

Enrichment Celebration

Our termly guide celebrating arts, culture, expression and learning at Dalmain

In This Issue:

A celebration of Art and DT projects across the school



At one with Naturesbase!



Year 4 Perform Hamlet



The Greatest Show!



WELCOME....

Welcome to our Summer bulletin celebrating all the incredible ways we link art and creative expression to learning. We have reached the end of the school year! In this second issue we will be showcasing learning through the school, not only in Art, Music, Laban, Philosophy, DT but also our Summer Fair and the stunning Year 6 Production!



Providing our children with such a wide variety of creative and cultural experiences is definitely something that enables them to shine. With such a wealth of learning happening on a weekly basis it is impossible to show it all in our regular newsletter.

Although social media is a huge part of every day life not everyone uses it or has hours to scroll and search, so '@Dalmain – Creative Arts and Expression' provides us with a platform to share with you. For those of you on social media you can also view the incredible art our children create by visiting our Bluesky account **@dalmain-art.bsky.social**

EYFS: ARTISTIC EXPLORATION

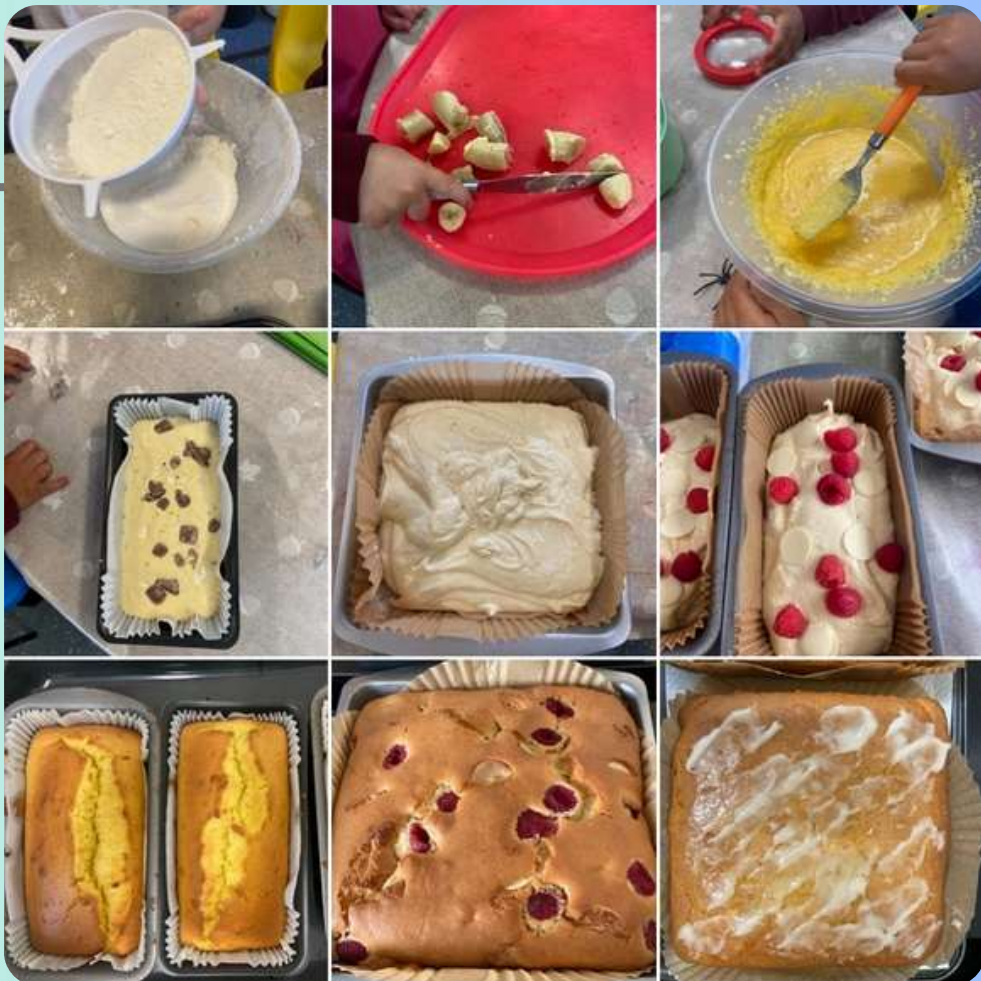
Summer Term has seen some wonderful artwork and DT produced by Nursery and Reception children with a range of creative activities linked to weekly learning. Here are some wonderful examples of children using a variety of media to explore different techniques through creative processes.



In Nursery, children looked at the textures and colours of plants and leaves, producing their own still life oil pastel compositions.

Children then used rollers to paint vivid backgrounds and printed flowers inspired by the prints of William Morris.

This half term Nursery children have been busy baking cakes! Feast your eyes on these delectable examples of Chocolate and Banana, Lemon Drizzle, White Chocolate and Raspberry and Portuguese Orange Cake. Tuesdays have been our favourite day of the week this half term!



EYFS: ARTISTIC EXPLORATION



Reception has been home to tadpoles and chicks this term! This has given the opportunity to participate in live model drawing! Both tadpoles and chicks were more than happy to oblige and were very flattered with the outcomes!

Reception have been reading 'Kate's Starry Night' in class, which has given us the perfect excuse to take inspiration from Van Gogh's most famous painting. Children loved creating textures with pallet knives on our collaborative composition; now we just need to find the perfect place to hang it!



