



DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter—March 2026

Dear Families of Dalmain,

Where did that term go?! It's certainly been a busy one, but we've made the most of every moment. From our brilliant Reading Week and the now-infamous FOD Music Night, to a wide range of engaging trips, visits and activities, as well as the introduction of Suzuki Violin lessons, there really has been something for everyone. And that's before we even begin to capture the learning taking place in classrooms each day.



Do take a look inside this term's Newsletter and our Curriculum Enrichment Celebration Newsletter for a snapshot of what pupils have been learning and the progress they have made. You'll enjoy every page!

To give families a more regular glimpse into life at our school, we have also recently launched two new social media accounts. You can now follow us on Instagram and Facebook under Dalmain Primary SE23, where we will be sharing updates, examples of work, and snapshots of school life.

It's been another fantastic term of growth and development, and our school continues to flourish across all areas. And at the heart of all we do are our pupils—consistently demonstrating curiosity, resilience and a positive attitude to learning. We are so proud of you all!

Wishing everyone a super holiday! Best wishes, Ms Eisele, Headteacher

Follow us!



DALMAIN
PRIMARY
SE23



on Instagram
& Facebook



HOUSE POINT WINNERS!



1st—Forest House: 2504

2nd—Grove House: 2488

4th—Hawthorne House: 2424

3rd—Oak House: 2480



This term, we enjoyed a truly wonderful Reading Week at Dalmain. It was a pleasure to celebrate the importance of reading, particularly as 2026 marks The National Year of Reading—a major UK-wide campaign aimed at reversing the decline in reading for pleasure among children. With its inspiring theme, “Go All In,” the campaign encourages children to connect reading with their personal interests—whether that be sports, music, gaming, or cooking—helping to make reading a meaningful and enjoyable part of everyday life.

Prior to Reading Week, we celebrated World Book Day with great enthusiasm. It was a fantastic occasion, showcasing a wide range of much-loved books. We were incredibly impressed by the creativity displayed in both the children’s presentations and the wonderful costumes worn by pupils and staff alike. The presentations provided valuable insight into the diverse range of authors, genres, and titles enjoyed by our pupils. It was particularly pleasing to see the confidence, eloquence, and passion with which children shared their favourite texts. Classrooms were filled with imagination, transporting us to a variety of exciting literary worlds.

We were also delighted to welcome author Talmud Bah on World Book Day. He delivered an engaging assembly, introducing his novel *Shadow’s Destiny: Book One: The Order of Mafdet*, a thrilling fantasy adventure. Following this, selected pupils had the opportunity to take part in an exclusive “Author Hot Seat” session, where they were able to ask questions and learn more about the writing process.

Throughout Reading Week, both staff and pupils participated in a wide range of engaging activities. Thank you to all who attended the after-school Reading Pyjama Party, which featured cosy storytelling, interactive log fires, and a wonderfully relaxed atmosphere. Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) was once again a highlight, giving children the opportunity to enjoy uninterrupted reading for pleasure each day.

Additional activities included Book Trails in the Wildlife Garden—The Gruffalo for Nursery to Year 3, and The Jungle Challenge for Years 4 to 6. On Thursday, pupils took part in an exciting West End in Schools workshop, where a professional actor used drama, dance, and storytelling to bring literature vividly to life.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all pupils and families who supported our Sponsored Read and Book Fair. We are delighted to share that £600.99 worth of books were sold at the Book Fair, generating £249.50 in rewards for the school. In addition, approximately £275–£280 was raised through sponsorship. This means we have been able to purchase new books to the value of £524.50 for our school library. We now look forward to selecting a wide and diverse range of texts to inspire all of our readers in the coming weeks.

The week was truly inspirational and a wonderful celebration of reading in all its forms!





SKIPZ PRODUCTION CIC PRESENTS

EASTER

holiday and food programme

Monday, March 3 to Friday, April 10, 2026
10 am to 2 pm

Join us for drama, dance, singing, arts & crafts,
clay modelling, nutrition activities and lots of
fun!

4 to 11 years old
FREE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS
CHILDREN

Lunch provided | Siblings welcome
Paying children welcome

Across Brent, Hillingdon and
Lewisham

For more information and to register,
please visit

<https://www.skipzproductions.org/skipzhafeaster2026>



Nursery—Rose Class

Rose Class has had a wonderful spring term!

Our focus this term has been *“How does it grow?”* and the children have fully immersed themselves in exploring the natural world around them. As the weather improved, they loved getting involved in planting, learning how to care for and nurture seeds and plants, and watching the early signs of growth appear.

Our learning has also been enriched through our exploration of Easter and the theme of new life. The children have created beautiful artwork inspired by spring—painting flowers, decorating eggs, and exploring colour and texture through a range of creative activities. These experiences have helped them make meaningful connections between the changing seasons and the world around them.



