



DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL Newsletter—July 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

Yet another year at Dalmain comes to a close and this one has most definitely been a memorable one! Our 150 year anniversary celebrations were an incredible highlight and we are so lucky to have been able to learn about our unique community school through the ages. And isn't the new Dalmainian newspaper brilliant?! Such a fantastic idea to bring this pupil written newspaper back, the first time in decades!

Across the year, all pupils have inspired us and we have loved working with them, seeing them develop into the incredible young people they are. We are extremely grateful to our wonderful Dalmain Staff Team who, as I have said before, go above and beyond every day to care for our pupils and support them in so many ways during their primary school years. A huge thank you to every member of our team, all of whom have demonstrated uncompromising commitment, passion and skill this year, working tirelessly to provide Dalmain's pupils with the highest standards of education.

A huge thank you too for the enormous contribution that the Friends of Dalmain continue to make to our school. School budgets are tighter than ever and the money raised by FoD has helped us to purchase much needed equipment and provide children with amazing educational

experiences that unfortunately are at risk due to the current financial pressures. We are incredibly grateful for your exceptional dedication, expertise and the many hours of hard work.

It has been wonderful to work closely with parents and carers to support the wellbeing and education of our fantastic children. We all want what is best for them and it is through our collaboration that we are able to achieve this. Thank you for the many ways in which you have supported our work and for your dedication to our community. You all make Dalmain the special place that it is.

I hope that you enjoy reading our gorgeous end of term newsletter, and that you all have a restful and relaxing summer break. We will look forward to seeing you all in September – you will love what we have planned for the new academic year! See you on Wednesday 4th September at 8:45am.

Best wishes, Ms Eisele—Headteacher



Key Dates: Now On Our Website

Following feedback from our recent Parent Survey, we have set up a calendar on our website where all school events will be detailed.

We hope this will be an easier way to access key dates and associated information.

**Autumn Term 1: starts
Wednesday 4th September at
8:45am.**

House Point Winners

During our first year of our new reward system, there have been over 21,000 acts of kindness, excellent learning attitudes and positive contributions to our community deserving of house points. Wow! Well done to everyone!

We are delighted to announce the 2023-24 final house points result:

4th: Forest House with 5179

3rd Grove House with 5211

2nd: Oak House with 5358

1st: Hawthorne House with 5581



Polling Day at Dalmain Primary School

Democracy is alive and very well at Dalmain Primary School!

A couple of weeks ago, to coincide with the General Election, we held our own Polling Day. The ballot was organised by the School Council, and was called to decide the new theme for our class names for next year.

The choice was vast, with options ranging from historical events to exotic fruits to sea animals. When the polls opened on 4th July, children were queueing up to have their say. It was an amazing and moving sight!

While the General Election turnout was a fraction under 60%, the turnout across the school was a far healthier 94%! And just like in the General Election, our result was something of a landslide.



Official Results of Dalmain School

Polling Day:

- Gems & birthstones: 38%**
- Sea animals: 19%**
- Greek gods: 14%**
- Exotic fruits: 14%**
- Extinct animals: 6%**
- Natural disasters: 5%**
- Historical events: 4%**

So next year, we will see a change from class names based on mythical creatures to names based on gems and birthstones.

As you would expect, in recent weeks we have compared our own exercise in democracy with the election taking place across the country. In assemblies and PSHE lessons, children have discussed and learned about writing manifestos, election campaigning and the importance of voting in a democracy.

Since our Polling Day, the children have come up with fabulous names for their new classes, and we're looking forward to learning all about the science, history and geography connected to the gems that have been chosen.





The Friends of Dalmain



FOD Updates

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

Thank you for supporting the summer fair

The sun was shining and it was a wonderful day. We raised nearly £7k, a record! This means we have fundraised £20k since September!



What we have funded this year

- KS2 Climbing Frame
 - Shed for sports equipment
 - Djembe drum skins
 - Trees (to be planted next Winter)
 - Plants for the playground
 - 150th Anniversary mugs for all
 - KS2 end of year discos
 - Year 6 hoodies
- Committed for next year:
- Early years resources
 - New bin storage area
 - Philosophy KS2 teaching

Would you like to be Chair of FoD?

Sadly I am stepping down as Chair, it has been an amazing and rewarding couple of years. If you would be interested or would like a chat about the role, please get in touch.