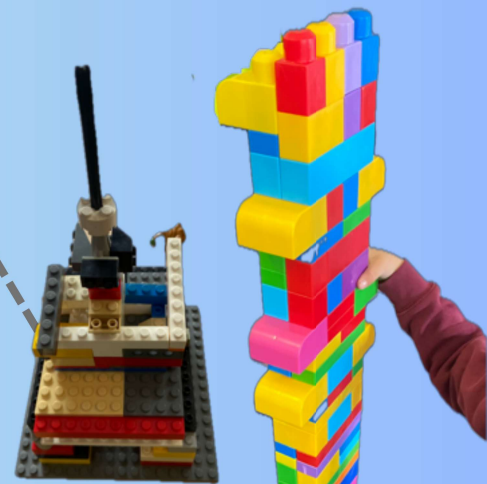
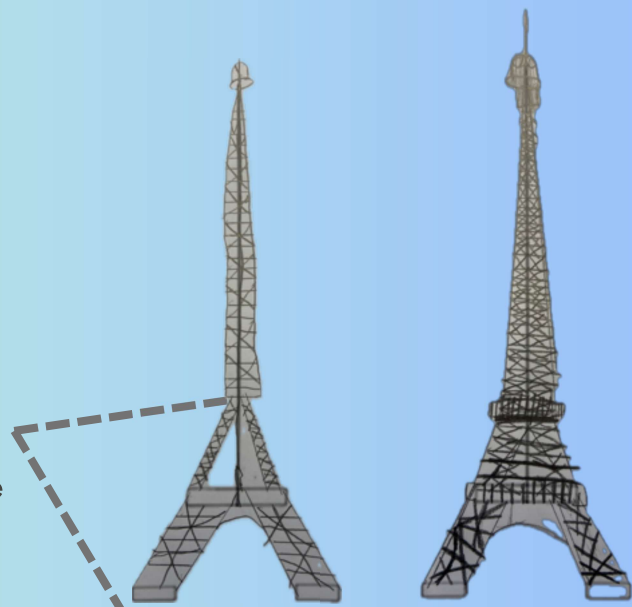
"I liked painting the gold paint on with the pallet knife. I liked mixing the colours." Aiden



YEAR 1 DT: BUILDING TOWERS

Constructing tall structures was the focus for children in Year1 during the first half of the Summer Term. Studying some of the most famous towers in the world, children learned about construction techniques and materials used by engineers and architects in constructions from the past to the present day.

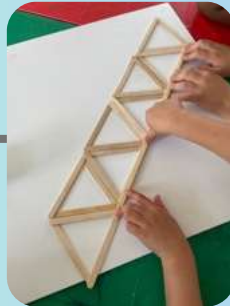
Children started with drawing examples of the Eiffel Tower by studying original blueprints. We then experimented with different building resources before tackling our own structures. From our research, we rolled paper into tubes to reinforce them, and then made triangular structures to make a prototype!



YEAR 2 DT: BRIDGE BUILDING

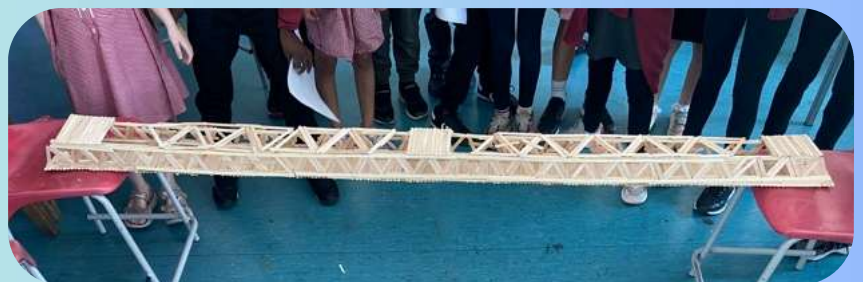
Building bridges required dedication and teamwork in Y2 and the end results were truly mind-boggling! Children studied different examples including Arch, Tied Arch, Suspension and Truss Bridges. We then created our own designs, based on famous examples from around the world.

Our first stage of the build involved using straws to create a prototype and to explore structures. We reviewed previous learning from Year1 regarding shapes used in structures to support weight and increase rigidity such as triangles and cross beams, and used this knowledge for both the prototypes and the final models.



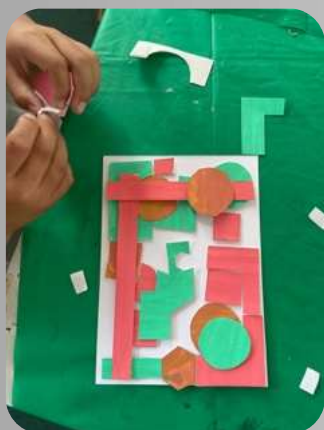
"We built a truss bridge, it was very strong, it managed to hold 30kg!" Robin

"It was fun building bridges, we learned how to make them stronger using triangles." Sam

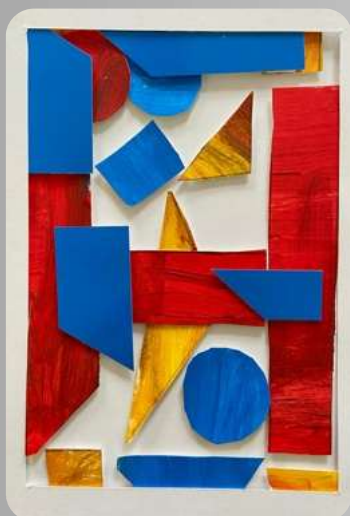


YEAR 3 ART: RELIEF SHAPE COLLAGE

Inspired by Mondrian and contemporary abstract artist Sean Thornhill, children in Year 3 explored colour, shape and position to create these beautiful compositions by painting card in acrylic paint and cutting out shapes. Drawing inspiration from the Bauhaus and Brutalism movements, their distinctive geometric shapes dance with shadows and highlights. Now they are on display in the Art Room, the changing daylight reveals ever-changing compositions. The children's work really demonstrates that art is transformative within its environment.



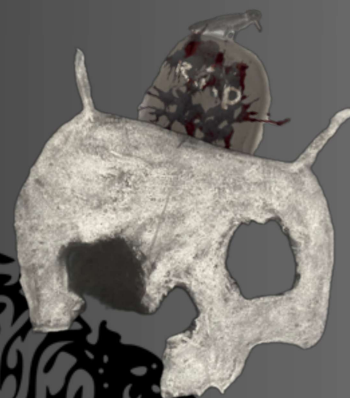
Sketchbook photo Once children had created their piece, they collaborated with a partner to create a larger composition using reflective card.



YEAR 4: HAMLET

Year 4 had the incredible opportunity to work with **The Primary Shakespeare Company** this term. After weeks of rehearsals exploring Hamlet's themes of betrayal and revenge, the children performed Acts 4 and 5 at Theatre Peckham.

