



# DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Newsletter—March 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

A short but sweet term has come to an end and we are delighted with the progress that all children have made. A huge thank you to our superb Staff Team for making Dalmain the brilliant place it is!

And a big thank you to everyone involved in organising, performing and attending the Friends of Dalmain Music Night last week. This event is enjoyed by all and is such an important date in the school's yearly calendar for bringing together the talents of our wonderful community. An event enjoyed by all.

Drum roll please because it's nearly here—our 150 year anniversary! We are thrilled to be celebrating this milestone across Term 5 through a variety of themed events and learning opportunities. We can't wait!



Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 15th April at 8:45am.

Best wishes,  
Ms Eisele

### HOUSE POINTS!

**1st place:** Oak House—1069  
**2nd place:** Hawthorne House—979  
**3rd place:** Grove House—877  
**4th place:** Forest House—872

***WELL DONE to everyone!***

### Key Dates: Term 5

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

- ◆ **Monday 15th April**—Start of Term
- ◆ **W/b: 22nd April**—Clubs & instrumental lessons resume
- ◆ **W/b: 13th May**—Y6 SATs Week
- ◆ **Friday 3rd May 9:00am**—Tackling Race Inequality Meeting & FoD Coffee Morning
- ◆ **Wednesday 22nd May a.m.**—KS1 Sports Day
- ◆ **Friday 24th May a.m.**—KS2 Sports Day
- ◆ **Friday 24th May 2p.m.**—150 Year Celebration

## 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!

Across Term 5, we will be learning about the world in 1874, what it was like to be at school during the Victorian era, Dalmain through both World Wars and diversity in Lewisham since Dalmain opened its school doors.

**We hope that you will join us for a wonderful celebration event on Friday 24th May from 2:00pm!**



Wendy, our dance teacher and choreographer.  [Alicia Clarke](#).

Lewisham  
**live!**

We are extremely lucky to work with Trinity Laban at Dalmain and this term Year 5 stunned audiences with their breath-taking performances at the Catford Broadway Theatre. Based on the book 'Freedom Bird', in which an enslaved sister and brother are inspired by a majestic bird to escape to freedom, their dance was a celebration of strength, hope and freedom. The children worked incredibly hard alongside choreographer extraordinaire, Wendy Steatham, and should be beyond proud of themselves. Well done Year 5!







## Reading Week



What a fantastic Reading Week we had, celebrating the magic of books & promoting a love of reading that lasts a lifetime.

We kicked off the week by grooving to the catchy tunes of MC Grammer's World Book Day song. The song reminded us of the joy that books bring into our lives, and it got us all excited to dive into our favourite stories. After listening to the song, we got creative and made our own raps about the books that mean the most to us. It was so much fun expressing our love for reading through music!



During our Drop Everything And Read Sessions (D.E.A.R), we grabbed our favourite books, snuggled up with blankets, and even invited our furry friends to join us. There's something so special about reading with a warm blanket and a cuddly bear by your side.



Then came World Book Day, and it was time to let our imaginations run wild. We dressed up as our favorite book characters and brought them to life right here at school. The hallways were filled with wizards, princesses,



superheroes and the odd banana! —it was like stepping into a magical storybook world! We were so impressed with the range of presentations and costumes we saw. Well done to all children, It is impressive to see the wide range and genre of reading that takes place across our school.



But the best part of Reading Week was getting to share our love for books with each other. We had the chance to talk about our favourite stories and why they mean so much to us. Whether it's a thrilling adventure, a heartwarming tale, or a laugh-out-loud comedy, we all have books that hold a



special place in our hearts. Sharing these stories with our friends made us realise just how much joy reading can bring into our lives.

In the Reception classes the children listened to the super funny poem called "Chocolate Cake" by Michael Rosen. Feeling inspired by this great author the children, baked their very own chocolate cake!

Even though Reading Week has come to an end, let's remember to keep the spirit of reading alive every day. Whether we're diving into a new book, sharing stories with friends, or dressing up as our favorite characters, let's continue to celebrate the joy of reading together. Here's to a lifetime filled with wonderful books and endless adventures!

## 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 Team Coffee morning - childhood anxiety

This term, we hosted a thought-provoking coffee morning centered on childhood anxiety, welcoming Sonia and Madelaine from Drumbeat Outreach Team for an enlightening presentation.



They shed light on the myriad challenges confronting our young people today and how these challenges manifest in their behaviours. We delved into strategies for nurturing children's mental well-being and fostering resilience.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's mental health and would like to explore them further, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of our dedicated members of the Inclusion Team. We're here to support you and your child every step of the way.



