities that they possess. We will explore their strengths, continuing on the journey of self-discovery and self-love. Celebrating their unique and special self.

FIND OUT MORE



www.beleveuk.org



Year 6—Hawking Class

This term has been jam-packed for Year 6! We have enjoyed all of the activities to celebrate the last term that we will have together.



We had so much fun completing 'Make £5 Grow', which was our opportunity to create our own business. At the Summer Fair we had two stalls—Take Planty Home, which sold seeds to grow at home and Blue Moon Boba, which sold bubble tea! We had to complete our own Dragons Den style pitch to the 'dragons'- Miss Gott, Miss Biggs, Ms Rose and Ms Eisele. We managed to convince them to choose our products by offering tasters of our drinks. There was a lot of preparation involved, including designing the products, thinking about

the marketing of the product and the advertising. Our favourite part was creating our own stalls and being able to sell our products to everyone at the summer fair. Some of us definitely want to think about setting up our own business in the future ! We went bowling with the money that we made and then went straight to the disco!



The highlight of the school year was the school production of 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow'; we really enjoyed the props that were used and the costumes –they were so well made by Miss Carol and Ms Kempster, especially the Munchkins and their colourful outfits and makeup! We all had great accents, even though it took a lot of time perfecting them. The script was really funny and we enjoyed hearing everyone laugh at the jokes that were written. On the night we felt really nervous but once on stage the nerves went away and the show went really well! There was a lot of interaction with the audience, including asking questions and running down the aisle.

We have also had so much fun with our Writing project about saving Lewisham Hospital, Sports Day and Maths week!



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: Ramisa & Emily

Year 1: Leo & Areefa

Year 2: Penny & Leonardo

Year 3: Ivy & Toure

Year 4: Nyan & Alara

Year 5: Theo & Sophie

Year 6: Phrashika & Oria



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 — Taylor

Taylor is a true Dalmain role model - she is enthusiastic about every part of school life. Taylor is so kind and helpful, not only to her class but to children across the school. She is never too busy to lend a helping hand. Well done, Taylor!

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

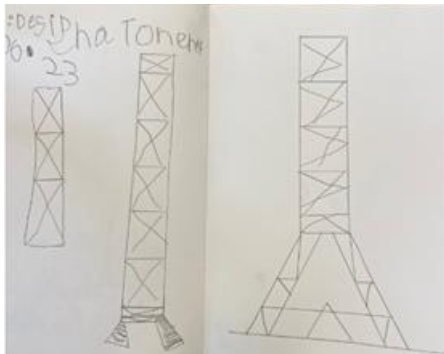
Children at Dalmain are so inspiring with their actions that have an impact outside the school. This term we were so impressed with two children who have actively supported our local and global community. Lev has been busy planting trees in Blythe Hill to support bio-diversity and create a beautiful green space for local residents, and Nina has been baking lots of cakes to raise money for the World Wide Fund for Nature and for the people affected by the earthquakes in Syria. We are so proud of you both.

This year we have seen our children's most incredible work yet in both Art and DT. Next year we will see more exciting projects and collaborations, so watch this space!

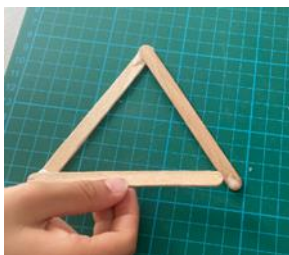
Reception classes were lucky to have the expertise of our fabulous parent artists to guide them during Art Week, when they learned about prominent artists and produced their own artworks.



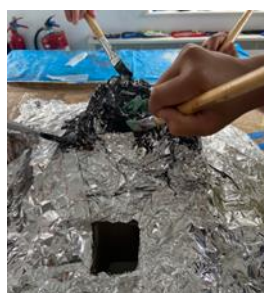
In DT, children in Year 1 have been learning about towers and strong structures this term, and the role of engineers in building them. After some fabulous design work, children made fantastic triangular based prisms to build towers inside their classroom.



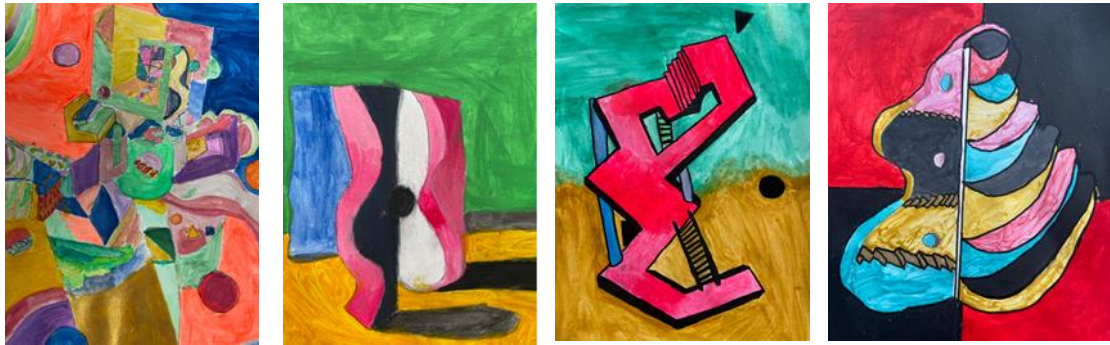
Year 2 have also been doing DT this half-term. The children have been learning about bridges, shapes and the structures engineers use to make them strong. We have studied truss, suspension and beam bridges, and used different construction materials to build our own, inspired by some of the world's most amazing feats of engineering!



