



# DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Newsletter—February 2026



Dear Families of Dalmain,

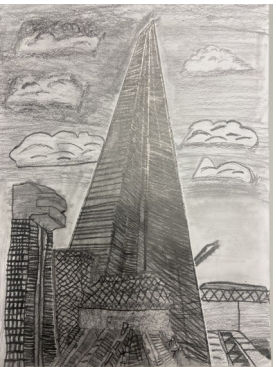
What a short but wonderfully action-packed term it has been at Dalmain Primary School! We started 2026 with magical snowfall and have gone on to enjoy a half term of exceptional learning, fantastic trips and, of course, this week's inspiring Writing Week.

We were also proud to receive a special message from the Education Secretary celebrating our nationally recognised success for disadvantaged pupils—see p.2 for the full letter.

As we hit the mid-way point of the academic year, we still have a plethora of fantastic learning and community events to look forward to, not least our Writing Exhibition on Friday 27th February and the incredible FOD Music Night on 20th March. We remain immensely proud of every child's achievements and thank you—the Dalmain community—for your continued support.

Wishing everyone a super holiday!

Best wishes, Ms Eisele, Headteacher



### Term 4 Dates

All Key Dates can be found on our website under Current Information

- Friday 27th February 3:00-3:45pm—Writing Exhibition
- Monday 2nd March—Class Photos
- 2nd—6th March—Reading Week
- 5th March—World Book Day with Author visit from Talmud Bah who has written Shadow Destiny <https://shadowdestiny.com/>
- 10th-13th March—Book Fair
- Friday 20th March—FOD Music Night

**Friday 27th March 1:00pm—  
END OF TERM**

## HOUSE POINT RESULTS—so far...



Forest House: 1719

Grove House: 1677

Hawthorne House: 1649

Oak House: 1647

**Congratulations to Dalmain!  
We are so proud of everyone!**

## **A message from Bridget Phillipson**



Dear Erika,

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Dalmain Primary School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

There are real opportunities available for you to support improvement for a wider group of pupils including through:

- engaging actively with [your region's RISE networks](#) and partnering with nearby schools and trusts;
- contributing to regional roundtables and professional communities to spread the approaches that are working in your context; and
- sustaining excellence by continuing to focus on disadvantaged pupils

Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to your staff and pupils. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to raise standards for all.

*Your sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bridget".

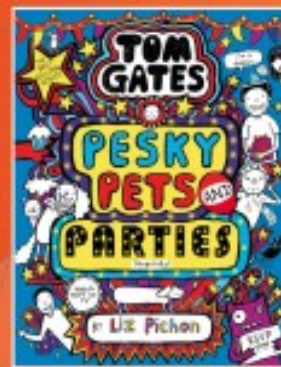
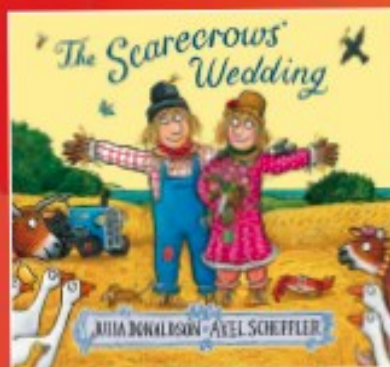
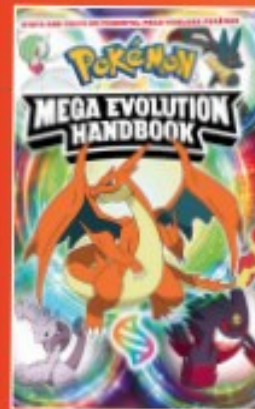
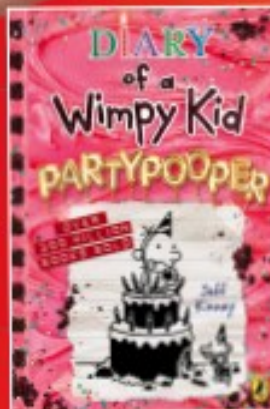
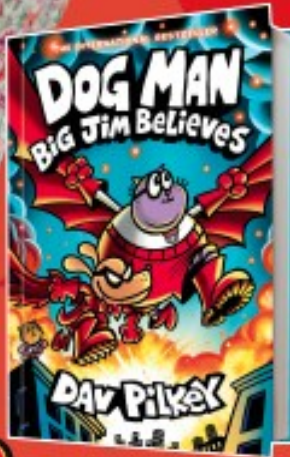
**Bridget Phillipson**  
Secretary of State for Education

SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

Every book  
you buy earns  
**FREE  
BOOKS**  
for our school!

# COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR

AND FIND YOUR NEXT FAVOURITE READ!



Tuesday 10th–Friday 13th March in  
the Playground. Everyone welcome!



## Nursery—Rose Class

The Nursery has had a truly fantastic and joyful start to the spring term! We've been diving into traditional stories and fairy tales, and the children have absolutely loved bringing them to life through imaginative role play and

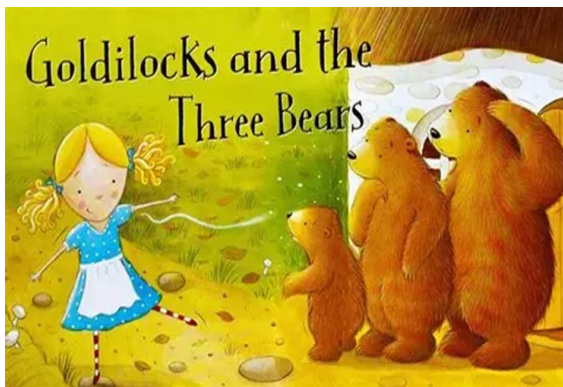


puppet performances. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they retell familiar tales with expression, creativity and excitement.