### Drumbeat's Padlet/Outreach blog

Drumbeat's new blog space is up and running and they want to hear what you have to say. Padlet is a new creative space where you can safely share your thoughts and experiences with other autistic people and their families. Each week, they will post a question, headline, video that they want your thoughts on. They also welcome your contributions so if you have anything you think will spark a conversation, let them know and they will get it posted.

You can join the conversation here: [https://padlet.com/Drumbeat\\_Outreach/drumbeat-outreach-rl12pzjw7bssxjty](https://padlet.com/Drumbeat_Outreach/drumbeat-outreach-rl12pzjw7bssxjty) or by scanning the QR code:

Let's lead the conversation to make the change!

### Child Anxiety - Top Tips

#### Healthy Coping Strategies

Talk to your child about their fears & worries. Learning a list of strategies to use in a moment of anxiety can help children to cope such as deep breathing, using a stress ball, writing it down or counting to 10.

#### Respect Your Child's Feelings

Listen and empathise when your child expresses their fears and worries. Avoid saying things such as, "There is nothing to worry about/You will be fine." Let them know you understand how they are feeling.

#### Focus on the positives

Children who are anxious can get lost in negative thoughts, self-criticism and worry about future events. Focus on your child's positive qualities; the more regularly you do this the more that it will encourage your child to focus on the positives.

#### Stay calm

Children pick up on their parent's emotions. If you're feeling anxious, your child could experience an increase in their own anxiety. Slow down your speech, take deep breaths to relax, & ensure your body language & facial expressions show that you are calm.







## Debate Mate



Buoyed by our success in the previous round, our Year 6 Debate Mate teams strode into Oasis Academy Ryeland, armed with the debating skills that had brought us through to this phase of the competition.

This time, we were given prior notice of the motion for our first debate:

***“This House believes everyone should be paid the same.”***

Forewarned is forearmed, and our debaters had amassed their facts, figures and debating points. They were ready for this debate, and debated with the combination of passion and respect we have come to expect in this year's competition.



The second debate returned to an unseen motion, with pupils asked whether junk food should be banned for under 11s. Irrespective of their own opinion, children debate in favour or against. Debate were robust, but courteous, and once again an emphasis was placed by the Debate Mate organisers on being good listeners, as well as persuasive speakers.

As with the previous round, our debaters saw victory and defeat in their matches, but the good news is that we have qualified for the Debate Mate Cup, which takes place at the University of Westminster in late April.

More on that nearer the time, but a huge congratulations to all of the children (and our brilliant student mentors) for their dedication and debating skills in helping us reach this stage of the competition!





## Nursery—Unicorn Class

It looks like spring has finally sprung! This term in Nursery we have been finding out more about how plants and animals grow. We were very excited to watch our little beans begin to grow and we observed them closely, identifying their roots, shoots, stems and leaves before replanting them into pots so they have more space to grow.



We also collected frogspawn from the pond in the wildlife garden. The children were very sensible and warned Ms Miles – “Be careful! Don’t fall in! It’s not for swimming!” We used the internet to find out more about how to care for the tadpoles and made sure to fill the tank with rain water, because tap water can make them ill.

We enjoyed meeting the ducklings in Reception! The children drew some insightful comparisons, noting that the ducklings push their way out of the eggs just like the tadpole from the frogspawn, the butterfly from the chrysalis and the shoot from the bean.



## LAMDA

What a brilliant term the LAMDA students at Dalmain have had! Students have continued to explore a variety of fun children’s poetry in class with their LAMDA teacher. Lessons have involved developing a variety of performance skills including voice projection, diction and eye contact whilst speaking. More recently, the children have been working in depth on how they can use vocal and facial expression to help effectively convey the mood of a piece to an audience.

This half of term also saw many LAMDA students participate in the Bromley Festival of Music and Speech. The Festival took place at Farringtons School and involved pupils from Year 1 all the way up to Year 6 performing a poem in front of a big audience and some judges. All the children involved did a brilliant job and should be super proud of themselves! A special mention must go to Ethan Walden (Year 2) who won a silver medal and Elena Lewis (Year 2) who took home a bronze medal! We want to take this opportunity to say a BIG well done to everybody who participated.



We are looking forward to next term where many of the students will be working towards their graded LAMDA exam and also an exciting summer showcase! All students (Years 1-6) have now been allocated their exam piece(s) so will be practising lots at home over the Easter break!

