



DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter—October 2023

Dear Parents & Carers

We have had a terrific start to the new academic year and are fully back in the swing of learning as you will see from the lovely newsletter entries from each class. It has been exciting to see the new playground equipment installed and the children have loved using the quiet area and new reading shed in the KS2 playground. A huge thank you again to the Friends of Dalmain for their support for 'Project Playground'. The majority of our fundraising will continue to focus on playground regeneration with KS1 being the main area for us to work on this year.

We are so proud of the exceptional learning attitudes the children come to school with each day and are delighted with the progress each child is making as a result. One particular celebration has to be the amazing London Academy of Music & Dramatic Arts (LAMDA) exam results that came through recently for our wonderful Dalmain pupils. Dalmain received 100% Merits and Distinctions with a whopping 94 % of pupils receiving a Distinction! We are over the moon and so incredibly proud of them all!

We hope that you enjoy reading this term's newsletter and that, looking ahead to Term 2, you will be able to join us for our Winter Performances and the Friends of Dalmain Winter Fair. They will be

spectacular as always. From the entire Staff Team at Dalmain, we wish you all a safe and restful Half Term and look forward to seeing you on Monday 30th October at 8:45am.



Best wishes, Ms Eisele – Headteacher



Key Dates: Term 2

All Key Dates can be found on our website under 'Current Information / Whole School Information'

- ◆ Monday 30th October – start of Term 2
- ◆ Wednesday 13th December at 9.30am - Winter Performance Years 1 & 2
- ◆ Wednesday 13th December at 2:00pm - Winter Performance Years 3 & 4
- ◆ Wednesday 13th December at 5:00pm - Winter Performance Years 5 & 6
- ◆ Thursday 14th December at 9:30am - Winter Performance Reception
- ◆ Thursday 14th December at 2:00pm - Winter Performance Years 5 & 6
- ◆ Thursday 14th December at 5:00pm - Winter Performance Years 3 & 4
- ◆ Wednesday 20th December - END OF TERM



Inclusion Team

Our Inclusion Team

Ms Sewani—Assistant Headteacher

Ms Wilkinson—Behaviour & Safeguarding Leader

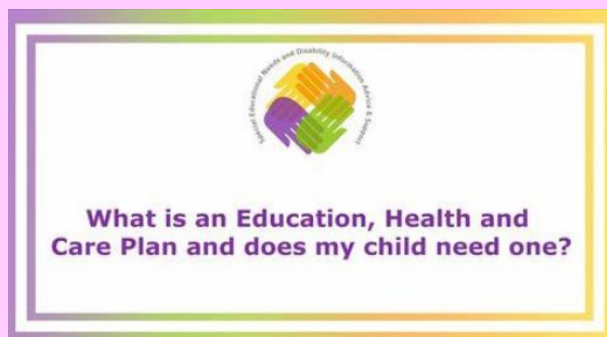
Ms Ricote—SENCo

They are always available to offer support to families with any concerns or questions—please get in touch via the School Office or see them in the playground.

Inclusion at Dalmain

This term we hosted a **Zones of Regulation** coffee morning where we discussed ways to support children's emotional regulation. It was great to meet together and share experiences and ideas between the group.

We will be hosting another coffee morning after half term, this time focusing on the **EHCP (Educational Health Care Plan) process**. We will write to all parents nearer the time with more details.



Lewisham parents – Your views matter!

Lewisham Council are in the process of reviewing and developing services that support children and their families. This includes the current Children and Family Centres offer and the emerging Family Hubs offer.

Lewisham want to make sure that services reflect the needs of all children and families in the borough. Your experiences and views are crucial to this process. This will help Lewisham council develop and deliver the services our families deserve. The survey is short and will only take a maximum of 10 minutes to complete. Please note surveys close on 20th October.

Tell us what you think about services in Children and Family Centres:

<https://consultation.lewisham.gov.uk/childrens-social-care/children-and-family-centres-parent-carer-survey/>





The Friends of Dalmain



FRIENDS
OF DALMAIN

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm "welcome back" from the Friends of Dalmain!

We hope you all had a relaxing summer and a good start to the new academic year.

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting the Friends of Dalmain last year. Your support has made a huge difference and helped us fund the lovely new playground equipment including the fabulous climbing frame, which you have hopefully all seen. None of this would have been possible without you, so thank you!



