

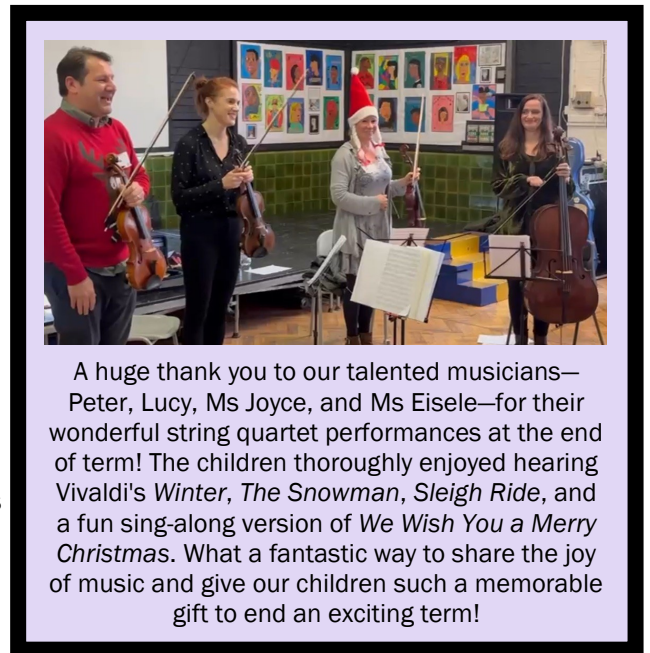


DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL Newsletter—December 2025

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we come to the end of another wonderful Autumn Term, I am thrilled to celebrate everything our school community has achieved together. This term has been filled with inspiring learning, exciting experiences, and outstanding progress across the curriculum. From the curiosity and enthusiasm of our youngest learners in the Early Years to the confident problem-solving and creativity of our older pupils, it has been a joy to see our children thriving every day. A huge well done to everyone!

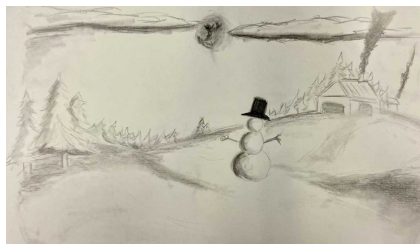
I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the incredible staff at Dalmain for their dedication, professionalism, and tireless hard work this term. Their high-quality teaching, creative planning, and unwavering commitment ensure that every child is challenged, inspired, and supported. It is thanks to their passion and collaborative spirit that Dalmain continues to be such a vibrant, inclusive, and nurturing community.



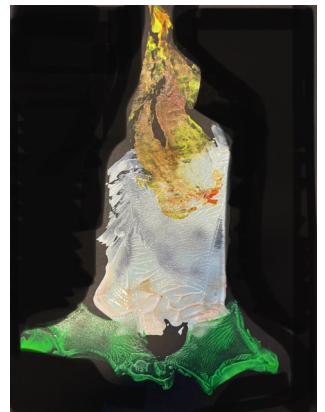
A huge thank you to our talented musicians—Peter, Lucy, Ms Joyce, and Ms Eisele—for their wonderful string quartet performances at the end of term! The children thoroughly enjoyed hearing Vivaldi's *Winter*, *The Snowman*, *Sleigh Ride*, and a fun sing-along version of *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. What a fantastic way to share the joy of music and give our children such a memorable gift to end an exciting term!



Finally, thank you to all our parents and carers for your ongoing support, encouragement, and partnership. I wish you and your families a joyful and restful Christmas holiday, and I look forward to welcoming all our children back in the New Year for another exciting term of learning, growth, and discovery.



Best wishes, Ms Eisele - Headteacher



HOUSE POINT RESULTS



1st—Forest House: 1882

4th—Grove House: 1488

2nd—Hawthorne House: 1731

3rd—Oak House: 1567

We are delighted to share the outcomes of a recent review, which strongly recognised the exceptional achievements of pupils and staff across Dalmain Primary School. The feedback celebrates the high quality of teaching, inspirational leadership, and the school's vibrant learning culture, particularly in mathematics, alongside the many strengths of the wider school community.

Outstanding Achievement in Mathematics

Mathematics is a standout strength at Dalmain. Teaching is highly consistent and continues to go from strength to strength, resulting in excellent outcomes. An above-average proportion of pupils achieved the expected standard in Year 6, with a notably high number reaching greater depth compared to local and national figures. Year 4 pupils also exceeded national averages in the Multiplication Tables Check, providing strong foundations for future success.

Across classrooms, pupils demonstrate confidence, enthusiasm, and a secure understanding of mathematical concepts. Teachers expertly break learning into clear steps, using practical resources, visual representations, and strong modelling to support all learners, including pupils with SEND, enabling them to move confidently from concrete to abstract thinking.

Confident Communicators and Problem Solvers

A defining feature of mathematics teaching at Dalmain is the strong emphasis on oracy and mathematical language. Pupils confidently articulate their thinking, collaborate with peers, and engage in high-quality mathematical discussions. Teachers skilfully promote reasoning and participation, helping pupils to develop confidence, resilience, and independence as learners.

Inclusive, Supportive Learning for All

Dalmain is a truly inclusive school. Pupils with SEND are fully engaged, enthusiastic, and well supported through effective classroom practice and targeted intervention. Support staff are deployed exceptionally well, using thoughtful questioning and carefully chosen resources to deepen understanding and secure progress for all pupils.

Strong Leadership and Excellence from the Early Years

Leadership in mathematics is highly effective, underpinned by a clear vision and excellent professional development for staff. Mathematical learning in Nursery and Reception is engaging and purposeful, providing a strong foundation and a smooth transition into Year 1, supporting pupils' confidence and wellbeing.

A Thriving School Community

Beyond mathematics, the review highlighted outstanding behaviour, engagement, and attitudes to learning. Pupils are polite, articulate, and respectful, reflecting a strong culture of inclusion and belonging. Art remains a major strength, with exceptional work produced across the school through an ambitious and inspiring curriculum.

We are immensely proud of our pupils, staff, and wider school community. This feedback reflects the shared commitment, passion, and ambition that make Dalmain Primary School such an exceptional place to learn and grow.

Nursery—Rose Class

This term, we have been exploring the theme of light and dark. We discussed the changing seasons as we moved from autumn into winter and delved into the topic of space. Our very own Space Station quickly became a class favourite, inspiring lots of imaginative role play. The children also enjoyed using information books to discover more about space and learn about the different planets.



We've been finding out about a range of festivals and celebrations too. The children created vibrant firework paintings for Bonfire Night and loved learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali, where they designed their own colourful Rangoli patterns.

A definite highlight of the term was our visit from the emergency services. This experience was especially exciting for the children who have a keen interest in vehicles. They were thrilled to have the chance to sit inside the vehicle and explore it up close.