LAMDA lessons bring so much joy to the pupils at Dalmain and we see their confidence in and out of the classroom grow each week. If you are interested in your child starting LAMDA classes please contact us on [info@armstrongspeechanddrama.com](mailto:info@armstrongspeechanddrama.com).





## Reception—Pegasus Class

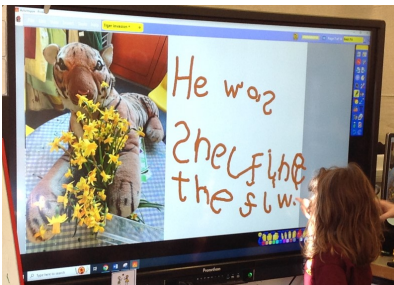
Wildly exciting times in Pegasus Class!



We have been learning about how plants grow and our beans and seeds have flourished under many little green fingers. The addition of a Venus fly trap was 'so cool' according to the children and led to learning about wonderful words such as carnivorous!

Cooking is a highlight of the week and we have made sandwiches and had a tea party to link in with the *'Tiger Who Came to Tea.'* The children also made a tasty salad and tried sprouting lentils, olives and rocket for the first time.

During Book week we had A Runaway pea and a tiger who was rather mischievous. The children were outraged, followed a trail of footprints and left him messages. Dressing up and snuggling under blankets with stories was wonderful but the highlight was reading Michael Rosen's book, *'Chocolate Cake.'* The children made a large chocolate cake to share and went home with big smiles and frosting on their lips.



Learning about lifecycles and talking about the changes in ourselves, the tadpoles and the hatching of ducklings has been thrilling and inspiring to see. The children are such eager scientists and have explored colour changing experiments and electricity with circuits.



## Reception—Pixie Class

We have had such a brilliant and fun filled term in Pixie Class!



We read *'The Tiny Seed'* and *'The Extraordinary Gardener'* which allowed us to explore and discuss the life cycle of a plant and how to look after the nature that grows around us. We also had great fun planting our own seeds and have had such joy watching ducklings hatch and observing how they have grown!



In Maths we have been looking at measurements and how tall each of us are in the class. In groups we made our own Pixie Class measurement chart and compared the results from each group.

This term we have been lucky enough to have some parents kindly volunteer to come into Pixie Class to read wonderful stories in their mother tongue. We had stories read in Spanish, French, Vietnamese and Romanian. The children were very excited and eager to hear some quite familiar stories read in a different language. We were also delighted to welcome Ismael's mum who taught the children all about Ramadan and Eid. Thanks to all parents and carers for their amazing support and engagement this term!



The highlight of our term so far has got to be Reading Week, which included World Book Day. Pixie class enjoyed all the wonderful books we were reading—we had a tiger on the loose in the classroom, a runaway mischievous pea and a fabulous time dressing up as our favourite book characters on World Book Day!

## 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: Leo-Tao & Imogen

Year 1: Bobby & Alexis

Year 2: Ilyna & Finlay

Year 3: Jessie & Joy

Year 4: Naomi & Lilia

Year 5: Blossom & Seb

Year 6: Soadhi & Taylor

"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, we have booked a series of events and workshops across Term 5. Have a peek at the letter we sent on Monday 25th March with more information. We really cannot wait!

One date for our whole school community will be

**Friday 24th May 2024 (2pm-4pm)**

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 day!



## Year 1—Dragon Class

Can you believe that we are at the end of our second term in Year 1?! We have defiantly been super busy this term!

In Writing, we read a beautiful story called '*Julian is a Mermaid*' by Jessica Love Which is a beautiful story about a little boy who dreamed of being a mermaid. We created our own sea animal and a really fun parade celebrating. We also read '*Dinosaurs and All The Rubbish.*'



In Maths we have been learning about money and we even created our own shop in the hall which was lots of fun!

In Science we grew our own bean stalks and we made seed bombs to put into the wildlife garden to give the butterflies and insects some food.

In RE we have been learning about the church and what key things we will find in a church, In History we have learned so much about the past and how different it is being a child now.



We have really enjoyed this term and Miss Rochester is super proud of us all and the progress we have made. Happy Easter everyone!

## Year 1—Mermaid Class



This term in Mermaid Class has truly been superb!

In Writing we read the book '*Julian Is A Mermaid*' and wrote a poem about a sea creature that we would like to be. We also created headdresses and had



a mini carnival around the classroom. The children really enjoyed making their headdresses and dancing in the classroom carnival. We then read '*Dinosaurs and All That Rubbish*' and created a poster on keeping the environment safe.



