



DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter—February 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

We can't quite believe that it is Half Term already! Despite the short term, we have squeezed a huge amount in to each week and I know you will greatly enjoy reading through our wonderful newsletter and seeing what we have been up to.

At the start of the term, we welcomed 2 external review teams to look at our SEND provision. We were overwhelmed by the enormously positive feedback we received, some highlights being:

"There is strong provision for pupils with (SEND). Consequently, pupils continue to progress well."

"Evidence of strong communication at every level across the school. Interventions are purposeful."

"There is a high level of training provided for all staff and staff are skilled to deliver a high number of interventions."

"Children reported that they like coming to school and were positive about their experiences during the day."

"Lots of examples of reasonable adjustments and the use of personalised resources to support the regulation and access of children."

As a proudly inclusive and diverse school, we were delighted to hear from external professionals how well we are when supporting all individuals within our community. A huge well done and thank you to the whole team!

We are ending the term with Writing Week and we can't wait to share the children's work with you during our exhibition. Have a look at p.2 for further details! This year, we focused our Writing Week on Dalmain's big birthday – our 150 year anniversary coming up in April! We are planning a spectacular series of events across Term 5 and really look forward to celebrating with our entire community during this time.

As part of our 150 year anniversary, we will be creating a commemorative mural for one of the walls in the playground. We are asking our pupils to help us with designing this and would love to have their input after Half Term. Look out for the details of this project from Mr Roberts which will be included in your holiday homework packs.



Thank you to all parents and carers for attending our Parent Teacher Meetings a few weeks ago. It was wonderful to meet with you and to share the incredible progress the children have been making. The relationship between home and school is paramount to supporting the children's progress and we are so grateful to have such incredible support from all the families within our community.

We wish you all a happy, restful and safe Half Term holiday. See you on Monday 19th February!

Best wishes, Ms Eisele – Headteacher

Key Dates: Term 4

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

- ◆ **Monday 19th February** - Start of Term
- ◆ **Thursday 29th February** - River View walk Art field trip Year 3 River Walk Catford
- ◆ **Monday 4th March** - Class Group Photographs
- ◆ **Tuesday 5th & Wednesday 6th March**—Year 5 performances at Catford Bradway
- ◆ **Bikeability**—postponed to Term 6
- ◆ **Thursday 21st March** - World Down Syndrome Day
- ◆ **Thursday 28th March** - END OF TERM



Writing Week



2024's Writing Week was a week to remember. In fact, it was a week for the whole school to remember the day our school opened almost 150 years ago.

The children have had a brilliant time learning all about what life was like back in 1874. They learned about what children did before there were schools like Dalmain. They also learned how things changed in the Victorian era. And they imagined what the world might be like in another 150 years.

The teaching team planned epic writing experiences for all the children. The week's writing journey went like this:

In Early Years, children marked pictures that showed what made them, them, and also wrote out what they love about school.

Year 2 imagined our first ever pupil (the first pupil name in the records is Ada Glasswick), and then wrote the transcript of an interview they imagined recording with Ada.

Year 3 imagined a diary entry after a child's first day at Dalmain, while Year 4 contrasted the workhouse with life at school.

Year 5 looked into the Education Act, the law which led to Dalmain being built. They debated the Bill, then wrote speeches in favour and against, before writing them up.

Finally, Year 6 imagined the world of 2174, and sent a message to the future about Dalmain in 2024.

What a week! We hope you enjoyed looking at the writing at our exhibition in the playground on the last day before half term. We're all really excited about celebrating our 150th birthday over the coming months. It's going to be a wonderful moment in the history of our school.



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.

A Celebration of Inclusion at Dalmain

We were delighted to welcome two groups of external professionals in to audit our provision for pupils with SEND to help us learn and grow. It was a real pleasure to show the visitors around our school and to share our exceptional practice with other professionals. They observed lessons, talked to children about their learning and also spoke to staff about their training. We wanted to share some of the lovely comments we received from them:

“Continuous examples of positive relationships with the children, which made for a calm environment.”

“Behaviour for learning and pupil focus strong in each class seen.”

“Children reported that they like coming to school and were positive about their experiences during the day.”

“All staff know the children with EHC plans and the strategies, provisions and recommendations for these students. This information is shared regularly with all staff.”

“Evidence of strong communication at every level across the school.”

“Leaders know the context of the school in relation to the SEND data. This is broken into area of need and is compared with local and national averages. This is evaluated each term and shared with staff.”

