



# DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Newsletter—February 2025



Dear Parents & Carers

The opening statement of our recent Ofsted report – **“Pupils flourish at this warm and welcoming school”** – epitomises everything we strive for on a daily basis and we are delighted that Dalmain Primary School has been recognised for exceptional place it is. Highlights from the report can be found on page 2 and the full report is on our website but we can also provide you with a hard copy– please ask the School Office and they will assist.

A huge thank you and well done to everyone across our Dalmain community for this report and the outstanding achievements celebrated within!

We are delighted with our new rain garden in the corner of the KS1 playground and, after a long 18 month wait, we were over the moon to have our new trees planted in the same playground this week. What a difference they have made and we are excited to further develop this area of the school.

The Spring Term always feels quite short but that doesn't stop us packing in a raft of events and celebrations. Please do join us for our annual Writing Exhibition, taking place on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February from 3pm in the playground. Every child's work will be on display and we look forward to celebrating their incredible progress with you - all families and relatives are welcome! We also look forward to Writing Week, including World Book Day on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March, and the fantastic Friends of Dalmain Music Night on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March, all of which promise to be a lot of fun. What a term ahead!

We wish you a wonderful Half Term break and will look forward to seeing you for the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of this academic year on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 8:45am.

Best wishes, Ms Eisele – Headteacher



### Term 4 Dates

All Key Dates can be found on our whole school calendar on our website—look for the calendar icon at the top right hand side of the homepage.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Phonics Workshop 9:00-10:00am

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> – WRITING EXHIBITION in the playground at 3:00pm

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Class Photographs

Week Beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> March: Reading Week

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March: World Book Day 2025

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March – LAMDA Showcase 3:30pm Top Hall

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March – FOD Music Night at 7:30pm

**END OF TERM: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 1:00pm**

**HOUSE POINTS—so far this term....**

**Forest House: 2670**

**Grove House: 2776**

**Hawthorne House: 2643**

**Oak House: 2535**

## Ofsted 2024—Feedback

**“Pupils flourish at this warm and welcoming school.”**

### **Dalmain’s Ofsted Report 2024**

We are extremely proud to have achieved Outstanding for Behaviour & Attitudes, and Personal Development with the school being graded as Good in all other areas. Given that the current Ofsted Framework demand high and exacting standards, it is even more remarkable to have achieved these outcomes, a reflection of the hard work and dedication of our incredibly skilled and talented Staff Team.

Amongst a plethora of compliments about Dalmain, we are particularly pleased that the following have been recognised:

**“Pupils leave the school well rounded and very prepared for the future.”**

**“Pupils behave extremely well in lessons and around the school site.  
As a result, they feel happy and safe.”**

**“The school has created an engaging and exciting curriculum. The curriculum is effective in supporting pupils’ learning across the broad range of subjects.”**

**“They (leaders) have high expectations for pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).”**

**“Leaders at all levels are highly ambitious for the school’s future. Staff appreciate leaders’ concern for their well-being and workload.”**

**“Parents and carers value the school’s community focus and appreciate the improvements that have taken place over recent years.”**

**“Behaviour in lessons and around the school is calm, caring and harmonious. Pupils learn how to recognise and manage their emotions. They are independent, resilient and highly enthusiastic about their learning.”**

We encourage you to read the full Ofsted report, which is available on the Ofsted website at [Dalmain Primary School - Open - Find an Inspection Report - Ofsted](#), or you can obtain a hard copy from the School Office.



## READING AT DALMAIN



**Volunteers  
needed**



At Dalmain, we are passionate about fostering a love of reading in all our students. Unfortunately, the National Literacy Trust Children's Survey shows that reading enjoyment has dropped to its lowest level in almost two decades, with only one in three young people saying they enjoy reading in their free time. We are committed to reversing this trend and ensuring every child develops a passion for reading.

We are fortunate to have dedicated reading volunteers who already work with children from Year 2 to Year 5. The impact on the children's reading confidence has been immense. Thank you to all our volunteers – the children thoroughly enjoy their reading sessions.

### However, we need more volunteers!

Are you passionate about books? Would you like to help children develop a love of reading? Become a reading role model! Children need support to build the habit and joy of reading. If you can spare a morning or afternoon to volunteer, we would love to welcome you.

Please contact the School Office for more details –  
[admin@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk)

## 9 Ways Reading Benefits Children

1. Reading increases creativity and imagination.
2. Reading together builds strong family bonds.
3. Reading expands a child's vocabulary.
4. Reading opens minds to new and diverse people, places, and situations.
5. Reading is fun and helps children relax after a stressful day.
6. Reading promotes and enhances critical thinking skills
7. Reading teaches children about the complex world we live in.
8. Reading promotes positive communication in families.
9. Reading helps build character.



## Nursery—Topaz Class

This term we have been enjoying traditional stories such as ‘The Three Little Pigs’ and ‘Goldilocks and the Three Bears’. We made and tasted our own porridge. It was delicious! We particularly enjoyed the story ‘The Three Billy Goats Gruff’ which inspired some amazing bridge building and we acted out the story using masks.

We also enjoyed celebrating Lunar New Year. We opened up our own Chinese café in the classroom and had a go at writing New Year messages in Mandarin. We also made our own dragon, which we used to perform a dance together in the Nursery garden to celebrate the New Year.