We have ambitious plans for this academic year and we're hoping to see you all at our fundraising events throughout 2023 and 2024. Our main event this calendar year will be the Christmas fair, but please stay tuned for more information about 2024 events which we'll share shortly.

We're excited to announce that the **Christmas Fair** is going to take place on **25 November, 12-3pm at school**. We have lots of other activities and fundraisers planned in the run up to Christmas: **Christmas trees, wreath making, Christmas cards, tea towels and Christmas puddings!** More information coming soon!

If you are interested in joining FoD, we are looking to fill the official role of 'Secretary' – mainly just taking notes at meetings and organising the AGM, please do get in touch. We are also interested in hearing any new fundraising ideas.

Best wishes,

Your FoD committee (Jocelyn, Daniela, Katie, Miriam, Amy, Anna & Zori)

friendsofdalmain@gmail.com

facebook.com/friendsofdalmain

www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofdalmain

Tel: 0208 699 2675

Fax: 0208 291 4546

www.dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk

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—Unicorn Class



It has been an exciting start to the year In Unicorn Class!

We have been working very hard to say goodbye to our families in the morning and settle into our learning at Nursery. We have done an amazing job learning all our new routines! We have also been very busy building relationships with both adults and our peers to help us to feel confident at Nursery.

We enjoyed learning to name and talk about different emotions to enable us to express our feelings effectively to one-another as we begin to find ways to solve conflicts by sharing and taking turns.

We loved meeting the different animals who visited us with 'Spirit of the Wild' and we read lots of information books to find out more about them.

We have also been finding out more autumn. We described the changes we observed and created art-works from autumn wonders found on our treasure hunts at home.

We particularly enjoyed the story of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. We used our voices and bodies to retell the story through sound and movement and created sensory maps to help us recall the story!



Forest School



'This is my favourite day in school ever!' – La'Maiya (during her first Forest School session)

Reception class have been so excited to start Forest School this term! Dalmain's 'Forest', as they like to call it, is full of awe and wonder for the children and we have loved seeing the children explore and discover the wonders of nature.

The children have climbed trees, made nature crowns, created their own leaf art and learnt all about spiders this term. We also have loved seeing how the Wildlife garden is showing signs of Autumn and we have spent time listening to the nature around us. Leaves rustling in the wind, birds chirping in the trees- it really is a special place to be.

Next term we will be using the books 'Henry Finch' and 'Stick Man' as inspiration for our forest school sessions. We are very excited that Nursery will start their adventures at Forest School next term too!





Eco Council Every class in Key Stage 2 has elected two Eco Councillors and we have already had two meetings with Ms Sewani to discuss ideas to make the school more environmentally friendly. Last year's eco council created an Earth Pledge – this has now been shared with every class and you can see the earth pledge on display in every class in the school. We have attached a copy for you to see as well.



Last week we met David, from Street Trees for Living, during one of our meetings. He talked about the importance of watering the street trees around the

school regularly during the watering

season (March – October). We learnt that we don't need to water the trees after this period because the trees are dormant or asleep. He also showed us how we can tell if a tree is healthy – you need to look up at the leaves and make sure they are not looking too droopy or unhealthy. We also noticed some litter around the trees. This will not damage the trees, but it doesn't make them look nice. Please make sure you help us keep the community tidy by not dropping litter outside the school! Thank you! We will keep you updated with other eco news throughout the year.



DALMAIN SCHOOL EARTH PLEDGE

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 weekly meat-free Mondays and screen-free hours
We will try to travel to school by foot, scooter or bike whenever we can



Dalmain Primary School

Reception—Pegasus Class



What an exciting start to the year!

Pegasus Class has really settled into the daily routines of learning and having fun at school. We are a class of explorers and investigators. There have been mysterious footprints from a 'Wild Thing', surprise birds flying in the classroom and real snakes and skunks to touch during 'Spirit of the Wild.' We have explored feelings and have learnt how to make new friends. There is a real spirit of camaraderie and we foster sharing praise and thoughts about each other's ideas and work.



We began learning phonics and it is wonderful to see the children excited to write a phoneme or find a hidden word that they can now read. Repeated patterns and patterns of 1 and 2 have been explored in Maths, and we are great at comparing size, height and weight.