In Maths we have been looking at money. We practiced buying objects and counting money. Then we created a big market place – we even had pocket money from Miss Green to buy fruit and veg which was lots of fun!

In History we looked at the changes that has happened in our lives so far and how different the world is now in comparison to the past. In RE we learned about the church and what things would find there.

Science has been very exciting this term! We planted some beans and have been keeping bean diary. We also made plant bombs and brought them to forest school. It's amazing to see how tall the bean sprouts have grown.

Have a lovely Easter holiday everyone!



## The Friends of Dalmain

**29th June**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**2024**

**Class reps  
planning meeting  
23rd April**

**DALMAIN SUMMER FAIR**





## Eco Friends of Dalmain

Eco-FoD is planning to do some gardening to help boost the plants we have in the playground.

Join us on Sunday, 21st April 2024, from 10:30am to 12:30pm. We'll engage in light pruning, feeding, and weeding. Don't worry if you're not experienced in gardening; we welcome all hands! Please bring gloves and any gardening tools you can provide.

If you're bringing children, kindly fill out this online health and safety form: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3RMceOxBjN1k\\_cZJC06fReTQxQ6lviUiwJkMS1ZPDZibhxA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3RMceOxBjN1k_cZJC06fReTQxQ6lviUiwJkMS1ZPDZibhxA/viewform)

If you're interested in staying updated on gardening activities, please join our WhatsApp group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/HXxk3PXwKK50XxZlitNsNB>

Additionally, we're looking to populate a few empty planters. If you have healthy, evergreen shrubs or long-flowering perennials to donate, please bring them along or drop them off at reception between 15th-19th April.

Hope to see you there, Eco-FoD







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 the 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





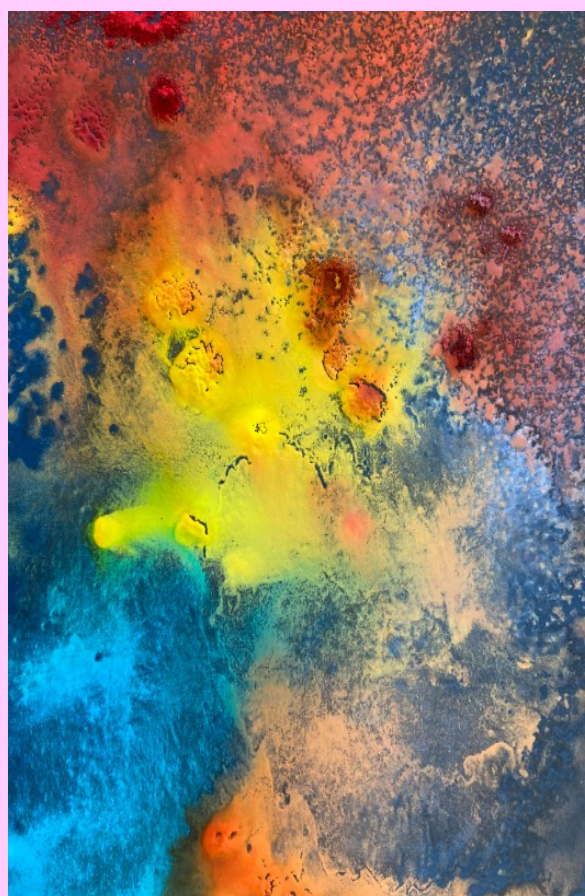
# CLUBS!



## Club & Instrumental Lesson Dates

Clubs will run on the weeks beginning:

1. Monday 22 April
2. Monday 29 April
3. Monday 6 May
4. Monday 13 May
5. Monday 20 May
- HALF TERM**
6. Monday 3 June
7. Monday 10 June
8. Monday 17 June
9. Monday 24 June
10. Monday 1 July



## Clubs Summer Term 2024

Club	Day	Time	Year Group	Location	Teacher
Drawing	Monday	3:30 – 4:30	3, 4, 5 & 6	Art Room	Mr Roberts
Games	Monday	3:30 - 4:30	1 & 2	Room 19	Ms Edwards
Netball	Monday	3:30 – 4:30	3, 4, 5 & 6	PEN	Ms Allsopp
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
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 <u>Balista</u>
Drama Club	Wednesday	3:30 – 4:30	5 & 6	Top Hall	Ms <u>Ince</u>
Tennis	Wednesday	3:30- 4:30	4,5,6	Pen	Mr Graham
Karate	Thursday	8:00- 8:45	White and Red Belts	Top Hall	Sensei Bethany McCloskey
<u>Yo</u> Ballet	Thursday	3:30 – 4:30	Rec, 1 & 2	Top Hall	The London Ballet Company
Movie Club	Thursday	3:30 – 4:30	Rec, 1 & 2	Room 5	Ms Cuddy
Singing	Thursday	3:30 – 4:30	3, 4, 5 & 6	Music Room	Ms <u>Logie</u>
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