"We enjoyed it because it was fun and helped build our confidence. We rehearsed many sessions with Temu Jin, we also got to work with other schools. We performed it at Theatre Peckham and shared our hard work with an audience. Overall, we really enjoyed it and we would love to do it again." Blake



"The rehearsals and the performance were intense, but in a good way, I learned a lot about language." Elia

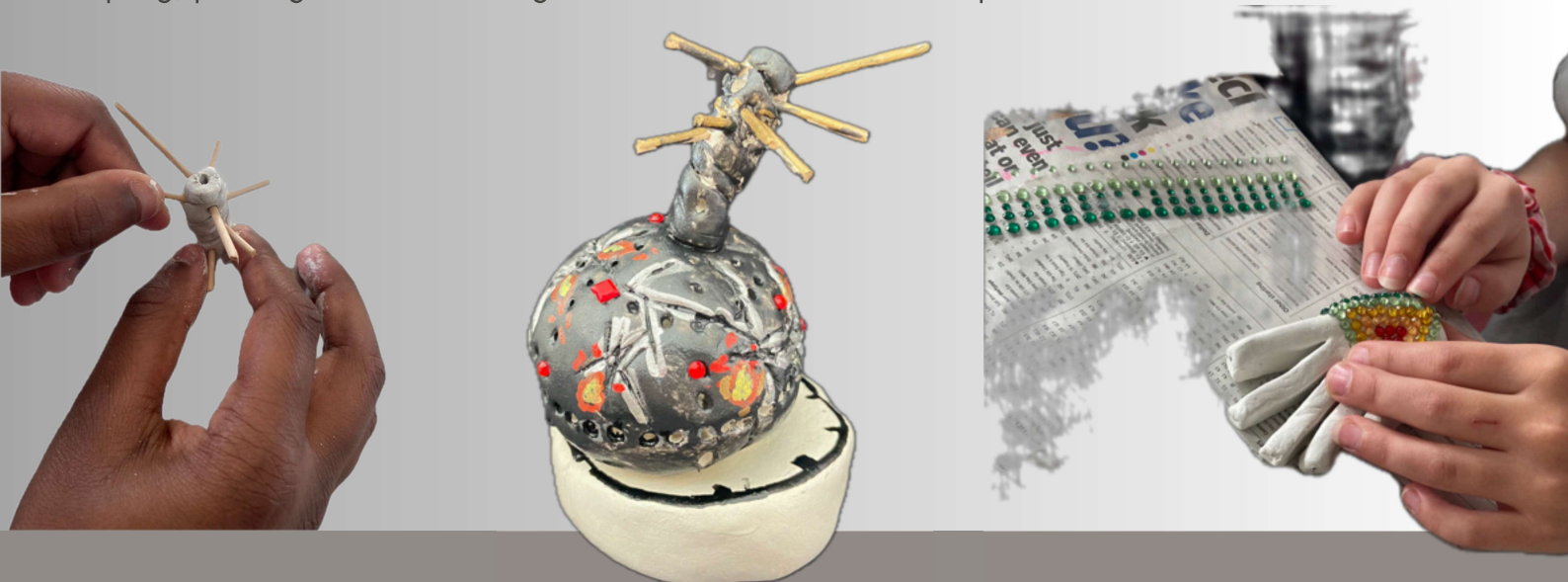
YEAR 4: HAMLET

To link with their learning, children created their own artwork, inspired by the events in Scenes 4 and 5 that they performed, using a combination of pastel and ink.



YEAR 5 ART: SCULPTURE

Inspired by Tibetan born British artist Gonkar Gyatso, Year 5 explored themes of pop culture, globalisation and iconography to create these stunning sculptures from clay. Their work, involving sculpting, painting and embellishing has resulted in work of real depth and skill.



"I really enjoyed decorating my sculpture with messages linked to my idea." Freddie

"I liked exploring the hidden meanings behind iconography." Lilia



YEAR 5 ART: SCULPTURE



SHARING OUR WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY

Last Autumn we were asked to create artwork for the Jenner Clinic to display in their reception area and waiting room. Children across KS2 spent over 3 months painting artworks linked to the theme 'Health'. The work they produced was extraordinary, and the doctors and staff at the clinic were thrilled with the results.



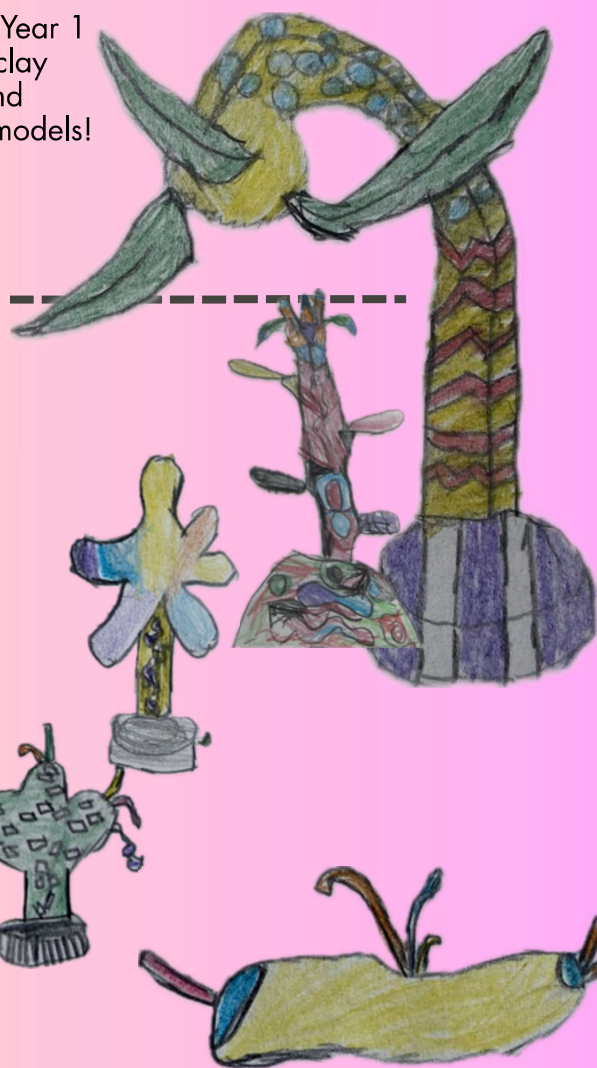
"I feel happy my artwork is being shared with the community and future generations to remind them art focuses the mind and is calming"
Izzy

"I feel honoured to share my art with our community"
Joan



YEAR 1 SCULPTURE: ALIEN PLANTS

Inspired by the abstract forms of Californian artists Chiaoza, Year 1 have made their own alien plant sculptures using paper clay, clay and wire. Their imaginative designs explored shape, colour and patterns and gave them a guide to creating their magnificent models!