We also had an incredible experience meeting the different animals when Spirit of the Wild visited us! Wow! The children were so brave and listened exceptionally well about the different animals and their natural habitats.

The children have also been working incredibly hard to practise their songs for the winter performance. They thoroughly enjoy their music sessions with Mrs Jackson, and we so enjoyed sharing our performance with all of the parents and carers. Thank you for all of your support this term!



Learning in the Wildlife Garden



The children have thoroughly enjoyed spending time in the wildlife garden, even as the weather has become colder. They have particularly enjoyed observing the changing seasons, from the leaves gradually turning colour and falling from the trees, to noticing how the plants and insects adapt as winter approaches. Their observations have sparked many conversations and questions, and it has been wonderful to see the children learning and exploring in a different environment.



They have shown great curiosity and care for the natural world, often stopping to examine the smallest details around them. It has been fantastic to watch their confidence grow as they explore independently, make discoveries, and share their ideas with friends. They have been inspired by the beauty and diversity of nature, and their enthusiasm for outdoor learning is contagious. Each visit brings new excitement and opportunities for discovery, making the wildlife garden a truly magical learning space.



Inclusion Team

Our Inclusion Team

Ms Sewani—Assistant Headteacher & SENCo

Ms Joyce—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

Dalmain School is one of the schools selected to take part in the PINS programme this year and we have worked with Drumbeat on various areas.

The PINS Programme

The PINS programme is a national pilot led by the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England (NHSE), with support from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF).

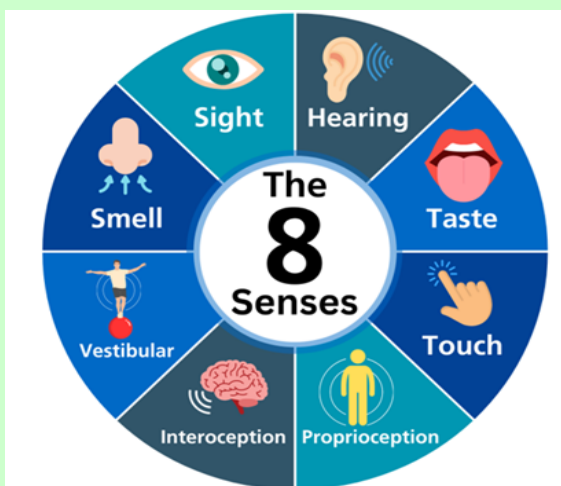
Its Core Aims include:

- To create more inclusive environments for neurodivergent pupils in mainstream primary schools.
- To provide early interventions at a school level.
- To upskill school staff through training and resources.
- To strengthen partnerships and communication between schools and parent-carers.

We have benefitted from whole-school CPD in how we can better support our neurodivergent learners in the classroom, what a relational approach looks like and how we can support early communication and interaction with our youngest pupils. We have also had two parent coffee-mornings, led by Sophie Hodson, where we have been exploring ways in which we can support our pupils to self-advocate and communicate their sensory needs and preferences.

Our next parent event will be on Wednesday 4th February, which is the same day as our Parent Teacher Meetings.

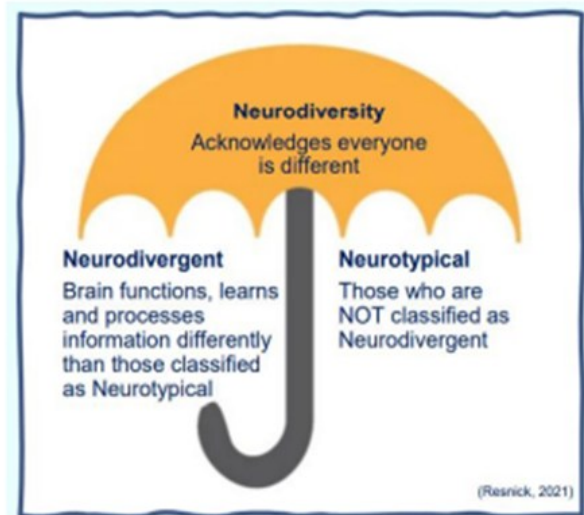
As part of Drumbeat's PINS support for Dalmain, Sophie will be available during 4:00 – 6:00pm to talk to parents.



We invite Parents to come and have a chat if they want to:-share their experiences of inclusion at Dalmain

- Share experiences of parenting children who are neurodivergent
- Find out more about SEN, Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, sensory processing and other developmental differences
- Find out about the services and support available to parents of children with additional needs in Lewisham
- Suggest ways to increase representation and celebrate neurodiversity at Dalmain

If your child receives additional SEN support, you will also be able to book a meeting with Ms Sewani on Wednesday 4th February to discuss and review the targets on your child's learning plan. We really value your input in this area so please get in touch if you have any questions.



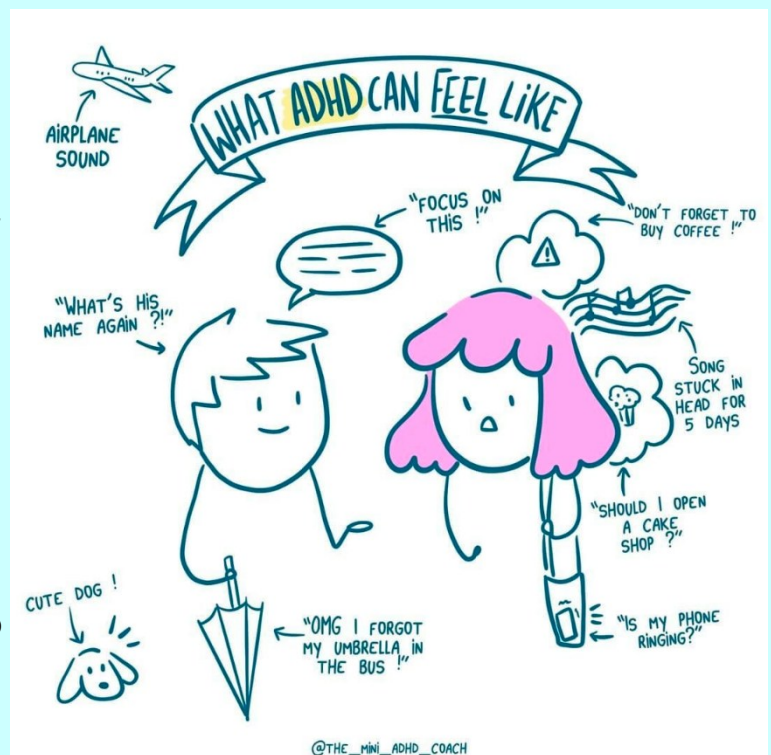
“My brain feels like it has a hundred tabs open at the same time.”

What ADHD can be like, by Dalmain parents

Dalmain, like any other primary school, is lucky enough to have a fair few ADHDers in its classrooms. The way that ADHD shows up is different for everyone, but Dalmain parents have shared what it's like for their children.