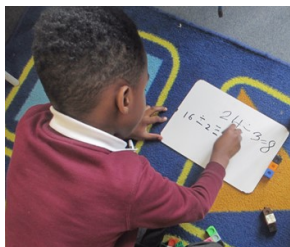




## Year 2—Phoenix Class

This term we have been learning about our amazing city.

We loved reading 'A Walk in London', and we learned so many facts about our capital city. Did you know that Big Ben is not the name of the clock? It's actually the name of the bell! Did you know that St Paul's Cathedral was destroyed in the Great Fire of London and had to be re-built? We loved learning about London and our walk round the city was amazing! We also walked around Forest Hill and wrote our own brochure called 'A Walk In Forest Hill'.



In Maths we've learned about division, shapes and fractions. Each thing we learned helped us get ready to learn the next thing. It's been lots of fun.

We absolutely loved World Book Day! Whether we were dressed up or not, we all spoke about our favourite books and characters, and why we enjoy them so much. We looked forward to the Drop Everything And Read slots every day—they were the best!



We've also learned about Lowry in Art, we played football in PE (when it wasn't raining!), learned about New Delhi in Geography and Easter in RE. Next term we'll be learning about the Great Fire of London and Dalmain's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Awesome—we can't wait!

## Year 2—Sphinx Class

Sphinx Class have really helped to support each other's learning journeys this half term. As a class, they have consistently shown determination and enthusiasm within all their learning—well done to all pupils.



In Writing we have read two brilliantly written and illustrated books called 'A Walk in London' and 'Grandad's Camper'.

'A Walk in London' inspired us to write our own walking guides for Forest Hill as well as plan out next school trip, where we will plan our very own walking tour to some of London's most famous landmarks!

In Maths, we have learnt a new operation called divide. With the help of our fantastic multiplication knowledge, we are now able to divide numbers by 2, 5 and 10 confidently.



During RE, we discussed the origins of Easter and the meaning behind the Holy Week. We looked at different ways that Christians celebrate Easter through symbolic actions, giving out Easter eggs and the baking of hot cross buns.



Finally, in Geography we've been comparing our city of London to New Delhi, India using Venn diagrams. To do this effectively, we researched the weather conditions, human and physical features and tourist attractions in New Delhi.



## 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](mailto: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.**

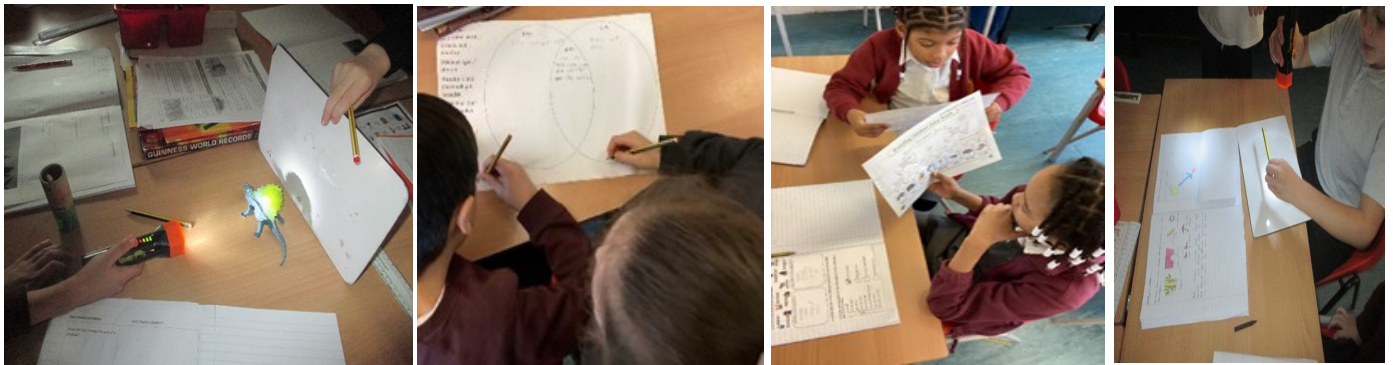
## Year 3—Griffin Class

What a fantastic term we have had in Year 3!

