



DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter—December 2023

Dear Parents & Carers

It has been a busy and exciting term at Dalmain Primary School, and we are delighted to celebrate this within Term 2's edition of the newsletter. We hope that you will enjoy reading about what we have been up to since Half Term.

A huge and very heartfelt 'thank you' must go to the Friends of Dalmain who transformed our playground for this year's Winter Fair. Parent volunteers, staff and members of the community worked incredibly hard to make the Winter Fair such a success, and we are immensely grateful to all of them for the co-operation, organisation and many months of preparation behind the scenes. A phenomenal £8,758 has been raised so far this year through the different FoD activities! I cannot thank you all enough for your generosity and support.

The Fair raised much-needed funds to support learning and enrichment opportunities across the school, to provide our children with the best start to their education, and 'Project Playground' continues to be the main focus of all fundraising. Having developed the main playground last year, Key Stage 1 and EYFS will be our focus this year, and we look forward to sharing the playground regeneration plans with you once they are finalised. We particularly need help with finding the right type of trees to plant – if anyone within the Dalmain community has a good knowledge of trees, please let us know.

Looking ahead to the Spring Term, we are incredibly excited about Dalmain's 150 year anniversary! Can you believe that we are the oldest primary school in the area, first opening on 13th April 1874?! We will be writing to you separately about our plans to mark this momentous event but, to kick off our celebrations, Writing Week 2024 will focus on our 150 year anniversary. Look out for more information in January.



Key Dates: Term 3

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

- ◆ Monday 8th January – INSET DAY (school closed for training session)
- ◆ Tuesday 9th January – START OF TERM 3 at 8:45am for all pupils
- ◆ Wednesday 24th January (afternoon & evening) – Parent Teacher Meetings
- ◆ Friday 26th January (morning) – Parent Teacher Meetings
- ◆ Monday 29th January – Friday 2nd February – Writing Week for Dalmain's 150 year anniversary!
- ◆ Friday 2nd February – Friends of Dalmain Coffee Morning 8:45am
- ◆ Friday 9th February – Cake Sale
- ◆ Friday 9th February – END OF TERM

Finally, we wish all parents, carers, pupils and staff a wonderful break, a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 8:45am!

Best wishes, Ms Eisele – Headteacher



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 held a very popular coffee morning focusing on the EHCP process. One of our parents, Rachel, delivered a very informative presentation on how to apply for an EHCP, what to expect during the process and how to appeal any decisions.

It was also an opportunity for our school community to get together and connect and we will be running more coffee mornings in the New Year.

Anti-Bullying Week

We were proud to take part in Anti-Bullying Week, which took place between Monday 13th–Friday 17th November 2023. The theme this year was ‘Make a Noise about Bullying’. The week started with Odd Socks Day, where children and staff were asked to come in to school wearing odd socks as a way to celebrate what makes us all unique.

There were also anti-bullying assemblies for KS1 and KS2 where worry boxes were discussed and introduced into every class. In PSHE lessons, children learnt about and discussed the difference

between ‘banter’, ‘arguments’ and ‘bullying’. Children in Years 4–6 also saw a performance from the theatre group Chain Reaction which explored these themes in greater detail. The children really enjoyed the performance and found it very informative.

The Anti-Bullying Alliance have produced this pack for parents with lots of advice, activities and conversation starters [Anti-Bullying Week 2023 - Parent Pack FINAL.pdf](#) (anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)

Why would my child need/benefit from an EHCP?



If more support in school is needed than is available from existing resources



Ensures that whichever school they go to (thinking about secondary transition), teachers are aware of needs



Can be used in other settings too eg with medical visits or social care

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2023





The Friends of Dalmain



Wreaths £385
Tea towels £368
Cards £247
Disco £430
Bake & Uniform sales £350
Trees £1078
Winter fair £5.9k

Friends of Dalmain fundraising total for this term: ~~£8,758~~

Thank you for your support! Money raised will be going towards the continued update of the playground area

Dalmain is turning 150 in April 2024!

If family or friends have any photos, stories or documents please share it with the school. Send through to The School Office.

More information about our 150th Anniversary celebration plans coming in 2024!



SAVE THE DATE

Friends of Dalmain Quiz Night is back!

Quiz Night

Friday 26th January

7pm, (quiz starts at 7.30pm)

Drinks, hot Samosas and Paneer Rolls available to buy!

Prize for winning team

Tickets available to buy in the new year



Magic Club is coming to Dalmain in January 2024!

The first law of Magic - it's a SECRET! Never reveal how a trick is done...

The second law of Magic - Practice! Practice! Practice!

It's Magic! Abracadabra! Hocus Pocus! Children will love learn how to do magic tricks, and will delight in amazing you with their performances.



Prepare to be impressed with your talented children who will conjure up a performance using everyday household items.

A pack of playing cards and some felt tip pens is all they need to bring with them each week then we can start to make the magic happen!