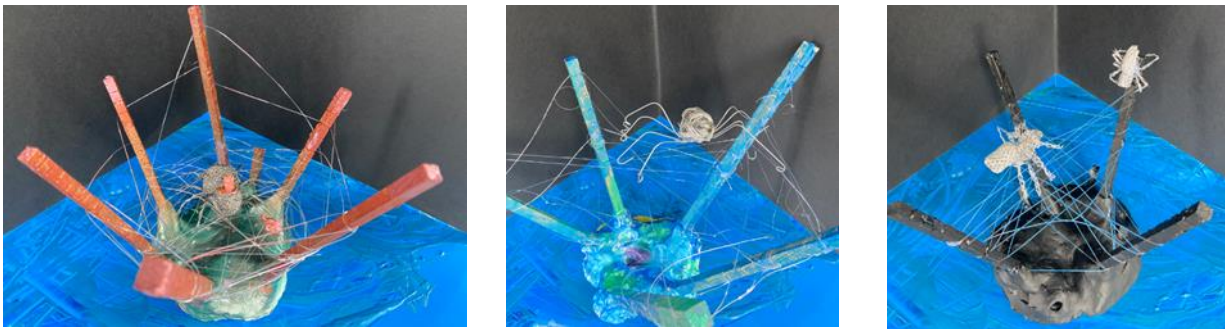
Children in Year 3 have been learning about volcanoes as part of their Geography focus. Last year's working models were such a hit we have built new and improved models of Vesuvius, complete with magma chambers, vents and pyroclastic clouds spewing from the top using high powered air pumps. The children also made matchbox Roman villas, trees from lichen and rocks from aluminium foil and sponge to create a terrifying Vesuvian eruption in miniature!



In Year 4 children have been looking at composition, shape and illusion. Inspired by the work of artist Erin O'Keefe and Escher's Staircase, children studied 3D shapes as part of an observational drawing exercise before painting stunning compositions of their own.



In Year 5 children have been studying the striking spider and web sculptures of artists Louise Bourgeois and Shane Waltener. Choosing their own species of spider, children designed their own sculptures using clay, wood, wire mesh and aluminium wire. The results are incredible.



Year 6 used watercolours to paint fantastic backdrops and props for the end of year production of 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow', including The Emerald City and spooky forests. Their work was then combined to create projections for the performance.



Drawing Club continued their work on fire, water and smoke this term- and also drew some fabulous bees!



Term Dates 2023–2024

Monday 4 September	INSET Day
Tuesday 5 September	INSET Day
Wednesday 6 September	Start of Autumn Term
Friday 8 September	Friends of Dalmain uniform sale
Tuesday 12 September	Trinity Laban starts for Year 5 and Year 6
Wednesday 13 September	Six weeks of cricket coaching starts for year 3 and year 4
Friday 15 September	Phonics workshop for EYFS and KS1 parents
Monday 18th September	Clubs start this week
Friday 22 September	Reading volunteer training
Wednesday 4 October	Parent Teacher meetings
Thursday 5 October	Parent Teacher meetings
Wednesday 11 October	Individual and sibling school photographs
Friday 20 October	Last day of term
	Friends of Dalmain Halloween Family Disco
Monday 23–27 October	HALF TERM
Monday 30 October	Start of term
Friday 3 November	Friends of Dalmain uniform sale
Tuesday 5 December	Friends of Dalmain wreath making workshop
Wednesday 13 December	Year 1 and 2 Christmas performance 9.30
	Year 3 and 4 Christmas performance 2.00
	Year 5 and 6 Christmas performance 5.00
Thursday 14 December	Reception Christmas performance 9.30
	Year 5 and 6 Christmas performance 2.00
	Year 3 and 4 Christmas performance 5.00
Friday 15 December	Nursery Christmas performance 9.30
Wednesday 20 December	Last day of term

Term Dates 2023–2024

Term	First Day	Last Day
Summer Holidays	Monday 24 July	Friday 1 September
Autumn Term 1	Wednesday 6 September	Friday 20 October
Half Term	Monday 23 October	Friday 27 October
Autumn Term 2	Monday 30 October	Wednesday 20 December
Christmas Holidays	Thursday 21 December	Monday 8 January
Spring Term 1	Tuesday 9 January	Friday 9 February
Half Term	Monday 12 February	Friday 16 February
Spring Term 2	Monday 19 February	Thursday 28 March
Easter Holidays	Friday 29 March	Friday 12 April
Summer Term 1	Monday 15 April	Friday 24 May
Half Term	Monday 27 May	Monday 3 June
Summer Term 2	Tuesday 4 June	Wednesday 24 July

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.

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%	15 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%	20 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.