We began the term by reading *'Cinderella of the Nile'* in English, where we explored the themes of bravery and courage. Once we had read the book, we began to plan and create an alternative version of our own, using the story to help us. In Teaching of Reading, we have been reading *'Africa Amazing Africa'* and gaining a real insight into the different countries that make up the continent. In Math's, we have been looking at column addition and tackling a number of different calculations involving regrouping. We always love a challenge!

In Science, we investigated how light travels using torches and how shadows are formed. In Computing, we have been identifying the different features of a physical branching database and had the opportunity to create our own which was so much fun! In Geography, we have been exploring different types of rivers and how a river starts which really made us think about the rivers in our local area and beyond.

Well done Griffin Class—you have been superstars this term!



## Year 3—Makara Class

We've had an exciting time in Makara Class during Spring 2. We delved into the ancient tale of *'Cinderella of the Nile'*, inspiring the children to create their own versions of traditional stories. They let their imaginations run wild showing their unique perspectives, which has been wonderful to see. In Maths, we focused on column addition. The students embraced it eagerly and applied it to problem-solving, sharpening their analytical thinking. Our science lessons centered around light - understanding its travels and reflections.

Thank you to all for your fantastic curiosity and attitude towards learning!

Here are some quotes from Makara Class about their highlights from this term:

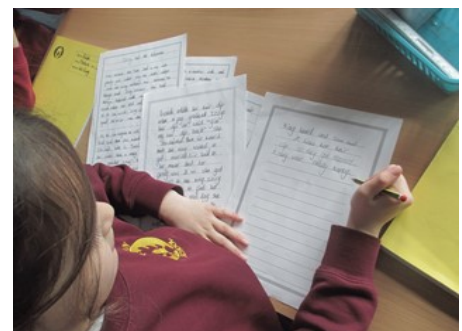
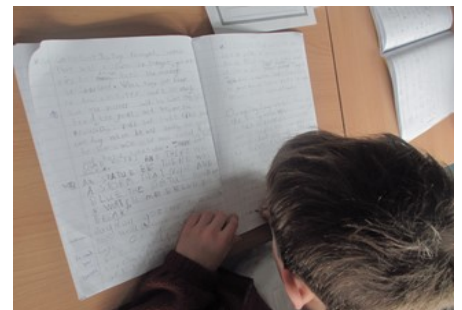
*'I really enjoyed Latin because there were mentions of Greece!'* – Sam

*'I liked column addition in Maths because it was fun to add new numbers together'* – Emilia

*'I enjoyed writing my own version of Cinderella in my writing lesson'* – Niya

*'I liked learning about the Greek gods in Latin. It was really fun!'* – Joy

*'I enjoyed our class assembly on Makaras. I was really proud of how we all came together to teach the school about our class name'* – Taymour



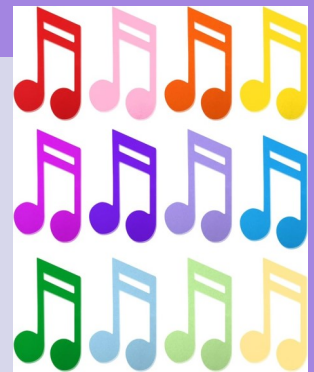


## Singing Club



The Spring Term efforts for the newly named 'Singing Club' have been nothing short of amazing!

Starting our sessions with music choices to blast out on the speakers and then straight in with physical and vocal warm ups galore, the children are pros at belting out 'Do Re Mi' from 'The Sound of Music' Musical and 'Roar' by Katy Perry. The first quarter of Singing Club is nothing short of energetic and packed with fun!



The children have blown my mind whilst giving me many goosebump moments with their vocal ability and passion for learning. This term we focused on the use of voice and splitting songs into various vocal parts, partitioning sections and allowing every child the chance to perform the lead vocal with the others in support.

'Revolting Children' from Matilda The Musical, where there is one definite strong vocal throughout but with the support of the other voices, is a firm favourite with the children. Using this song and 'It's A Hard Knock Life' from the film Annie, the children learned about placement of vocals, and the importance of timing and listening for cues from their peers

They also quickly learnt 'Touch The Sky' from Disney movie 'Brave', where we discussed the meaning of the song, its symbolism and how we could get into character to use subtleties in voices to demonstrate the struggles that character experiences. The children were inspired to spend their own time watching the movie to research the character further, such fantastic efforts.