But remember - they have to keep the method a SECRET!

Apply directly to: themagicsschool@livefromlondonuk.com



Clubs Spring Term 2024

Club	Day	Time	Year Group	Location	Teacher
Karate	Monday	8:00-8:45	White and Red Belts	Top Hall	Sensei Bethany McCloskey
Drawing	Monday	3:30-4:30	3, 4, 5 & 6	Art Room	Mr Roberts
Dance	Monday	3:30-4:30	1 & 2	Top Hall	Ms Ince
Netball	Monday	3:30-4:30	3, 4, 5 & 6	PEN	Ms Allsopp
Games	Monday	3:30-4:30	2 & 3	Room 17	Ms Edwards
Football	Monday	5:00-6:00	3 & 4	PEN	Mr Graham
		6:00-7:00	5 & 6	PEN	Mr Graham
Multi-skills	Tuesday	8:00-8:45	1 & 2	PEN	Mr Graham
Karate	Tuesday	8:00-8:45	Yellow Belts	Top Hall	Sensei Bethany McCloskey
Lego	Tuesday	3:30-4:30	Reception, 1 & 2	Room 17	Mr Joe
Games	Tuesday	3:30-4:30	1 & 2	Room 19	Ms Edwards
Magic Club	Tuesday	3:30-4:30	2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	Room 15	Live From London
Football	Tuesday	4:30-5:30	Rec	PEN	Ms CJ
		5:30-6:30	1 & 2	PEN	Ms CJ
Artful Coders: Thinkers Coding Club	Wednesday	3:30-4:30	3 & 4 5 & 6	The Rose Room	Ms Ralista
Drama Club	Wednesday	3:30-4:30	5 & 6	Top Hall	Ms Ince
Mindfulness	Wednesday	3:30-4:30	Reception & Year 1	Room 5	Ms Naja
Tennis	Wednesday	3:30-4:30	4,5,6	Pen	Mr Graham
Yo Ballet	Thursday	3:30-4:30	Rec, 1 & 2	Top Hall	The London Ballet Company
Multi-skills	Friday	8:00-8:45	3, 4, 5 & 6	PEN	Mr Graham
Cricket	Friday	3:30-4:30	4,5,6	Pen	Mr Graham
Choir	Friday	3:30-4:30	3, 4, 5 & 6	Top Hall	Ms Logie



Spring Term 2024

Club & Instrumental Lesson Dates

Clubs will run on the weeks beginning:

1. Monday 8 January
2. Monday 15 January
3. Monday 22 January
4. Monday 29 January
5. Monday 5 February

HALF TERM

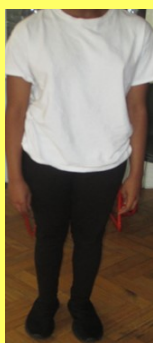
6. Monday 19 February
7. Monday 26 February
8. Monday 4 March
9. Monday 11 March
10. Monday 18 March

Choir Club has been an absolute triumph this term, finishing with the most wonderful performance on Friday evening last week. We felt so very proud of them all. From Nowhere Man by The Beatles, to Dancing Queen, Roar, One Direction, Billie Jean, Lady Gaga, Freya Skye a comedy sketch and some dancing; there were entertainment and goose bump moments galore.

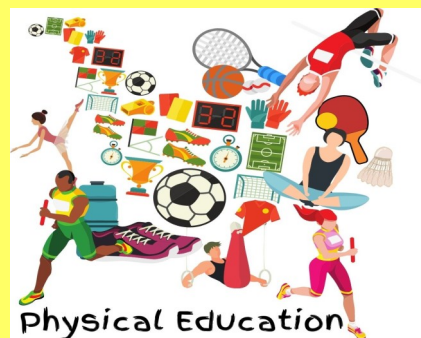
⇒ Teyah is so beautifully natured, always participates and, even when she is nervous, still gives it a good shot. She performed Roar by Katy Perry—she has a little lioness inside of her which has been beautiful to see this term! She also had 100% attendance.

Well done to everyone in Choir Club this term!

P.E. Kit Reminder



- ◆ 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



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

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.

Nursery—Unicorn Class

This term, we have been exploring light and dark. We talked about the change of seasons as we moved from Autumn to Winter, and explored light and shadows in our dark den using torches.



We particularly enjoyed the story of 'Whatever Next' which inspired lots of imaginative role play as we took off in rocket ships to visit the moon! We made our own rocket ship and used information books to find out more about space.

We also begun our Forest School sessions! We enjoyed exploring, climbing up onto logs and findings pathways through the foliage. There were lots of opportunities for children to develop their social skills and help one another. We look forward to more sessions in the new year!



This term, we have been finding out about different festivals and celebrations. We made firework paintings to celebrate bonfire night. We also enjoyed learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali and the story of Rama and Sita. We made our own Diva lamps to celebrate.