Other Vacancies

- Social Media posts
- Bake sale lead
- Raffle lead
- Christmas fair lead

For these roles you don't have to be part of the main committee

Save the Date

Halloween Disco

Friday 25th
October 2024

Christmas Fair

Saturday 30th
November 2024

If you would like to join FoD or have a chat about what we do, please email: friendsofdalmain@gmail.com

www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofdalmain



Nursery—Unicorn Class

What an incredible year in Nursery it has been! It's amazing to look back at how the children have blossomed this year; we are very proud of them!

This term in Nursery we have been exploring the topic 'Journeys'. We read stories about different journeys and talked about the journeys we have made, both every day and on special occasions such as holidays. We drew maps and enjoyed acting out embarking on adventures to distant lands.

We've been getting crafty this term, exploring different techniques to join junk modelling materials together, including using split pins to create wheels for vehicles.



As the weather has (mostly!) warmed up, we also had great fun experimenting with different ways to make water flow using pipes and guttering.

We have been caring for caterpillars and watching their incredible metamorphosis as they change into butterflies! We made our own information books about them and read them to each other.

We were very excited to discover that some of our froglets had at last grown their front legs, completing their transformation from tadpoles to frogs! Just like those of us moving on to Reception next year, the frogs have grown and changed since they were small. They need space to grow and learn new things. So we took them back to Forest School to return them to the pond.



Forest School



Forest School is always fun during this time of year as it is full of greenery that creates amazing shadows for us to explore on the ground. The children have loved finding areas to play hide and seek in and they have been extra hard to find because of luscious green foliage. We have enjoyed lots of independent investigations and discussion about shapes and mini beasts. Many snails and worms have been found, and we have used lots of language around what they would like to eat and how we could measure the longest ones. The dragonflies seen flying around the pond have created flashes of colour for the children to marvel at and to follow. We could never catch them though! Froglets were returned and we saw 2 larger frogs popping their heads above the water.



During Eco Week the children did some litter picking and they were not happy about the amount of rubbish that people just throw over the fence. They created posters and had ideas on how they were always going to behave.

We are so lucky to have this amazing resource at Dalmain. All of the children love visiting our Forest School and very soon we will be filling the pathways with fresh wood chippings and chopping back some of the overgrowth to make it even more exciting!



This term we had our first ever Dalmain Eco Week! We planned this with Ms Sewani in our Eco Council Meetings.

Every class:

- Took their learning outside for a lesson which would usually be inside. For example, as part of Year 5's learning about Buddhism in RE, the children practiced doing some meditation in the Wildlife Garden
- 'Switched off' for an hour so we had a go at doing our learning without using the interactive white board
- Went veggie for a week (or tried our best to!)
- Took part in a plant-based picnic in the playground, which was lots of fun!
- Swapped toys and books in a swap shop
- Learnt about the climate crisis in different ways. For example Year 5 made posters to promote recycling and Year 3 made bug hotels out of plastic bottles to promote biodiversity



After Eco Week, we took part in a 'running out of time' relay where we passed a special baton throughout the school. The baton was making its way from Ben Nevis to Big Ben so lots of schools across the country had already taken part. It calls for politicians of all parties - and leaders in all walks of life - to cut emissions, restore nature and help those most affected by climate change.

It's been a great year for the Eco Council – the children have been so committed to making the school more eco-friendly and we are looking forward to next year's eco initiatives! Well done to everyone involved.

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.

Our final coffee morning this year focused on transitions with an insightful presentation by Sonia Gannon from Drumbeat Outreach Team. Sonia’s presentation provided a meaningful platform to discuss how we can collaboratively support our children and young people as they navigate changes and new experiences.

Tips for supporting children through transitions:

1. **Visual aids:** using photos of places your child will visit during the holidays can help them visualize and prepare for new experiences. Seeing images of the airport, the holiday destination or a relative’s home can ease anxiety.
2. **Countdown calendar:** creating a calendar to count down the days to an upcoming transition can provide a sense of control and anticipation. Marking off days and discussing what to expect can help your child feel more secure and excited about the change.
3. **Sensory awareness:** being mindful of your child’s sensory processing needs is crucial. Changes in environment can be overwhelming, so incorporating familiar sensory tools, like their usual pillow case or favourite foods, can help your child manage transitions more comfortably.

After Security there are shops and places to eat and drink



Shops



Places to eat and drink

A big screen with flight information will tell you where your plane is parked and when to start walking to it.