This term, the children also became little chefs! Inspired by *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, they made their own porridge, carefully mixing, stirring and tasting. There was great teamwork, turn-taking and lots of proud smiles as they enjoyed the results of their hard work.



During Writing Week, we explored how plants grow and what they need to thrive. This linked beautifully to *Jack and the Beanstalk*, sparking curiosity and awe. The children planted their own beanstalks and are eagerly watching for signs of growth, showing patience, care and real wonder at the magic of nature.



What an exciting term it has been!



## Learning in the Wildlife Garden

Although the weather hasn't been the best, it hasn't stopped us from playing and exploring outside in the wildlife garden.

We were lucky enough to see some snow, which was very exciting. The children showed great curiosity, making observations and describing what they could see and how it felt.



Our wonderful Wildlife Garden has continued to be a rich and inspiring learning space this spring. Despite the mud, the children have embraced every opportunity to explore nature first-hand — demonstrating true Dalmain resilience and enthusiasm. We have been spotting early signs of spring, listening carefully for birdsong, and searching for minibeasts beneath logs and leaves.

The garden has provided endless opportunities for questioning, investigating and imaginative play. Whether building habitats, creating nature-inspired art, or working collaboratively to solve problems, the children have shown curiosity, teamwork and respect for the environment. It has been a joy to see them so engaged in purposeful outdoor learning!



## Mobile Phones



### A gentle reminder that our school site is a MOBILE FREE ZONE.

We ask that all parents, carers and visitors **do not use mobile phones at any time while on the school premises**, particularly when children are present. This includes during morning drop-off and afternoon collection.

In line with our policy:

- Children may only bring 'brick' phones (phones without internet access) to school.
- Any smartphones brought onto the school site will be handed in, and parents will be asked to meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to collect them.

**These measures are in place to safeguard all children and maintain a safe, focused environment for everyone.**



## PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Supporting parents and carers navigating smartphones, social media, gaming and modern technology with children.

Providing non-judgemental and research-backed solutions to help families cultivate healthier digital habits and promote digital well-being.

A talk with Digital Parenting Expert  
**LAURA WYATT-SMITH**

Wednesday, 11th March 2026, at 7:00 PM

Dalmain Primary School, Grove Close, SE23 1AS



## Reception—Daffodil Class



We have had a fantastic term in Daffodil Class!

One of the highlights was our visit to Forest Hill Library, where the children loved sharing stories with familiar adults and friends. They were excited to explore the wide range of books and showed great enthusiasm when choosing stories to enjoy together. The visit also introduced the idea of borrowing books to take home with a special library card, which the children found very exciting.



We have also enjoyed pulling on our wellies for weekly Friday afternoon Forest School sessions. The children have been developing their curiosity about the natural world and recently spotted a nest high in our climbing tree, sparking thoughtful discussions about spring and birds.



In Maths, we have been comparing the mass of objects using vocabulary such as *heavy* and *light*, and worked collaboratively to create balance scales in the construction area.

## Reception—Daisy Class



We have been thrilled to welcome some new friends to Daisy Class, who have settled in beautifully and quickly become part of our daily routines, forming warm and positive relationships with their classmates.

In Literacy, we have been diving into the magical world of fairy tales and had enormous fun re-enacting *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. The children enthusiastically took on different roles, using expressive voices, actions and fantastic teamwork to bring the story to life. It has been wonderful to see them confidently using story language and ideas in their own imaginative play.



Earlier this term, we also enjoyed a visit to Forest Hill Library. The children loved the calm, welcoming environment and shared books thoughtfully with their friends, demonstrating excellent listening skills and a growing love of stories.

We are also making the most of our two new outdoor canopies, which allow for outdoor learning in all weathers. The children have especially enjoyed the construction zone and creating artwork outside, supporting the development of their gross motor skills.

# E C O C O U N C I L

We have recently noticed that there has been an increase in plastic wrappers in our school playground. This is not good for our school environment or for climate change.

We have been making posters to encourage our school community to use re-usable pots or packaging when bringing snacks to school.



We want to see more children bringing in fruit, either whole or in pots, rather than processed fruit in packaging.

Even if you swap a processed snack for fresh fruit 1-2 days a week, it will make a difference!

By Ruby and Casper  
Eco Councillors, Year 4





# Connect, Grow & Thrive



## Moments that matter

can happen anytime, anywhere.



For 10 small things to help your child connect, grow and thrive visit [lewisham.gov.uk/moments](http://lewisham.gov.uk/moments)





## Year 1—Bluebell Class

In Year 1 we have been on some underwater adventures this term! In English, we read *Leo and the Octopus* and discovered some amazing facts about octopuses, including that they have blue blood, three hearts and incredibly intelligent brains. We loved writing and illustrating our own fact files and are very proud of our work. We then read *Julian is a Mermaid* and used exciting vocabulary to describe how mermaids and other sea creatures move through water. We finished with a workshop and visit to the Horniman Museum aquarium, where we had a wonderful time. We continue to develop reading for fluency, comprehension and pleasure every day.



In Maths, we explored tangrams and the many pictures we can make using the seven classic “tans”. We are also developing our addition skills using part-part-whole and bar models, which help us consolidate our learning.

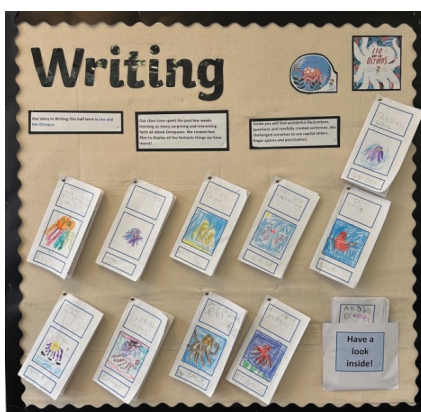
In Science, we explored animal classifications, diets and features and planted cress, sunflowers and runner beans to observe how plants change over time. We have loved caring for them and watching them grow.