"I enjoyed adding details to my alien plant. It looks like a mystical warrior." Mica

"I painted my plant lots of bright colours and added metallic details. It looks like a rainbow." Luke

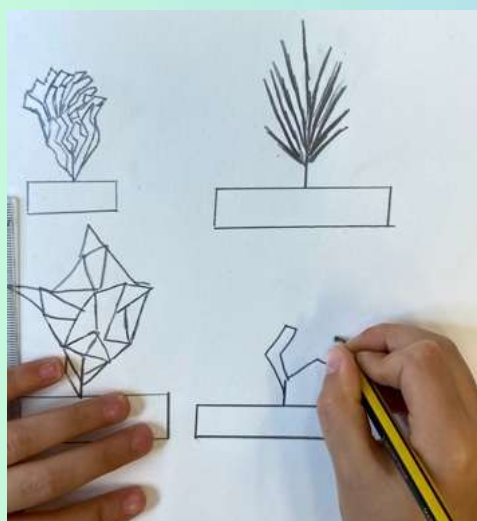


YEAR 1 SCULPTURE: ALIEN PLANTS

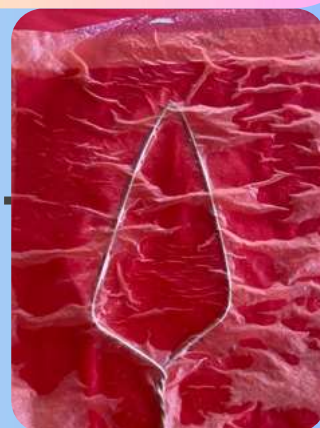


YEAR 2 SCULPTURE: FIRE

Linked to the Year 2 History topic 'The Great Fire of London', children learned about Belgian artist Arne Quinze. Originally a street artist, Arne now specialises in large scale sculpture using welded recycled metal. First, children experimented with drawing flame shapes in their sketch books.



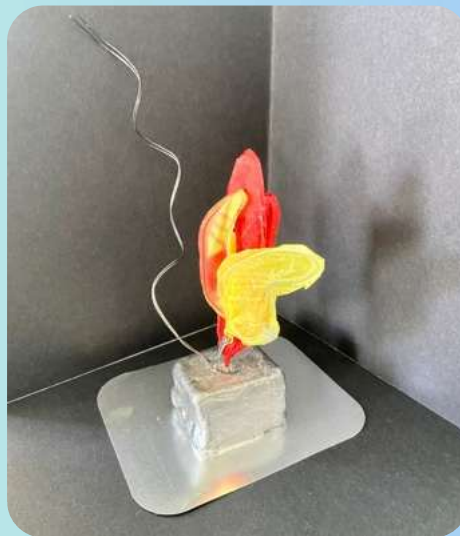
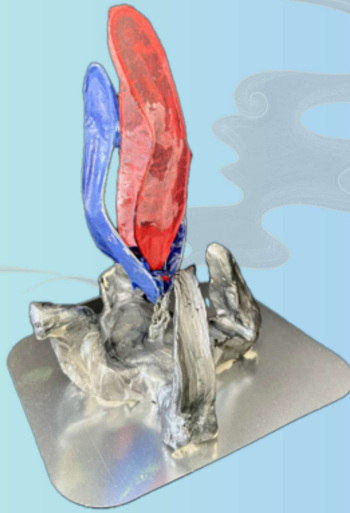
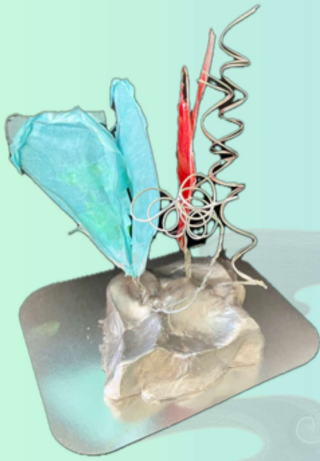
Our final sculptures were made using wire and tissue paper which was sealed around the wire, a very fiddly process which the children mastered! We then combined their flames and made a clay plinth, which was painted to contrast with the bright coloured flames. Children created smoke by coiling wire around a pencil to compliment their flames.



"I really enjoyed glueing the layers of tissue paper onto the wire to make the flames for my sculpture." Emily

"Moulding the wire into flames was very satisfying and fun!" Lucy

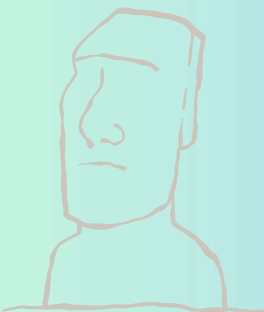
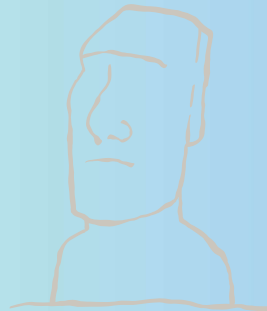
YEAR 2 SCULPTURE: FIRE



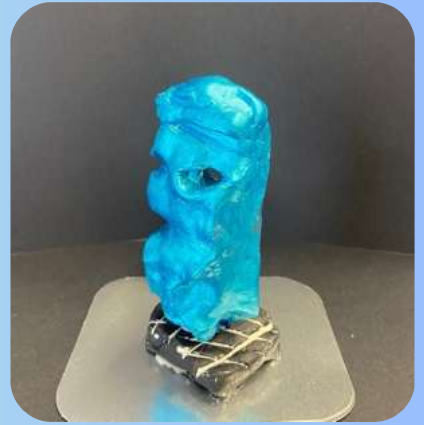
YEAR 3 SCULPTURE: METAMORPHIC FORMS



Children in Year 3 have studied the incredible sculpture work of Henry Moore and Tony Cragg. Using sculpture vocabulary such as stretch, twist and fold children experimented with shape, texture and surfaces to create their own transformative sculptures.