Forest School



Rain, hail or snow– nothing stops us from having a wonderful time at Forest School!

This term we have enjoyed making nature wands, finding all sorts of different autumn leaves, creating our own beautiful giant poppy as well as swinging on the trees, singing in the rain and looking after wiggly worms!

In Reception, we have been learning about different garden birds and we have even got a little robin friend who likes to come and visit us each week!

We can't wait to see what the Spring Term brings!



Reception—Pegasus Class



We have been so busy learning about our feelings and how to navigate different friendships this term. We explored what would happen to an apple if it had unkind words said to it; each time that happened we tapped it on the floor and we realised that just like the apple, our hearts got hurt a little bit.

We completed exciting science experiments to investigate how rockets explode in the air during a coke and mints experiment. It was very exciting to see the liquid shoot up into the air.

There have been many celebrations and festivals to find out about. We have learnt about Remembrance Day, Bonfire Night, Diwali, Hanukah and now Christmas. It was lots of fun making poppies out of natural materials in the Forest School and we loved making Rangoli patterns with coloured rice.

P.E has been a great success and the children have been following instructions whilst also thinking about personal space and moving their bodies in different ways. We have also been learning how to sew and practise those fine motor skills.



Cooking has been a favourite activity every week and it has been lovely to incorporate Maths, with measuring, capacity, estimation and consolidation of number from 0 to 5. The best part is in the eating though!

It is so exciting to see the children become more confident with their phonics and they are so eager to find out what the new phoneme or digraph of the day is.



Reception—Pixie Class



We have been blown away with how Pixie Class have taken on this epic Autumn 2 term! In Phonics, Ms Hayley and Ms Joyce have been trying to trick the children out by giving them very challenging words to blend but Pixie class are just too good! They truly are masters of blending and skilled digraph detectives! It has been exciting to see how the children have been able to apply their phonics skills to their writing. The children have loved writing for purpose, creating books, invitations, special cards and shopping lists!

In Maths we have been learning lots about 2D shapes as well as developing a deeper learning about the number four and five. We will continue to consolidate this knowledge in the spring so that we can understand and rapidly recall our number bonds to five.

Despite the occasional rainy Monday, the children have relished the opportunity to go across to the Wildlife Garden. Inspired by the book, Henry Finch, the children became keen bird-watchers. We have even noticed that we have a special robin that comes to visit us each week! The children have also been very creative making homes for hedgehogs and creating their own stick people!

This term our focus has been to learn about different festivals and special events. They have learned all about Halloween, Diwali, Remembrance Day, as well as Hanukkah and Christmas. We are so proud of how Pixie Class worked in preparation for their Christmas Performance and we think they should be so proud of everything they have achieved this term! Take a bow, Pixie Class!





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

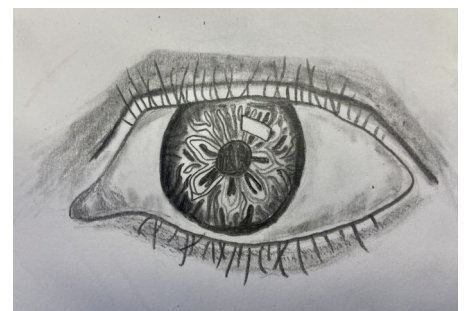


This term the Eco Council have continued to meet every other Tuesday. The children helped with weeding and tidying the rain planters in the playground.

In one of our meetings, the children raised that they would like more opportunities to learn outdoors, for example in the wildlife garden. We went through the school's Long Term Plan for each year group and identified times in the year when the learning could be taken outside, for example during Science lessons. We are looking forward

to an update on how this continues to develop throughout the year.

We have also discussed other issues like the lack of recycling bins in the playground, and we are looking at ways to change this. We are hoping to organize a whole school event to raise money for this. Watch this space!





So....what's it like to represent your class and be on School Council? Read on to find out more from this year's Dalmain School Councillors.

"It feels amazing to be on School Council because the class trust you with their views. We got our badges after we presented our speeches to the class – it was tense! But we came out the other side – our feelings were a mixture of shock and joy!" Stan & Rosie

"I believe it is a huge responsibility to be on School Council as you are expected to listen to the view of your class and report them back to Ms Eisele. It takes time, effort and bravery to prepare and deliver a speech. I have dreamt of becoming a School Councillor for years. I believe it is our time to make not just Year 6 the best it can be but the whole school." David & Taylor

"When I heard my teacher call out my name for School Council, I was stunned. I didn't think my class would vote for me and so I was really happy to be given such responsibility. It is a real privilege to represent the class as a School Councillor, even though it might be hard work." Livia & Bonnie

"What is it like to be a Councillor? Well, the answer is simple – it's really fun! You get to share your ideas and really think about how to improve the school. It is a big responsibility but we can do it." Savanna & Rohan

"This term I have been talking with our amazing class and we are planning to put exciting things in the playground. When I got my badge, I felt like I was part of a team and we inspire each other during meetings." Joan & Calvin

"Everyone is enjoying Dalmain this term and we have all been working hard for House Points. The Houses inspire us to try harder and be the best we can be. As School Councillors, we are looking forward to working with Young Leaders in Year 6 and to making a difference across the school." Freddie and Lilia



"We love being on School Council so much! You need to have meetings and represent your class. This term, we have been busy working on the Pen and the playground." Sam & Alaiyah



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: Zenon & Sophia

Year 1: Zion & Ayla

Year 2: Shae & Ethan

Year 3: Sanako & Arjun

Year 4: Joan & Lukas

Year 5: Alara & Rosie

Year 6: Josiah & Evie



CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE!