“Pupils with need had infrastructure in place to support them – wiggle cushions / ear protectors / iPad / laptops – pupils supported, keeping the environment calm.”

Inclusion Team Coffee mornings

Our next coffee morning will be hosted by Sonia, Lead teacher from the Drumbeat Outreach Team on **Friday 8th March between 9:00—10:00.**

Sonia will talk about how we can support our children and young people with **anxiety**.

This is a topic that many parents have discussed with us so we know that this will be a very popular coffee morning. Please book your place by e-mailing us at senco@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk



Debate Mate



Three teams of debaters made the journey from Forest Hill to Forest Gate to participate in the first round of the Urban Debate League of this year's Debate Mate competition.

For a number of weeks, Years 5 and 5 have been honing their debating skills every Thursday evening, seeking points of information, informing and rebutting and setting out their case according to the PEEL (point, evidence, example, link) principles of debating.

And they did our school proud! With one debate on whether violent video games should be banned and another on whether pupils should elect their Head Teacher, our children argued in favour and against - but always persuasively and politely.

The other teams were equally polite and persuasive, making for a fun, friendly, constructive set of debates in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Bravo.

As for the results, we won some and lost some, and we learned so much ahead of the next round next month. Everyone is looking forward to it, it was a brilliant first experience of Debate Mate.



Nursery—Unicorn Class



This term, we have been enjoying traditional stories, such as 'Little Red Riding Hood' and 'Goldlocks and the Three Bears'. The children also told and acted out their own stories as part of our Helicopter Storytelling sessions.

We had a visit from the Dentists and learnt more about how to take care of our teeth. We were very impressed by the way in which the children listened to our visitors, responding with questions and answers of their own.

We began our weekly trips to the library, where we have been enjoying choosing new books and stories to snuggle up and read with our friends.

We also enjoyed a Chinese Dragon Dancing workshop and have been inspired to create our very own dragon to perform a dance together in the Nursery garden to celebrate the Lunar New Year.



Forest School



At Forest School the children noticed how the Wildlife Garden had changed greatly over the past few weeks. One week it was so cold the pond was completely frozen over! We talked about the seasons and the different weather we experience during this time of year.

The children made cloud catchers to prompt them to observe the skies above. They also started studying maps and have even created their own for the Wildlife Garden. They also enjoyed playing imaginative games linked to the stories we have been reading in class. Thankfully no real Big Bad Wolves live in our Wildlife Garden!

As the weather has been cold, we have ensured that there has been plenty of food for the birds to eat. We especially hope our dear Robin friend who visits and sings for us each week enjoyed the tasty treats hanging from the trees! The children are also becoming much more independent in zipping up their warm coats, remembering their hats and gloves and putting on their wellington boots. Very important skills to have!



We are very excited about what next term may hold. Discovering spring flowers, tad poles and ducklings are just a few weeks away.

Bring on Spring, we are ready for you!





We have continued to work towards our Earth Pledge this term, in particular our pledge to 'dispose of rubbish appropriately, including recycling, both indoors and outdoors'.

We have now got the appropriate food bin in our dining hall so all our food waste at lunch times is being disposed of appropriately.

Did you know that over 7,000 tonnes of food waste is produced by Lewisham residents every year? This is equivalent to over 550 double-decker buses. The food waste from the bins, like the one we are now using, is

What can go in the food waste bins?



sent for anaerobic digestion at the East London Biogas plant, which turns waste into energy for local homes and fertiliser for the agricultural sector.

We have also got two food waste bins in the playground – perfect for fruit peels and cores we have at break times!



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



Such exciting times in Pegasus Class!

We have celebrated Lunar New Year with a Dragon dancing workshop and all of the children tasted noodles and stir fried vegetables. We have been learning how to collaborate and work with different friends, and have discussed why it is always important to tell the truth. In P.E we have been exploring how to balance and move our bodies whilst carrying bean bags in different ways. It is tricky to throw and catch a beanbag to a friend.

It was fun to act out the story of 'Little Red' and we even tasted ginger beer that was delicious! We have written ingredient lists and have made delicious smoothies. The children have been challenged to create bridges out of lolly sticks and cups and this linked in nicely with our story of the 'Three Billy Goats Gruff.'

Forest School has been used for digging up worms and making them little homes in the earth. We also made bird food and hung it from the tree outside the classroom. The squirrels were rather mischievous and nibbled at it along with lots of magpies. It was lovely to see the children extend their learning to make bird feeders at home.