Information screens

I have been to the **Departure lounge** 😊



Throughout the year our coffee mornings have aimed to create a space for open dialogue, support, and shared learning. We have covered various topics, from the Zones of Regulation, childhood anxiety and 5 point scales. Your engagement and participation have been invaluable and, we hope, that they have provided a supportive network for parents and carers. We are grateful for your insights, questions, and the shared commitment to making Dalmain such an inclusive place.

Wishing you a wonderful summer holiday and looking forward to next year!

Reception—Pegasus Class

Pegasus Class have had a fun filled time to round off the end of their year in Reception. We have been focusing on books that reflect the amazing achievements that the children have made and how they have changed during our year together.

'*The Magical Yet*' by Angela DiTerlizzi was all about things that we couldn't do at first, yet with a little perseverance we could achieve them. This encouraged the children to reflect on how they have changed. It was wonderful to hear pride in their voices and sheer amazement at all they can do now.

We also read the story '*Somebody Swallowed Stanley*' during Eco week. The children were horrified at seeing so much pollution there is in the ocean. It led to great discussions about what we could do and how we could help our environment. We recreated scenes so that the children could have hands on experience.



Many of the children tried raw spinach for the first time during Eco Week and they loved it! See if they will have a go at home.... We have also been using herbs grown in our own play area to create perfumes and experiment with different scents. And, we had a swash buckling time singing and dancing during our 'Pirate Day'. The children looked fabulous and loved acting out the song 'When I was one.' We are so proud of all children and the journey they have been on this year. Thank you for all of your help and for joining in with all of our ideas to give your children the best experiences and memories. It has been a special year full of learning, laughter and belonging.

Reception—Pixie Class

Summer 2 has been a busy and brilliant term! We began the term reading '*Izzy Gizmo*' by Pip Jones and Sara Ogilvie. The children explored things that had gone wrong for Izzy – writing her a letter of encouragement – and then went on to invent their own gadgets and gizmos to help a creature or a pet, just as Izzy helps the crow in the story.

We also read '*The Night Pirates*' and had such fun in a swash-buckling fashion with a fantastic pirate day! The outfits were incredible and we even did an entire phonics lesson in our best pirate voices – ARGGHH!! The children walked the plank with deep water below, created their own hooks and eye patches, drew pictures of terrifying pirates and learnt about the life on a pirate ship. We have some fierce pirates in Pixie Class!



Pixie Class had an incredible Sports Day where everyone demonstrated excellent team work and had a fantastic time cheering one another on. The children did so well at remembering that it's the taking part that counts! The parents all had a fabulous time too.

Over this term we have been discussing how some children may have some big feelings about the change and transition to Year One. We gave the children many opportunities to share their feelings through class discussions, circle time and story time. We had a lovely visit from the Year One children and Pixie Class were able to ask any questions they had about moving into year one. We have also visited the playground and got to grips with the monkey bars! This was lots of fun.

A huge thanks to all the parents for being so supportive across the year - it has been a joy to teach your children. Well done to all children in Pixie Class; it has been a great end to a fabulous year!



LAUNCH EVENT MOMENTS THAT MATTER

Join us for:

- Story telling and rhyme time
- Low cost and no cost activity ideas
- Get advice and support from a range of services
- ...and more fun activities!

1 August 2024 | 10AM - 2PM

Catford Library, London SE6 4JU



angela.russell@lewisham.gov.uk



lewisham.gov.uk/moments



Year 1—Dragon Class

Just like that we have finished Year 1—we can't believe it! It has truly flown by.

This term we started with reading the beautiful story '*The Magic Bed*', a story about a little boy called Georgie who got a new bed which took him on magical adventures. We wrote our own stories about a piece of furniture that took us on magical adventures. We then transformed into architects and read the amazing book, '*Iggy Peck Architect*', and designed fact files with lots of information about different buildings in London.

In Maths this term we learned about time, thinking about calendars and how these can be useful. Phonics has been really fun we even had some of our lessons outside, Miss Rochester is so proud of all of us for doing so well in our Phonics Screening. This term Science has been our favourite—we were cooking! We learned about



farmers and growing what we are eating, we planted and grew cress heads, and made cress and cucumber sandwiches. We even made a vegetarian pasta dish.

We had an amazing time on our trip to the Planetarium and joining in with the workshop, Ted's Space Adventure.