- “He can't sit still at the table at mealtimes, or in fact at any time.”
- “When she's into something, she can't seem to stop talking about it!”
- “He is so creative - when I ask a question, I would never expect the answer he comes out with.”
- “When it's something he loves, he can focus on it for hours and hours on end.”
- “My son talks to himself in the bathroom... when he's in bed trying to go to sleep. It's his brain whirring round all the time.”
- “For us, it's asking questions and then interrupting with something totally off topic. Starting and fully engaging in an activity, but giving up before it's finished. Being constantly upside down! Feeling paralysed by paragraphs of words - they need bullet points!”
- “My kids are very sensitive to any slight bit of rejection or criticism - it's almost like it's physically painful sometimes”.
- “Impulsive and distractible. But so much fun to be around!”
- “I've noticed how amazing my ADHD son is in a crisis. When his little brother fell & got a nasty cut on the head, he calmed him down, got a cold pack, and kept me calm too!”

If your children are struggling to focus, wildly creative, energetic or have big feelings [this short video](#) might be helpful. It talks about what it's like to have ADHD, from a child's perspective. School can do all kinds of things to help, like give them a fidget toy, or regular movement breaks. They can break down tasks into bullets to help them follow and keep focus. More than anything, they can understand, and help find ways for them to learn and make friendships. ADHD is a lifelong brain difference - it's not a choice. The more we all understand this, and the small things we can do to support, the more Dalmain's community thrives.



If you want to talk more about this, come and chat to parents and experts in the lower hall at the next parent-teacher meetings day. We promise it won't be boring!



Meet the Managers

Strategic SEND Meetings

Ongoing sessions for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND who would like to take part in strategic discussions with senior leaders in Lewisham.

Come along to:

- hear from SEND Services across education, health and social care
- share your views and ask questions about wider SEN strategic matters
- find out more about Lewisham's future plans and support available to learners with SEND

Why attend?

- have your voice heard in shaping services and provisions
- gain a better understanding of local SEND priorities
- connect with other parents and carers
- meet senior managers from the local authority as well as NHS and other partners

Session format:

- opening presentation from Senior managers leading the discussion
- question and Answer session with parents/carers
- discussion on emerging challenges and opportunities
- agree action plan where appropriate and required and determine how parents and carers will be kept updated

Dates:

Wednesday 3 December 2025, 6-8pm

Provision of Early Intervention and Meeting needs via SEN support
Advice from schools and partners on what support looks like for learners without EHC plans.

Tuesday 27 January 2026, 6-8pm

SEND Reforms: White Paper

The Government is proposing significant changes to the SEN system.
We want to ensure that you can feed into the consultation.



Venue:
Council Chambers
Civic Suite
Catford Rd,
London,
SE6 9SE

Buses: 47, 54, 75, 136, 171, 181, 185, 199, 208,
320, 336, 380

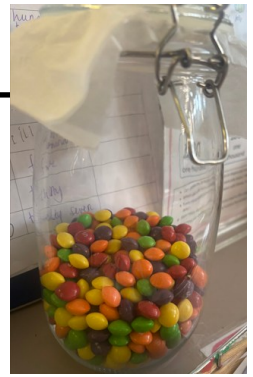
Nearest stops: Catford Road / Lewisham Town
Hall. 2-3 minutes walk from Catford Bridge and
Catford Train stations.

There is no free parking in the area

For accessibility needs or questions, contact:
stella.sumah@lewisham.gov.uk

Reception—Daffodil Class

Autumn 2 has been a wonderfully busy and exciting term in Daffodil Class. During Maths Week, we read *How Many Jelly Beans?* and the children estimated how many jelly beans they thought were inside our class jar. At the end of the week, we counted them together and were amazed to discover there were 279 jelly beans in total!



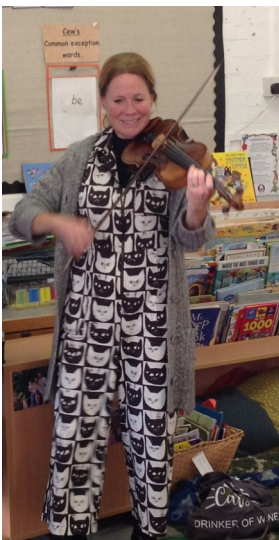
A major highlight this term was a visit from a range of emergency services. The children were thrilled to explore an ambulance, a fire engine and a police car, and they were fascinated to learn about the different equipment each emergency worker uses in their role.

Each Friday morning, we have loved welcoming families to our Reading Café. This has given the children a lovely opportunity to share a book with someone special from home. We will continue to welcome parents and carers every Friday morning, so please do feel free to pop in.



The children have also been learning about a range of special celebrations, including Bonfire Night and Diwali. They particularly enjoyed re-enacting the Diwali story in a class play. In addition, they have been working hard to learn the songs and actions for our upcoming winter performance and are very excited to wear their costumes and perform for their grown-ups. It has truly been a memorable term for Daffodil Class!

Reception—Daisy Class



Daisy Class has had a wonderful Autumn term. One of the highlights was welcoming a parent into the classroom to play her violin, bringing Julia Donaldson's *Tabby McTat* to life in a truly magical way. The children loved the storytelling and listened carefully to the different melodies played on the violin.

The class also enjoyed an exciting visit from *Spirit of the Wild*, where they came face-to-face with a variety of fascinating creatures, including chinchillas, snakes and even a tarantula. The children were incredibly brave, and some even had the opportunity to hold an animal. They were wonderfully calm and careful, showing great respect for each creature.

Another exciting highlight was our trip to the pantomime — *oh yes we did!* The children were thrilled to watch *Dick Whittington and His Catford Cat* at the Catford Broadway Theatre and were captivated by the lively performances, sound effects and colourful costumes.

We are now feeling wonderfully festive and full of holiday spirit. If anyone spots a cheeky elf up to mischief, please do let us know where you have seen him!





The Friends of Dalmain



FRIENDS OF DALMAIN

@friends_of_dalmain)

<https://www.pta-events.com/friendsofdalmain/>



THANK YOU!



Dalmain Winter Wonderland

This half term's highlight was without doubt the spectacular Winter Wonderland fair!

The school was transformed into a festive hub where families enjoyed brilliant games, delicious food, a magical Santa's grotto, creative crafts, and an array of incredible homemade treats at Made for Dalmain! We even had marshmallow toasting - a cosy, crackling hit enjoyed by the children and grown ups alike.

None of this would be possible without the incredible dedication of the school community. Enormous thanks goes to **EVERYONE** who volunteered, baked, decorated, sung, cooked, wrapped, organised and supported. It was an incredible team effort and a celebration of the community that makes Dalmain so special!

Winter Wonderland Fair
£6,100!!

Christmas Trees
£979

Tea towels and cards
£268



The Friends of Dalmain



**FRIENDS
OF DALMAIN**

[@friends_of_dalmain](https://www.facebook.com/friends_of_dalmain)

<https://www.pta-events.com/friendsofdalmain/>

You have funded....