In DT, we enjoyed designing and making pizza pockets, choosing toppings and carrying out a taste test before making the real thing. It was great fun and delicious too!

It's been a fun-filled and busy half term, and I am so proud of how well the Bluebells have started 2026.

## Year 1—Foxglove Class



Foxglove class have been getting stuck into learning across all our subjects this half term.

In Writing, the children have been working incredibly hard at creating some fantastic octopus fact files. We have learnt so many interesting facts whilst reading our focus book *Leo and the Octopus*. The children ensured that they included facts, questions and illustrations in their booklets.



Our Maths topic at the start of the term has been shape and the children have investigated this in many ways—for example, working as a team to find examples and ‘non-examples’ of certain shapes. In one of our lessons the children created their own games and ways of matching the shapes to really consolidate everything they have learnt.



One of our favourite Science lessons so far this half term was one where we planted cress, runner beans and sunflowers! We have been caring for the plants and observing any changes as the weeks go on.

What a wonderful start to 2026!



# A MESSAGE FROM ECO COUNCIL





# The Friends of Dalmain



SPRING 2026



FRIENDS  
OF DALMAIN

<https://www.pta-events.com/friendsofdalmain/>  
@friends\_of\_dalmain)

## FUNDRAISING

After a bumper Autumn term, FOD fundraising has had a strong start to 2026. We are pleased to share this update with you and welcome ideas and support for future fundraising events too.

**TATE**  
MODERN

**£328**

## YEAR 2 BAKE SALE

The year 2 bake sale was incredibly well supported by the school community. Thank you for your cake, cookie and doughnut donations. The money raised will be used to enable the year 2 children to experience art beyond the classroom through a visit to Tate Modern in March.



## QUIZ NIGHT

This term, Dalmain's family and friends swapped the chilly January weather for warming chilli and an evening of quiz fun. The event raised £400 for the school and received rave reviews:

*"Great food and a really fun night."*

*"Fab night, thank you FoD 🎉 The chilli was delicious!"*

**£400**



*Save  
THE  
DATE*



## PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Join this practical session on how to create a positive digital environment at home. Delivered by **ONE COLLECTIVE POWER** - a leading force in digital well-being, uniting parents, students, and educators to address the challenges of addictive technology.

**Date:** Wednesday 11th March

**Time:** 7.00pm - 7.45pm

**For:** all parents and carers, no ticket required

**Funded  
by FOD**



# The Friends of Dalmain

£10 early bird tickets until March 1st



MIXTAPE

**DALMAIN  
MUSIC NIGHT**

**FRIDAY 20 MARCH**

LIVE MUSIC \* BAR \* FOOD \* NOSTALGIA

**7-10PM - (DOORS OPEN 6.30)**



FRIENDS  
OF DALMAIN

# Inclusion Team



## Our Inclusion Team

Ms Sewani—Assistant Headteacher & SENCo

Ms Joyce—SENCo (*Maternity leave*)

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.

It was wonderful to meet so many parents last week during Parent Teacher meetings to review children's learning plans and talk together about how we can continue to support their progress. These conversations are a vital part of ensuring every child receives the right balance of challenge, care and encouragement. Our ongoing focus on high expectations, strong relationships, and a well-sequenced curriculum means children are thriving academically and personally. We are proud that our approach reflects a robust, high-quality standard of education, where pupils feel safe, supported and motivated to achieve their best.

We hope lots of you also had an opportunity to talk to **Sophie, from Drumbeat Outreach Team**, about the support that is available for pupils with SEND in Lewisham. Sophie has been leading our parent coffee mornings as part of the **PINS project (Partnerships for Inclusion of neurodiversity in schools)** and we have one more coffee morning left next term—the date for this will be shared with parents as soon as it has been confirmed.

Lewisham have launched a **Microsoft Teams Survey** aimed at parents/carers of children aged 7 and under, asking about support they have received or would like to receive about how best to prepare your child for Reception. All submitted responses will go into a draw and the winner will get a £50 voucher. Please fill out the survey before the end of February.

## Parent/Carer Survey: Preparing your child for reception



## Supporting Neurodivergent Children During the Half-Term Break

The half-term break is a great opportunity for children to rest, recharge and enjoy time with family. For many children, particularly those who are neurodivergent, changes to routine can sometimes feel unsettling. A few small strategies that might help:

- Keep some familiar routines in place, such as regular mealtimes and bedtimes, to help children feel secure.



- Talk through plans in advance, using calendars or simple visual timetables.
- Build in quiet time alongside busier activities, allowing children space to relax and regulate.
- Offer choices where possible, helping children feel more in control.
- Continue using strategies that work well during term time, such as movement breaks, sensory activities or breaking tasks into smaller steps.

We hope the break provides a chance for everyone to rest and return feeling refreshed.