HOUSE POINTS

The excitement and engagement with our new Dalmain House Points system has been palpable across the term. A huge well done and thank you to everyone for their hard work and for the many House Points earned!

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 this term the Houses received the below points:



Grove House—1,414 (4th Place)

Forest House—1,557 (2nd Place)

Hawthorn House—1,572 (1st Place)

Oak House—1,516 (3rd Place)



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 1—Dragon Class

We cannot believe that we have finished our first term in Year 1! It has flown by and we have learned so much and had so much fun!



This term we read an amazing book, 'Send for a Superhero' by Michael Rosen, which was story about two baddies who were destroying Townton. We wrote

our own versions and create our own superheroes to help the character Brad 40 save Townton. Miss Rochester could not believe how amazing our writing was! We also read 'Billy and the Best' by Nadia Shireen.

In Maths we have been doing a lot of adding and subtracting and that's not all. In RE we have been learning all about The Holy Bible and Christmas. We went on our first trip to St Saviour's church and Father David Vyvan spoke to us about Christmas and why this festival is important to Christians.



In Geography we have been exploring physical and human geography and, in PSHE, all of the things that make us special. In Science we have been exploring materials and we had a really fun lesson called the Ice Challenge where we got to explore what's the same and what's different between Ice and water.

We hope your all enjoyed our Christmas performance and we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Year 1—Mermaid Class

We cannot believe that we have finished our first term in Year 1! It has flown by and we have learned so much and had so much fun!



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We hope you all enjoyed our Winter Performance as much as we did. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Year 2—Phoenix Class

What an amazing term we've had in Phoenix class!

We loved singing our songs for the winter performance - we worked hard to learn the words and actions, and our teachers were very proud of the great performances.

This term we've learned lots about our planet - we learned how some animals are in danger of extinction, but wrote speeches where we showed how we can save the animals if people make the right choices. We also learned about the different continents and oceans in geography, including how we protect our oceans.



In Maths, we have been doing addition and subtraction, and we have loved doing investigations like the one in the picture about spots on ladybirds.

Art has been great this term. We've been learning how to do single point perspective drawings. We think the results are spectacular and Mr Roberts agrees!

That's not all - we learned about the Holy Trinity in RE lessons, we learned about being a good friend in PSHE, we programmed beebots in computing and looked at the properties of the different materials all around the school. It's been a great first term in Year

2. We're looking forward to learning more in '24!



Year 2—Sphinx Class

Wow, what a brilliant term it has been in Sphinx class!

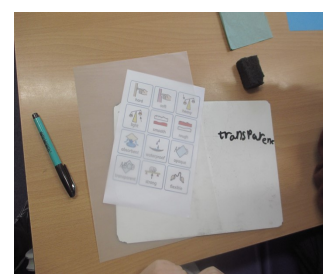
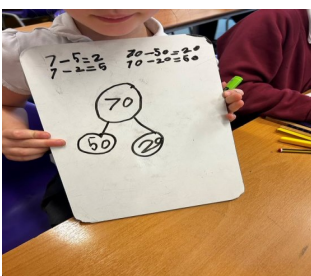
The term we have learnt all about the importance of protecting the environment and what will sadly happen if we do not. In writing, we used loads of specialist vocabulary such as: **extinct**, **endangered**, **pollution** and **contamination**. In our written pieces and during classroom debates! We have also really enjoyed looking at the different continents and oceans in Geography.

In Maths, we have been practicing our addition and subtraction skills using 'Make Ten', dienes and 100 squares to support our learning journey.

Art with Mr. Roberts has been spectacular this term! As a class, our artistic flare has really shone through and we have each independently created phenomenal single point perspective drawings.

Our RE topic this term has been Christianity, focusing on the Holy Trinity and the 10 commandments. We programmed beebots in Computing and investigated the properties of different materials in Science and role-played what it meant to be a good friend in PSHE.

This term has flown by and we cannot wait to find out what 2024 has in store for us!





EMPOWERING
PARENTS
EMPOWERING
COMMUNITIES



Being a Parent

The course helps parents and carers learn practical communication skills for everyday life and bring up confident and happy children. It helps improve parents' wellbeing and parenting techniques, builds families' social and community connectedness.