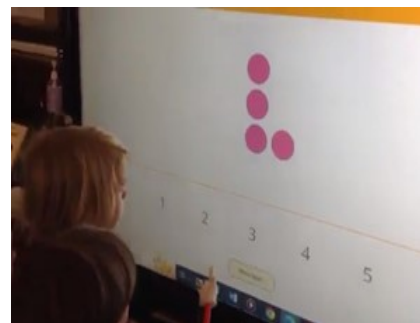
There are lots of budding gardeners in our class and we have planted flowers and a lovely apple tree in our outdoor area. It is going to be exciting to see what we can grow next! Forest School was so much fun. We climbed trees, explored different fallen leaves, made pretend campfires and imagined that there was a crocodile in the pond!

We are full of creativity and there have been puppet shows, hair dressing, mask making, dancing to 'Banana Banana Meatball' and lots of playdough cakes! The children are eager to show their singing talents and love learning new songs.

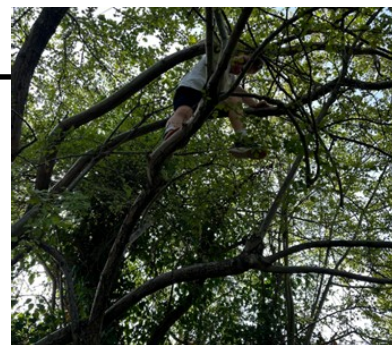


Reception—Pixie Class

My goodness, how time flies! We are so proud of how all the children have settled into 'big' school and it has been so lovely to see new friendships flourish. This term we have been thinking deeply about our emotions and how different situations make us feel certain ways. Through introducing the Zones of Regulation, the children have become really confident in expressing themselves and identifying what might help them get to the green zone. We've discussed kindness and how we can still feel love from someone dear to us, even when they are far away. All of this has helped the children feel safe, happy and ready to learn.



Did you know Pixie class are now amazing readers and writers? Already?! How brilliant is that! They have been so excited to learn a new sound each day and we have been blown away by their progress. In Maths, we have been categorizing, matching, measuring, making patterns and mastering numbers to 3 using our super subitising powers!



Year 1—Dragon Class



Can you believe it we are half way through our first term in Year 1! We have been having so much fun this term. In Writing, we have read two amazing books :Naughty bBs by Jan Oke and Astro Girl by Ken Wilson. We transformed Dragon Class into Space HQ and we all became Astronaut experts, creating fact files filled with facts about space!

In Maths we have been doing lots of counting with numbers up to 100, our favorite lesson was find your match we were each given a different Numicon and had to go around the classroom and find our match!



That's not all, in PE we have been playing lots of team games, and we have loved climbing the trees at Forest School. We have been making cars in DT with Mr Roberts and in Science we have been learning all about the human body and our senses.

We hope you have a lovely half term!



Year 1—Mermaid Class

Mermaid class has had an excellent start to Year 1 so far! In History we looked at the various types of transport and how they have changed over the years. In Writing we have enjoyed reading 'The naughty Bus' and 'Astro Girl'. The children especially enjoyed when the 'Naughty Bus' destroyed the classroom. We have created diary entries and missing posters for the naughty bus. Reading 'Astro Girl' has also given many opportunities to talk about astronauts and the solar system which the children in Mermaid class really enjoy and are passionate about. In our math's lessons we have been counting within 100 in various ways. They have made their own number lines and can tell you 'one more' and 'one less' than any number within 20. In Science we have been exploring the human body and our main body parts. We also learnt about the 5 senses and conducted experiments to test the importance of these senses. In RE we learnt about Christianity and the Christian version of the creation story. We then touched on the Islamic creation story and explored the similarities and differences between the two religions and their view on how the world was created.



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: Zack & Teddy

Year 1: Ilana & Jasna

Year 2: Esme & Bruno

Year 3: Elia & Sam

Year 4: Zac & Ellissia

Year 5: Olive & Hank

Year 6: Malika & Kairo



CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE!

HOUSE NAMES

We are delighted and very proud to be launching our new Dalmain House Points and would like to share our new house names with our community.

The House Point system is a fun way we will reward and acknowledge the brilliant behaviour choices our pupils make in a school day. This helps to promote high expectations of behaviour with a consistent reward system throughout the school.

We have based our house names on the history of Dalmain and our wonderful local area, and have assigned colours to each of them:



Grove House—Red

Forest House—Green

Hawthorn House—Blue

Oak House—Yellow



All children at Dalmain belong to one of the above four houses and siblings have been placed in the same house.