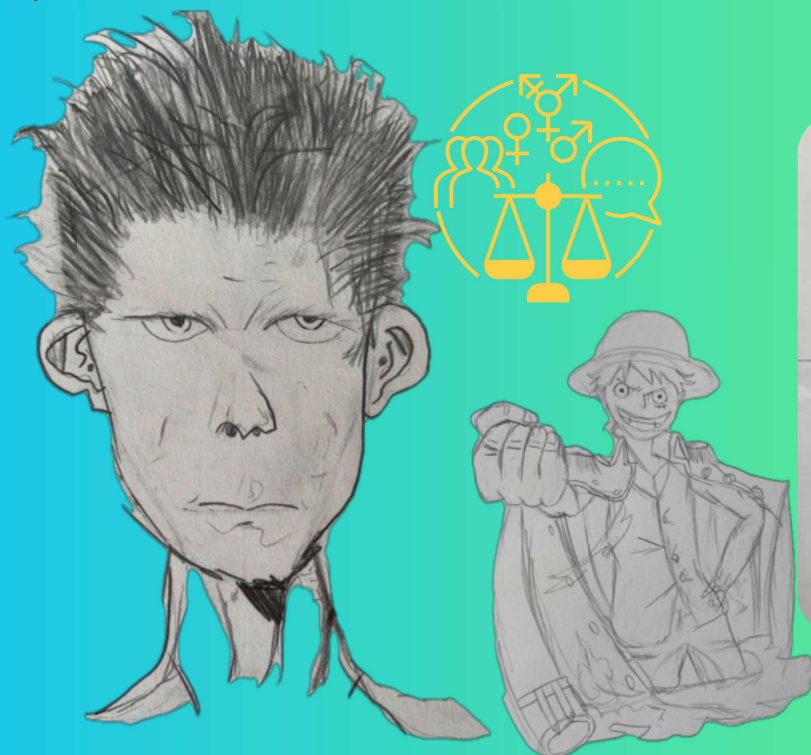


YEAR 3 SCULPTURE: METAMORPHIC FORMS



YEAR 4 PAINTING FOCUS: HUMAN RIGHTS

Children in Year 4 have studied the murals of Egyptian artist Aya Tarek, exploring narratives linked to human rights around the world. Topics of discussion included equality, diversity, freedom and respect. Sketchbook work helped the children to develop the correct proportion and position of the features of faces. Their powerful and vibrant paintings were created by blocking colour and using dry brushwork.



"My painting explored racial equality and that everyone should be treated equally." Milo

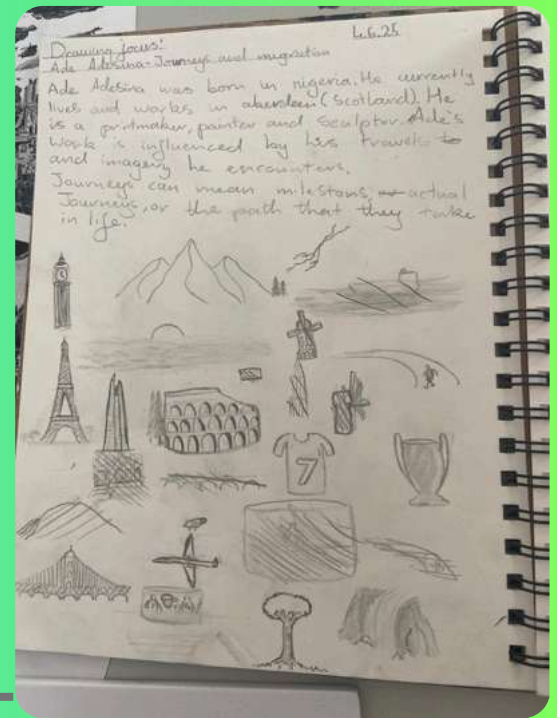
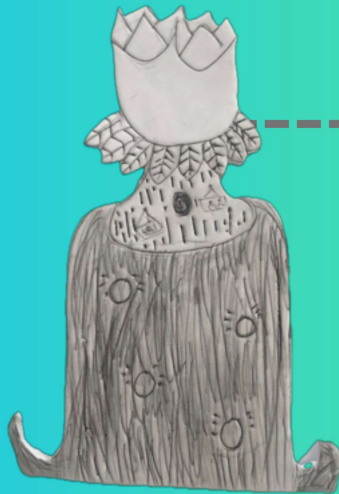
"The eyes in my painting symbolise the everybody has the right to privacy." Blake

YEAR 4 ART: PAINTING FOCUS



YEAR 5: MIXED MEDIA

Windrush Month gave Year 5 the opportunity to explore the theme of migration and study the giant prints of Nigerian born artist Ade Adesina. His work is influenced by his experiences and travels which feature heavily in his beautiful compositions. The processes and outcomes of this project have been a highlight of the year; the children thoroughly enjoyed printing with ink and combining this with drawing media to create compositions that connect to their life experiences and future journeys.

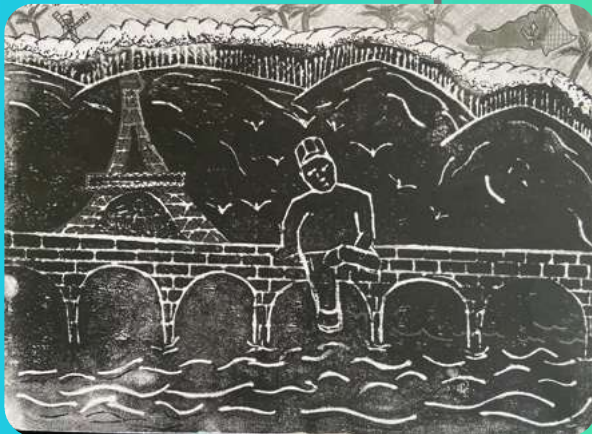


"It was an opportunity to share the journeys I want to make in my future and express it through my art, not with words." Logan

"It was really nice to think about future journeys and very satisfying to see the first print." Anna

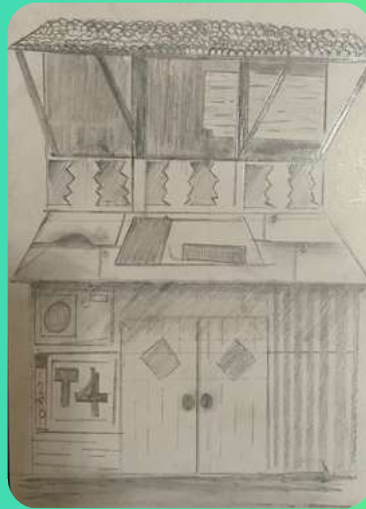
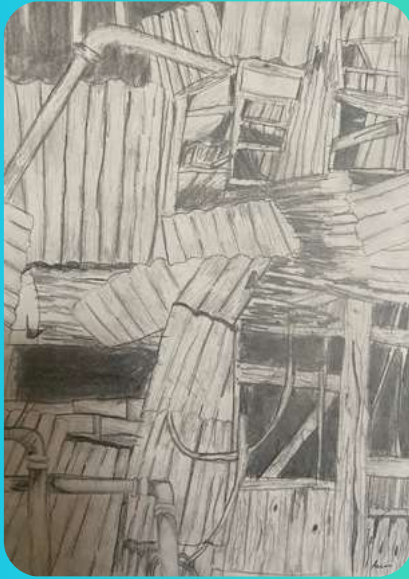


YEAR 5: MIXED MEDIA



YEAR 6 ART: SHANTY TOWNS

"It was interesting to explore how people live around the world and how communities work together. We had to draw the opposite of stereotypical lego houses. It was an enlightening project." Hester



Music:

Specialist Music Teacher Jane Jackson shares the incredible learning this term from Nursery to Year 6....