We have been learning how to look after our teeth with a visit from some dentists and our parents have been dropping in to read with the children during our Friday morning 'Reading Café' time. It is so lovely to see the joy and excitement of sharing a story in class with a different adult.



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Reception—Pixie Class

It has been another wonderful term in Pixie class. We had such fun exploring our topic, 'Telling a tale'. We read stories such as *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *Little Red* and *The Magic Paintbrush* and many more classic tales. The children enjoyed retelling and acting out their favourites stories as well as creating their own thrilling fairy tales too! Luckily, MOST of these had a 'happily ever after' ending. Phew!



We also had a visit from two dentists from Kings Hospital. Big thanks to James' mother for helping us to arrange this! During their visit, they discussed why looking after our teeth is so important. They taught us a catchy tooth brushing song and even brought along some of their kit so the children could dress up and enjoy being a dentist too. They examined each other's teeth thoroughly and even had some honest feedback for some of the teachers too! The children explored what foods are healthy and unhealthy for us and made delicious smoothies full of nutrients. They were so tasty, lots of children decided to go back for seconds!

We also had a fabulous Chinese Dragon Dancing workshop to launch our learning about the Lunar New Year. The children learnt two dances and we were so proud of their performance to parents at the end of the day. Following this, the children learned all about how the Lunar New Year is celebrated and we are so excited to welcome Anh's family in at the end of term to tell us all about their family traditions during this time!

It has been wonderful welcoming parents and carers into our classroom each Friday morning to read with the children. We are so grateful for your engagement and are very excited to see what we can achieve together next term!

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!

"WRITING
IS THE
PAINTING
OF THE
VOICE!"
VOLTAIRE

Reception: Semory & Noor

Year 1: Lily & Isabel

Year 2: Ruby & Nedaviah

Year 3: Teyah & Kayla

Year 4: Livia & Margaux

Year 5: Milo & Hester

Year 6: Lukas V & Toby

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

Maya Angelou

Dalmain's 150 Year Anniversary

Dalmain Primary School, the oldest school in the local area, will be turning 150 years old on 13th April 2024!

To celebrate the history of our school and our wonderful community, we have booked a series of events and workshops across Term 5. We will send more information closer to the time. We really cannot wait!

One date for our whole school community will be

Friday 24th May 2024 (afternoon)

Please make a note in your diaries about this as we would like to welcome as many people as possible to celebrate with us that



Year 1—Dragon Class

This term in Dragon Class has truly flown by!

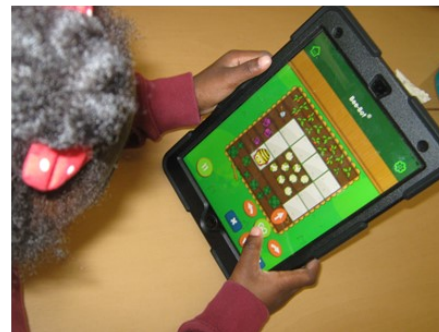
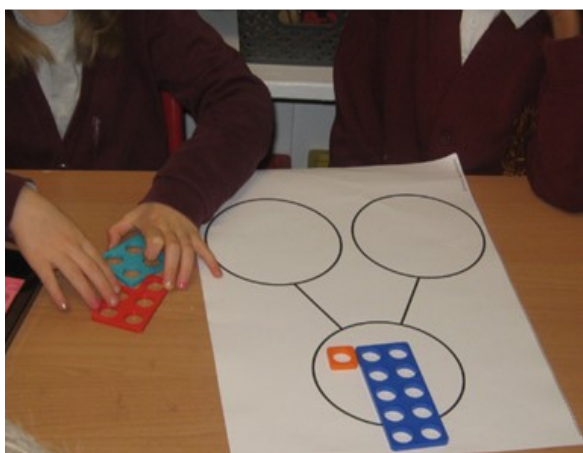
This term in Writing we read the amazing book '*Leo and the Octopus*' by Isabelle Marnov which is a lovely book about a boy who found out lots of amazing facts about Octopuses. We then created leaflets to put into the London Aquarium to help the visitors learn lots about Octopuses. We even created our nature documentary. Which was so much fun!

We really enjoyed Writing Week and even received a letter from 150 years ago telling us what school was like. So then we wrote letters back to tell them how

different school is for us now. Can you believe they were not allowed to run around as much as they liked?!

In Maths we have been investigating odd and even numbers and the different ways that we can partition these numbers and that's not all. In Computing we learned about robots and giving robots different directions. In Science we learnt about fish, mammals, amphibians and birds and in Art we had lots of fun doing bubble painting!