Children can earn House Points throughout the year for working hard, demonstrating resilience, being kind, helping other children or for any other act of being a positive role model or making good choices within our community – the list is endless! All staff can reward children with House Points for any positive acts they see across the school day.

Each half term, the house with the most points will be rewarded with a special event of celebration activities in school. At the end of each year, the house with the most points will be awarded the House Cup.

We are looking forward to celebrating the positive behaviours and exceptional choices our children make every day through our Dalmain House Points.

Year 2—Phoenix Class

What a start to Year 2!

We loved learning all about Frederick Horniman, and how he wanted to “bring the world to Forest Hill.” We also learned that there were good and bad things about him, and we loved going to see his collection of animals (and all the other things!) in the museum.



Speaking of which, we have been learning about all the different animal categories in Science, and we have seen lots of animals this term – both at the Horniman and when ‘Spirit of the Wild’ came to visit.

We’ve also been exploring numbers, writing a sequel to Goldilocks and the Three Bears, writing a poem about a wolf and designing puppets to tell the story of Diwali. On top



of that we’ve been animating on the I-pads, dancing our hearts out in PE and singing and playing music with Miss Jackson. Phew!

Next term we’ll be learning all about how we can look after our planet, especially the forests and oceans that sustain us. Should be fun!



Year 2—Sphinx Class



Wow! What a fantastic start to the Year 2 Sphinx class have had. From exploring the Horniman’s Museum historical contribution to Forest Hill to meeting some spectacular animals with ‘Spirit of the Wild’ we have been super busy. The children have shown consistent dedication to their Year 2 learning journey inside and outside of the classroom.



In Writing we have been reading and learning all about ‘Wolves’. We separated statements into fiction or non-fiction.

Fact - Wolves have 42 teeth and they are carnivores.

Fiction – Wolves eat jam sandwiches, go to the library and dress up as grandmothers!

We wrote some fantastic poems about wolves and performed them to the class.

In Maths, we have been working on adding and partitioning our tens, then tens and one using dienes and different representations. We are now using the ‘first, then, then and now’ to order the process of addition!



In DT, children in Year 1 have been learning about different vehicles and how they work, exploring wheels and axles. Children studied diagrams and designs before designing and making their own cars.



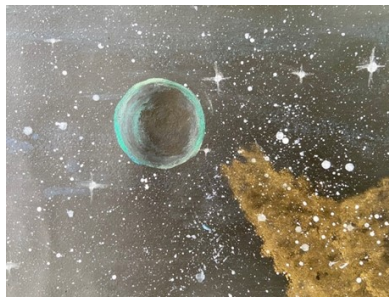
In DT Year 2 have made their own moving pictures and characters using levers and sliding mechanisms. Their designs were inspired by characters from twisted fairy tales and fiction.



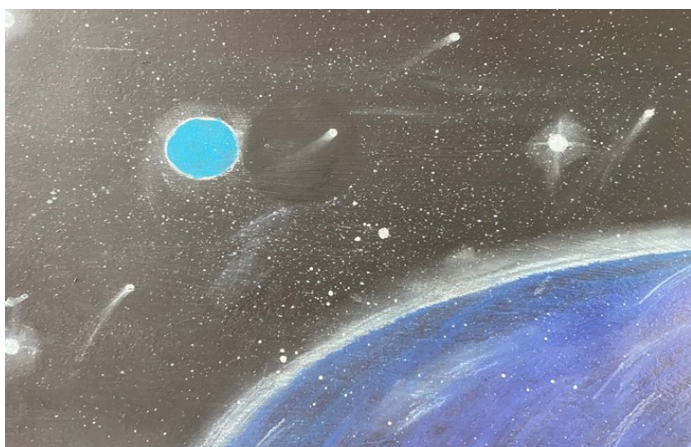
Children in Year 3 have been creating their own shadow puppets in DT making their own linkages for the moving parts.