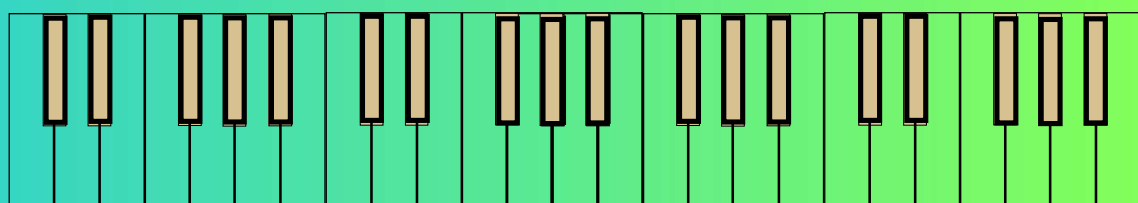
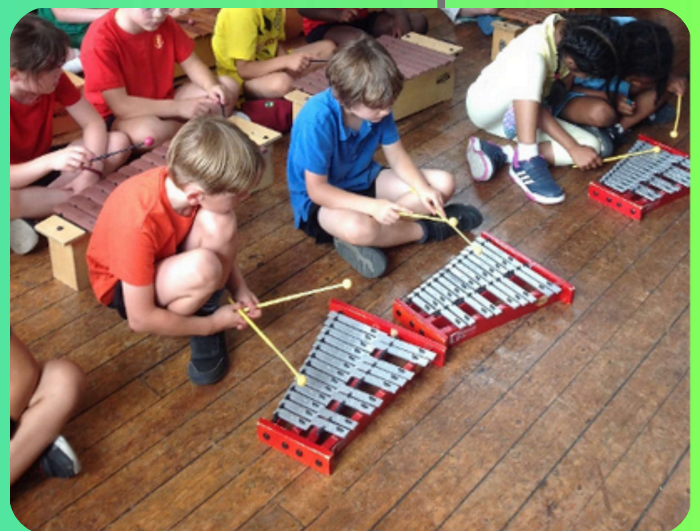
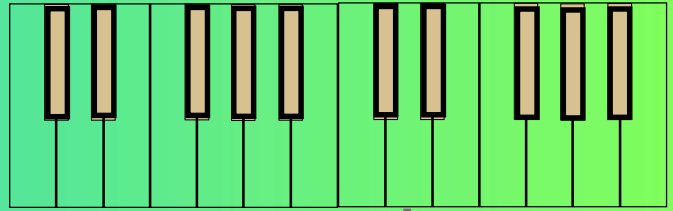
There has been lots of wonderful music making in and outside of school this summer term.

Nursery have been learning lots of new songs including 'Little Johnny Dances' in which the children choose where little Johnny will dance next.

In Reception we have also been learning songs old and new including 'Aitken Drum' where Mrs Jackson brings along her accordion to accompany us. We are continuing to practise playing our instruments along to our songs, keeping a steady beat and making up our own rhythms as we go along.

In Year 1 we have been naming and learning how to play untuned percussion instruments to accompany the long and short sounds needed for our song named 'The Mountaineer Song'.

In Year 2 we have been playing xylophones to find out about pitch. We loved to sing and play the song 'Ebenezer Sneezer' a very funny man who liked to walk upon his elbows and dress up in paper even when it poured with rain.



Year 3 performed in the Lewisham Songfest at St Laurence's church in Catford. We joined forces with several other schools to showcase our fabulous singing, performing six songs to the great delight of parents and friends.

In Year 4 we have been learning about chords and scales through playing Boomwhackers. We very much love the songs 'Waka waka' and 'The Weller Man'.

In Year 5 we have been continuing to improve our rhythmic composition skills through composing in groups and then joining together as a whole class. We first clap our pieces, just as we heard when we listened to the minimalist composer Steve Reich's 'Clapping Music' piece. We then went on to transfer our pieces to percussion instruments.

In Year 6 we attended the LPO's Brightsparks' concert at the Royal Festival Hall. We listened to and learnt all about Stravinsky's ballet music 'Petrushka'. We very much enjoyed singing 'Mr Cheadle's Menagerie' with the rest of the audience- we had learnt it in class especially for the concert.

Our Dalmain Music Concert 2025 celebrated all that the children who take instrumental lessons have achieved this year. What an amazing concert it was! It was so heartwarming to witness the confidence and pride that the children exuded in the concert. We listened to violinists, cellists, recorder players, saxophonists, pianists, vocalists, guitarists, ukelele players, brass players and finally our fantastic djembe ensemble. A big thank you goes to our dedicated and inspiring instrument tutors who provide the lessons in school.

And finally our wonderful Year 6's delighted us with their end of term production 'The Greatest Showman'. We were entertained from start to finish by this amazingly talented group of young people whose acting and singing was absolutely stunning and would not be out of place on the West End stage!

We cannot wait to see what the next academic year will bring in terms of the musical prowess of Dalmain School.



YEAR 6 PRODUCTION: THE GREATEST SHOW!



Wow... 'The Greatest Show' really was the greatest show!

On Thursday evening, the Year 6 children dazzled their families and friends with a truly unforgettable performance of The Greatest Show – and what a spectacle it was! The energy, colour, and excitement filled the hall from the very first moment, leaving the audience absolutely captivated.

We were transported into the magical world of P.T. Barnum's circus, where each child shone in their unique role. From daring acrobats to expressive mime artists, from towering strongmen to the most extraordinary lion tamer – and yes, even a lion who looked ready to wow the judges on Britain's Got Talent – every act was a celebration of creativity and confidence.

The atmosphere was electric. The children's acting was nothing short of phenomenal, with emotional depth and comic timing that would rival a West End cast. The singing was powerful, polished, and utterly rousing, with two unforgettable duets that left the audience spellbound. And of course, Lewisham's very own nightingale stunned the crowd with a solo performance so moving and pitch-perfect it brought goosebumps to every listener.