**SIGN UP FOR THIS  
FANTASTIC HALF TERM  
MULTISPORTS CAMP  
WITH BALLERS SPORTS  
COACHING!**



**INVEST IN THE YOUTH**

## **BALLERS SPORTS COACHING**



**FEB HALF TERM MULTISPORTS CAMP**



**£27.50 per day  
per child**

Join our fun filled half term multi sports camp. A great place for children to stay active make friends and build confidence

### **CAMP DATES**

- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Time: 9am - 4pm



 0207 101 3652

 [admin@ballerssportscoaching.com](mailto:admin@ballerssportscoaching.com)



**BOOK NOW TO  
GUARANTEE  
YOUR SPACE!**



**£27.50 per day  
per child**

## **FEBRUARY MULTISPORTS HALF TERM CAMP**

**When: 16/02/26 - 19/02/26**

**Times: 9:00AM - 4:00PM**

**Where: SYDENHAM SCHOOL  
DARTMOUTH RD,  
LONDON SE26 4RD**

**All of our coaches are:**

- FA Qualified**
- DBS Checked**
- Child Safeguarding Trained**

**(Please note that your child can attend  
one or all of the above dates)**

**BOOK NOW TO  
GUARANTEE YOUR SPACE**

**TO BOOK**

**SEND US AN EMAIL,  
GIVE US A CALL OR BOOK VIA YOUR IPAL ACCOUNT**



 **0207 101 3652**

**Admin@ballerssportscoaching.com**

**@BALLERSSPORTSCOACHING**

## Year 2— Marigold Class

At the start of this year, we launched into our learning journey with an exciting focus on plants. Our budding botanists have been exploring how to identify the different parts of a plant and confidently explain their functions. Bringing science to life, the children began a “Bean Diary” investigation, changing growing conditions to discover what plants truly need to thrive. They have shown fantastic curiosity and responsibility, carefully recording weekly observations and spotting changes over time.

In PSHE, we have been developing our understanding of “Keeping Safe and Managing Risks.” The children have engaged thoughtfully in discussions about identifying hazards and making sensible, informed choices — both indoors and outdoors — demonstrating growing independence and maturity.

Maths has been a real highlight! We have been exploring grouping and repeated addition, making strong connections to multiplication. Although challenging at times, the children have shown great resilience and enthusiasm, especially during our creative “Building Groups of Windows” project, where they transformed abstract numbers into practical, visual structures. A brilliant example of Dalmain determination and creativity in action!



## Year 2—Snowdrop Class

What a fantastic start to 2026 it has been in Snowdrop Class! We have truly embodied our Dalmain spirit this term — working hard, showing curiosity and taking pride in everything we do.

Our learning has been rich and memorable. In RE, we explored Hindu weddings and brought our learning to life by recreating different parts of the ceremony. In Science, we became young investigators, growing our own beans and comparing them to plants without the essential conditions for survival — developing our scientific thinking and questioning skills.

In Art, we produced sensational cityscapes inspired by London and Mumbai, carefully considering colour, shape and skyline to create striking final pieces. In Maths, we have shown real determination in our multiplication unit. We even created our own “Group City” to showcase our understanding of equal groups, repeated addition and multiplication — a wonderful example of collaborative learning in action.

Our writing has been full of creativity and ambition. Inspired by *The Bear and the Piano*, we invented imaginative animal-and-instrument combinations and crafted our stories using expanded noun phrases, adverbs and conjunctions to bring them to life.

Snowdrop Class, you have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of yourselves. We are so proud of you all. Have a well-deserved and restful half term!





# Language & Communication



## Ensuring the Best Start in Speech, Language and Communication Pathway for Lewisham Practitioners

Language challenges affect over 7% of children—around two per class. Often unnoticed, they impact learning, friendships, and well-being. Early years practitioners and other professionals play a key role in identifying and supporting these needs. This pathway provides tips and ideas to help you to support families.

### 1. Identifying Language and Communication Challenges

Language and communication needs may be identified through:

- Parent feedback
- Practitioner observations
- Practitioner assessments or developmental checks

**! Try this** Observe children's language during familiar routines like snack time and small group play. Children may use different language skills throughout the day.



### 2. Getting advice

Help families support their child's language development by sharing key resources and services.

- Signpost to Family Hubs and Making it REAL for parents
- Share information on early entitlement funding for nursery access
- Provide Moments that Matter and Library/Book Start resources

**! Try this** Share quick, practical language tips with families during pick-up time, home visits, or routine check-ins. Small changes at home can make a big difference.



### 3. Getting Help

If more support is needed, guide parents/carers to relevant activities and interventions.

- Highlight specific courses and classes (e.g., Little Explorers Plus, Triple P Parenting course)
- Provide details of Speech and Language Therapy drop-ins
- Implement strategies from BBC Tiny Happy People within the nursery or home setting

**! Try this** Embed storytelling, songs, and role play into daily routines. Every interaction is an opportunity to build language.

### 4. Getting More Help

If a child's challenges persist or extend beyond language, specialist services may be needed.

- Consider referrals to community paediatrics for broader developmental needs.
- Refer to Early Years Speech & Language Therapy for specialist language intervention

**! Try this** Work with families to track progress by using communication journals or daily logs.





# Language & Communication



## Getting Advice

### Lewisham Family Hubs

Information and support for families in Lewisham.  
[lewishamfamilyhubs.org.uk](http://lewishamfamilyhubs.org.uk)

### Early Entitlement Funding

Information on free childcare for 2 year olds.  
[earlyyears.lewisham.gov.uk/p/early-entitlement/two-year-old-funding](http://earlyyears.lewisham.gov.uk/p/early-entitlement/two-year-old-funding)

### Family Information Service

Everything you need to know about services for children and families in Lewisham.  
[earlyyears.lewisham.gov.uk/p/early-entitlement/two-year-old-funding](http://earlyyears.lewisham.gov.uk/p/early-entitlement/two-year-old-funding)

### Making it REAL

Supporting parents with early learning at home.  
[earlyyears.lewisham.gov.uk/p/making-it-real/making-it-real-lewisham](http://earlyyears.lewisham.gov.uk/p/making-it-real/making-it-real-lewisham)