Beyond the fun, Friends of Dalmain fundraising has also made a significant impact on learning and enrichment across the school - here are some of the things that you have supported

Brand new iPads

The new iPads are already being put to good use in classrooms - Year 4 put them to work to research European countries, diving into geography with extra enthusiasm!

Maths workshop

All year groups benefitted from a specialist maths workshop, stretching their learning in an different and engaging way

New football kit

We were proud to fund new football kit for the school team, who debuted it on 6 December - and even celebrated by scoring a couple of goals!

Contribution to class trips

We helped support some fantastic class trips this term - Reception had a great time at the pantomime (oh yes they did!), year 4 adventured to the Science Museum, and more!

Drama workshops

The incredibly popular Primary Shakespeare workshops are back this year, helping Dalmain pupils develop their performance skills and grow in confidence

Philosophy classes

Philosophy classes continue to support pupil's critical reasoning, empathy and confidence - and inspire mind-blowing conversations on the way home from school!

Watch out for reading events and library fundraising to celebrate the national year of reading in 2026!

Dates for your diary

- Quiz night: Fri 30 January
- Music night: Fri 20 March
- World cup celebrations: TBC
- Summer Fair: Sat 27 June

Get in touch



If you have questions, suggestions or would like to support us, please email:

friendsofdalmain@gmail.com

Year 1—Bluebell Class

Bluebell Class have been on superhero missions this term. Filth and Vacuum wanted to wreak havoc in our school, so we wrote letters to Ms Eisele and the Mayor to ask for a superhero to help us save the day. Inspired by this, the children created and designed their own superheroes, giving them a name, costume, superpower, super words and a logo. We then wrote our own stories explaining how our heroes could save our school.



We have loved Maths this term, exploring mass and capacity, as well as enjoying some wonderful jelly bean activities. The children continued and created patterns, explored number composition and even took home a few sneaky jelly beans at the end! We have also been learning how to partition numbers into parts using the part-part-whole model.

Another highlight was our visit from the emergency services. Firefighters, paramedics and police officers let us explore their vehicles and try on some of their equipment. We also visited St Saviour's Church, where we were fascinated to learn about the different parts of the building and listened to the Christmas story to support our RE learning.



Bluebell Class have been wonderful this term. As we bring out the glitter and sparkles to celebrate all things Christmassy, we are reminded of how far they have come and how proud we are of them. Well done, brilliant Bluebell Class!



Year 1—Foxglove Class



This half term has been amazing! Foxglove Class have really enjoyed our Maths investigations, especially as we began our new unit on comparing quantities. The children have been spotting Maths all around us and loved using counting bears to show groups that were more, less or the same.

In Writing, the children's creativity has truly impressed me. Our first book of the half term was *Send for a Superhero*. Over the first few weeks, we wrote messages from Superhero HQ, designed our own superhero costumes and practised writing all the comic book words we could think of.



Other highlights include our visit from the emergency services and our trip to the local church. We have also been practising our songs for the Winter Performances and are very much looking forward to seeing all of our grown-ups there. Well done, Foxglove Class!





Every class in KS2 elects two Eco Councillors to represent their class that year. This is a very competitive process because so many children want to be in the Eco Council! We had to prepare a presentation, talking about what we would do as Eco Councillors and the impact we could have. After some amazing presentations, we were so excited to be elected Eco Councillors this year and have enjoyed attending meetings this term. We have also been helping with the recycling bins around the school and ensuring that waste is disposed of correctly.

At the Winter Fair, we also had a dedicated 'Eco Stall' where children and adults could decorate their own re-usable tote bag. Here are some examples.



We chose this as a focus because plastic bags create plastic pollution which means that animals and birds can get trapped, tangled and even strangled by all kinds of plastic waste. The average plastic bag is only used for 12 minutes, but it takes more than 400 years to decompose. When plastic breaks down in the ocean, it doesn't break down *completely* – it just gets smaller and ends up being swallowed by fish and other marine animals and birds. The tiny particles of plastic absorb toxic industrial chemicals which, when eaten by fish, are absorbed into their tissues and are eventually eaten by humans.



Did you know that every year 8 million tonnes of plastic end up in our planet's beautiful blue oceans?

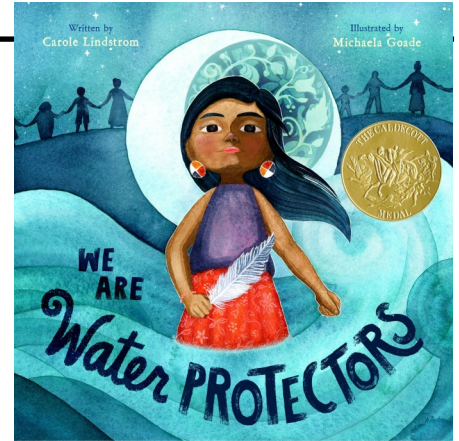
However, you can be part of the solution! You can choose to use re-usable bottles, shopping bags (like the tote bags!) and buy loose fruit and veg and not using pointless plastic.

By Ruby and Caspar (Lily Class)



Year 2– Marigold Class

This term in Year 2 has been filled with exciting learning adventures across all subjects. In Writing, we explored the theme *Journeys Home*, a story about endangered animals finding their way back to safety. The children produced imaginative and heartfelt narratives that showed their growing confidence as writers. We then began our new topic, *We Are Water Protectors*. After learning about waterways and the importance of clean water, the children designed their own rivers, complete with river creatures and thoughtful sentences explaining why water is essential for living things.



In Maths, we have focused on calculations within 20 to solve a variety of problems. The children were introduced to helpful strategies, including bridging to 10, partitioning, using the bar model and finding differences. They also practised comparing quantities using the terms more and fewer, confidently making statements such as, “This jar has more jelly beans,” and, “This jar has fewer jelly beans.”

In Geography, the children learned to use maps to identify and name the seven continents and the five oceans. Their enthusiasm grew as they discovered fascinating facts about the oceans and explored ways to protect them. In RE, we studied important symbols in Christianity, with the highlight being our visit to St Saviour’s Church.



As we reflect on a wonderful term of learning, we are grateful for your continued support and look forward to sharing more updates soon.

Year 2–Snowdrop Class



What a wonderful half term it has been in Year 2! Time has flown by and we can’t quite believe it is almost Christmas already, with excitement building each day.

This term, a big focus has been on protecting the environment. In Art, we learnt about art activism and created our own water sculptures from clay. In Writing, we read two moving books, *The Journey Home* and *The Water Protectors*, learning about endangered animals & environments before writing our own persuasive pieces to encourage others to become environment champions, just like us.



Similarly, in Geography, we have loved learning about Earth’s continents and oceans. We were lucky enough to join a Zoom call with two scientists speaking live from Antarctica about the amazing work they do there to conserve the environment.