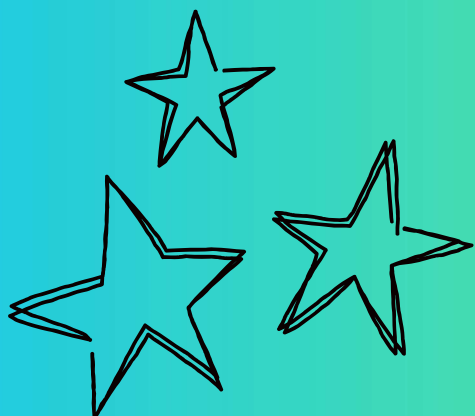




There wasn't a dry eye in the house by the final curtain – the standing ovation said it all. It was not just a performance; it was a triumph – a heartwarming culmination of a fantastic year in Year 6. It was a show that celebrated not only the children's talent, but their teamwork, dedication, and growth.

A huge and heartfelt thank you goes out to all the people who worked so hard behind the scenes to bring this vision to life. Mr Ramm, Mrs Jackson, and Ebone offered invaluable musical support throughout, and Wendy from Trinity Laban brought energy and elegance with her choreographic expertise. And a very special thank you to Mr Santos, whose incredible commitment – giving up countless lunchtimes – and creative vision made this production a true masterpiece.

The Greatest Show will live long in our memories – a fitting farewell to a very special group of children. Bravo, Year 6!



SUMMER FAIR:

Once again FOD brought our school community together and provided us with a fantastic Summer fair!



The Summer Fair was a tremendous success this year. There was karaoke, tombola, delicious jerk chicken and yummy cakes and biscuits. This year we had a popular new stall: Henna Tattoos. It was very popular. I loved the stationery stall, the tombola- and the henna!

At the fair there were not only games and treats but also a friendly atmosphere and crowds of families and kids wherever you looked. The entire event was run by Friends of Dalmain who made sure it all ran smoothly. I'm sure next years will be just as fabulous!

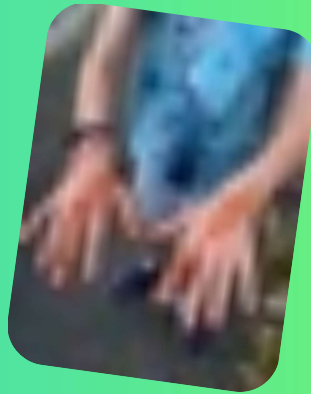
By Nina

The Summer Fair was a great success this year! There were many vibrant stall including Henna, Karaoke and even a Magic Show! It was exciting to see the plans for the event come to life. Lots of people were there and it was very enjoyable.

Everyone had an amazing time and took part in all sorts of things. My Mum even won a voucher in the raffle!

Lots of people kindly helped out and there was something for everyone! There was tons of heavenly food and drink including a popular cocktail bar for adults and a cake stall. I can't wait till the next Summer Fair!

By Celia





Over the past few weeks, the Year 6 children have been hard at work developing their own small enterprises as part of the “Make £5 Grow” initiative.

This exciting project has encouraged all pupils to embrace their entrepreneurial spirit, develop key life skills, and gain a better understanding of money management—skills that will serve them well in the future.

The challenge was simple yet impactful: each child was given £5 and tasked with creating a small business, working collaboratively in teams to grow that initial investment into a profitable venture.

As part of the process, pupils brainstormed business ideas, conducted market research to ensure their concepts were viable, and set SMART business goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound). They then analysed their findings, created professional presentations, and delivered persuasive pitches to a panel of ‘Dragons’ in hopes of securing investment.

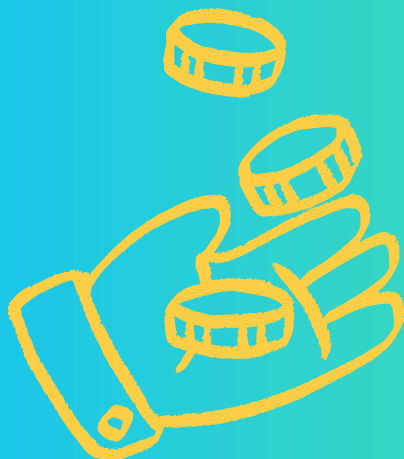
After much deliberation, the Dragons chose four promising businesses to invest in:

- Bag ‘n’ Band – Loom bands and creative accessories
- Tanghulu – Traditional candied fruit kebabs
- Inky – Arts and crafts
- Miscellaneous – A fun mix of lucky dips and rock pet creations
- Veil of Mystique – Magic show

These five successful ventures ran stalls at the Summer Fair. Each stall was hugely successful, and the children were expert sellers. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came to the fair and supported the Year 6 children.

After the fair, we counted our money and tokens and were impressed to see that we had raised over £700 – the highest amount raised so far!

The children have repaid the money borrowed from their investors, and their profit will go towards a well-deserved treat to celebrate their hard work and achievements.



TRINITY LABAN:

This term, our Trinity Laban dance sessions have been full of creativity and energy! In Year 5, the children explored movement through the story of Beowulf, using strong, dramatic actions to bring the tale to life. Our fantastic dance teacher, Wendy, also worked with Pearl Class to choreograph a beautiful dance for their class assembly.

Meanwhile, Year 6 explored the powerful movements of the sea, inspired by their work on Viking Boy, before turning their focus to their end-of-year production. With Wendy's expert guidance, they polished a flawless dance routine for The Greatest Showman, adding flair and confidence to their performance.



"I have really enjoyed experiencing Laban for the first time this year, creating dance battles, learning about travelling and working as a team. It's one of the best things about Year 5 - I can already imagine how excited the Year 4s will be when they turn into Year 5s and get a chance to dance with Wendy!"
Megan



TRINITY LABAN:



"I loved it when Wendy helped us do the choreography for our class assembly" Janelle, Juliette and Oscar
"I absolutely loved choreographing a dance all about pearls!" Mirabelle

"I love it when we make up solo dances and then join them with friends' dances to create a new piece" Ivy



"It has been an honour to have Wendy as a teacher, and it was great to combine movement with our literacy text Beowulf!"
Toure



NATURESBASE:



Year 4: team building and Pizza!

One of the most exciting adventures was our residential trip to Naturesbase in Wales. Situated between the Cambrian Mountains and Cardigan Bay, the location is surrounded by woodlands, meadows and animals. We explored the great outdoors, took part in team-building exercises, learned bushcraft skills and even cooked pizzas in an earth oven.