We were also fortunate to collect some frog spawn from the wildlife garden, which we brought back to the nursery. Since then, the children have been excitedly observing it hatch and develop into tadpoles—we currently have around ten! This has been a fantastic hands-on learning experience, sparking curiosity and lots of thoughtful questions as they watch the changes unfold.

It has been a joyful and vibrant term in Rose Class, full of curiosity, creativity and discovery.



Learning in the Wildlife Garden

In the Wildlife Garden, the children took part in a Gruffalo trail as part of Reading Week—an experience they were especially excited about, as it’s one of our favourite stories to share in Nursery.

As they explored this exceptional outdoor space—a natural resource in urban South East London where children learn every day—they followed the story step by step, searching for clues and matching different parts of the sequence along the way. They eagerly spotted familiar characters and events, recalling key moments from the story and talking about what might happen next. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they moved through the trail, completely immersed in the narrative.



This hands-on experience brought the story to life in a meaningful way, supporting the children’s understanding of sequencing, storytelling and language, while also encouraging teamwork, exploration and imagination. It was a joyful and engaging activity, and a real highlight of our Reading Week.



LAMDA



Over the past two Saturdays, 11 pupils from Dalmain took part in the Bromley Festival of Music and Speech, representing the school with confidence, poise and enthusiasm.



Performing poems by the likes of Steve Turner and Jack Prelutsky in front of audiences of up to 100 people, our pupils demonstrated not only strong speaking skills, but also real courage and presence.

Performing poems by the likes of Steve Turner and Jack Prelutsky in front of



Every child involved performed exceptionally well, showcasing their learning with confidence and pride. Experiences like these are a key part of life at Dalmain—providing children with opportunities to develop their voice, build resilience and shine beyond the classroom.

A special mention goes to three of our Year 3 pupils: Ottoline Fitzpatrick and Ayla Docherty-Whyte, who both won bronze medals in their heats, and Aruna Venthakone, who achieved a fantastic silver medal. Rafaela Stathi-Scott also picked up a bronze medal in the Year 1 category.



These are outstanding accomplishments, placing in the top three out of more than 20 performers in each category.

We are incredibly proud of all the children who took part!

Reception—Daffodil Class



Daffodil Class have had a very exciting and busy term. The children have enjoyed planting seeds and flowers, carefully looking after them by watering them and watching them grow. Alongside this, we have been learning about the different parts of a plant and what plants need to survive.



The children were also fascinated with the frogspawn that we carefully collected from Forest School and brought into the classroom to observe. They have loved watching the frogspawn hatch into tadpoles and have been observing them closely, looking for signs of change, such as the growth of limbs as they develop into froglets.



We also had a wonderful time during Reading Week, where we took a trip to Forest School and followed a Gruffalo trail, which brought the story to life.

We hope you all have a lovely Easter break!



Reception—Daisy Class



Daisy Class have had a wonderfully exciting and enriching term! The children have thoroughly enjoyed spending time in the garden, where they have been busy digging, planting, pruning and caring for our growing plants. This hands-on experience has not only brought lots of joy, but has also encouraged mindfulness and a real sense of responsibility.

Through our gardening activities, the children have explored the different stages of growth and development, linking this to our learning about life cycles. Our tadpoles are still alive and growing rapidly—although I'm sure the children are a little disappointed that they haven't come into class yet to find it overrun with hopping frogs!

We also celebrated St Patrick's Day in high spirits, with plenty of dancing and even some mysterious leprechaun dust appearing in the classroom. We were incredibly lucky to have a special Irish dancing lesson from Creed's sister, who is a world champion—what an amazing experience!

In phonics, we have been practising our digraphs, trigraphs and common exception words in a fun and engaging way by hunting for them inside Easter eggs. It has been fantastic to see the children beginning to use these confidently in their writing. Well done, Daisy Class, for all your hard work this term—and Happy Easter!



HAF FUNDED PLACES AVAILABLE!
Lewisham Holiday Activities & Food Programme

Powell Stars Ltd

EASTER ACTIVITY DAYS 2026

Fun ★ Friends ★ Confidence ★ Creativity

Looking for an exciting way to keep your child active and smiling this Easter?

Join us for action-packed days full of adventure, creativity, and unforgettable memories!

What's Included?

- ★ Easter Egg Hunts
- ★ Arts & Crafts Workshops (create Easter keepsakes!)
- ★ Cooking Activities
- ★ Construction & Building Projects
- ★ Multi-Sports Activities

What Children Will Gain

- ✓ New Friendships
- ✓ Increased Confidence
- ✓ Teamwork & Communication Skills
- ✓ Creativity & Self-Expression
- ✓ Fun Memories to Treasure

Safe & Supportive Environment

- ✓ Fully supervised by trained staff
- ✓ First aid trained team
- ✓ Safe, spacious, child friendly venue
- ✓ Structured timetable



LEWISHAM HAF FUNDED PLACES!