We hope you have a lovely half term!



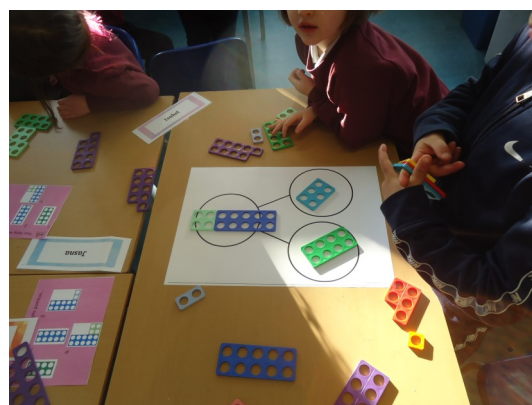
Year 1—Mermaid Class

It has been another lovely term in Mermaid Class!

The children have enjoyed learning about '*Leo and the Octopus*' in their writing lessons and were especially eager to make their leaflets about octopuses to send off to the London Aquarium. In Maths we have been learning about odd and even numbers. We have looked at number families to 20 and practiced our number bonds to 30.

The children have really enjoyed learning about the different animal groups in Science and can now tell the difference between mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds and fish. In History we have been learning about three significant British nurses; Mary Seacole, Florence Nightingale and Edith Cavell. The children have really enjoyed learning about Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole and have even gone out to do further research at home.

Mermaid Class have produced some wonderful work across all lessons and have celebrated 150 years of Dalmain.





The Friends of Dalmain



FOD Updates

Friends of Dalmain (FoD), the school
Parent-Teacher Association

Quiz Fundraiser

Thank you to those who attended our quiz night on the 26th January, we raised over £400! Congratulations to the winning team (second year in a row)!



Tree planting

We are liaising with 'Street Trees for Cities' to plant some trees in the playground and more along Grove Close. These would be planted next Winter.



150th

Anniversary

The school has exciting plans in Term 5 for the 150th Anniversary. We will be in touch with how you can help and be involved.

Upcoming Events

Pre-loved book sale
(on World Book Day)
- 7th March

Music Night - 22nd
March

Summer Fair - 29th
June

Don't forget to buy your Music
night tickets, early bird
discount ends on 29th February

www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofdalmain





The Friends of Dalmain



GET YOUR EARLY
BIRD TICKETS
NOW FOR JUST £10

STANDARD
PRICE: £14

DALMAIN MUSIC NIGHT 2024

Come and enjoy an evening of
Live music, Food & Drink

Raising money for Dalmain School

FRIDAY 22 MARCH, 2024

Venue: Lower Hall, Dalmain Primary School,
Grove Close, SE23 1AS

Doors: at 6.30pm | 7pm start

Tickets available on link below/QR code

pta-events.com/friendsofdalmain



Year 2—Phoenix Class

This may have been a short half term but we've crammed it full with learning in Phoenix Class.



Have you ever heard of a bear who could play the piano? Nor had we until we read a fabulous book called *'The Bear and The Piano.'* We wrote our own versions, featuring guitar-playing lions, drumming snakes and other musical animals.

Our Maths has focused on multiplication and we are very solid on our 2s, 5s and 10s. Test us during half term! And in Science, we loved learning about how animals adapt to their habitats. We also learned a very catchy song about habitats!

We've loved finding out about Emily Wilding Davison, the famous suffragette, and Rosa Parks who inspired the civil rights movement. While comparing the two, we noticed that Rosa Parks was born on the year Emily Wilding Davison died.

Emily Wilding Davison was born about 150 years ago, just like Dalmain School. We loved finding out about what school was like 150 years ago and enjoyed writing an interview with our first ever pupil. Next term we are going to be learning more about our fabulous city, London. It's going to be great!



Year 2—Sphinx Class



Sphinx class have been super busy this half term and it shows in the fantastic work they have produced!

We have loved reading *'The Bear and the Piano,'* a story all about a bear with an extraordinary musical talent. Whilst reading the book we discussed the author's use of the past tense, expanded noun phrases and the hidden meaning of the story. The book inspired us to write our own narratives and we each chose an animal, instrument and big, bright city to have as the story line.



In Maths, we have been learning our 2's, 5's and 10 times tables through grouping and using the commutative law to spot helpful patterns! We are now confident in identifying the factors and products in different multiplication expressions as well as creating our own representations.