We have really loved Year 1 and cannot wait to see what adventures we will go on in Year 2! Have a wonderful summer holiday.



Year 1—Mermaid Class

We cannot believe that Year 1 is over!

We started this term reading '*The Magic Bed*', a story about a little boy called Georgie who got a new bed which took him on magical adventures. We wrote our own stories about a piece of furniture that took us on magical adventures. We then transformed into Architects and read an amazing book called '*Iggy Peck Architect*' and designed fact files with lots of information about different buildings in London.



In Maths, we learned about time, how to use a calendar and how to write the date using information from the calendar. Eco Week was really fun, we got to have our phonics lesson outside, create posters and build bug hotels in the Wildlife Garden.

Our favourite lesson this term was Science. We grew our own cress heads and then we made cress and cucumber sandwiches and ate them! And we also achieved amazing results in our phonics screening assessments; Miss Green

and all of our teachers were extremely proud of our results!

We really enjoyed our trip to the Planetarium and Ted's Space Adventure was a really fun workshop.

We have really loved Year 1 and cannot wait to see what adventures we will go on in Year 2!





EMPOWERING
PARENTS
EMPOWERING
COMMUNITIES



Being a Parent

The course helps parents learn practical parenting techniques for everyday life and bring up confident and happy children. It empowers parents to better understand and manage their children's needs and development and as well as their own wellbeing.

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

Dalmain Primary School: Grove Cl, London SE23 1AS

Thursday, 10:00am-12:00pm starting from 3rd of October, 2024 for 8 weeks.

Please register your interest with the school office, printed registration forms are available upon request, otherwise, you may use the QR code below.

*We also offer **Parent Group Leader training** to parents looking to upskill themselves and wish to volunteer their time in facilitating the Being a Parent course to other parents in their local community.

- **Civic Suite, Catford SE6 4RU**

Tuesday, 9:30am-14:30pm starting from 24th of September, 2024 for 10 weeks

Course and training places are limited per term. It is first come first serve basis. If in need of childcare to attend, please speak to a member of staff.

**To register, email Ms Sewani via
admin@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk**

For further information, please contact Leila:



Family
Information
Service

Family Information Service

Email: fis@lewisham.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 8314 3940

Mobile: 073 9286 2138

Year 2—Phoenix Class

How is it possible that we're nearly at the end of Year 2? What a wonderful time we've had together this past year.

This term we have been inspired by the wonderful book, '*Rosie Revere, Engineer*' by Andrea Beaty. We saw how Rosie wanted to be a great inventor, but she needed to be determined and resilient if she was going to get her heli-o-cheese-copter to take off. We also read the book '*Africa, Amazing Africa*', by Atinuke, which taught us some amazing facts about what is 'probably the most diverse continent on the planet', according to the author.



That book gave us great information about Somalia – we looked at Somalia's wildlife, its landscape and its seasons as part of our Geography, but it also reminded us of all the work we did on animals and their habitats in Science earlier this year. Also connected to Africa, in Art we have been making baob trees with Mr Roberts.

We've really enjoyed Maths this term, we've been measuring volume and capacity, temperature and length, as well as brushing up on other Year 2 Maths skills. We've also used Scratch in Computing to make computer programs featuring dialogue and quizzes.

One of the most fun things this year has been spending time reading with Frank the Phoenix Bear, and we are looking forward to spending more time with Frank next year!

In recent weeks, we have been going to more assemblies with the older children, as we get ready for life in Key Stage 2 in Dalmain! Mr O'Donovan says we are so ready for Year 3, and we are all excited about being upstairs and going to a different playground. So long, Year 2, it's been a blast!



Year 2—Sphinx Class



Wow, what an absolutely brilliant Year 2 Sphinx Class have had! Not only have they been super focused and dedicated to all of their learning, they have supported each other with kind words and encouragement all year long.

To kick off the last half term, we had Sports Day. Sports Day was a full of fast competitions, teamwork and fun, fun, fun. We loved competing in our houses, whilst cheering on everyone in Sphinx Class... even the parents!

In Writing, we enrolled in '*Rosie Revere's Engineering Academy*' where we created our own wacky inventions, blue prints, and an explanation booklet to match. We have loved designing lots of gizmos & gadgets to help make life a little bit more magical!

In Maths, we have found measuring volume, capacity, temperature and length super interesting. Also, we are now super confident in demonstrating our Year 2 Maths skills! We've also used Scratch in Computing to make computer programs featuring dialogue and quizzes.