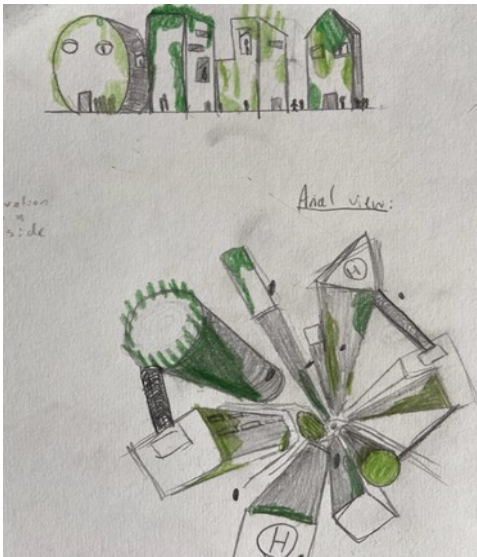


In Year 4 children have been learning about lighthouses and, as part of DT, designed, and built their own working models, creating a circuit housed within the body of their models. The results were truly spectacular.



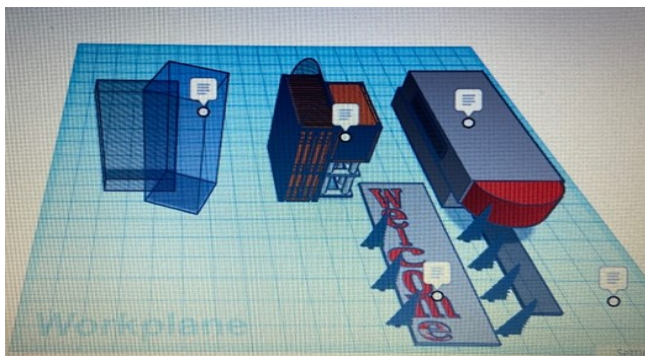
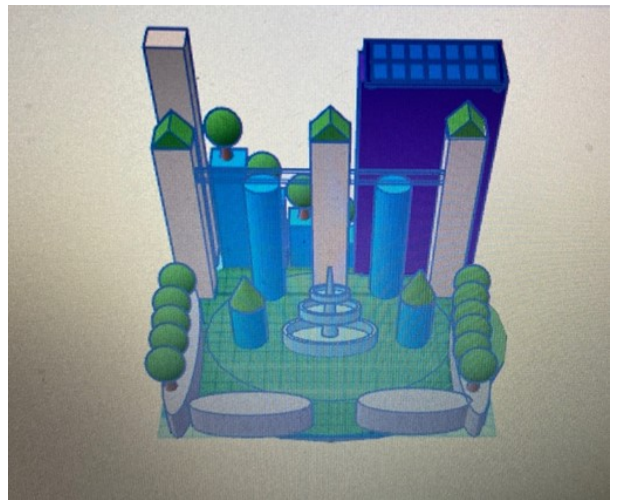
In Year 5 children have been painting galaxies, nebulae and planets as part of their painting focus using acrylic and dry brush work. The results are out of this world!



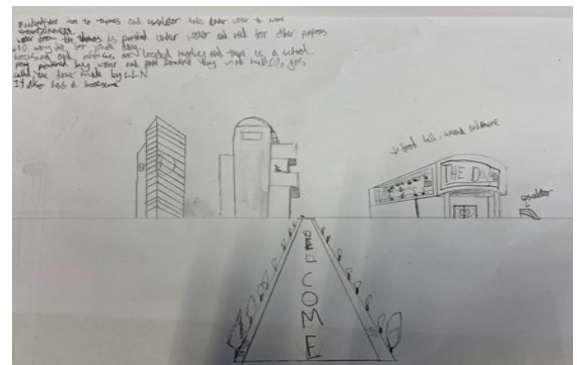


Year 6 won the model making category last year as part of our collaboration with OpenCity.org. This year's Y6 are once again collaborating with Allies & Morrison.

The children have visited their offices and are transforming their outstanding design work into a model of a future



sustainable with the help of experienced architects through workshops in school.



RAFT: Retrofit Action for Tomorrow



Premises Manager Spotlight

In the spirit of celebrating the unsung heroes in our schools, RAFT (Retrofit Action For Tomorrow) embarked on an exciting pilot project last September. Titled "Spotlight on Premises Managers," this project shines a well-deserved light on the essential role that premises managers play in the day-to-day operation, retrofitting, and decarbonisation of schools right here in South London. Photography was used to capture the essence of five dedicated professionals in South London, to highlight their contributions to creating sustainable environments, and the work undertaken to improve their school. Through their hard work and dedication, our school environments are constantly improving.

Educational Empowerment

In addition to this inspiring project, RAFT has been at the forefront of educational empowerment. RAFT has previously conducted premises manager training sessions in Lewisham and Lambeth, empowering individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary for maintaining efficient and sustainable school environments. Furthermore, they've hosted educational workshops focused on decarbonisation, making significant strides toward a greener and more sustainable future across our schools.