In RE, we have been learning stories that are important to Christianity and the traditions of Christmas, and we enjoyed our trip to St Saviour’s Church to consolidate this learning. What an amazing term!



WRITE SPARKS



CREATIVE WRITING FOR KIDS

EXTRA SESSION
ADDED DUE TO
HIGH DEMAND!

MOON LANE
BOOKS, SE23



WEDNESDAYS
3:45 - 4:30

AGES 7-12

A FUN GROUP WITH SARAH PARROTT,
EXPERIENCED TEACHER AND WRITER

www.writesparks.co.uk



Year 3—Tiger Lily Class

Tiger Lily Class have enjoyed a busy and engaging Autumn 2, showing fantastic teamwork & supporting one another across all areas of learning.

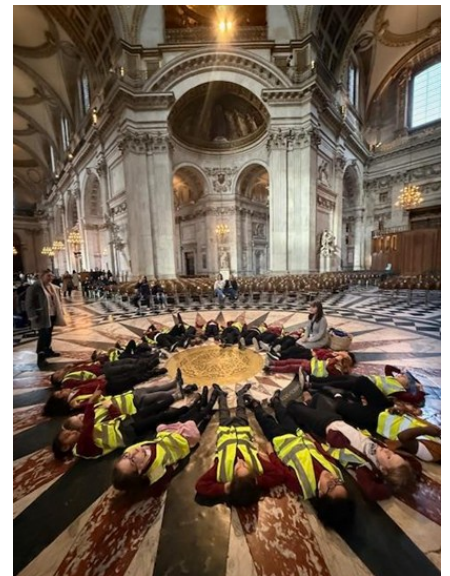
A key highlight was Maths Week, during which pupils tackled a range of challenges and took part in a hands-on workshop filled with exciting problem-solving activities.



Another wonderful experience this term was our visit from *Spirit of the Wild*, where the children had the opportunity to observe and handle a range of fascinating wildlife.

In Computing, the children loved creating their own stop-frame animations. They began by making flip books before using iPads to produce moving images of their own design.

RE has also captured their interest, particularly during our trip to St Paul's Cathedral to learn more about the Christmas Nativity. This learning was complemented by earlier research into how Christian charities promote peace.



Tiger Lily Class have also made excellent use of their library time, sharing stories and exploring new imaginative worlds together.



Year 3—Snapdragon Class



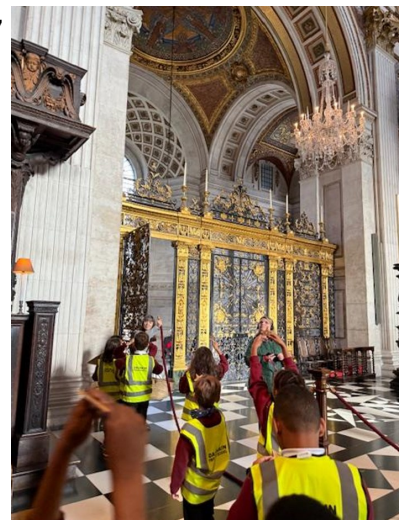
This half term in Snapdragon Class, we have enjoyed a wonderfully busy and creative lead-up to Christmas. In English and the Teaching of Reading, we stepped into Roald Dahl's magical world through *The BFG*. The children explored his imaginative characters, created detailed wanted posters for their own giants and invented giant-friendly recipes featuring unusual drinks and foods. They finished the unit by writing their own versions of the story, showing fantastic creativity and growing confidence as writers.

In Maths, we focused on measurement using millimetres, centimetres and metres. During Maths Week, the children also took part in a special workshop full of problem-solving challenges, which helped to build teamwork, reasoning and resilience.



Snapdragon Class have had a fantastic term and should be very proud of their achievements. We wish all our families a warm, joyful and very Merry Christmas!

A memorable highlight was our *Spirit of the Wild* workshop. The children learned about animal skeletons and adaptations and had the exciting opportunity to meet—and gently handle—a range of amazing animals. It was a fascinating hands-on experience that they will not forget.





Being a Parent

Parenting programme for parents of children aged 2-11

Delivered by trained Parent Group Leaders from Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC), part of South London & Maudsley NHS Trust, in partnership with Lewisham



A FREE 9-week course to help parents learn practical skills for everyday life such as:

- Looking after yourself as a parent
- Recognising and managing your child's emotions
- Learning positive parenting strategies

ONLINE

Wednesday 9.45-11.45

23rd January - 27th March 2026

(no session 18th Feb - half term)

Feedback from Lewisham Parents

"I absolutely loved this course. I would recommend it to anyone. It has helped me out so much as a parent"

"The leaders were amazing, made me feel so much more confident and feel like people actually do care."

To sign up and find out more click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code:



Or Contact **07860 371868**



EMPOWERING PARENTS
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



South London and Maudsley
NHS Foundation Trust



Year 4—Lily Class

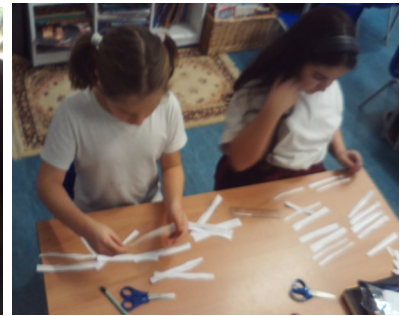
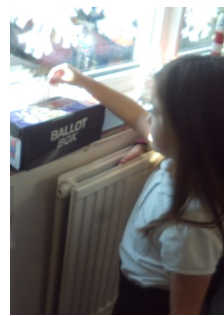
Lily Class has had another brilliant term. In English, we explored *Winter's Child* and *The Selfish Giant*, writing imaginative narratives inspired by the idea of Spring, Summer or Autumn's Child. In Reading, *Tamarind and the Star of Ishta* captured our hearts, giving us many opportunities to think deeply about characters' feelings.

In Maths, we covered many of our multiplication tables, looking for patterns and links between them as we prepare for the MTC next year. In Science, we learned about states of matter and enjoyed an amazing trip to the Wonderlab at the Science Museum.

We also travelled across Europe in Geography, discovered verb endings and myths in Latin, learned about Christian celebrations in RE, developed our football, netball and gymnastics skills in PE, and explored democracy in PSHE. Music has been full of energy as we rehearsed for our Christmas performance. On top of all this, the children successfully completed their first assessment week.



I am incredibly proud of the resilience and effort the class has shown in their learning, as well as the generosity and compassion they demonstrated through our Winter Clothes Collection project for the community. I wish them all a wonderful and relaxing break and cannot wait to see what the new year brings.