## Forest School

Forest School has been more than a little damp this half term. All of the wet weather has made it a little soggy but this has not stopped the fun and learning that takes place.



We have been talking about the change in the season, and how cold and wintery it is. The children have noticed frost on the leaves and how hard the ground has been. It makes it a tad difficult to dig up worms but, when we are wrapped up warm, it is all fine.

Forest school has been the best place in the world to act out our fairy tale stories. Little Red and Red Riding Hood have had lots of adventures following the paths on the way to Miss Cavanagh’s house instead of visiting grandma. That wolf was quite conniving and was able to chase the children out of their hiding places!

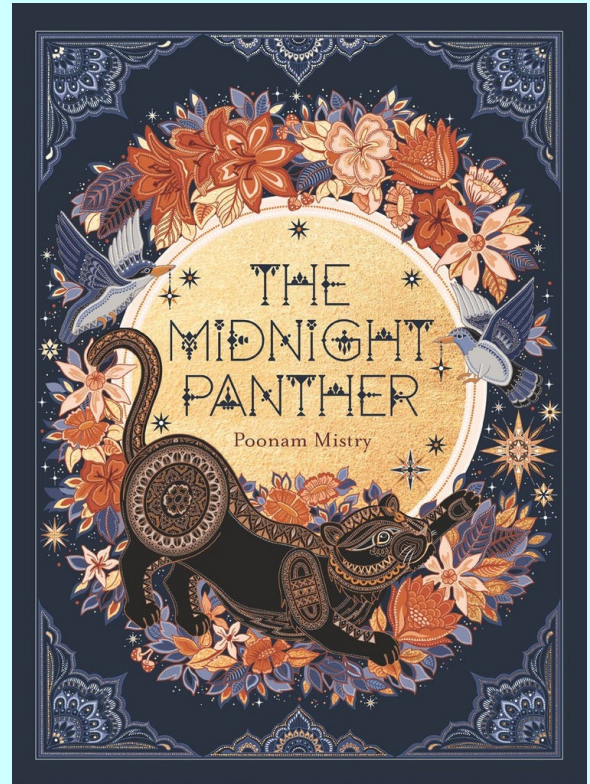
We have had 1 new tree planted in the Forest School and we are looking forward to seeing how that changes over time. Spring is such a lovely time out in our wonderful Wildlife Garden!



In the days leading up to Writing Week, excitement started building up as mysterious paw prints and motivational quotes popped up around the school, sparking the children's imaginations.

Every year group, from Nursery to Year 6, have immersed themselves in the world of Poonam Mistry's, 'The Midnight Panther'.

Throughout the week, the school was filled with the sounds of animal calls and vivid figurative descriptions of the panther over the tannoy, inspiring rich and creative writing.



From poetry to narratives, the children have produced incredible pieces, which we look forward to sharing with parents next half term on Friday 28th February from 3:00pm.

Alongside their writing, they have also created some beautiful artwork inspired the book's illustrations. What an inspiring and memorable week!



## Reception—Jade Class

What an exciting half term we have had. Jade Class have been learning about alternative fairy tales. They really enjoyed acting out the stories of 'Little Red' and 'The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig.' They have shown such creativity and problem solving and they loved designing and building their own homes outside in the playground. We have had bridges that were made out of cups and the children were challenged to create some with paper. What wonderful and collaborative work.



Music is enjoyed every week with Mrs Jackson. The children are able to follow patterns of beats with simple instruments, and they were overjoyed and excited to sing a long to an accordion in class. It is lovely to hear them independently singing the songs during their free play.

Our writing week incorporated screen printing onto T-shirts and designing repeated patterns to go on panthers and tigers. The children have been fascinated to learn about panthers, tigers and lions and they are now passionate conservationists. They are eager to spread the word about protecting endangered animals and the rainforest. Well done to all children in Jade Class for your work!

## Reception—Garnet Class

Wow - what a great start to 2025 we have had in Garnet class! All of the children came back in January ready and excited to learn.

The children have been totally obsessed with art, drawing, creating and building this term, and so we have made sure to include lots of this in Garnet's continuous provision.

In Maths we have been exploring the composition of

numbers 6, 7 and 8. We have also begun to look at part-whole models and experiment with all the different ways we can make or show a number.



This term we have followed the topic 'Telling A Tale', which means we have read all sorts of fairytales in class. One of our favourites has been 'The 3 Billy Goats Gruff'. Everyone had a great time designing their own trolls and were inspired to build their own bridges in the classroom. We've even started to think about creating our own characters and acting out our own stories.

In literacy and phonics, Garnet Class have been extending their learning and writing increasingly longer sentences which even include punctuation! We have started to incorporate lots of common exception words into our sentences too. Their progress has been incredible—well done to everyone!



## **Touch typing courses for 7 – 16s**

**Spring half term and Easter 2025**

**Monday 17 – Thursday 20 February 2025**

**Monday 7 – Thursday 10 April 2025**

**Monday 14 – Thursday 17 April 2025**

**Venues and times**

**St Joseph's Primary School, Kingston KT1**

**Dulwich College, London SE21**

***Course sessions run 10:00 - 12:15 pm daily***

Typing's Cool teaches children and young people how to touch type 40+ words per minute using correct fingers and posture.