In Reading, we been learning about all of the interesting countries in Africa from the book '*Africa Amazing Africa*'. This has linked in perfectly with our Geography topic 'Why Visit Somalia?', as we are now able to locate countries on a map and workout which continent it's in.

We're looking forward to moving upstairs to Year 3. We can't wait to go swimming, become even better mathematicians and even more talented writers. Good-bye Year 2 and hello Year 3!



Your baby & You

Learn how to support your baby's early communication and language through everyday opportunities and play



Would you like to

- Find out how your baby learns and develops through practical and fun activities
- Meet other parents
- Receive free resources to take home

Sign up to our FREE four Week course

Wednesday mornings

10am - 11:30am

7th August

14th August

21st August

28th August

**For parents with babies
12 months and under**

Catford Library

Opposite Iceland in the
Mews

SE6 4JU

To book a place

sign up using the QR code

or contact Angela Russell

arussell@ncb.org.uk

07432739032



Part of

**Making it
REAL**

**NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
BUREAU**



Year 3–Griffin Class

The final term of the school year has been a fantastic one for Griffin Class, filled with engaging and creative lessons and memorable learning experiences.

In our Writing lessons, we have been reading 'Cloud Tea Monkeys,' which sparked our curiosity about the origins of tea from around the world. In Maths, we have been exploring different types of lines carrying out lessons in the outside environment to see what we could find. In Science, we have been learning about the different parts of plants, their functions, and the essential requirements for their growth. It's been really interesting!



In History, we delved into the fascinating world of the Indus Valley Civilization, one of the earliest and most advanced civilizations in ancient history. To bring the topic to life, we explored the location and significance of the Indus Valley along the Indus River. We also analysed a range of different artefacts and their uses such as tools, pottery and seals.

During Eco Week, we created our own bug hotels and had the opportunity to plant them in the Wildlife Garden, helping to create homes for local wildlife. Also, as one of our Eco Week challenges we limited our screen time in class to help reduce energy consumption. We are always up for a challenge!



Superb work Griffin Class and what a fantastic end to Year 3!

Year 3–Makara Class



As our final term together draws to a close, I'm excited to share the wonderful learning experiences we've had in Summer 2. In Writing, we read 'Cloud Tea Monkeys' and wrote reports about the magic of tea and the importance of Fairtrade for tea farmers. The children engaged deeply with this topic and produced insightful reports.

In Maths, our focus was on statistics and the children enjoyed the challenge of creating pictograms. It was fantastic to see them rise to the occasion and tackle these challenges with enthusiasm.

History lessons took us back to the Indus Valley civilisation. The children created travel guides inviting people to explore this ancient civilisation, showcasing their creativity and knowledge. In Science, we explored friction, testing how different materials can increase or decrease it. The children loved these hands-on experiments and learned a lot from them.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. It has been a pleasure teaching your children!

"I really enjoyed PE because we played tennis and I really the way we worked as a team" – Martha

"I liked making volcanoes in DT because we got to see them explode after!" – Taymour

"I really enjoyed getting closer with my friends and making comic books with them this year" – Sam

"I enjoyed dressing up as a character for World Book Day. It was really fun to see everyone's outfits." – Zara

"Learning about tsunamis in reading was really fun; it was exciting to learn about how big they can get!" – Joy



Well, what a term it has been for Singing Club.

This term we focused on note extension, holding breathy lofty notes, overlapping lyrics using split vocal sections and slowing down a song to really get into the groove!

We also had a session building our confidence, stage presence and how to overcome performance anxiety.

Not only did we talk about being able to sing in public but we also thought about being able to do *anything* in public from the most embarrassing of mishaps like falling over in front of people to speaking in front of your class during an assembly. Using methods that could be applied to those situations and discussing how we could use those techniques, really helped the children when performing in public.



We then put that into practice and performed part of a chorus in front of each other from a song learnt together. The children took turns with their partner to swap vocals from lead to supporting with ad libs, where they had to maintain eye contact with their partner not forgetting the audience; all whilst remembering their vocals too! A tough challenge but one that will have hopefully made them feel a little more connected to performance giving and how to deal with those anxieties.

Singing Club also performed two songs during Ms Wilkinson's 'Be Proud of Yourself' Friday assembly, where the efforts of the members of Singing Club were celebrated by their peers.