Stay Tuned

Excitingly, the full "Spotlight on Premises Managers" project will soon be released on RAFT's website! It's an opportunity to delve deeper into the stories and contributions of these remarkable individuals who make our schools better every day.

Learn More

For more information about RAFT and their work and resources, please visit their LinkTree at <https://linktr.ee/retrofitactionfortomorrow>.



Year 3—Griffin Class



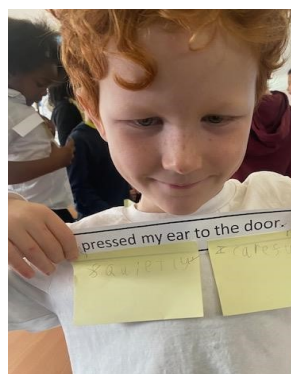
What a start to Year 3!

Griffin Class began the year with enthusiasm and excitement as we worked through a range of exciting topics this term. We kicked off Year 3 with a fascinating book 'A Necklace Of Raindrops' by Joan Aiken that we had been reading in our teaching of reading lessons. The story explores themes such as sympathy, generosity, jealousy and empathy as the story begins to unfold. In writing, we have been reading 'The Tear Thief' by Carol Ann Duffy. This magical tale embarks on a journey to teach children the importance of expressing feelings and the power of emotions. As part of our Maths work, we have been exploring place value, addition and subtraction through using concrete materials to facilitate our learning. In our Computing lessons we had the amazing opportunity of using iPads to take a range of shots and work collaboratively to edit them together as a group. We were amazed at how good our editing skills were - this lesson was so much fun!



Year 3—Makara Class

What a brilliant start to Year 3! The term began with the excitement and wonder of the circus. We had tickets to watch a magical show and then put on our own circus performances. We wrote our own stories about visiting a magical world inspired by what we had read in, 'Leon and the Place Between'. We have since finished the term with Carol Ann Duffy's, 'The Tear Thief'. Again, we brushed up on our acting skills, interviewing one another to try to find out what happened to the missing jar of tears! We wrote fantastic newspaper articles including quotes from our friends and teachers. In Maths, we have been looking at addition and subtraction. We have focused on place value of hundreds, tens and ones. We have also loved our cricket lessons. In Science, our work on animal skeletons came in handy during our Spirit of the Wild visit. We met animals with backbones and animals with exoskeletons! Well done Makara Class, you have been super stars this term.



PE lessons have a multitude of direct benefits for pupils, such as promoting a healthy lifestyle. At Dalmain, PE lessons are taught with the following aims in mind:

- ◆ To meet the requirements of the national curriculum
- ◆ To encourage physical activity and exercise
- ◆ To build self-esteem, confidence and resilience
- ◆ To develop pupils' academic, social and physical ability
- ◆ To encourage good behaviour and respect amongst pupils
- ◆ To promote teamwork and cooperation amongst pupils




With these aims and the benefits that PE has in mind, it is important that your child attends school with the appropriate PE kit. At Dalmain, pupils are expected to wear:



- ♦ White t-shirt (school badge optional)
- ♦ Dark blue/grey/black shorts or jogging bottoms
 - ♦ Dark coloured trainers for outdoor PE

It should be noted that pupils will be expected to remove any piercings, watches and tie long hair up. Children should not be wearing branded sports tops/jerseys.

As a reminder, on the day/s that your child has PE, they should come into school already dressed in their PE kits and remain in these clothes for the whole day. You do not need to send in school uniform on PE days, but PE clothing will be required to adhere to the above expectations.

 Please be advised that PE is a compulsory part of the national curriculum and that participation is expected, unless your child has a certified injury or illness. If you have any concerns or need support with uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or Ms Wilkinson.

Thank you for your continued support, Mr King, Year 6 Teacher & PE Coordinator

Year 4—Sprite Class

Sprite Class have had a terrific start to the year! They have immersed themselves in a wide range of learning linked to 'inventions and innovations'.



In Writing, children explored the enchanting book 'FARTHER' by Grahame Baker-Smith (the story of a father who dreams of flight). Their learning included writing a manual for operating a flying machine, a postcard about an adventurous day out and finally, retelling the story with a wild and thrilling new ending.