Beginners, improvers and advanced typists are warmly welcome.

We mix rigorous tuition with the latest app games to make learning effective and fun. The course is suitable for all ages and abilities.

Cost: £176.00 per place

Childcare vouchers accepted. 10% sibling, bring a friend discount  
Duke of Edinburgh skills assessor.

**Apply at [www.typingscool.co.uk](http://www.typingscool.co.uk)**



## Year 1—Emerald Class

What a fun half term we have had in Emerald Class!



We started our term in writing with an amazing book called 'Leo and the Octopus' which was all about a little boy who meets Maya the Octopus and they become friends. We then wrote leaflets for the London Aquarium for them to give to visitors filled with lots of information about Octopuses. We also read 'Julian is a Mermaid' and celebrated us all being different we had our very own parade and created poems.



In Maths we have been talking lots about 2d and 3d shapes and different ways of identifying them. In Science, we had a competition of who could grow the biggest bean stalk and learnt lots about different animals. In RE we learnt about belonging and it was so nice to see all of our family photos.



We have had so much fun but our favorite part of the term was defiantly our visit to the London Aquarium and getting to see all the sea life there. Have a lovely half term everyone!

## Year 1—Amethyst Class

As we reach the end of this half of the term, we'd love to share some highlights!

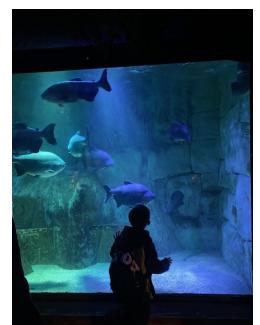


Our school trip to the London Aquarium was a big hit. The children were fascinated by sea creatures, especially the jellyfish and giant sea turtles. This trip tied in perfectly with the books we were reading 'Leo the Octopus' and 'Julian is a Mermaid'. The children wrote a letter to Leo and gave him advice on how to make friends, created informative booklets all about octopuses and even had a carnival in the classroom just like in the book.



In Maths, we explored partitioning numbers and identifying 2D and 3D shapes. We carried out an investigation to see if the 3D shapes rolled, slid or rolled and slid down the ramp in the same way. We discussed our findings as a class and we loved how hands on the learning was. We also enjoyed spotting shapes in everyday objects!

In History we have been learning about change over time and talked about change in technology, our local area and even toys we play with. We have grown our own plants in Science and have kept track of our bean seeds development over time in a bean diary, and in RE we have shared family photos and discussed faith families. In PE, we focused on dance, using music and movement to express emotions. The children created their own routines and performed with confidence. We're so proud of their achievements!





# The Friends of Dalmain



NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A

# DALMAIN MUSIC NIGHT



## 90S NOSTALGIA

### SAY YOU'LL BE THERE

**FRIDAY** | **19:00-22:00**  
**28.03.2025** | **(DOORS OPEN 18:30)**

Dalmain Primary School - SE23 1AS

GET YOUR EARLY BIRD TICKETS £10

scan QR code

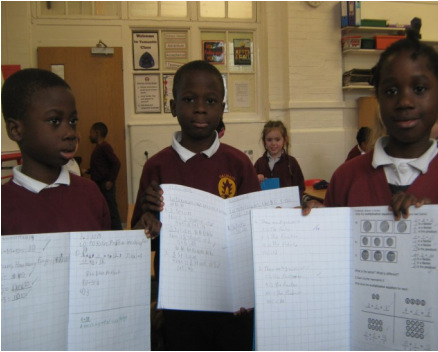
Tickets £14 after offer ends

[www.pta-events.com](http://www.pta-events.com)

**LIVE MUSIC**  
**BAR & HOT SNACKS**



## Year 2—Tanzanite Class



This has been filled with exciting learning adventures in Tanzanite Class.

In Writing, we read the story of 'The Bear and the Piano'. We dived into imaginative narratives about our own animal finding an instrument in their home. The children were very proud to publish their fantastic writing that will be going on display.



Meanwhile in Maths, we focused on multiplication, specifically our 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We used our knowledge to create word problems. The children worked collaboratively, planning and testing their word problems with great enthusiasm.

In History, we studied the inspirational individuals: Rosa Parks and Emily Davison. We produced fact files and had great debates about their bravery in the face of oppression. This created lively discussions and a deeper awareness of how each of us stand up for what is right in our own lives. For RE, we learned about Hinduism and ceremonies within the faith. We really enjoyed designing our own Hindu wedding invitations.

As we reflect on our learning journey, I remain very grateful for your continued support and encouragement. I look forward to sharing exciting updates with you next term!



## Year 2—Flame Aura Class



Flame Aura have started 2025 off with a bang, having so much fun with our learning and making incredible progress.

We are particularly proud of our writing projects this term: we each created our very own stories based on the book 'The Bear and The Piano', getting creative with our animal/instrument combinations and producing stunning books with illustrations, blurbs, borders and pages of incredible writing. Sharing these with Tanzanite Class was such a special way to show off our hard work.

We have also loved growing our own beans in science to supplement our learning on plants. Though the results were not quite as we expected (why did the bean that received no air grow the longest shoot?!) it was great to see the beans' growth week by week.