The course is **free** and **highly recommended**.

- **Downham Library:** 7-9 Moorside Road, BR1 5EW
Wednesdays, 10:00am-12:00pm from 17th January 2024
- **Catford Library:** Catford Centre, 23-24 Winslade Way SE6 4JU
Fridays, 10:00am-12:00pm starting 19th January 2024

Course is delivered term-time only.

Places are limited per term. It is first come first serve basis and you will automatically be put in a waiting list once the list is full.

Creche is provided and should be booked in advance.

For information and registration, please contact:



Family
Information
Service

Family Information Service

Email: fis@lewisham.gov.uk

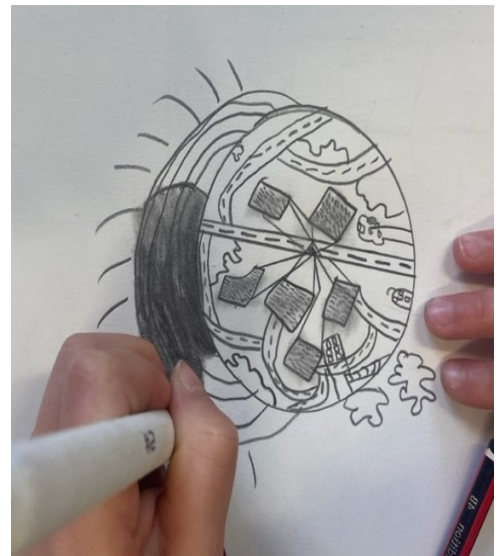
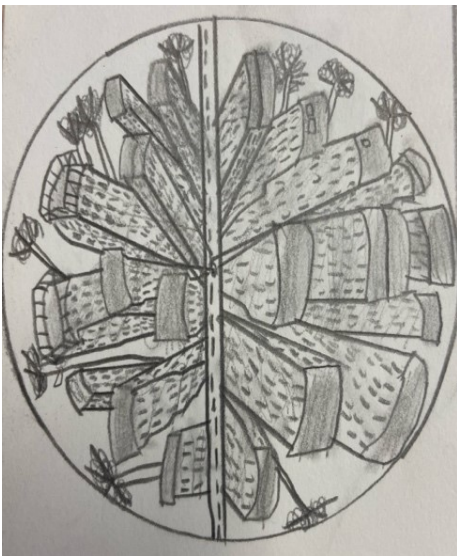
Telephone: 020 8314 3940

Mobile: 073 9286 2138

In DT, children in Year 1 have been learning about seasonality and food groups. They have enjoyed taste testing and made their own delicious autumnal butternut squash and sage pizza!



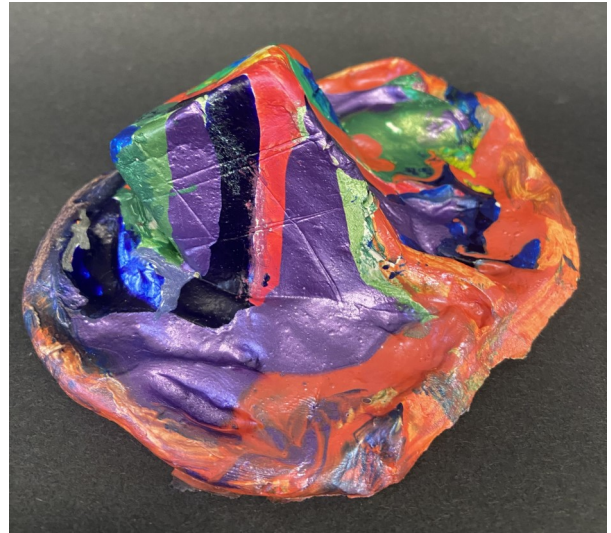
Year 2 have been learning about art activism and studying skyscrapers through fish eye lenses, producing fantastic drawings using 1 point perspective from an aerial viewpoint using their new sketching techniques.