FREE SPACES FOR ELIGIBLE CHILDREN
Healthy Meals Provided



Year 1—Bluebell Class

Spring has sprung! Having passed the mid point of our journey through Year 1, we would like to say how proud we are of all the little Bluebells and the progress they have made!



Our Literacy and Science has seen us exploring how we can look after our planet, and we have created posters and leaflets with instructions on how we can all help to do care for our beautiful Earth. World Book Day and our Bedtime Stories afternoon were so much fun and we were impressed with the variety of all the costumes. In Science we also made and planted seed balls—it was messy and fun, and we are enjoying watching the wildflowers growing in our new planting troughs.

In Maths we have been focusing on addition and subtraction skills, using formal notation and a variety of calculation strategies. We have been practicing doubling numbers to 10 and halving the same. Being able to instantly recall these number facts helps us enormously when we tackle problem solving and complex addition and subtraction.

We have explored maps in Geography. We used a map of the school to go on a treasure hunt to find the clues! It was fun as we had to work out where the next clue was using the locations on the map. We have been



discussing human and physical geographical features, and explored our local area using Google Maps! It was fun to find our houses on the maps!

What a fabulous term we have had. We hope you all have a brilliant break and enjoy Spring as it continues to blossom. Well done, Bluebells!



Year 1—Foxglove Class

Whilst this half term has been one of our shortest ones yet—I have been totally blown away by the fantastic progress our class have been making! I have been looking back through the children's learning over the past few weeks and it has been hard to choose only a few highlights, but here are some of our top learning moments of Spring 2.



Science has been a favourite amongst Foxglove Class this half term, we thoroughly enjoyed making and planting our seed bombs and nurturing the plants whilst observing them grow. We also got super creative and made our own wheels to illustrate the lifecycle of a bean!

Reading week was a huge success too! As our writing goes from strength to strength it was so much fun to celebrate and discuss the stories we love the most.

In Maths, I continue to be impressed with Foxglove class' attitude to learning as we start to embrace numbers bigger than 10 in our calculations!

Well done Foxglove class I am so proud of you all and can't wait to see what we get up to in Summer Term.





We're delighted to share that we have been successful in securing a grant to transform one of the school's grey, unused areas into a vibrant green space.

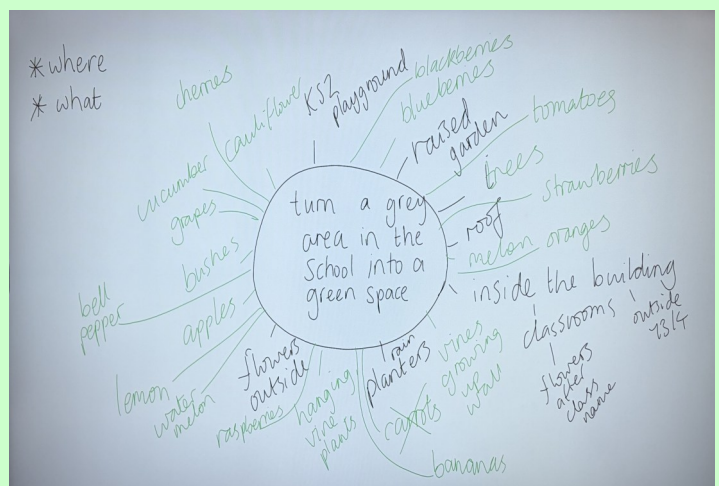
This is a fantastic opportunity to bring more nature, colour, and creativity into our school environment.

The Eco Council met with a gardener to explore possible locations and brainstorm ideas. The session was full of energy and imagination – from edible planting to sensory experiences, the children were buzzing with possibilities.

After the holidays, we'll be rolling up our sleeves and getting stuck into the planting phase.



Watch this space – quite literally – as it transforms into something wonderful!



Year 2— Marigold Class

This term, Marigold Class has had some exciting and memorable learning adventures!

In Maths, we are exploring division and the children are learning about sharing equally, as well as the trickier (but fun!) idea of sharing with remainders.



The children created fantastic information leaflets in writing, for *Rosie Revere, the Engineer*. They worked hard to include fascinating facts about Tower Bridge to help Rosie share information with visitors—how impressive!

We learned all about habitats in science. The children were full of enthusiasm as they shared their knowledge and even acted out different animals in their habitats—what a fun and engaging way to learn about our environment!