I could not forget to mention the amazing amount of work and dedication put in by every member of Singing Club especially with having a change of songs mid-term for the Dalmain Summer Fair. One of the songs was learnt in just 2 weeks!! A phenomenal feat. Needless to say, the children were well received by the audience and the rapturous applause afterward spoke volumes.

They beautifully sang 'Waterloo' by ABBA, 'Don't Stop Me Now' by QUEEN, 'We Are The Champions' by QUEEN and 'Reach' by S Club 7.

We wrapped up the term with the usual 'Star Of The Term' award. The Summer Term was awarded to Elise and Lev for resilience, execution of notes, as well as a willingness to learn and participate. Both have been members of Singing Club with me since September 2023 and have

progressed so much. They have been resilient when learning new songs, making suggestions for changes and always willing to sing along with me to show the group how a note pattern in a song should be or volunteering to showcase individual lines within a song. They both have worked on confidence and have met every challenge I have given them in attempting higher, longer, more powerful notes. They are most deserving of these awards this term! Well done!

I hope that every member feels extremely proud of themselves for what they have achieved this year; I certainly feel very proud of them.

Have a great summer! Eboné, Singing Club Leader



Year 4—Sprite Class

As the school year draws to a close, Sprite class, have achieved so much in their final term. They embarked on an engaging literary journey with *'The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe'*, showcasing their creativity through their own imaginative versions of the story, adding new twists to the classic tale.

In Maths, they confidently mastered methods to solve complex multiplication and division problems, demonstrating impressive problem-solving skills and mathematical thinking. Their hard work and determination have certainly paid off.

The children also became young geographers, confidently researching Macedonia and uncovering fascinating facts about its landscape, expanding their understanding of the world.

A standout experience was the residential trip to Nature Base in Wales, where children developed significant independence through various outdoor activities and team-building exercises. They returned with newfound confidence and cherished memories. It was an incredible school residential trip!

This final term has been a remarkable journey of learning and growth, laying a solid foundation for their future successes. Have a wonderful summer everyone!



Year 4—Selkie Class

Selkie Class have had a jam-packed final half term in Year 4. We learnt about Macedonia in Geography, the importance of Eid al-Adha in RE and how to survive in the wild and so much more!

We went away on our first residential school trip to Natures Base in Wales which was utterly incredible and such an fantastic experience. We also visited Devonshire Road Nature Reserve. During both trips, we chiseled spears, lit campfires, went to the beach and made theme parks for crabs! This final term has been amazing!

Selkie Class have become active learners and gained many skills from Natures Base and in our learning across the curriculum. This year has been a success for all pupils and we look forward to what Year 5 brings!



Year 5—Kraken Class

We have had a wonderful final half term in Kraken Class, learning about lots of wonderful things and gaining new skills that will help us as we look forward to Year 6. The theme has been 'Mystery and Truth' and we have been looking at 'Real Life Mysteries' as our Teaching of Reading text, taking on the role of detectives and investigators as we attempt to solve mysteries that have plagued



humanity for many a year. We learnt how to look for evidence as a pathway to gaining the truth, learnt about the differences between fact and opinions as well as providing rational, science based explanations for phenomena. We have also been writing a range of writing styles from instruction to information texts, considering the audience and purpose of each style.

In RE we have continued learning about Buddhism, the highlight of which was a guided meditation session in the wildlife garden. In Science, we've been learning about the natural world, both in terms of how to look after it, mitigate plastic pollution as well as learning about plant and wildlife reproduction.

As we draw Year 5 to a conclusion, we reflect upon the phenomenal progress we have all made individually and as a class. We will now enter a well-

deserved summer break, before starting the most epic of journeys so far: Year 6!



Year 5—Chimera Class



Chimera class have had a tremendous final term, showing a fantastic attitude towards their learning. The children's hard work and determination has paid off and, although it is sad to be saying farewell to Year 5, we can look forward to Year 6, for which we are well prepared for!

This term, the children have crafted exceptional narratives based on the 'Firebird', investigated famous mysteries in Teaching of Reading and explored angles and percentages in Maths.

In Science, we learnt about the effects of plastic pollution on our oceans and reproduction in plants and we have loved learning about earthquakes in Geography.

In PE, we have been working on our teamwork skills, culminating in the creation of a video about a PE skill that we learnt this year.

It has been an incredible year in Chimera Class and the children should all be extremely proud of the effort they have put into their learning! Enjoy your well-deserved summer break!