More highlights include learning about brave women from history and acting out our own Hindu weddings in RE. Now time for a rest before a busy start to next term with our boat trip along the River Thames!





## Inclusion Team



### Our Inclusion Team

Ms Sewani—Assistant Headteacher & SENCo

Ms Wilkinson—Behaviour & Safeguarding Leader

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

### Inclusion at Dalmain

This term our Inclusion coffee afternoon brought together parents for a warm and supportive discussion about the experiences of raising a child with SEND needs. It was a great opportunity to share experiences, exchange advice and build a sense of community. Thank you to everyone who joined us—we look forward to more sessions where we can continue to learn from and support one another!

Our next coffee afternoon will be on

**Friday 7th March between 2:00—3:00pm, delivered by Sonia Gannon, Lead teacher from Drumbeat Outreach Team.**

Her talk will focus on the topic of **Masking**.

## What is masking?

Masking is a term that is now more widely heard in relation to autistic and neurodivergent individuals where they may, consciously or unconsciously, hide their challenges to fit in with social expectations. We warmly invite all parents who may find this useful to join us for an open and supportive conversation.



connected with our feelings and behaviours. Noticing these things can help us recognise when we need support.

### Children's Mental Health Week

We took part in Children's Mental Health Week last week. The theme this year was 'Know yourself, grow yourself' and was linked to the fantastic film 'Inside Out'.

We loved seeing how children across the school explored this theme in different ways. When we take notice of ourselves and how we feel, we are able to make better choices and be more



"The most important thing is to try to know yourself."  
— Socrates



"Promise me you'll always remember you're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."  
— Christopher Robin



"Every one of us needs to show how much we care for each other and, in the process, care for ourselves."  
— Princess Diana



# Children's Mental Health Week



## TIPS FOR FAMILIES

Place2Be's  
**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK**

### 1 Encourage journaling

Just like Riley, encourage your older children and young people to express their emotions and thoughts through journaling. It can be less confronting than speaking out loud and is a helpful way to process what is going on.

### 2 Make space for reflection

When children and young people reflect on their different emotions, it can help them better understand themselves and what they need. Go for a walk, drive, or try some mindful colouring or baking together.

### 3 Be visual

Use imagery, such as emojis or flashcards to help children and young people recognise and label their feelings.

### 4 Practice mindfulness

Try mindful activities, and quiet family time, to enjoy being in the present moment. This can help children and young people be aware of their thoughts and emotions and learn a useful new coping technique.

### 5 Communicate

Feedback is crucial for helping us see our blind spots and gain greater insight. Children and young people are no different. Creating safe and supportive ways to share your own experience with your child can help them understand themselves and their impact on the world around them.



If you're a parent or teacher, you'll find loads of useful advice to help you support the brilliant young people in your lives – from FAQs to downloadable packs. [Here4You.co.uk](https://www.here4you.co.uk)

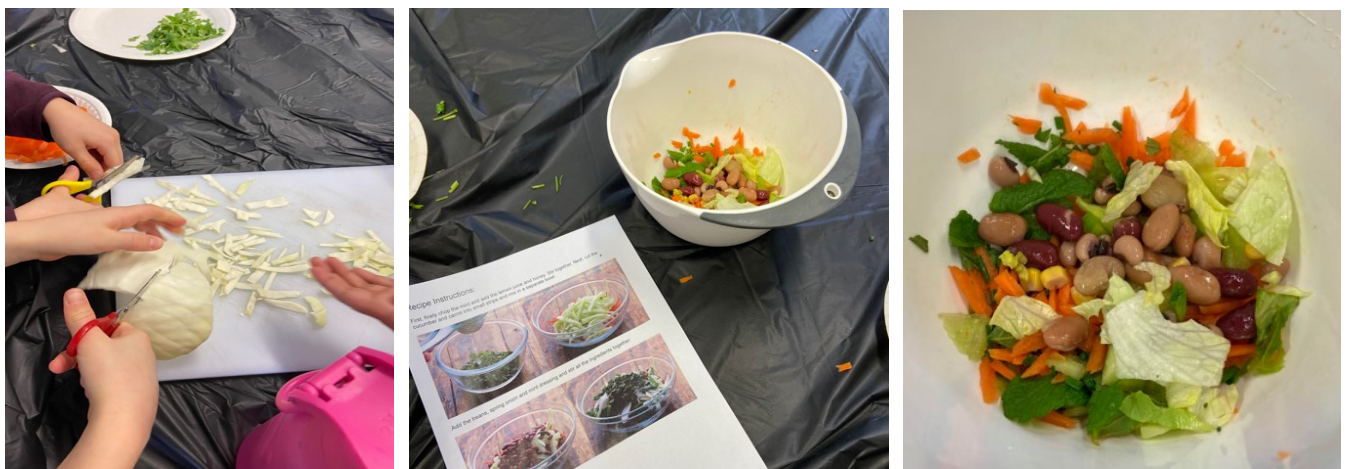


The Spring Term got off to a flying start with children across the school producing incredible work in both Art and DT.

Children in Year 1 have been learning about the artist Jean Michael Basquiat, exploring Identity and our hopes and aspirations. Children have been experimenting with painting with acrylics and incorporating different media to create beautiful compositions.



In DT, Year 2 children have been learning about food groups and have made delicious Asian inspired salads. Yum yum!