In Maths, children began the term by consolidating their understanding of addition and subtraction within 1000 and have now moved on to 'Place Value'. They are beginning to explore numbers to 10,000 and make connections to the real world where these are used – such as measuring and converting units. Children recapped their times tables from previous years by investigating and spotting patterns.



In History, children have explored the 'Industrial Revolution' and its impact on today's transport system. Using research skills, they created timelines and posters. In PE, children have been working with the sports coach to become outstanding cricketers. They have refined their fielding and batting skills while learning to play as a team.

Sprite Class have begun the year with a growth mindset and we hope to continue producing fantastic learning throughout the year!



Year 4—Selkie Class



We have had a brilliant start to Year 4 in Selkie Class.

We have been learning about the fascinating evolution of transport. In Teaching of Reading, we have been reading 'The Story of Flight' by Jakob Whitfield. The story of flight is indeed a captivating one and we have loved exploring the flying machines that have helped us soar through the skies. In Writing, we have been reading 'FARTHER' by Grahame Baker-Smith. This is the charming tale of a boy whose father is so close to him, yet so far away in spirit. A man whose days and nights are spent dreaming of flying away from the little house on the cliff. We have enjoyed creating timelines in History to display our knowledge of the invention of different modes of transport. We had the wonderful opportunity to learn about animals and their habitats. We were able to see and touch the well-behaved animals – it was so much fun!



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

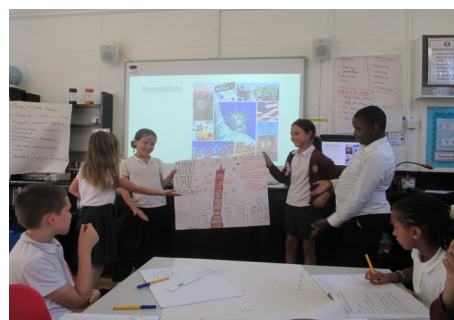
Year 5—Kraken Class

Kraken Class have settled into the rhythm of the Year 5 curriculum with great determination and resilience and have enjoyed a busy start to the school year.

The theme for this half-term has been 'Earth and Beyond' and the children have had a 'stellar' time in Reading and Writing lessons in exploring this theme! In Reading, Year 5 have read and dived into 'Cosmic' and 'The Race for Space' and have made wonderful inferences, summaries, predictions and asked thought-provoking questions. In Writing, the children have explored social issues in the book 'Hidden Figures' and space exploration of Mars in 'Curiosity'. Both texts served as stimuli for some exceptional pieces of writing such as persuasive letters, memoirs and explanation texts.

In Maths, the children have been exploring decimal place value and the composition of integers using parts. It has helped them in their understanding of the value of digits less than a whole. In Science, they have been learning about forces such as friction, gravity and air resistance whilst undertaking practical experiments to test a hypothesis.

Kraken cannot wait to continue their learning journey into next half-term with more amazing topics to learn!



Year 5—Chimera Class

Chimera Class have had an excellent start to Year 5, kicking off our learning with the overarching theme: Earth and Beyond. After immersing themselves in the inspirational book, Hidden Figures, the children authored incredible pieces of writing including factual reports, persuasive letters and a memoir written from the perspective of one of the heroes from Hidden Figures. Chimera class have been enjoying the hilarious novel, Cosmic, in Teaching of Reading where they have developed their inference, questioning and summarising skills. In Maths, we have learnt to use mental and written methods to calculate with decimal fractions as well as solving word problems.



The children have learnt about forces in Science, conducting experiments into both friction and air resistance.

In Art, Chimera Class have demonstrated their exceptional creativity and artistic skill in their work painting nebulas and have learnt to sing songs in two or more parts in their music lessons.

In other foundation subjects, Chimera Class have learnt about worship in Judaism, the continent of North America, computational thinking and coding, reading and writing the past-continuous tense in Latin and understanding grief and mental health.

We are now looking forward to next half-term, with our learning based on the theme: Power and Principles!

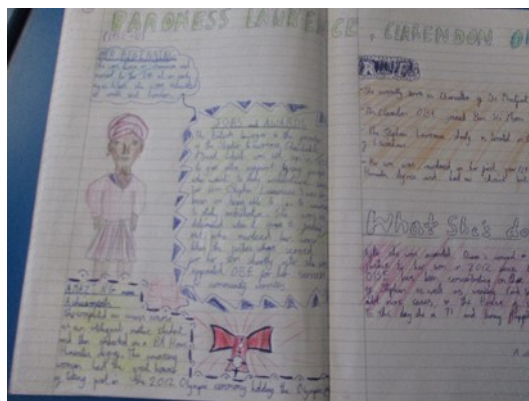


Year 6—Kitsune Class



Hello Parents and Carers!