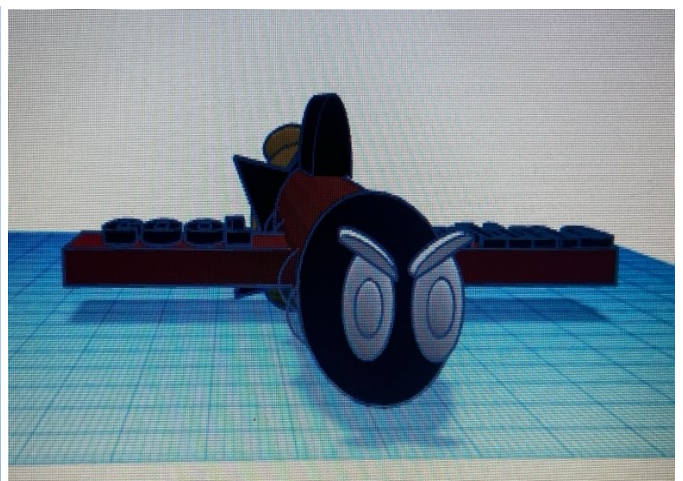
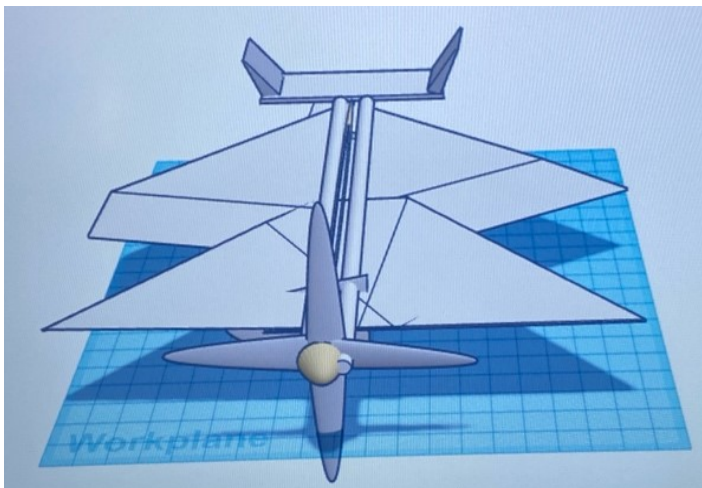
Children in Year 3 have also been learning about seasonality and food pyramids. Our DT project has culminated in them making a delicious Somerset stew and parsley mash!



In Art, Year 4 children have been linking their science topic based on states of matter to concepts of consumerism. They have chosen disposable objects and created sculptures of the melting, using free pour paint techniques to complete their spectacular sculptures.



In Year 5 children have been using Cad software to design their own flying machines inspired by ornithopters and the legend of Icarus. The end results have been some brilliantly engineered flying machines.



A huge congratulations to Year 6 who have completed their model of a sustainable London and won the top award, coming first at the Opencity Architecture in Schools Awards. Over 1500 schools participated and 27 schools were shortlisted for awards, so this is a phenomenal achievement.



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

The children visited their offices and are transformed their outstanding design work into a model of a future sustainable with the help of experienced architects through workshops in school.

Our more sustainable London





Therapeutic Parenting Programme Incredible Years

Our Therapeutic Parenting group is for parents and carers with a child aged 4 –11 years who either has a diagnosis or may have ADHD. Your child may also display behaviours that make places and spaces unsafe to be in, or cause serious harm to themselves and others.

This course is not suitable for children with a diagnosis of ASD.

Beecroft Children and Family Centre

Dalrymple Road, SE4 2BH

Course Runs

Tuesdays 16th Jan - 26th March
9.15am - 11.15am

No session during Half-Term,
Thursday 12th February

Help improve:

- Your child's self-esteem & mental health
- Relationships
- Resilience and stress
- Your confidence as a parent



Learn alongside other parents about:

- Why taking the time to play is important.
- How language can help to manage emotions.
- Creating and enforcing boundaries.
- How to help your child calm down
- Recognising the positives and how praise helps
- How incentives can help with behaviour change.
- Understanding consequences and how and when they are helpful.

"Before I came onto these sessions I used to think there was something wrong with my child, but after coming onto these sessions I learnt something about myself" - parent

To enquire or book your place please contact us via
www.lewishamcfc.org.uk/contact-us/
or call 07377 724243



www.lewishamcfc.org.uk

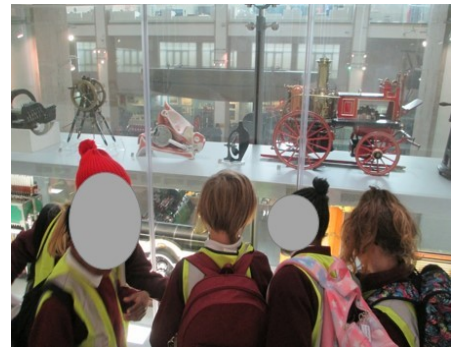
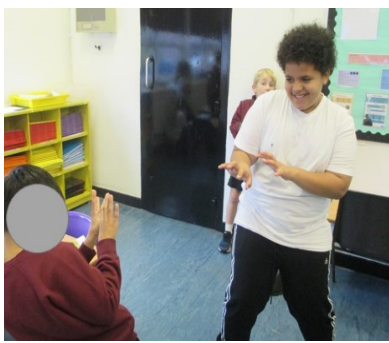


@lewishamchildrencentres



@lewishamcfc

Year 4—Sprite Class



This term was jam-packed with lots of exciting learning, trips and rehearsal practice. Sprite Class have dived head first into one of the busiest terms of the year and still managed to produce fantastic learning along the way.

As our theme for this term was 'Find Courage', the children studied books (The Undefeated, Tar Beach and Pride) that explore ideas such as equality, overcoming struggle and the importance of fairness. Whilst studying 'The Undefeated' they discussed the fire of the civil rights movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest black heroes. While studying 'Tar Beach' in Writing, children wrote persuasive letters speaking against the injustice of racism.