The children always bring me such joy teaching them to be expressive and how to bring another dimension to their enjoyment of music. There are opportunities to take centre stage for those who enjoy that and also allowing children who are more introverted to enjoy the experience of joining in with something collective and collaborative.



The end of Spring Term Singing Club ended with a mini talent show case with the children having two weeks to prepare a song of their or their parent's choice from the 80's/90's genre. Some great songs choices were made from Queen and David Bowie's 'Under Pressure', 'Never Gonna Give You Up' by Rick Astley, 'Toxic' by Britney Spears and 'Super Trouper' by Abba, with all participants cheered on by their fellow club members. Such a fantastic effort.

In keeping with Easter approaching, we all shared some mini chocolate eggs and chicks while we watched and celebrated these wonderful performances together.

**'Star Of The Term' for Spring Term was awarded to Isla, Nayan and Ivy for outstanding effort, focus and team spirit.** They all received certificates and will get their engraved awards after Easter as we return to school. They have behaved exceptionally well this term, always polite and so very focused and taking direction really well. Well done to every member of Singing Club!

Have a super holiday and don't forget that Singing Club will be on Thursdays from next term.

Eboné, After School Club Singing Teacher



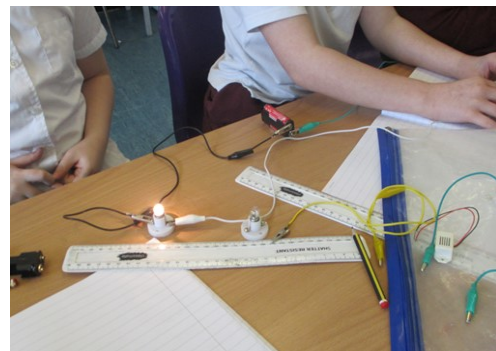
## Year 4—Sprite Class

Sprite Class has had a fantastic Spring Term! Our theme for the term was Darkness and Light, and we explored it through our Writing text, '*Cinnamon*'. It's a mighty fable from Neil Gaiman about a princess with pearl eyes who refuses to speak and a tiger who comes to help. This thrilling tale allowed the children to produce wonderful pieces of writing, such as diary entries, placards, persuasive letters, and a newspaper article. It was great fun!



In Maths, children explored angles and polygons. They focused keenly on the different types of angles and properties of triangles and quadrilaterals. In Science, they have been learning all about electricity and forming circuits. In RE, children have been learning about Christian places of worship and are looking forward to their trip to St Paul's Cathedral.

Sprite Class has approached all the challenges of the term with enthusiasm and positivity, and we hope to continue this next term!



## Year 4—Selkie Class



This half term we have been super busy in Selkie Class! Despite this, we have been ensuring that we all make an effort to look after the eco system in school and at home. From recycling, watering plants or reducing our screen time, we are all doing the best we can.

In Science, we have been exploring electricity and our favourite lesson was building series circuits. We constructed a simple series electrical circuit, identified and named its basic parts including the cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers.



In Writing, we have been studying a book called '*Cinnamon*' by Neil Gaiman. It is a very delightful, enchanting tale about a blind princess called Cinnamon who does not talk. The Rajah and the Rani offer great rewards to anyone who can get Cinnamon to say something, but after many learned visitors try, a talking, man-eating tiger arrives at the castle.

We are so proud of our class assembly where we shared with the whole of KS2 why we chose her as our class name! We thoroughly enjoyed enlightening the rest of the school about how interesting and mysterious Selkie creatures are!



### Art: Collaborative Mural Project Celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This term Dalmain Primary has been participating in a whole school mural project which will be attached to the wall outside the School Office. Children have been working on independent projects linked to the skills and themes connected to their learning. They already look spectacular and we can't wait to share them with you!



EYFS and Years 1 and 2 have been learning about Lowry and have been busy using drawing media to practice drawing figures using his iconic style ready to paint them directly on to our historical mural of the school building inspired by the school value 'Teamwork'. At the end of last term, Year 2 completed their own collaborative silk batik mural linked to art activism. Their stunning work can be seen below!





Years 3 and 4 have been looking at word art linked to our school values and 'Pop Art' to create their own watercolour word art. Their collaborative mural has been inspired by the work of Andy Warhol and Keith Haring based on the school value 'Adventure'.



Year 5 and 6 children were visited by Artmongers in the second week of term to discuss muralism techniques. They learned about its history and importance to local communities and inspired their mural based on the school value 'Acceptance'.