Year 6—Faunsune

We have had an incredibly busy final term in Year 6, from creating our business ventures to putting on a show! Our topic this term has been the Benin Kingdom. We have explored how the Benin Kingdom began and what life was like for the Edo people. We also examined why the British colonised Benin and the impact it had. Additionally, we have been reading 'Children of the Benin Kingdom' by Dinah Orji. The story, set in the rainforest and Edo city, follows a young girl and a boy on an adventure to discover their identities and roles in society. One of our writing tasks was to create a non-chronological report about what we have learnt about this civilisation and its people.



We enjoyed participating in the 'Make £5 Grow' enterprise. We learnt many entrepreneurial skills, including how to develop a business idea and make a profit. It was brilliant to set up our own stall at the summer fair and test our sales skills on our local community. The highlight of the venture was spending the profit we made by going bowling at Lewisham Lanes!

This term, some girls from across the year group have participated in Believe workshops. These workshops aim to provide tools that build self-belief, self-love, and self-confidence, as well as address emotional, mental, and physical well-being, preparing the children for secondary school. The goal is for all girls to recognise their potential and understand that they can achieve anything. As Soadhi said: "My favourite part of the workshop was learning about our female leaders and how we can grow up to become successful leaders too."

Meanwhile, the boys have been engaging in PSHE lessons focused on staying safe and understanding the dangers of knife crime. Using resources from the Ben Kinsella Trust, they have learnt to make positive choices to ensure their safety. At the end of the programme, the boys created a media campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of knife crime and promote positive choices, which the trust will share on their media platform.

Throughout the year, some children have received additional support in maths through Action Tutoring. They have attended sessions every Tuesday morning at 8am to improve their fluency skills in mathematics. The support from their tutors has been invaluable, equipping the children with the confidence and skills needed to thrive in mathematics. Lakeland shared, "At the start of Year 6, I wasn't confident in many topics, but with my tutor's support and her clear explanations, I am now excelling in maths."





Year 6—Make £5 Grow



In the summer term, Year 6 have taken part in the 'make £5 grow' scheme. The children were each given a loan of £5 and had one month to create a product and set up a mini business to sell their items. The aim is to make a profit. The children can then decide how to spend their profit.

At the start of the venture, the children split up into teams of their choosing to pool their money and ideas. Once they had chosen their product, they had to then carry out some market research to check whether their product was viable and what value their target audience would be willing to pay for the item. Using this information, the children



then created a business plan.



For the summer, fair only three business ventures could be chosen. To help choose our teams we held a judging panel session. Each team created a short presentation to showcase their proposed product to an audience of 'Dragons' –in the Dragons Den!



Once their products were chosen, the children had to then consider the branding and marketing they would use to attract their customers' attention and reveal something about their brand identity.

After this, the children bought the items needed to make their product. They then worked together to create it.

The children set up stalls at the summer fair and sold their products. It was wonderful to see all the children enthused and eager to make their business ventures a success.

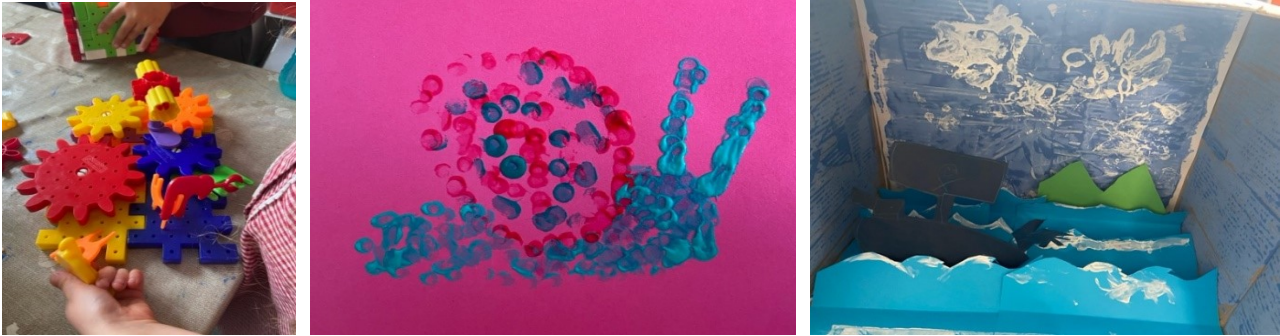
We are pleased to announce that every team made a profit from the business ventures and the children celebrated in style at Lewisham Lanes Bowling!