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



In DT, Year 4 children have been learning about automata and have made moving Viking long boats complete with oars that travel in unison.

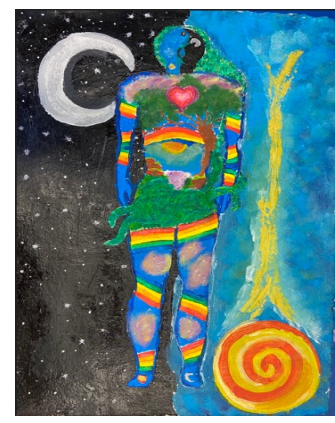
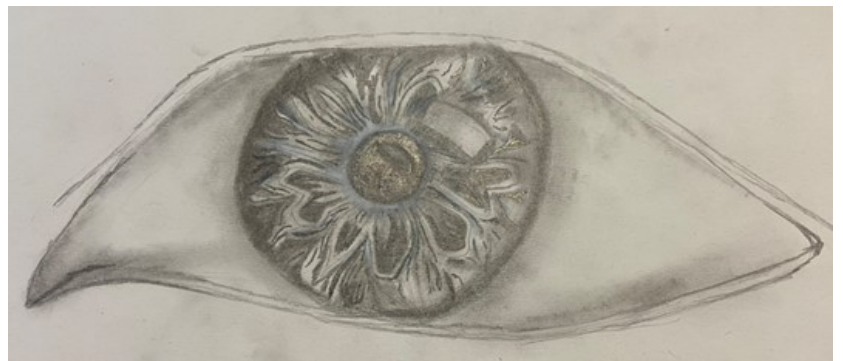


In Year 5, children have been learning about food and nutrition, culminating in making delicious jerk nachos and mango salsa.



Year 6 have been learning about the history of anatomy this half term, producing incredible drawings of human, animal and toy anatomy using a variety of drawing media inspired by the work of Leonardo De Vinci and Jason Freeny.

Last term we were commissioned by the Jenner Practice to create paintings for their reception area which the children in Drawing Club have completed. Their masterpieces will be proudly displayed in the coming months!





Our Eco Councilors have been busy this term conducting surveys of how different green spaces are used across the school and are working with teachers to increase visits to the wildlife garden and our new rain garden. We are aiming for every class in the school to make greater use of these spaces every term, either taking the learning outside or having story time in the garden.

We have also been busy with recycling across the school and ensuring that every class disposes of rubbish in the correct bins.



**What happens to our recycling?**

**What can you recycle?**

Recycle all the items within the five areas shown here. For details visit [www.lewisham.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/recycling). If you are still in doubt, leave it out.



Please flatten large cardboard boxes and do not leave the recycling on the floor. Do not attempt to open the whole lid if locked, as this will damage the bin.

Please remember to rinse any food and drink packaging before you dispose of them.

Dumping unwanted items on the floor or around the bin is illegal.

**Remember, we cannot accept:**

- ✗ food
- ✗ garden waste
- ✗ black sacks (even with recycling)
- ✗ nappies
- ✗ wood and building materials
- ✗ furniture, duvets, carpet
- ✗ electrical waste (tv's, computers, monitors, hairdryers, fridges, toys)

The recycling crew collect your recycling and transport it to the Materials Recovery Facility operated by Bywaters in Stratford where it's separated by inspectors and specialist machines. After sorting, the material is sold and transported to reprocessing facilities throughout the UK.

Some of the materials you recycle have a completely new lease of life - recycled cans for instance can become car or aeroplane parts, and recycled glass can be used in building materials.

**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

## Year 3—Citrine Class

In Citrine Class, this term has been filled with exciting learning adventures. In Writing, we read 'Escape from Pompeii' and wrote a newspaper report about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. We used inverted commas and lots of technical language to describe the eruption.



In Maths, we have been working on angles—exploring objects and shapes with right angles—and are now using the redistribution method to add.

At the Natural History Museum, we visited the Volcanoes and Earthquakes exhibition, where we learned why volcanoes exist, why they erupt, and how they are linked to earthquakes. The children loved learning about volcanoes, and can explain why magma pours out of them during an eruption. We studied the process of fossilisation which we also saw evidence of during our museum visit and most recently we

have also been learning about the importance of soil and the different types that exist. Understanding our Earth and how it works helps us appreciate the ground beneath us.

In Citrine Class, we have also been having circle times on kindness—remembering times when others have been kind to us and how we have shown kindness to others. Well done to all for a brilliant term!



## Year 3—Opal 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. We then began reading 'Escape from Pompeii' which tells the story of what happens in the City of Pompeii when Mount Vesuvius erupts.

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.