During RE researched the meaning and traditional celebrations performed during Hindu weddings. As a class we loved creating our own unique henna designs and imagining what our 5 senses would experience when attending a Hindu wedding.

Our PSHE topic this term was 'Keeping Safe and Managing Risks', we discussed how to be responsible inside and outside of the classroom and the importance of rules to ensure our safety.

This term Sphinx Class have produced some superb work across all lessons and have celebrated 150 years of Dalmain by reading the first ever school log book, dating back to 1874!



Dalmain's school uniform consists of:

- ♦ Maroon sweatshirt or sweatcardi (with or without school badge)
- ♦ Trousers / skirt / shorts – grey or black
- ♦ Plain white shirt, or white polo shirt (with or without school badge)
- ♦ Summer dresses – yellow & white or red & white check
- ♦ Footwear: plain, flat, dark coloured shoes or dark coloured trainers (no heels or open toes)
- ♦ For PE: white T-shirt (school badge optional) and dark blue, grey or black shorts / jogging bottoms
- ♦ Tie (optional)



NO LOGOS / DESIGNER LABELS ARE PERMITTED

It is also 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

The Friends of Dalmain run a few sales per year, if there is ever anything you need please email friendsofdalmain@gmail.com and they will try and help. Please also email them if you can spare any time to help sort the uniform or volunteer at a sale.

If you have any excellent condition uniform to donate, please give it to a member of the office team at the main reception desk, freshly washed, folded and labelled with size. Any money made goes back to the Friends of Dalmain to spend on various projects.

If you need any help with school uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office or to speak with Ms Wilkinson.

Year 3—Griffin Class



What a brilliant term we've had in Year 3!

Before we were introduced to our new text in English, we became archaeologists! We had the amazing opportunity of digging up some interesting artefacts that were buried in our sand trays. This helped us as a class to generate a few ideas of what our new text is going to be about in English. We then began reading 'Escape from Pompeii' which tells the story of what happens in the City of Pompeii when Mount Vesuvius erupts.

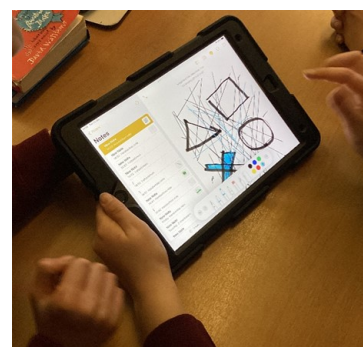


In Teaching of Reading, we have been exploring different natural disasters through reading a book called 'Earth Shattering Events'. In Maths we have been looking closely at right angles

and we had the opportunity of going outdoors to the playground to look for any right-angles that we can find around us.



In Geography, we have been identifying the different parts of a Volcano and how it is formed. In Science, we carried out an exciting experiment where we investigated the different types of soil and recorded what we could see.



Finally, in Computing we explored the work of Kandinsky and how this artist incorporates lines and shapes within his work. We had so much fun using the IPADs to create our own versions!

Year 3—Makara Class

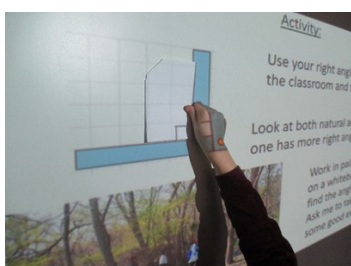
Spring 1 in Makara Class has been an exciting journey of discovery and learning. I am thrilled to share the highlights of our adventures! Here are some of the comments from the children in Makara class.

"I liked using different strategies in Maths to solve problems." "I enjoyed learning how to measure right angles by using the shapes we'd cut from paper."

In Maths we were introduced to right angles and how to identify a right angle. We really enjoyed going around the playground trying to find right angles.

In RE we explored the traditions of Shabbat, we gained a great insight into the practice of Jewish families on their sacred day. In Geography, we learnt all about fascinating volcanoes around the world and how they are formed. We decided it would be a little bit too dangerous to live near an active one!

In Science, we learnt how rocks change over time and processes like fossilisation which happen over thousands of years. It has been a quick but brilliant half term and we can't wait for Term 4 and then our wonderful 150 year anniversary celebrations later this year!



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)

For more information or to register your interest, please email our duty box:

EHCFamilyThrive@lewisham.gov.uk



Year 4—Sprite Class

Although it has been a short term, Sprite class have had many exciting learning experiences.