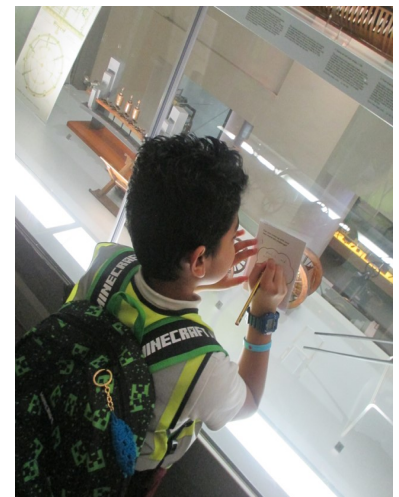
In Maths, children are beginning to master numbers within 10,000 and have moved on to 'Shape' and 'Perimeter'. As part of our Science topic 'States of matter', children had the opportunity to visit the Science Museum where they took part in a scavenger hunt. In PSE, while celebrating anti-bullying week, children also watched a performance by the fantastic theatre group, Chain Reactions. All in all, Sprite Class have worked hard to produce fantastic learning and hope to producing great learning next term!

Year 4—Selkie Class

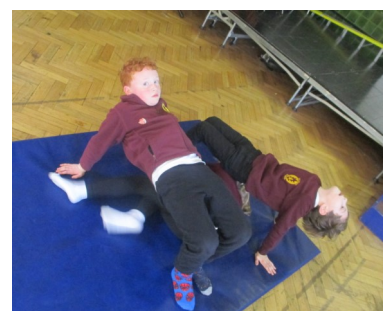


What an exhilarating, awesome term we have had in Selkie Class!

In English we have been studying 'Tar Beach' by Faith Ringgold which is about the amazing Cassie who flies above her apartment-building rooftop in Harlem. We have written wonderful recounts that capture the magical essence of Cassie's hopes, dreams and achievements. In Reading, we have been analysing 'The Undefeated' by Kwame Alexander and we have been truly inspired by the perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes.



In Science we have been exploring states of matter and consolidated our learning with an exciting trip to the Science Museum. Our topic in RE is



Christianity, focusing on places of worship. To begin this topic, we identified what a place of worship is and how they differ depending on an individual's religious beliefs.

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



TALKING TEENS



Family Thrive Early Help Co-ordinators are running a free course for parents or carers of teenagers and pre-teens who are looking to better understand and communicate with them – It offers an opportunity to understand what's going on in the adolescent brain and how to understand their feelings and behaviours using an authoritative parenting style. Sessions will focus on relationships within the family, communication, negotiation, decision-making and strategies to reduce conflict.

The group aims to develop:

- relationships between teenagers and parents/carers
- a calmer home life
- confidence when talking about difficult issues
- an understanding of teenage needs and development

Who would be eligible to attend this course?

- Parents and carers of pre-teens and teenagers who are currently in years 6 & 7 but there may be availability for years 5 & 8
- There is no physical or extremely challenging behaviour present in or outside of the family home. This course focuses on the importance of empathy and positive discipline
- Family must reside in Lewisham borough or child must attend a Lewisham school

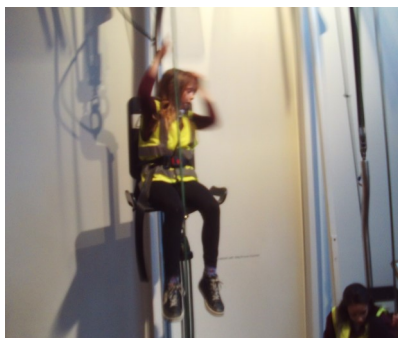
How long is the course?

- Each group is 4 sessions over the course of 4 weeks
- 2 hours per session (10.00am-12.00pm on Thursdays)

For more information or to register your interest, please email our duty box:
EHCFamilyThrive@lewisham.gov.uk



Year 5—Kraken Class



This half term, Kraken Class have enjoyed an out-of-this-world learning experience around our Science topic: Earth and Space. We learnt about all things planets, moons, suns and more. As part of this unit, we visited the Science Museum, where we enjoyed exploring the space gallery and the Wonderlab.



Our termly topic for English was linked to our History unit, the Ancient Greeks. In our Reading lessons, we read the book 'Mythologica', a beautifully illustrated non-fiction book about the gods, monsters, heroes and mortals of Greek mythology. We developed our inferencing skills by using the P.E.E. strategy

(Point, Evidence and Explanation). In Writing, we have joined the hero, Odysseus, in the most epic story ever written, Homer's "The Odyssey", as he undertook various trials and tribulations. We worked towards writing our final outcome, a piece of extended writing where we imagined, planned and wrote our very own epic tale, inspired by the travels of Odysseus.