### Moments that Matter

Guidance on important early childhood moments.  
[lewisham.gov.uk/moments](http://lewisham.gov.uk/moments)

### BBC Tiny Happy People

Activities and advice to develop language.  
[bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people](http://bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people)

### Lewisham Libraries

Find local library services.  
[lewisham.gov.uk/libraries](http://lewisham.gov.uk/libraries)

### Bookstart

Free books and resources for young children.  
[booktrust.org.uk](http://booktrust.org.uk)

### National Literacy Trust Walk and Talk Trail

Fun ways to build language skills outdoors.  
[literacytrust.org.uk](http://literacytrust.org.uk)

### NSPCC Look, Say, Sing, Play

Simple ideas to boost your baby's brain development.  
[nspcc.org.uk](http://nspcc.org.uk)

## Getting Help

### Family Courses & Timetables

Find local activities for parents and children.  
[lewishamfamilyhubs.org.uk](http://lewishamfamilyhubs.org.uk)

### NHS Speech and Language Therapy Drop in

Early language and communication advice.  
[lewishamandgreenwich.nhs.uk/speech-therapy](http://lewishamandgreenwich.nhs.uk/speech-therapy)

## Getting More Help

### Speech and Language Therapy Referral

Find out how to refer a child for speech therapy.  
[lewishamandgreenwich.nhs.uk/speech-therapy](http://lewishamandgreenwich.nhs.uk/speech-therapy)

## Looking for Ideas & Inspiration?

Visit [lewisham.gov.uk/moments](http://lewisham.gov.uk/moments) or scan the QR code below for simple ways to support children's language in your setting.

**Moments that matter**



[lewisham.gov.uk/moments](http://lewisham.gov.uk/moments)

**NHS**

Lewisham and Greenwich  
NHS Trust



## Year 3—Tiger Lily Class

Term 3 may have been a short six weeks, but it has certainly been an explosive one for Tiger Lily! Our learning has centred around volcanoes across English, Teaching of Reading, Design and Technology, and Geography. We have been reading *Escape from Pompeii*, which has given the children a vivid insight into what life was like living in the shadow of a volcano. This rich text helped to build strong context for their news reports on the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, exploring not only the dramatic event itself but also its impact on people's lives and the environment.



Continuing our theme of nature, Tiger Lily went on a school trip to Hilly Fields to take part in a hands-on science investigation. The children explored soil in its natural environment, carrying out experiments to investigate the different materials that make up soil. In addition to this, the children had a fantastic time exploring the natural habitats of a variety of creatures living beneath the soil and in the surrounding area.

In Music, Tiger Lily have continued to develop their listening and teamwork skills by exploring a variety of instruments. They have been working together as an ensemble to perform a melody, focusing on keeping a steady pulse, playing in time, and listening carefully to one another so they can come in at the right moment. It has been wonderful to see their growing confidence and musical coordination.



## Year 3—Snapdragon Class



This half term in Snapdragon, we have been immersed in exciting and dramatic learning across the curriculum. In English and Teaching of Reading, we studied *Escape from Pompeii* by Christina Balit. The children learned about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and the destruction of the city of Pompeii, putting themselves in the shoes of Roman citizens who experienced the disaster firsthand. They used this knowledge to write engaging newspaper reports about the eruption, focusing on factual language, eyewitness accounts and powerful vocabulary.

Alongside this, our Teaching of Reading sessions explored geographical and meteorological disasters, including volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. Using the text *Earth Shattering Events*, the children practised key reading skills such as retrieval, interpretation, inference and decoding, while building confidence and fluency.



In Geography, we developed our understanding of volcanoes and earthquakes, learning where they are found around the world and why they occur. The children practised important geographical skills, including using atlases, maps and simple grid references. This learning was brought to life in DT, where the children designed and built their own volcano models.