In their writing lessons, they explored the book *'The Matchbox Diaries'* by Paul Fleischman. This book tells the story of a migrant who travelled from Italy to America in the 1900s. The children explored the text in various ways, including role-playing, diary entries, and biographies.

In Maths, they focused on fractions and used concrete and pictorial resources to understand the concept of wholes and parts.



During their History lessons, the children learned about the Roman Empire and its invasion of Celtic Britain. They looked at Roman artefacts and how the Roman Empire advanced Britain. In Science, the students learned about sound waves by experimenting with different objects to see how sound travels and how pitch changes. We are eagerly anticipating the upcoming learning opportunities!



Year 4—Selkie Class

What another great term in Year 4! Our topic in History has been The Roman Empire. We have learnt so many interesting and wonderful things about the Roman Empire including where they came from, the strength of their army and why they invaded Britain. In Writing, we have been reading *'The Matchbox Diary'* by Paul Fleischman. This is a heart-warming tale of an Italian-American immigrant who shares his childhood memories with his great-granddaughter. We have written very informative biographies about his inspiring life.



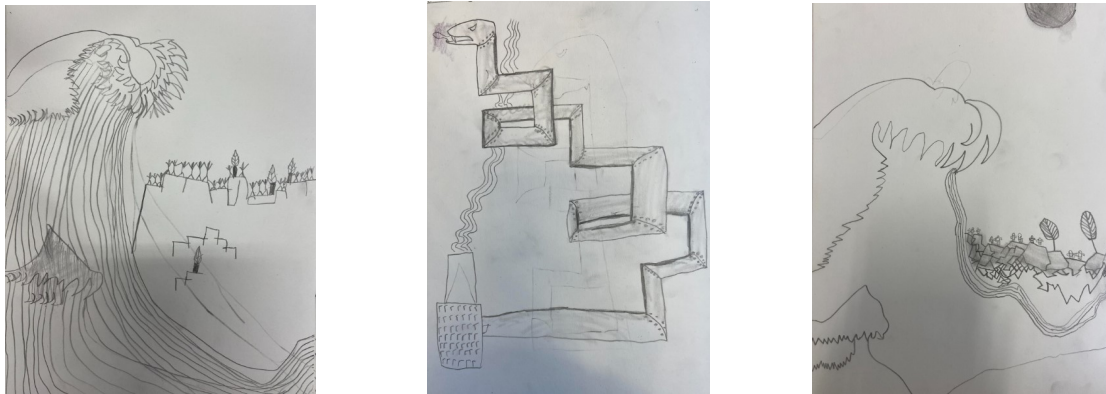
In Maths, we have been studying fractions. In Teaching of Reading, we have been exploring an intriguing book called *'Viking Voyagers'* by Jack Tite. We initially thought that Vikings were just fierce warriors but there we have discovered so much about their interesting culture and fascinating mythology.

And we can't wait to share our Writing Week work with you at our exhibition on Friday. The history of our school really is incredibly fascinating and we are so looking forward to the anniversary celebrations later this year! Have a great half term everyone.

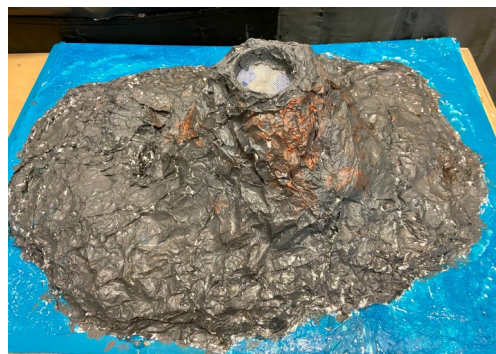
The Spring Term has got off to a flying start with children across the school producing incredible work in both Art and DT.