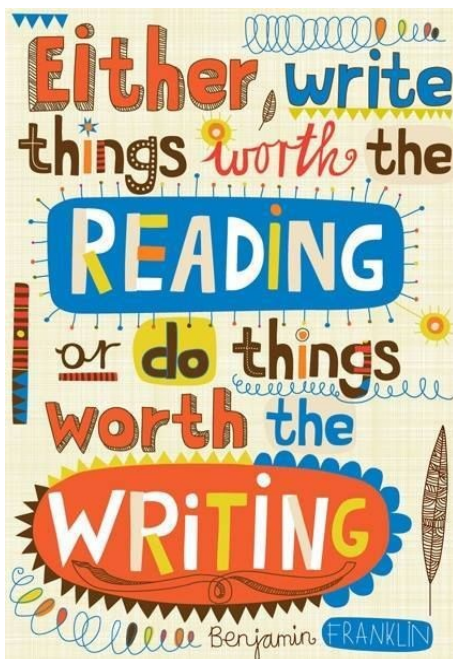
The highlight of term was definitely going to the Natural History Museum in South Kensington. Opal Class really enjoyed going to the Natural History Museum, especially once given the chance to explore the different parts of the exhibit. What an exciting term together!



## Writing Laureate Award

Since the start of this school term, we have been absolutely astounded by the standard of writing that our pupils have produced. The following children have been chosen to receive our Dalmain Laureate Award for their exceptional progress, use of high-quality vocabulary and application of literary skills across the curriculum. We are so impressed to see what they have achieved and are looking forward to their writing being displayed in school.

Look out for these future authors!



Reception: Lucas & Guinevere

Year 1: Lena Rose & Bruno

Year 2: Freya & Rayne

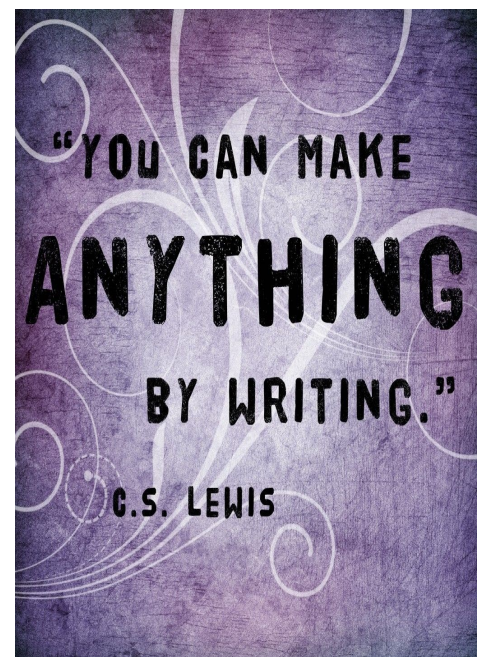
Year 3: Ethan & Esme

Year 4: Baxter & Robin

Year 5: Anna & Elissia

Year 6: Nariyah & Anjalina

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
EVERYONE!



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 contact Top Marks Coaching at [info@topmarksportscoaching.co.uk](mailto:info@topmarksportscoaching.co.uk)

## Year 4—Aquamarine Class

Year 4 has had a fantastic term filled with exciting learning experiences!

In English, we've been developing our writing skills by working on biographies and using 'The Matchbox Diary' to inspire storytelling. In Maths, we've been learning about perimeter and spotting patterns in the three and six times tables, discovering interesting connections between them.



In Science, we've been studying sound, exploring how vibrations create noise and how we hear different pitches. Our History lessons have taken us back to Ancient Rome, where we've explored Roman life, inventions, and their lasting impact.



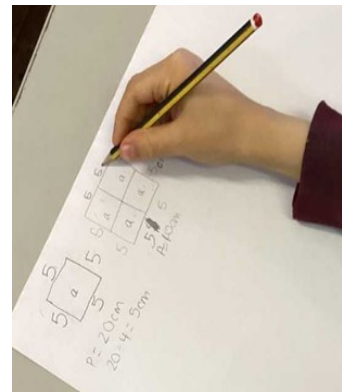
Although our trip to the British Museum was interrupted, we made the most of our day with a wonderful visit to the Princess Diana Playground, where we enjoyed playing and exploring.

It's been a busy and engaging term, and we're looking forward to more exciting learning ahead!



## Year 4—Ruby Class

Ruby Class has had a fantastic term filled with exciting learning opportunities across various subjects. In Maths, we explored perimeter using different strategies to deepen our understanding of measurement. Our writing lessons took us on a journey through 'The Matchbox Diary', a fascinating book that explores themes of migration, travel and family history.



In Science, we investigated sound and volume through a series of hands-on experiments, including making cup phones to explore how sound travels, testing different insulators to observe their effect on noise reduction, and using decibel meters to measure sound levels. History lessons immersed us in the world of the Romans, examining what they brought with them when they invaded Britain and how they influenced life in Britain.

In RE, we delved into Judaism, exploring the Torah and learning about different prophets. A highlight of the term was the incredible opportunity to see a Torah up close, bringing our learning to life in a truly memorable way. Great work Ruby Class!



## 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.

## 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.

### 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.

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.

### 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.

### 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.



## Year 5—Pearl Class

Pearl Class have had a fantastic start to 2025!

We kicked things off with an awe-inspiring trip to the Royal Naval College and Painted Hall, where the children impressed with their knowledge of Greek mythology and built upon it even further.



In Maths, we have learnt a variety of methods for multiplying and dividing 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers.

Our writing text has been 'Freedom Bird,' which culminated in writing incredible biographies about Harriet Tubman and the children have been learning about Black British history through 'Black and British' in Teaching of Reading. The children explored our local History through the study of the Battle of Lewisham, thinking critically and making meaningful connections to the present.