## Year 5—Kraken Class



The theme for this half term has been “Ambition and Desire” and Kraken class have been reading about Philippe Petit’s famous stunts in ‘*The Man Who Walked Between the Towers*’. They have produced some outstanding pieces of written work including a newspaper article and a biography.



We have been reading ‘*The Good Thieves*’, about a daring heist set in prohibition-era New York. In the wider curriculum, we have been learning about life cycles in humans, animals and plants in Science, while in PSHE we explored the theme of Relationships and Changing Bodies, looking at the changes we all go through during puberty and beyond.



In Geography, we followed up on our previous learning on North America, this time looking at the physical and human geography of California, whilst in RE we looked at the life of Jesus and his divinity according to Christianity.



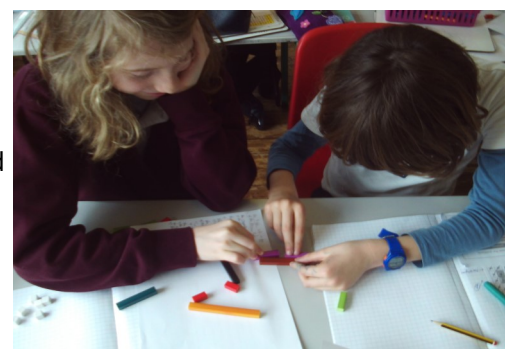
Lastly, we capped off a wonderful term with a stunning performance for Trinity Laban at the Catford Broadway, where the children gave a beautiful, yet poignant interpretive dance based on the book ‘*Freedom Bird*’. We also celebrated our class namesake, the Kraken, in our class assembly.

## Year 5—Chimera Class



What an incredible term we have just had! Our learning has been linked to the theme of ambition and desire with our writing based on the story of Philippe Petit who, in 1974, walked a high wire between the Twin Towers in New York City (NYC). The story has led to fascinating debates in class over Petit’s character and excellent writing in a variety of genres.

Our Teaching of Reading text, ‘*The Good Thieves*’, has also challenged our perceptions of the line between good and evil. Also set in NYC, it follows a group of determined children who are set on righting a wrong done to the main character’s grandpa, regardless of the trouble it may get them into.



We have been particularly impressed with Chimera class’s persistence in Maths this term where we have been studying fractions, including multiplying fractions and converting improper fractions to mixed numbers. In Foundation Subjects we have learnt about lifecycles (including humans), how the geography of California impacts the humans living there, searching for information in databases and about why Jesus is considered divine by Christians. And alongside all of this learning, the children prepared for their Trinity Laban performance at Catford Broadway Theatre—what an absolutely stunning evening!



## Year 6—Faunsune

Faunsune Class have worked extremely hard this term, and we are all extremely proud of all the children's efforts and hard work. The progress they have all made has been tremendous!

In our Writing and Teaching of Reading Lessons, we've been engrossed in the captivating novel *'Boy in the Tower'*. Exploring this narrative has inspired us to embark on our own creative journeys, crafting apocalyptic narratives that challenge our imaginations and expand our literary skills.

In Maths, we've been tackling challenging concepts including mastering the art of converting units of measurements. We have then applied these mathematical principles in practical contexts.

Our Science lessons have been particularly fascinating as we've delved into the intricate world of evolution and inheritance. Inspired by the groundbreaking work of Darwin and Wallace, we've been pondering the profound question: *"How have paleontologists and scientists contributed to our understanding of the history of living things?"* This exploration has sparked lively discussions and deepened our appreciation for the wonders of the natural world.



In Computing, we've been honing our digital literacy skills by learning how to use formulas and functions in Excel spreadsheets.

We wanted to take a moment to share some highlights from our recent Reading Week activities. It was a week filled with excitement, creativity, and, of course, lots of reading!

During Reading Week, we had the pleasure of listening to Mc Grammar's catchy World Book Day song. This inspired us to unleash our inner wordsmiths and create our own raps – a fantastic fusion of rhythm and rhyme with our love for reading!



One of the highlights of Reading Week was our special D.E.A.R (Drop Everything And Read) sessions. Picture this: cozy blankets, sneaky chocolate biscuits, and furry friends to snuggle up with – what could be better?! These moments of quiet reading time allowed us to escape into magical worlds.





### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:attendance@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk)

**Finance, curriculum clubs, instrumental lessons, trips, medicines or allergies:** [office@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:office@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.



## 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](mailto:LG.SENDChildrensDietetics@nhs.net)  
For more information or for any other queries, please email our team.



Some incredible artwork that we just had to share!



WELL  
DONE  
to  
everyone!