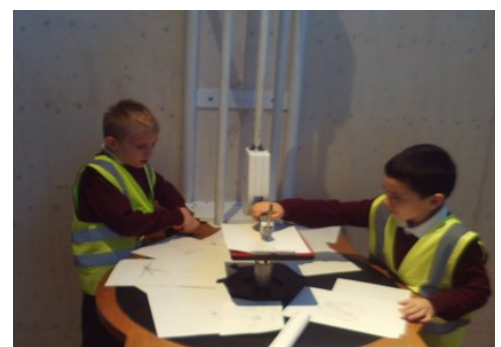


Year 4—Jasmine Class



It's been a fantastic second term in Year 4 Jasmine Class, full of curiosity and creativity.

In Geography, we explored the continent of Europe, learning about its physical geography, landscapes and cultures. In English, we enjoyed reading *Winter's Child* and wrote our own stories, inspired by its themes of friendship and imagination.



In Maths, we've been working hard on our times tables, focusing on the links between different tables, such as the connection between the 3s and 6s.



Science has been a particular highlight this term. We learned about states of matter, exploring the properties of solids, liquids and gases. Our exciting trip to the Science Museum helped bring this learning to life.

In PSHE, we've been thinking about democracy and voting, discussing how decisions are made and why everyone's voice is important. We also took part in our Winter Drive, showing kindness and responsibility as a class community.

The children have worked incredibly hard this term, and I'm very proud of their effort, teamwork and enthusiasm.



BREAKFAST & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB



DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL BREAKFAST & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB



DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL BREAKFAST & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB



Year 5—Sunflower Class

Wow, what an exceptionally busy half-term this has been for Sunflower Class. In Science, the children have been testing the boundaries of theoretical physics in their topic of “Forces.” As part of this unit, we visited the Science Museum, where we explored the space gallery (linked to our previous unit), took part in a rocketry workshop, and visited the Wonderlab.



Our termly English topic was linked to our History unit on the Ancient Greeks. In Reading, we explored *Mythologica*, a beautifully illustrated non-fiction book about the gods, monsters, heroes and mortals of Greek mythology. We developed our inferencing skills using the P.E.E. strategy (Point, Evidence, Explanation).

In Writing, we joined our hero, Odysseus, in Homer’s *The Odyssey*, following his many trials and tribulations. The children planned and wrote their own epic tales, inspired by the travels of the Greek hero. In History, we examined the legacy of the Ancient Greeks and even designed, made, and painted our own vases in the style of the era.

We are looking forward to a well-deserved Christmas break to recharge ahead of an equally busy Spring term. Well done to all in Sunflower Class for an outstanding half-term of learning!

Year 5—Poppy Class

This half term in Poppy Class has been wonderful!

In Writing, we’ve been exploring ancient myths through *Mythologica* by Dr Steve Kershaw and *The Odyssey* by Homer. The children have loved reading about heroic quests and mythical creatures, and they have written their own epic adventures full of imagination and excitement. In Teaching of Reading, we’ve continued exploring myths and legends, asking thoughtful questions and analysing characters and themes.



In Maths, we have been learning about negative numbers and developing our multiplication skills. The children have worked hard and shown great resilience with new methods and tricky problems.

In PSHE, we’ve been learning about stereotypes – what they are, why they matter, and how we can challenge them. The class have taken part in brilliant discussions about fairness and celebrating individuality. In RE, we have been learning about Hinduism, exploring key beliefs, symbols and traditions with curiosity and respect.

In History, we travelled back to Ancient Greece, learning about the differences between Athens and Sparta. A highlight was creating our own Ancient Greek vases. We also had a fantastic time on our trip to the Science Museum, where the children enjoyed hands-on activities and explored many fascinating exhibits.

We are so proud of everything Poppy Class has achieved this half term. We hope you all have a joyful and restful break and look forward to more exciting learning in the new year! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





Attendance & Punctuality

Why Attendance Matters

We are ambitious for all children and our aim is for them to:

- ◆ enjoy their experience at school
- ◆ succeed
- ◆ have the best possible start to their adult life.

By attending school regularly, children can:

- ◆ reach their full academic potential
- ◆ develop and sustain relationships
- ◆ demonstrate to future employers they are reliable
- ◆ reduce their risk of becoming a victim of crime or abuse
- ◆ reduce their risk of becoming involved in antisocial or criminal behaviour.



The link between irregular school attendance and poor academic achievement and limited life outcomes have been well researched.

How to Improve Your Child's Attendance

We expect your child to attend school every day and to be on time, but we understand there may be exceptional reasons for them to miss school.

You can support your child's regular attendance at school by making sure:

- ◆ medical and dental appointments are outside school hours, such as during school holidays
- ◆ your child is organised for school the night before by having their bag packed, PE kit ready, homework completed and lunch packed
- ◆ your alarm clocks are set in good time.

How Schools Calculate Attendance

Schools count each school day as two sessions, one morning and one afternoon, making a total of 10 sessions over a full school week. Children must attend all 10 sessions each week to achieve 100%.

If a child does not attend school their attendance is reduced by 10% for each session missed. For example, if a child has a half-day absence in a full school week they will have attended nine sessions out of 10. This means they will achieve 90% attendance. If a child is absent for a whole week, their attendance is 0%. Schools will then calculate each child's attendance over a whole term.

Children who attend school for less than 90% are considered to be 'persistently absent'.

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.

Please email attendance@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk if you have any questions or we can help in any way.

Year 6—Iris Class

This term has been both busy and rewarding in Iris Class.

At the end of last term, the children embarked on an unforgettable residential trip to Norfolk. Throughout the week, they demonstrated the school values of teamwork, adventure, and acceptance as they took part in a wide range of activities, from pond exploration to fencing. A particular highlight was a day at the beach, where the children enjoyed paddling in the sea and building sandcastles. The experience was invaluable in fostering independence, resilience, and collaboration.



Back at school, our topic for the term has been Evolution and Inheritance. In English, we studied *Can We Save the Tiger?* by Martin Jenkins, a beautifully illustrated book that explores the threats faced by tigers and other endangered species, highlighting the importance of conservation. Inspired by the text, the children produced explanation texts exploring the causes and consequences of extinction, and composed persuasive speeches, influenced by Greta Thunberg, advocating for the protection of tigers and orangutans.

In Science and ToR, the children have been learning about Charles Darwin and the Theory of Evolution. They conducted the 'Battle of the Beaks' experiment to investigate how variations in bird beaks relate to available food sources, and created informative booklets detailing Darwin's discoveries. Through these activities, they developed a deeper understanding of evolutionary concepts and the process of adaptation.

This week, the children have also been tackling the GCHQ Christmas Card Challenge as part of their early morning work. It has certainly stretched their mathematical thinking and logical reasoning, but they have embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and are determined to crack the code!



In Laban, the children have been exploring choreography, experimenting with props, and collaborating in small groups to develop their own dance routines. In music, they have been rehearsing for the winter performance, preparing to showcase their musical talents to parents.

This term has been one of creativity, discovery, and collaboration, and the children are looking forward to continuing their learning and exploration in the new year.