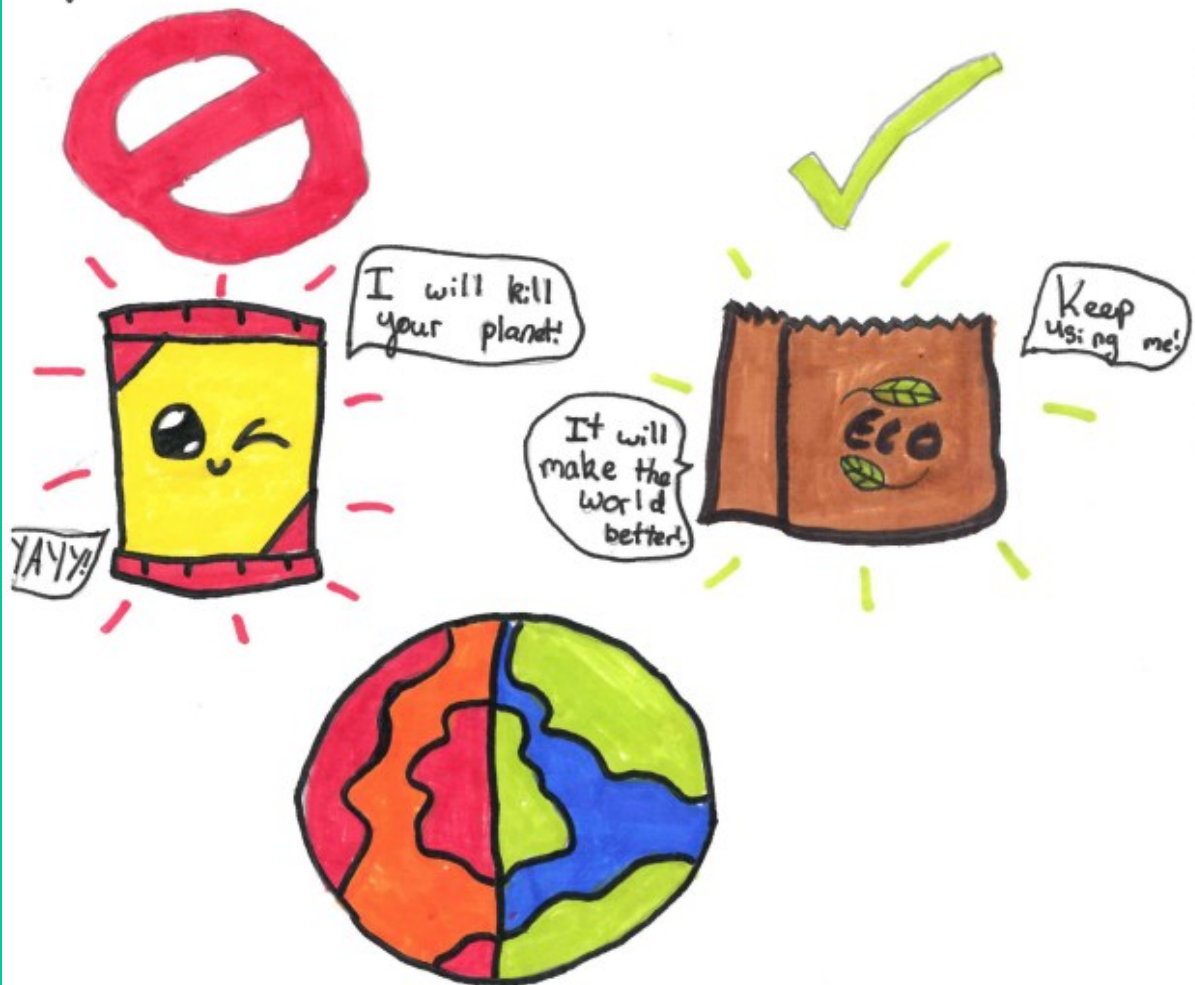
In Science, we have been learning about soil and its different types. A highlight was our field trip to Hilly Fields, where the children carried out a soil investigation, observing texture, colour and composition.

Snapdragon have worked incredibly hard this term and should be very proud of their learning.

# A MESSAGE FROM ECO COUNCIL

Pack it S M  
DO  
YOUR PART

Are you packing your child's food in plastic or tinfoil just to get thrown away? If so then start using reusable bags.



## Year 4–Lily Class

Lily Class have had a busy and rewarding half term, full of learning and creativity. In Maths, the children have been sharpening their times tables and mastering perimeter. Reading has taken us on exciting journeys – from Viking voyagers to imaginative poems inspired by our green and blue planet.



In Writing, the class explored the moving story *The Matchbox Diary*, learning about a young boy's journey from Italy to the United States in the early 1900s. This inspired the children to become biographers themselves, crafting thoughtful pieces about his life. As Writing Week approached, mysterious plants began appearing around school, sparking imagination & leading to beautiful figurative language poems inspired by *The Promise*.

Lily Class also created, rehearsed and performed their fantastic class assembly, showcasing real confidence and teamwork. Beyond English and Maths, the children have loved exploring Roman history, experimenting with coding, learning about sound, creating mosaics, exploring Judaism, strengthening their reasoning in Philosophy, and completing two weeks of swimming lessons at Forest Hill Pools.

What an incredible half term it has been!



## Year 4–Jasmine Class

We've had a busy and exciting term in Jasmine Class, filled with rich learning and memorable moments. In History, we explored the Romans and their lasting impact on Britain. Our Roman workshop brought the learning to life, giving the children a vivid sense of the past.

In English, we read *The Matchbox Diaries* and used it to inspire our own biographies, focusing on clear sequencing and thoughtful writing. In Maths, we strengthened our times tables with real determination and explored lines of symmetry through shape and pattern.

In PSHE, we learned about safety and managing risk, helping us make positive choices. We also performed our class assembly – a fantastic opportunity to show confidence & teamwork.



**Kasra:** I really liked making a double-page spread about how Romans changed Britain.

**Nedaviah:** I loved writing a biography based on *The Matchbox Diaries*.

**Ololade:** I enjoyed cricket in PE.

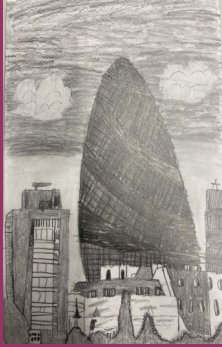
**Ethan:** I enjoyed Maths and improving my times tables – I scored 25!

**Lia:** I loved the Roman workshop. It was really fun & exciting.

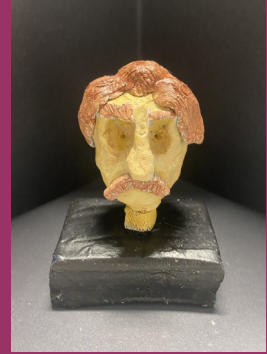
We are proud of the curiosity and perseverance Jasmine Class have shown – true Dalmain learners in action.