Science lessons have been filled with hands-on experiments exploring the properties of materials, while in RE we have continued learning about Hinduism, focusing on the fascinating stories linked to various pilgrimage sites. The children have also been busy preparing for their upcoming Laban show, creating an incredible dance, and in Music they have been playing the ukulele beautifully as a whole class. We also took time to reflect and celebrate Mental Health Week last week. We ended the term with Writing Week, producing stunning narratives inspired by 'The Midnight Panther'.

## Year 5—Alexandrite Class

Alexandrite Class have had an extraordinary and inspiring start to the year! We began with a truly memorable trip to the Royal Naval College and the magnificent Painted Hall. The children amazed us with their impressive knowledge of Greek mythology and eagerly built upon this throughout the visit.



In Teaching of Reading, we've been reading 'Black and British', where the children have deepened their understanding of Black British history. Exploring local history through the study of the Battle of Lewisham, the children developed critical thinking skills and made meaningful connections to issues we face today.

In Maths, we explored a range of strategies for multiplying and dividing 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers, showcasing the children's growing confidence and skill. Our writing lessons have been centered around the powerful text Freedom Bird, resulting in outstanding biographies about Harriet Tubman.

Science lessons have been brimming with excitement as we conducted hands-on experiments to investigate the properties of materials. In RE, we've continued learning about Hinduism, focusing on captivating stories linked to significant pilgrimage sites. Last week, we dedicated time to reflecting and celebrating Mental Health Week, engaging in thoughtful activities to promote well-being. We wrapped up the term with Writing Week, where the children produced breathtaking narratives inspired by 'The Midnight Panther'.

Alexandrite Class have shown exceptional effort, creativity, and resilience this half term. I'm incredibly proud of everything they've achieved—have a wonderful and well-earned break!



# A-Z OF MENTAL HEALTH

Positive mental health and wellbeing makes us feel content, peaceful and valued. Use these tips to improve your mental health one letter at a time.

 <p><b>ASK FOR HELP</b> You are not alone, so reach out and ask for help</p>	 <p><b>BREATHE</b> Focus on your breath to find a sense of calm</p>	 <p><b>CONNECT</b> Connect with friends, family and trusted adults</p>	 <p><b>DETOX</b> Unplug from social media and other distractions</p>	 <p><b>EMOTIONS</b> Observe how you feel and label your emotions</p>	 <p><b>FIND SAFE PLACE</b> Go to a place where you feel safe and at ease</p>
 <p><b>GRATITUDE</b> Focus on the things you're grateful for</p>	 <p><b>HEALTHY HABITS</b> Create a balanced routine with healthy habits</p>	 <p><b>INQUIRE</b> Pause and ask yourself, 'how do I feel right now?'</p>	 <p><b>JOURNAL</b> Use a journal to express your thoughts and feelings</p>	 <p><b>KINDNESS</b> Be kind and compassionate to yourself and others</p>	 <p><b>LET GO!</b> Feel more energised, by moving your body</p>
 <p><b>MEMORIES</b> Visualise three things you are proud of</p>	 <p><b>NATURE</b> Improve your mood by exploring the great outdoors</p>	 <p><b>OPENNESS</b> Be open to new activities and notice what happens</p>	 <p><b>PATIENCE</b> It's okay to not be okay, so give yourself time</p>	 <p><b>QUIET</b> Take quiet moments every day to reflect</p>	 <p><b>REST</b> Be mindful, rest often and get plenty of sleep</p>
 <p><b>SUPERHERO</b> Stand in the Superhero Pose for two minutes every day</p>	 <p><b>THOUGHTS</b> Track your thoughts in a journal, and notice any themes</p>	 <p><b>UNIQUE</b> You are unique, and so is your mental health</p>	 <p><b>VOLUNTEER</b> Boost your self-esteem by giving back to others</p>	 <p><b>WORRY TIME</b> Schedule 'worry time' to help solve practical worries</p>	 <p><b>EXCITEMENT</b> Do more of the things that bring you joy and excitement</p>
 <p><b>YOU MATTER!</b> You are important and your feelings matter</p>	 <p><b>ZEN</b> Practise calming activities like yoga and meditation</p>	<p>Find out more about how Optimus Education can help boost your wellbeing at <a href="https://healthinschoolsuk.com">healthinschoolsuk.com</a></p>			

## Year 6—Kyanite Class

In our Writing and Teaching of Reading lessons, we have been engrossed in the captivating novel 'Boy in the Tower'. Inspired by this text, we have written setting and character descriptions, as well as a news report about the unfolding events in the book. We have also written in role as Ms Eisele; we wrote letters as a head teacher to inform the school community of an immediate closure due to the threat posed by the Bluchers. It has been wonderful to see the school leadership potential in many of the children!



In RE, we have been studying Sikhism, focusing on two key learning questions: 'Why was Guru Gobind Singh important?' and 'What is the significance of the Amrit Ceremony?' We have examined the origins of Sikhism and the key symbols central to its belief system. We are eagerly anticipating our visit to Gurdwara Sahib Woolwich next week, where we will deepen our understanding of Sikh practices and traditions.



Our Science lessons have been equally engaging, as we have explored the fascinating topic of light and vision. Building upon prior knowledge from Year 3, we have investigated how light travels, the difference between objects that emit and reflect light, and how shadows change depending on the distance between the light source and the object.