The experience brought the whole year group together in the most joyful way. We took part in a wide range of outdoor activities—from den building and fire-lighting to hiking. The trip helped us build confidence, independence, and a deep appreciation for nature. Many of us discovered we were capable of much more than we ever imagined!



"I had lots of fun feeding the chicken and spending time with all my friend." - Elia
"My favourite part was going to the beach and building amusement parks for crabs!" - Willow
"I enjoyed Natures Base because we went on lots of adventures in the wild. I enjoyed building the huts and going on a trail to the beach." - Evie

TRIPS:

Year 1 went on a really exciting trip to Mudchute Farm! Our favourite part was feeding the animals — we even got to touch and stroke them. We saw cows, baby lambs, goats, and chickens! After spending time with the animals, we had lots of fun playing in the hill fort. It was a great place to climb, explore, and play with our friends. We had such an exciting day and made lots of happy memories!



As part of our RE learning, **Year 3** deepened their understanding of Buddhism with a memorable visit to a Buddhist temple, where the children saw a beautiful shrine to Buddha and even practised some meditation. Afterwards, we enjoyed a lovely lunch in the Museum Gardens!

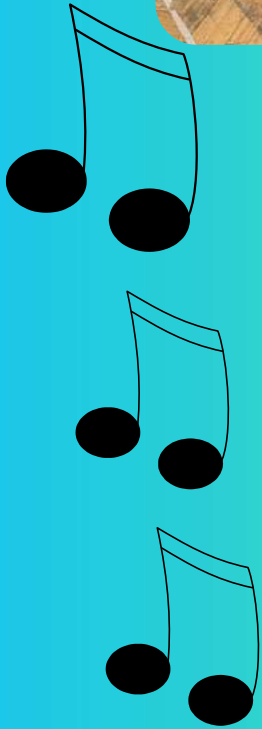


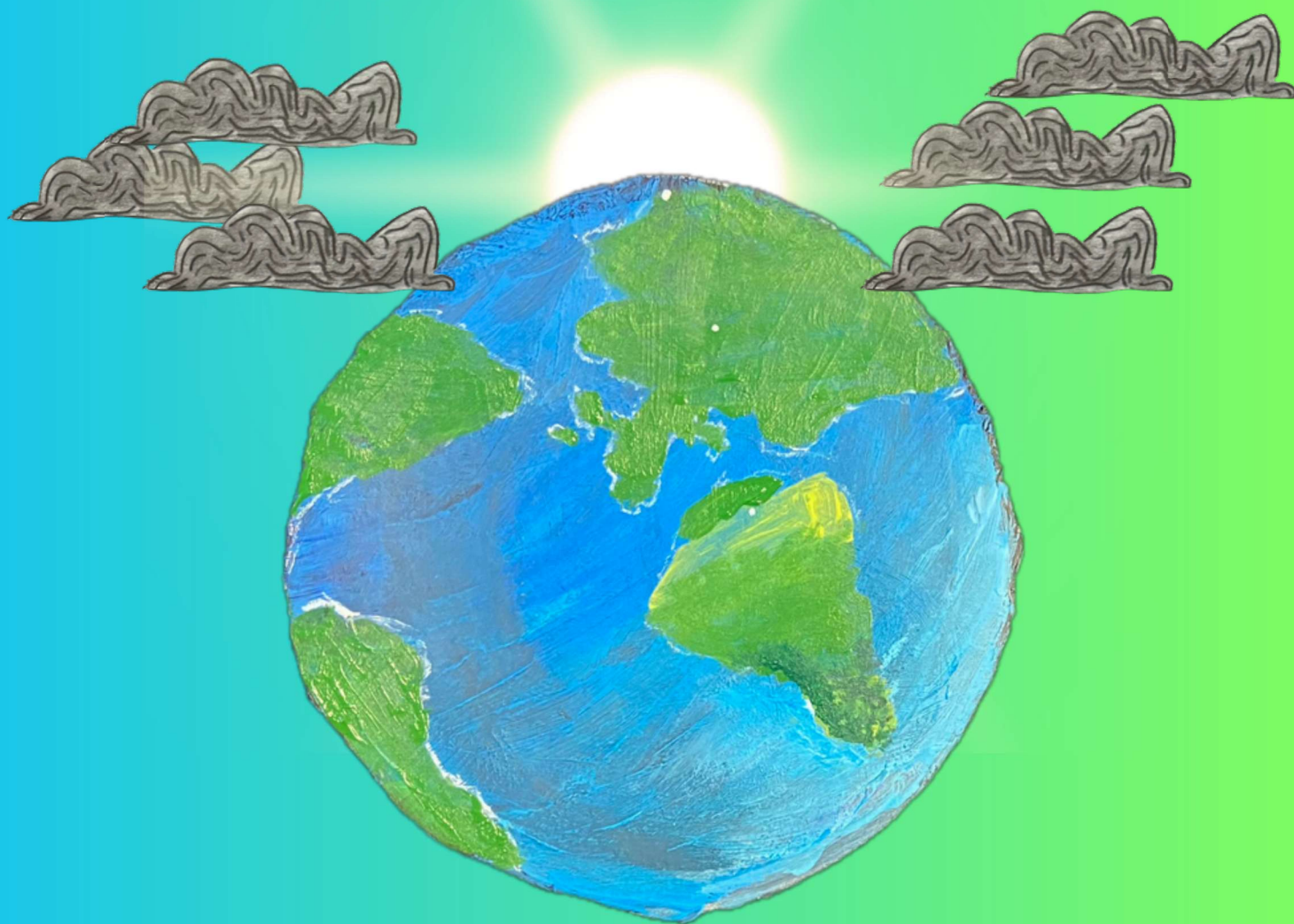
Year 4 took a tour of St Paul's Cathedral which helped us learn more about its fascinating features and what makes it such an iconic and special place of worship. It was a perfect link to our learning in RE.

AND FINALLY....

It seems Year 6 are not the only ones who have blown us away with their musical talents! Sam, our Premises Officer surprised the children with an incredible performance at the end of term! Children and staff were blown away by not just his mastery of the piano, but his guitar playing and singing too!

The children couldn't help but join in and we expect to his name in bright lights soon!





THANK YOU!

We are sure you will agree there has been much to celebrate this year.

Pupils have shared wonderful experiences and produced outstanding work throughout the curriculum.

Have a wonderful summer break and we look forward to seeing you all once again at the beginning of the new school year!