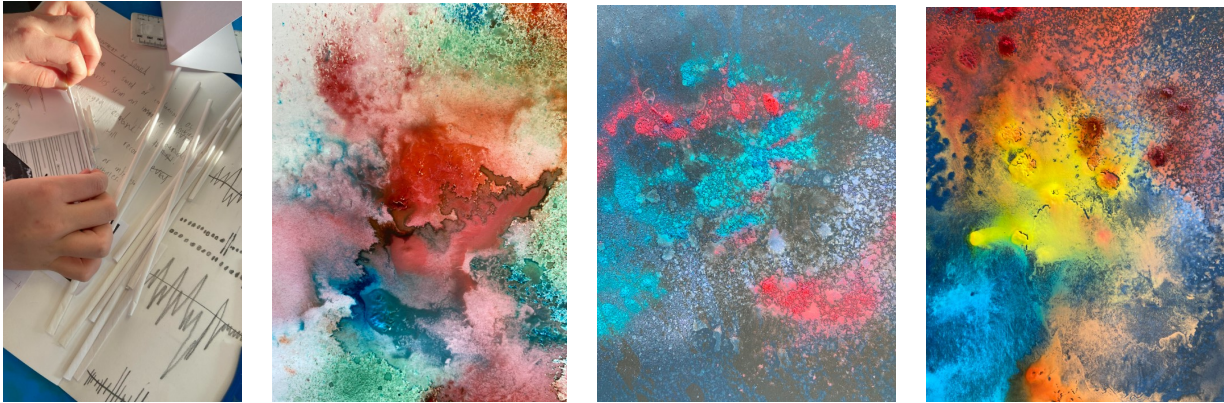
Children in Year 1 have been learning about artists Damian Hurst Tiberius Soos, exploring their abstract depictions of beetles and butterflies. Children have been learning about colour mixing and experimenting with painting techniques to develop their own work using ink and acrylic.



Year 2 children have been working incredibly hard in their sketchbooks to prepare for our enormous 3m silk batik painting exploring art activism and the story of the Water Protectors. The final collaborative painting will be revealed next half term!



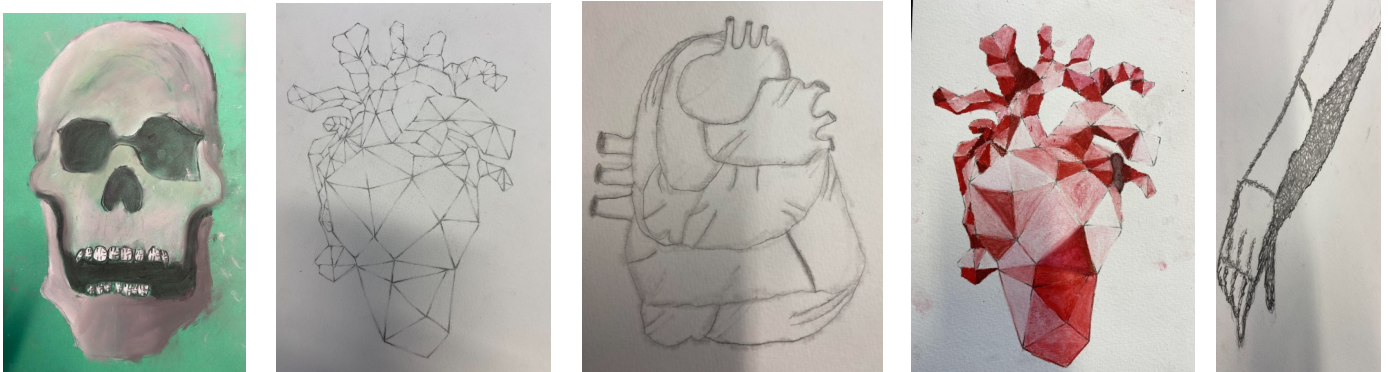
Children in Year 3 have been Learning about volcanoes. In DT, both classes have constructed their own model volcano which reproduces an eruption with dust clouds and lava flow!



In Year 4 children have been using sound vibrations to create paint effects with powder paint and printing techniques to recreate the sound patterns of their names to overlay over their backgrounds.



Year 5 children have been completing their flying machines inspired by the story of Icarus and had the wonderful opportunity to see Antony Gormley's exhibition at the White Cube as a follow up to their studio visit last year.



Year 6 have been learning about the history of anatomy this half term, producing incredible drawings of human bones and organs using a variety of drawing media.

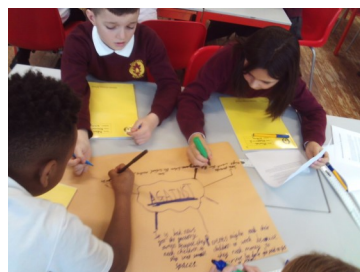


Year 5—Kraken Class

This half-term in Year 5, our theme has been 'Belonging and Equality' and Kraken class have been exploring and analysing two key texts: "Freedom Bird" by Jerdine Nolan and "Black and British" by David Olusoga. Both texts provide an excellent platform for discussions on issues such as racism, discrimination and the yearning for freedom. In history we continued this theme by exploring the Battle of Lewisham and the growing anti-fascist movement in South London.