	Total	PROFIT
Chilled	£199.30	£140.99
Clixits	£84.20	£37.40
Be Cooler	£165	£147.92
Combined profit:		£326.31



Art/DT

Children in Reception have been working on a range of art and DT focused projects this term including learning about different mechanical components and creating a pirate ship diorama.



In DT, children in Year 1 have been learning about how engineers make strong structures, focusing on towers. Our project started with design drawings of the Eiffel Tower and progressed to using different resources to construct towers and structures of our own.



Year 2 been learning about Baobab trees this term as part of our sculpture focus. Children have made their own paper clay and constructed their own branches to create these beautiful sculptures.

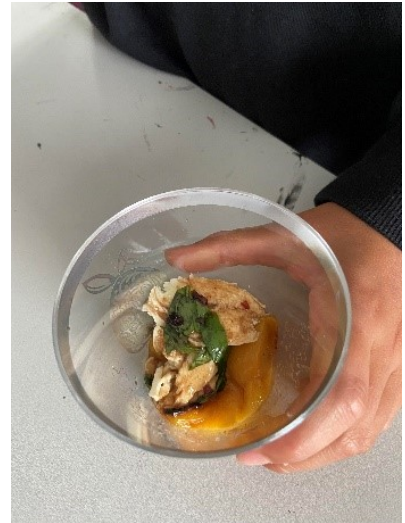


Children in Year 3 have also been making their own sculptures inspired by forces of nature. Children used combinations of clay, wire, Modroc and wire mesh to construct striking tsunami's, lava flows and tornados.

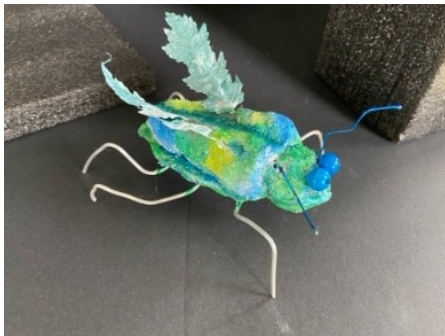


Art/DT

In Year 4 children have been learning about nutrition and foods grown in the Mediterranean. This has culminated in a delicious roasted peach and mozzarella salad.



At the beginning of the term Year 5 children completed their insect sculptures inspired by the work of Hiroshi Shinn, made from a combination of paper clay, wire and natural materials. They have ended the term making delicious quesadillas filled with a variety of Mexican vegetables, legumes, herbs and spices.



Year 6 painted incredible backdrops for the end of year production of 'Peter Pan' in watercolour, including the London skyline and Neverland. Their work was then combined to create projections for the performance.



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: Anh & Jason

Year 1: Etta & Aruna

Year 2: Ibbi & Nathaniel

Year 3: Asen & Lucas

Year 4: Calvin & Janelle

Year 5: Bonnie & Hiba

Year 6: Sophie, Billy & Esther

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

Maya Angelou

SCHOOL CONTACT NUMBERS

General school email: admin@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk

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

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.



Dates!

TERM DATES 2024-25

		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY
2024	Autumn Term		
		Wednesday 4 September	Friday 25 October
	Half term	Monday 28 October	Friday 1 November
		Monday 4 November	Thursday 19 December
2025	Spring Term		
		Tuesday 7 January	Friday 14 February
	Half Term	Monday 17 February	Friday 21 February
		Monday 24 February	Friday 4 April
2025	Summer Term		
		Tuesday 22 April	Friday 23 May
<i>1 day closure for May Bank Holiday on Monday 5 May 2025</i>			
	Half term	Monday 26 May	Friday 30 May
		Tuesday 3 June	Tuesday 22 July

INSET – Teacher Training Days

1. Monday 2nd September 2024
2. Tuesday 3rd September 2024
3. Friday 20th December 2024 (Twilight)
4. Monday 6th January 2025
5. Monday 2nd June 2025



Clubs Autumn 2024

Club & Instrumental Lesson Dates

Clubs will run on the weeks beginning:

1. Monday 23 September
2. Monday 30 September
3. Monday 7 October
4. Monday 14 October
5. Monday 21 October

HALF TERM

6. Monday 4 November
7. Monday 11 November
8. Monday 18 November
9. Monday 25 November
10. Monday 2 December

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.