A-Z OF MENTAL HEALTH

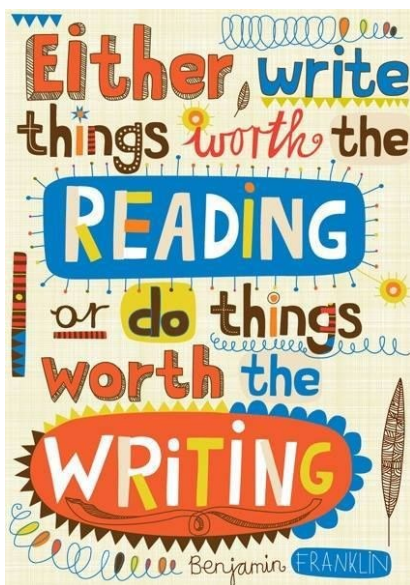
Positive mental health and wellbeing makes us feel content, peaceful and valued. Use these tips to improve your mental health one letter at a time.

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

Writing Laureate Award

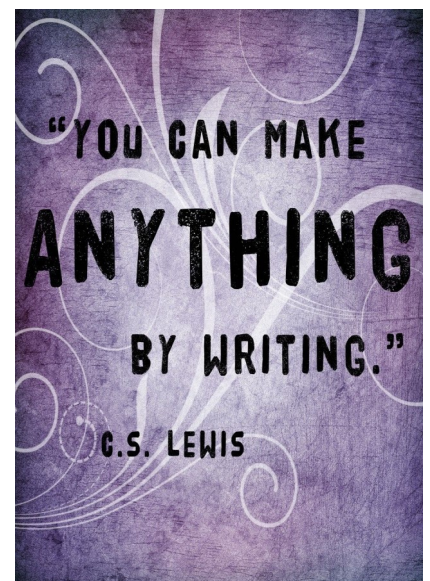
Since the start of this school term, we have been absolutely astounded by the standard of writing that our pupils have produced. The following children have been chosen to receive our Dalmain Laureate Award for their exceptional progress, use of high-quality vocabulary and application of literary skills 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: Jude & Fred
 Year 1: Alice & Leilah-Anne
 Year 2: Max & Luke
 Year 3: Ella & Lulu
 Year 4: Willis & Emmeline
 Year 5: Luca & Martha
 Year 6: Mirabelle & Isla D

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE!



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

Other Contacts

For specific queries, please use the below contacts:

Admissions incl. Nursery & Reception intakes, attendance, meal choices, breakfast or after school

clubs: attendance@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk

Finance, curriculum clubs, instrumental lessons, trips, medicines or allergies: office@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk

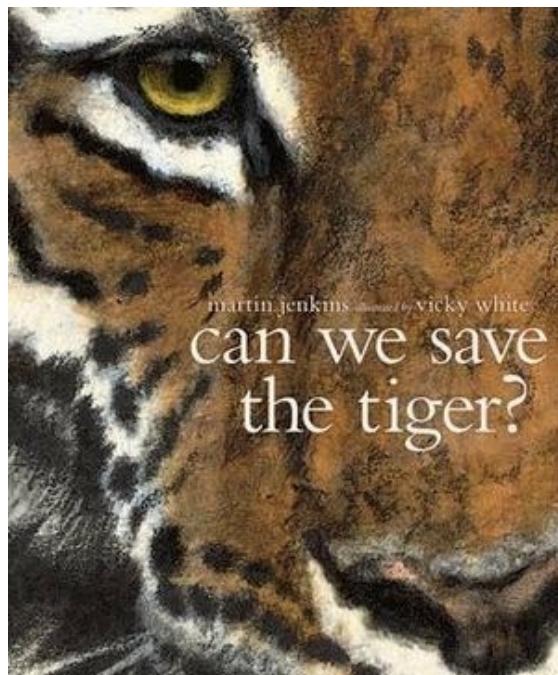
Afterschool club: please contact Top Marks Coaching at info@topmarksportscoaching.co.uk

Year 6—Cosmos Class

Year 6 have been learning all about Charles Darwin and the Theory of Evolution this term.

In Science, we learnt about different traits & characteristics, including which ones can be inherited. We reflected on our own families and discussed features and traits we share with our parents and siblings. We then investigated how traits are passed down through an experiment, using cubes to model how characteristics can be inherited.

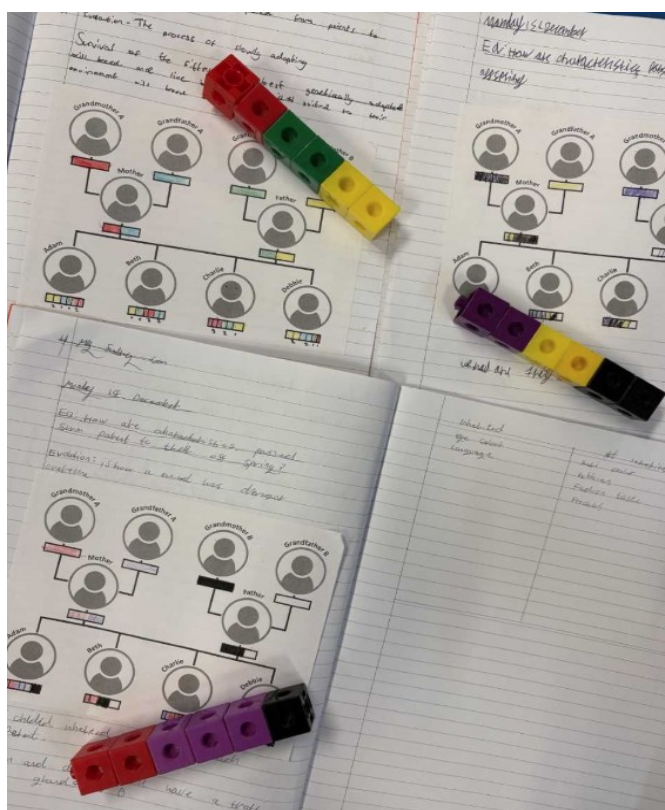
Through our Teaching of Reading lessons, we have learnt more about Charles Darwin & his achievements. Our text helped us understand Darwin's childhood, how he developed an interest in his studies & how he came up with the theory of evolution. We particularly enjoyed learning about his research into different living organisms, using key vocabulary & terminology to add to our ongoing glossaries.



Alongside our learning, the children have been busy rehearsing for the Winter Performances, showing fantastic teamwork, confidence and enthusiasm as they prepared to perform for families.

We are incredibly proud of everything Year 6 have achieved this term. The children have shown maturity, curiosity and resilience in their learning, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow.

We are very much looking forward to the progress they will continue to make next term as they build on these strong foundations.