Elsewhere in the curriculum, we looked at Materials and their properties in Science where we carried out scientific enquiries and put them to the test. Additionally, we used Scratch in order to do coding in our Computing lessons and we continued our journey on Hinduism by looking at important pilgrimages that Hindus undertake in RE.

This half-term Kraken Class also went on two trips: we visited the Planetarium in Greenwich, where the children applied their knowledge of the Solar System during an interactive show and workshop; we also went to Anthony Gormley's White Cube museum, where the children were given a guided tour of the various amazing sculptures.



We can't see what half-term store!

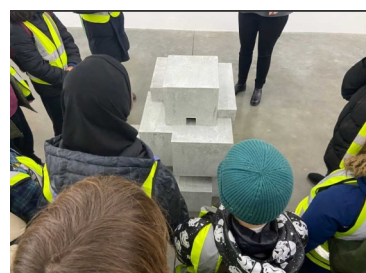


wait to the next has in



Year 5—Chimera Class

Chimera class have had a short but jam-packed first term of 2024! We have explored the overarching theme of Belonging and Equality through our writing work based on Freedom Bird, our reading lessons around David Olusoga's Black and British and in our History learning about the Battle of Lewisham. The children have enjoyed carrying out experiments into the properties of materials in Science and creating their own online maths quizzes in Scratch in Computing. We have continued to learn about Hinduism in RE; this term exploring pilgrimages. In PE, the children have started to create and rehearse their dance for their upcoming Laban show (it is looking incredible already!) and we have had fun learning the basics of tag rugby. Outside of school, Chimera class have been on two very different and exciting trips—to see Anthony Gormley's awe-inspiring sculptures at the White Cube and to deepen their learning around our Solar System at the Planetarium (thank you so much to our amazing parent helpers for joining us on the trip!)



Year 6

This term has been short but we have crammed into it a lot of learning in Year 6. Together, we have relished this opportunity to reflect on our fantastic learning and celebrate our many successes.

Our main topic this term has been Activism and Social Change. In English we have been reading '*Suffragette: A Battle for Equality*' by David Roberts. We have learnt about the history of the women's suffrage movement and their fight for equality. We have also learnt about the Match Stick Girls strike. To show our solidarity to these courageous women we have written speeches to highlight their plight. In Teaching of Reading we have been reading '*The Little Match Girls Strikes Back.*' This book has provided us with a different perspective of the classic tale.

We have just come to the end of another exciting Writing Week. We have travelled back in time to 1874 to explore what school life was like for the first Dalmainians. We then travelled 150 years to 2174 and pondered what our school and its pupils would be up to...would there be hologram teachers?

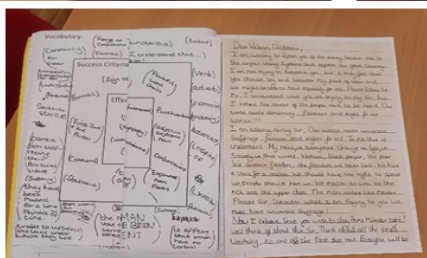
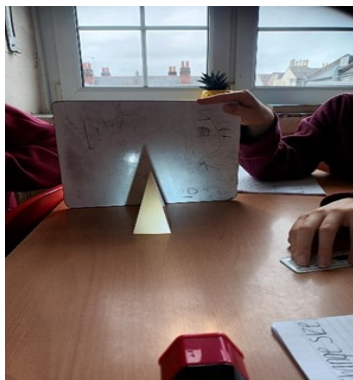
In Maths, we have been learning about statistics, and how to interpret and draw line graphs. After this, we completed the Pie Chart Challenge! We created our own surveys, gathered our own data and we then presented the information in a pie chart.

Art is definitely one of our favourite subjects in Year 6 and we have really enjoyed the anatomy project we have been working on. We produced different body parts, including hearts and bones, using techniques such as shading, hatching and blending.

Our Eco Counsellors have been busy putting into action a Dalmain Primary School that is doing its part in saving our planet. Our focus this term has been on reducing our food waste whilst the Young Leaders amongst us have continued to support at lunchtimes to ensure that all children are engaged in games and activities.

Some of the children in our class are players for the school Football Team. We wanted to congratulate them on what has been a successful year so far. They remain unbeaten!

Our Debate Mate Club Team members took part in their very first Urban Debate Mate League last week. We are all really proud of all the children who took part in the debating competition. They overcame their nerves, spoke passionately and eloquently, made relevant points, and worked fantastically as a team. To take part is such an achievement, but to also win some of the debates is amazing. We are very proud!





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.