In History, we explored the culture, society and achievements of the Ancient Greeks, comparing different city states and assessing the impact of their legacy on modern society. We are really looking forward to next half term, especially our class trip to the Planetarium!

Year 5—Chimera Class

This half term, Chimera class have been on an incredible journey based around the theme of Power Vs Principles. In English, the children have immersed themselves in the timeless tale of the Odyssey, writing chilling diary entries as Odysseus and creating their own epic narratives. Chimera Class have continued to develop their comprehension skills through reading the fascinating (and beautifully illustrated) book, 'Mythologica'.



We have learnt how to multiply and divide three-digit numbers by one-digit numbers using a variety of methods in our maths lessons and explored many of the wonders of space in Science. The children loved visiting the Wonderlab and Space exhibition in the Science Museum, collecting facts to add to our class blog in the next computing lesson. In History, we delved into the captivating world of ancient Greeks and, in RE, we learnt about gods and beliefs in Hinduism. Our PSE lessons have equipped us with the tools to identify and respond to stereotypical and discriminatory language and in Latin we have continued to learn the past continuous tense. Alongside all of this, the children have been performing in singing rehearsals for our upcoming winter performance and crafting innovative flying machines for Icarus in DT. What a tremendous term!



Dalmain Young Leaders

We have exceptional young people in Year 6 at Dalmain Primary School. These children were successful in becoming Young Leaders for our school this term.

They showed their commitment to the role by completing an application form, then attending an interview with Ms. Wilkinson, Miss Biggs and Miss Natel. They all worked so hard!

The adults were very impressed with all children who went through a tough selection process, they showed what, mature, kind and thoughtful pupils they are. We are incredibly proud of them all.

Toby
Jasmine
Sophie
Soadhi
Evie
Kimarlee
Kairo
Theo
Lucas V
Lucas S
Thea
Gabriel
Nnamdi
Shiervin
Amaka
Kairo
Imaan
Thea
Cillian
Lakeland
Nicholas
Lucas M



CONGRATULATIONS & WELL DONE TO YOU ALL!

These Young Leaders will help to keep the playground safe and more fun, for example by ensuring that all play equipment is in the playground at the beginning of play and put away at the end of lunch play.

They will work with younger children to play team games and teach younger children how to practice new skills. Wearing their Young Leader high vis vests so that they are easily recognized, they will help with friendships and be positive role models to our younger children.

**YOUNG
LEADERS**



Year 6—Faun & Kitsune Classes

This term in Year 6, we have enjoyed learning many things and developing our skills of independence – from our exciting trip to Norfolk to getting ready to present our Winter Performance to our parents and carers.

We had a wondrous time at Kingswood in Norfolk, throughout the week; everyone showed their true selves, and demonstrated the school values of teamwork and adventure. During our time away, we bonded as a year group and created new friendships.

We took part in a variety of activities that we had not done before, such as fencing and nature survival skills. We also developed many skills such as communication; for instance, during the 'Nightline' activity, we were blindfolded and we had to rely on our collaborative and communication skills to enable us all to complete the obstacle course. For many of us we faced our fears and did activities that we were not too sure about, such as abseiling. We were so glad that we persevered because we were thrilled with ourselves when we did finally did abseil down, to cheers and encouragement from our team. The food was delicious too, especially breakfast!



Some of us did not go to Kingswood but instead stayed behind at school where Miss Katie organised an action packed week. We planned a delicious meal and learnt how to make a pizza and cakes. They were scrumptious! On Friday, we also went to the Young V&A museum, where we were able to spark our creativity and explore the different exhibits.

In DT & Art, we were amazed to have won the top architect award from our Open City project. Some of the year group went up Tower Hamlets to collect the award on our behalf and they were impressed with the other city models created by the other entrants. We were all super excited to receive our keys to the City of London and the fact that we can now take our sheep for a walk across London Bridge! We are now developing our anatomical drawing skills based on Leonardo da Vinci, by drawing figures, faces and features.

At the beginning of the term, many of us completed an application to become a Young Leader. It was a rigorous process and we were interviewed by Ms Wilkinson for the role. We are now going to be doing some training before we begin our new role of being ambassadors for Dalmain and helping other children at playtimes by organising games and activities.

In English, we have been reading 'The Promise' by Nicola Davies and we have been creating our own sequel to the story. In our Laban Lessons, we have also been creating a dance routine for the story. We have also learnt how to read dance notation, which was created by Rudolf Laban. Dance notation is the symbolic representation of human dance movement and form, using methods such as graphic symbols and path mapping.

In Science, for our electricity topic, we have been reviewing and building on our knowledge of how to draw and build circuits. We developed our knowledge and inquisitive skills further by building salty circuits! This is an electrical circuit that uses saltwater as part of the circuit. We investigated the conductivity of saltwater, and how the amount of salt in a solution affects the flow of electricity through the circuit. We were able, after much trial and error, to build a circuit that lit up a bulb.



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.