In Mathematics, we began the term by concluding our unit on statistics. The children in Kyanite conducted surveys on topics of their choice, such as favourite book genres, and used the collected data to create pie charts. They then formulated data-handling questions for their peers to answer. Following this, we moved on to our new topic: area and perimeter. We have explored the area of various shapes, including parallelograms and triangles, through hands-on investigations.

In the Debate Mate club, some of our team members participated in their first Urban Debate League competition last week. We are incredibly proud of their achievements! Despite initial nerves, the children spoke passionately and eloquently, made compelling arguments, and demonstrated excellent teamwork. Although we did not win any debates this time, we will reflect on our experiences and use them to strengthen our skills for the next competition.

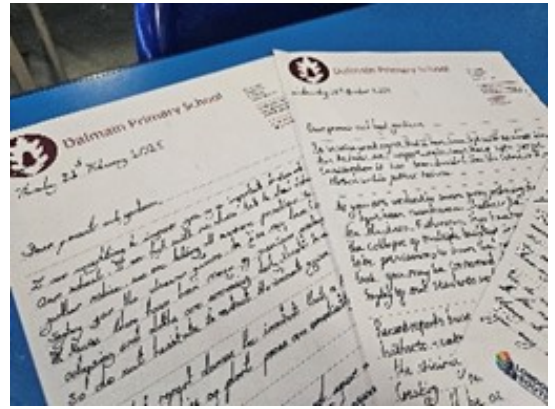
Finally, we would like to extend our congratulations to Ayaan for his success in recent swimming competitions and to Anjalina for her outstanding achievements in gymnastics. Well done to both of you!

We look forward to another exciting and productive term ahead.

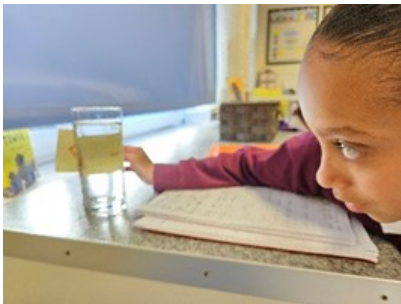


## Year 6—Sapphire Class

This half term, in our Teaching of Reading and in our writing sessions, Sapphire Class have immersed themselves into the book 'Boy in the Tower' by Polly Ho-Yen, a story of survival as South London is gripped by an apocalyptic event. We have produced wonderfully creative pieces of writing that include setting descriptions and formal letters as a head teacher writing to inform parents of an imminent school closure! The outcomes were brilliant and we have seen enormous amounts of progress shining through our children's writing.



In Maths, we began the term consolidating the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages. We then moved on to the topic of statistics, which included learning about circles and pie charts. We conducted a survey across our year group about a topic they are passionate about and represented the data as a pie chart, whilst also including percentages. Finally, we rounded off the term by looking at area and perimeter of various shapes, including the formulae to calculate the area.



In Science, we have been building upon our knowledge of Light from Year 3, taking our understanding of this important branch of physics to the next level. We looked at components of the eye and the role it plays in how we see light and other objects. Next, we looked at look at properties of light, shadows and refraction. We conducted several practical experiments to test our theories, culminating in a carousel of practical experiments testing refraction, or the slowing down of light as it hits a transparent surface.

In RE, we looked at Sikhism, learning about the origins of this belief, how/ why they worship, their values and their places of worship. We ended the half term by going on a trip to Woolwich Gurdwara, where we received a tour by a member of the congregation, a workshop and a Q+A session. The congregation at Woolwich congratulated us, commenting on how well behaved and mature our students were, as well as how participatory they were during the workshop. Well done Sapphire, you have made the school proud!

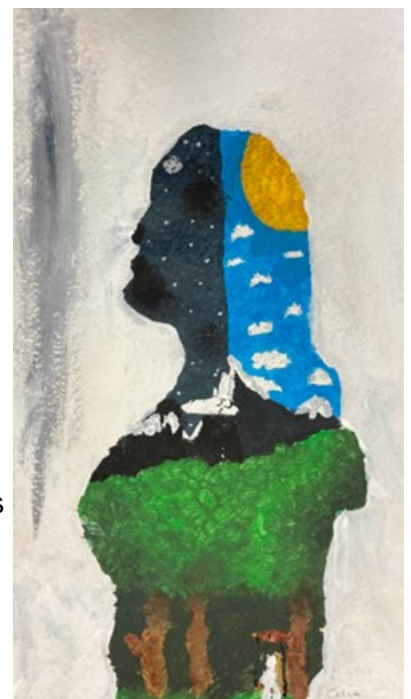


Lastly, in Geography, Sapphire have explored one of the wonders of the natural world—the Amazon rainforest. We looked at the importance of the Amazon in the wider ecosystem as well as many of the dangers that it faces, from deforestation to pollution. Next half term we are looking at sustainability and fairtrade within our geography unit,



Well done to Nariyah, who received the writing Laureate Award for this half term and to Blossom, who reached the final stages of the audition process for a West End musical! Fingers crossed for you!

Have a great half-term break and we look forward to doing it all over again in the next one.





**HAPPY**

**HALF TERM**

**EVERYONE**

**SEE YOU ON**

**MONDAY 24th February**

**AT 8:45AM**