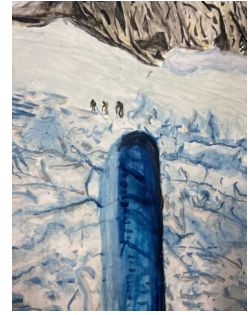


Day	Club	Time	Year Group	Location	Teacher	Places available	Price x 10 sessions	Payments
Monday	Gymnastics	8.00-8.45	Rec, 1 & 2	Top hall	Ballers	23	£85	Direct
	Netball	3:30 – 4:30	3,4,5 & 6	PEN	Ms Allsopp	18	£25	School
	Art Palette	3:30-4:30	R-Y6	Art Room	Ms. Natacha	15	£100	Direct
Tuesday	Karate	8:00 – 8:45	Yellow / orange belts	Top Hall	Sensei Bethany McCloskey	20	£70	Direct
	Football	3:30-4:30	REC	PEN	Ballers	23	£70	Direct
	Football	4:30 – 5:30	1 & 2	PEN	Ballers	23	£70	Direct
	Magic club	3.30 – 4:30	All	Maths Room	Magic Club	20	£25	Direct
Wednesday	Gymnastics	8:00 – 8:45	3,4,5,6	Top Hall	Ballers	23	£85	Direct
	Drawing	3:30-4:30	3,4,5 & 6	Art Room	Mr Roberts	25	£25	School
	Basketball	3:30-4:30	4,5 & 6	PEN	Mr Graham	20	£50	School
	Art Palette	3:30-4:30	R-Y6	Rose Room	Ms. Natacha	15	£100	Direct
	Tag Rugby	3.30- 4.30	Rec, 1,2	Top Hall	Ballers	23	£70	Direct
	Football	4:30-5.30	3 & 4	PEN	Mr Graham	20	£50	School
	Football	5:30- 6:30	5 & 6	PEN	Mr Graham	20	£50	School
Thursday	Karate	8:00-8:45	White & Red Belts	Top Hall	Sensei Bethany McCloskey	20	£70	Direct
	Art Palette	3:30-4:30	R-Y6	Room 15	Ms. Natacha	15	£100	Direct
	Tennis	3:30-4:30	3,4,5 & 6	PEN	Mr Graham	14	£50	School
	Chess	3:30-4:30	3,4,5 & 6	Rose Room	Nela Bešič	22	£100	Direct
	Choir Club	3:30 – 4:30	4, 5 & 6	Top Hall		TBC		
Friday	Multi-skills	8:00 – 8:45	3, 4, 5 & 6	PEN	Mr Graham	20	£0	School
	Chess Club	1:00pm-2:00pm	3,4,5 & 6	Top Hall	CSC Club	20	£25	School
	Cricket	3:30-4:30	4,5,6	Pen	Mr Graham	20	£50	School
	Forest School	3:30 – 4:30	2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	Wildlife Garden	Secret Adventurers' Club	17	£75	Direct
	LAMDA	Across the day	Spaces available Y2, 4 & 5+6 group	Library	Ms Jenny / Storybox Drama Club	Apply directly	Apply directly	Direct





2026 DATES



Curriculum Clubs – Spring Term

Term 3	Term 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WB 12th January • Wb 19th January • Wb 26th January • Wb 2nd February • Wb 9th February 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wb 23rd February • Wb 2nd March • Wb 9th March • Wb 16th March • Wb 23rd March

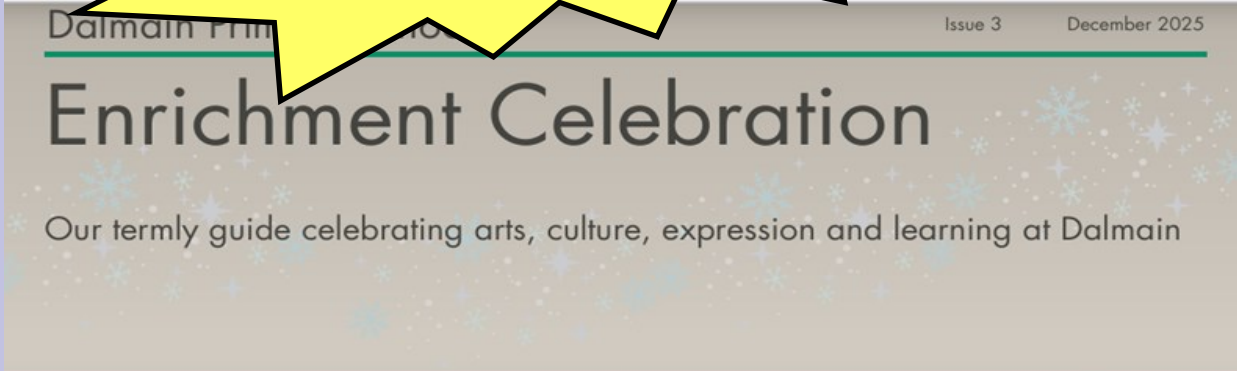
Term 3	Term 3 Starts	Tuesday 6 th January 2026 - 8:45am
	Parent Teacher Meetings	Wednesday 4 th February 2026 - 1:30pm-6:45pm Friday 6 th February 2026 - 8:00am-11:00am
	Writing Week	Monday 9 th – Friday 13 th February
	HALF TERM	Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February
Term 4	Writing Exhibition in the Playground	Friday 27 th February - 3:00pm – 3:45pm
	Class Photos	Monday 2 nd March
	Reading Week	Monday 2 nd – Friday 6 th March
	World Book Day	Thursday 5 th March
	FOD Music Night	Friday 20 th March 2026 - 7:00-10:00pm
	END OF TERM	Friday 27 th March - 1:00pm



ENRICHMENT CELEBRATION



Attached with this newsletter,
take a look our outstanding
Enrichment Celebration,
Issue 3!



In This Issue:

A celebration of Art and DT projects across the school



Y6 Journey Escapades!



Spirit of the Wild visit Dalmain!



Yo ho ho! FOD Winter Fair and KS1/2 Winter Performances



WELCOME...

Welcome to our Autumn addition of the new school year! Issue 3 of our Curriculum Enrichment Magazine is packed with the incredible experiences and learning that makes our school so special. We have reached the end of 2025! In this third issue we will be showcasing learning through the school, not only in Art, Music, Laban, Philosophy and DT but also our Winter Fair and the stunning Christmas Performances!



Although social media is a huge part of every day life, not everyone uses it or has hours to scroll and search through the doom and gloom, so you can raise your spirits and view all things Dalmain on our new Bluesky accounts! @dalmainps.bsky.social, @dalmainseyfs.bsky.social and dalmain-art.bsky.social for all things art. Our new platforms on Bluesky provide us with a platform to share positive vibes with you and celebrate what makes our school so unique!

As the Autumn term draws to a close, we look back at our creative and cultural highlights, helping you get into the festive spirit! With such a wealth of learning happening on a weekly basis it is impossible to show it all in our regular newsletter so put the kettle on, grab those fluffy slippers, sit back and enjoy.