# 2026 KEY DATES



Join us for our wonderful  
**Writing Exhibition on Friday  
 27th February!**



<b>Term 4</b>	Writing Exhibition in the Playground	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February - 3:00pm – 3:45pm
	Class Photos	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March
	Reading Week	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March
	World Book Day	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March
	FOD Music Night	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 - 7:00-10:00pm
	END OF TERM	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March - 1:00pm





# 2026 KEY DATES



<b>Term 5</b>	Sports Days	Nursery	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May - 9:30-10:30am
		Reception	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May - 2:00-3:00pm
		Key Stage 2	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May - 9:00am-12:00pm
		Key Stage 1	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May - 9:00am-12:00pm
HALF TERM		Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May	



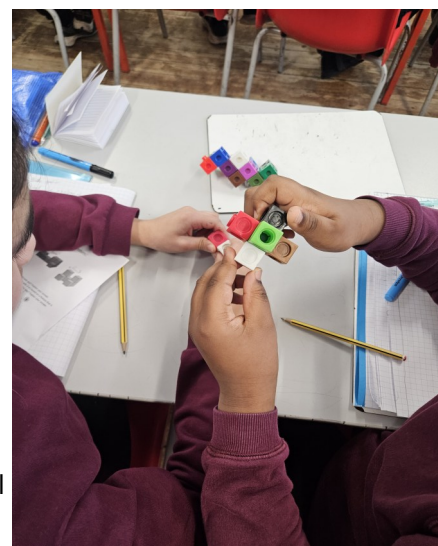
<b>Term 6</b>	Eco Week	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June
	FOD Summer Fair	Saturday TBC - 12:00-4:00pm
	Music Progress Concert	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July - 10:00-11:00am (TBC piano, brass, woodwind, voice) - 2:00-3:00pm (TBC djembe, piano, guitars, ukeleles, strings, recorders)
	Year 6 Production	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July - 5:00pm
	Transition Day – Meet the New Teacher & Collect Reports	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July - 3:30-4:30pm
	END OF TERM	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July - 1:00pm

## Year 5—Sunflower Class

This half-term in Year 5, our theme has been 'Belonging and Equality', and Sunflower Class have been exploring two powerful texts: *The Island* by Armin Greder and *Bright Stars of Black History* by JT Williams. Both provided an excellent platform for rich discussions about discrimination, 'othering', and the struggle for freedom faced by many marginalised communities. In History, we deepened this learning by studying the Battle of Lewisham and the rise of the anti-fascist movement in South London, making meaningful connections to contemporary issues.



Elsewhere in the curriculum, we investigated materials and their properties in Science, carrying out scientific enquiries and testing our predictions. In RE, we continued our learning about Hinduism, focusing on significant pilgrimages. In Maths, pupils strengthened key skills including short division, long multiplication, and calculating the area of shapes.



We are very much looking forward to Term 4 — especially our Laban Live performance at Catford Broadway on Tuesday 3rd March!

Have a well-earned break, Sunflower Class — I look forward to seeing you all on the first day back.

## Year 5—Poppy Class

This half term in Poppy Class has been full of hard work, creativity and exciting learning.

In Teaching of Reading, we explored *Bright Stars of Black History*, learning about inspiring individuals and discussing why their achievements still matter today.



In Writing, we studied *The Island* by Armin Greder. The powerful message inspired us to write our own sequels, *The Outsiders*. We worked incredibly hard to make our writing imaginative, thoughtful and impactful.



In Maths, we focused on area and multiplication. It was challenging at times, but we persevered and are proud of the resilience we showed when tackling tricky concepts.

In History, we learned about the Battle of Lewisham and why this significant local event remains important.

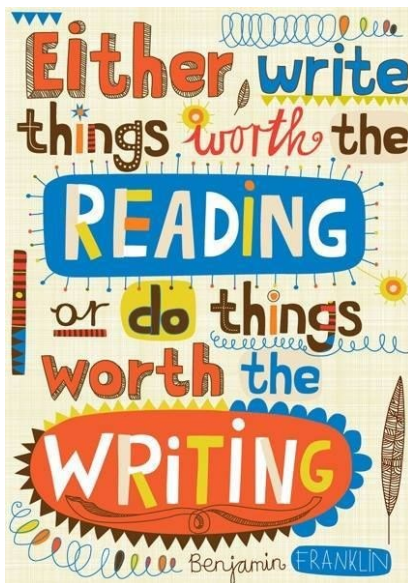
PE with Graham has been great fun as we developed our skills, and we have loved our Trinity Laban sessions with Wendy. We are especially excited for our upcoming Laban performance and can't wait to showcase what we've been practising.

We also thoroughly enjoyed preparing our class assembly and dressing as if we were in 1914 — it was a fantastic experience, and we hope you enjoyed it too. We are proud of all we have achieved this half term and are looking forward to more exciting learning after the break.

## 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: Amelia, & Elina

Year 1: Ray & Zachary

Year 2: Rafi & Arabella

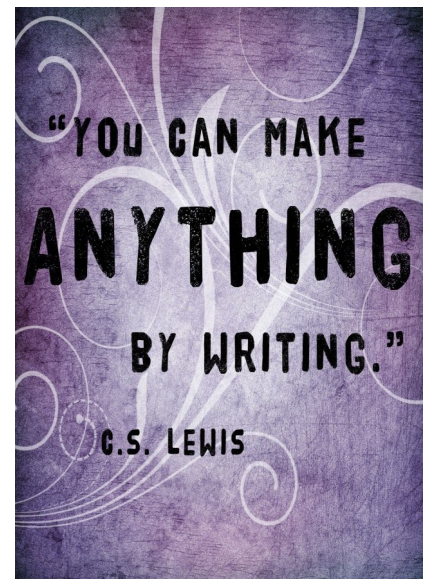
Year 3: Ilya & Zion

Year 4: Logan & Wilfred

Year 5: Eliza & Sam

Year 6: Mae & Nina

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)

# 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>				

Find out more about how Optimus Education can help boost your wellbeing at [healthinschoolsuk.com](http://healthinschoolsuk.com)

## ACTION TUTORING

Well done to all of the children in Years 5 and 6 who have attended Action Tutoring this half-term. We are particularly pleased to see such significant improvements in attendance and punctuality. This commitment has had a clear and positive impact on pupils' confidence in mathematics, as well as their overall understanding and progress.