Everyone has settled in nicely to year 6 in Kitsune Class in what has been a packed first half term. Our topic of focus this half term has been about migration and we have been particularly focusing on both WWII and the Windrush



Generation, reading literature by the amazing Michael Rosen and Benjamin Zephaniah. Some of the excellent writing we have produced includes a letter, diary entry, non-chronological report and poetry.

We have also been studying animals and microorganisms (including the 'Spirit of the Wild' visit), doing some fantastic movement and choreography in our Laban dance lessons, producing realistic 3D models on the TinkerCAD software in computing and DT with Mr Roberts, and discussing mental health and the zones of regulation in PSE.



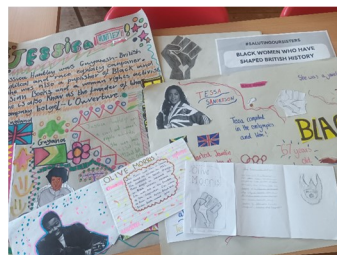
Next half term, our topic of focus will be 'evolution and inheritance', which will include a trip to the Horniman Museum and in science making a well-known household appliance!



Year 6—Faun Class

This half term in Year 6, Faun Class have been very busy. We are all rising to the new challenges of being in Year 6 and we are excited about the year ahead. We have been working exceptionally hard in all areas of our learning and we are extremely proud of what we have achieved so far.

Our topic focus this term has been Migration and Movement, with a particular focus on the Windrush Pioneers. In English, we have been reading the 'Windrush Child' by Benjamin Zephaniah. The story is about the people who have arrived from all over the world to the UK.



As part of our Art and DT project –London reimagined, we visited Allies and Morrison architect firm. We had a tour of the outside of the building and the opportunity to see how the buildings in the area had changed and developed over time. Then we went on a tour of the building, visiting the different departments. We are extremely thankful to all the architects at the firm who have not only helped us with our designs but have also been inspirational.

To deepen our science knowledge on animals and classification we had a visit from Spirit of the Wild. We enjoyed having the opportunity to learn about the different animals as well as being able to hold them too. Our favourite was the Husky called Lunar.

The theme for Black History month this year is 'Saluting Our Sisters' - honouring the achievements of Black women. In class, we have been researching the contributions Black women have made to the UK. In particular, we have focused on the achievements of unsung heroes who have made our world a better place for others.

Our class Story time book is 'Wild Boy' this is a must read for everyone as the storyline keeps you on the edge of your seat! (Kilmarlee).



Lewisham and Greenwich
NHS Trust

Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND) Paediatric Dietitians

The community special educational need and disabilities (SEND) dietetic service is a new service for children and young people in the borough of Lewisham. It launched in September 2023.

Our dietitians offer nutritional advice and strategies including:

- Healthy eating, portion sizes, fluid intake and oral nutritional supplements
- Ways to fortify food to provide the energy or nutrients needed
- Healthy lifestyle behaviours
- Referrals to other community health services to support the young person and their family.

We see children and young people:

- With neurodevelopmental conditions, chromosomal abnormalities leading to developmental disorders and/or learning difficulties
- With other disabilities and conditions requiring an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) registered with a Lewisham GP
- Aged 0-19 years old, who don't have an EHCP but are having an assessment with known SEND needs, registered with a Lewisham GP
- Who attend a special educational needs school in Lewisham

When to refer to us?

Faltering growth

Criteria

- Weight <0.4th centile
- Weight at 2 centiles below height centile
- Rapid weight loss

Restrictive dietary intake

Criteria

- Consuming < 10 food items
- Exclusion of a whole food group
- Prescribed diet such as milk-free or wheat-free diet leading to concern with malnutrition
- Faltering growth (weight two centiles below the height centile)
- Overweight or obese (weight >98th centile and BMI > 91st centile)

Overweight / Obesity

Criteria

- Weight >98th centile
- BMI > 91st centile

How to refer?

Complete a referral form available on our [webpage](#) or request one by email: LG.SENDChildrensDietetics@nhs.net
For more information or for any other queries, please email our team.

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.