National data shows that after attending ten or more Action Tutoring sessions, 73% of pupils achieved the expected standard in mathematics. Furthermore, pupils who participated in Action Tutoring were 20% more likely to meet the expected standard in maths at the end of Key Stage Two. These outcomes demonstrate the considerable value of consistent attendance and engagement with the programme.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our dedicated tutors, who work alongside our children each week. The pupils greatly enjoy the sessions and truly benefit from the tailored support they receive.

Action Tutoring sessions will resume in the first week after half-term:

- Year 6: Tuesday 24th February
- Year 5: Thursday 26th February



## Year 6—Cosmos Class

It has been a fantastic start to 2026 for Year 6. As we welcomed in the New Year, we set goals and intentions for what we wanted to achieve, with many of us aiming to become more independent and take ownership of our learning by identifying our own targets.

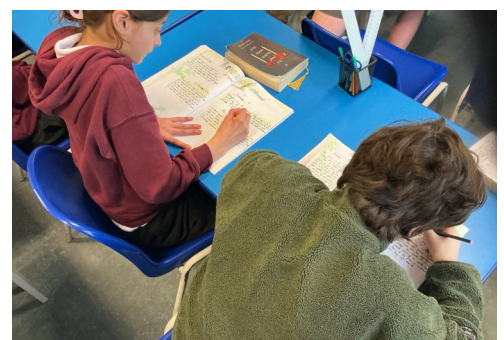
After conducting our own research into deforestation in the

Amazon Rainforest, we created double-page spreads to present our findings. This project allowed us to combine our geographical knowledge with our artistic flair, resulting in eye-catching and informative pieces of work.



We have also been doing a lot of reading! Our class text this term has been *The Boy in the Tower*, and we have really enjoyed engaging with a longer dystopian novel.

We have written stories inspired by the text, created informative posters about the plant species, and evaluated the characters. For many of us, this has been our first experience of reading this genre, which we have thoroughly enjoyed and hope to explore further.



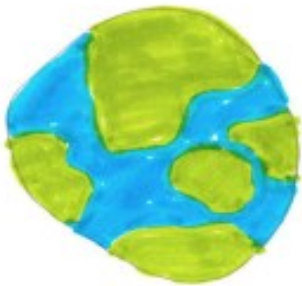
A MESSAGE FROM ECO COUNCIL

PACK SMART

DO YOUR PART



Fruit is  
a good  
Snack.

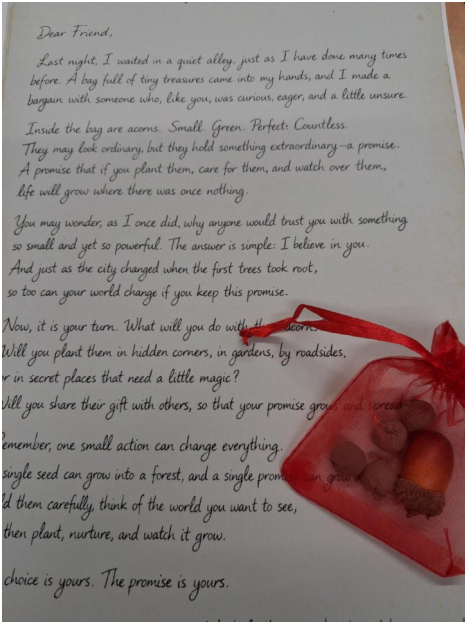


SAVE the  
PLANET

Don't litter our  
School.

## Year 6—Iris Class

We have had a very busy and productive half-term in Year 6. We began by taking time to reflect on all that we have achieved so far and the challenges we have overcome. This period of reflection helped us to recognise how far we have come and to consider the steps we now need to take as we approach SATs and prepare for the transition to Year 7.



Following this, we set ourselves clear goals to ensure we remain focused and motivated. We also made our Firehorse commitments, pledging to be even more ambitious in our learning for the remainder of the year. We understand that small, consistent actions each week will lead to significant progress in the months ahead.

Our teacher has been very impressed with the dedication and effort we have shown, particularly during our recent mock SATs week, where our hard work was reflected in some fantastic results. We would like to thank you sincerely for your continued support at home. The consolidation of learning beyond the classroom has had an invaluable impact on our progress.

In English and Teaching of Reading, we have been studying *'The Boy in the Tower'* by Polly Ho-Yen. This

powerful novel has inspired a range of writing opportunities. We designed our own encyclopedia pages, wrote in role as the esteemed Ms Eisele, and created our own dystopian narratives. During Writing Week, we read *'The Promise'* by Nicola Davies. We received a letter from the elderly lady in the story, along with a bag containing seed bombs and an acorn. She reminded us that one small action can change everything. Inspired by this message, we

took a walk around our local area to compare it to the setting of the book. Observing our own "concrete jungle" helped us to understand how a single seed of change could transform not only a city, but also hearts and minds. We then wrote persuasive speeches, passionately calling for more green spaces and greater care for our planet.



In Maths, we have been learning about ratio and statistics. We designed our own surveys and collected data from our peers in the top hall. After gathering our results, we converted the data into percentages and constructed pie charts using a compass and protractor. We have also been developing our reasoning skills by answering multi-step problems, using precise mathematical vocabulary, and clearly explaining our thinking.

In Science, we have been learning about light and shadows. Through practical investigations, we explored how light travels and reflects using mirrors, and how the size and shape of shadows change depending on the position of the light source.

We are proud of what we have achieved this half-term and are looking forward to continuing to challenge ourselves in the weeks ahead.



WE WISH EVERYONE  
A WONDERFUL  
SPRING HALF TERM  
HOLIDAY!