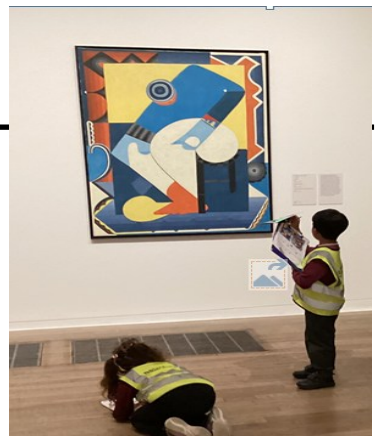
Marigold Class also celebrated World Book Day this term. Many children came to school dressed as their favourite characters and were excited to talk about their favourite books. They loved sharing why these stories are so special to them. Our Drop Everything and Read sessions were a big hit—such a magical time for reading!

Finally, the children enjoyed an exciting trip to Tate Modern. We visited the Nigerian Modernism exhibition, where the children explored a range



of artworks by artists. They even created their own beautiful pieces inspired by Ozu Egonu's work, showing wonderful creativity and imagination.

What a fantastic and fun-filled term it has been!



Year 2—Snowdrop Class

Wow – what a jam-packed term in Year Two! We have been having fun learning all about bridges in Writing: inspired by our book *Rosie Revere, Engineer*, we have loved putting together visitor guides for an exhibition about Tower Bridge. It has been great to watch everybody become experts on engine rooms and walkways!



Elsewhere, this term's learning has seen us journey from the UK to Nigeria in both Geography and Art: we have been comparing both countries' climates, lifestyle and physical geography as well as creating art inspired by artist Ozu Egonu's pieces filled with shapes and colour. It was really special to see his work in real life at our trip to the Tate Modern, where we drew our own versions of our favourite works in the *Nigerian Modernism* exhibition.

We had a great time during a jam-packed Reading Week too: from World Book Day and a workshop that brought *The Ugly Duckling* to life to reading in our PJs after school and a *Gruffalo* trail in the Wildlife Garden, getting stuck into different stories was incredibly entertaining.

All this fun alongside tightening up our times tables and division skills in Maths, learning about the Easter story in RE and playing the xylophone in Music has kept us extremely busy! Have a lovely, well-earned rest over the holidays and we look forward to seeing you in Summer Term!





The Friends of Dalmain



SPRING 2026



FRIENDS
OF DALMAIN

@friends_of_dalmain

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

OVERVIEW

A huge thank you to everyone who has helped organise events, run bake sales, sort uniform, attended events, bought cakes and supported the school in a myriad of ways. It really does make a difference! As part of Reading Week, Friends of Dalmain funded Story Telling Explorer Workshops in the Wildlife Garden for children across the school-this involved reading different challenges and making decisions about what you'd do in certain scenarios!

This half term a massive £2,205 has been raised through the annual Music Night and bake sales.



MUSIC NIGHT 2026

The annual music night was an amazing evening, full of fantastic music, dancing and Japanese street food- a testament to what a great community we have at Dalmain. The live band was absolutely incredible, with a great range of dance floor fillers including Blur, Joy Division and Dina Carroll!

A huge thank you to **everyone** who helped make it happen, with particular thanks to the incredible 18-piece band, James-the sound engineer and Chef Phil!

**£1980
RAISED!**

LIBRARY PROJECT

Books are the beginning.....

Parent/carers are supporting the school to make the library even better- thank you for all your donations so far. Author and Illustrator Coralie Bickford Smith has donated a signed print of an illustration from her book *The Fox and the Star* to hang in the library.



Please continue to donate any good quality books in the box in reception; we're looking for books for 5-11 years olds, fiction or non-fiction, early readers chapter books, graphic novels. No board or baby books, thank you.

We will soon be sending out a school wide questionnaire to understand what you think would improve the library and we'll also trial a new system for cataloguing and managing school library books.

Then, we'll focus on sourcing / funding new stock to improve what is on offer.

Please contact FOD if you are interested in helping or have ideas to contribute.

Martei, Simon and Lucy



The Friends of Dalmain



PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Lots of parent/carers came to the talk -funded by Friends of Dalmain- by Laura Wyatt Smith about the pressures and realities of parenting in a digital age. Below are some top tips for helping to create healthier digital habits and some recommended websites for more information/support.

TOP TIPS FOR HEALTHY DIGITAL HABITS

1 Delay Smartphones and Social Media

Hold off on smartphones and social media for as long as possible, ideally until age 16. In the meantime, a basic "brick" phone is a much healthier alternative, allowing children to stay safe and stay in touch while traveling independently to and from school. For older children, already with smartphones, focus on parental controls to limit screen time, block inappropriate content and ensure the device is as safe as possible.

2 Model Good Habits

Our relationship with our smartphones is key, children learn from our behaviour. Be mindful and present when spending time together as a family. Where possible, keep phones out of sight to minimise distractions and encourage meaningful interactions.

3 No Phones at the Table

Mealtimes should be about connection, conversation, and eye contact. By setting this expectation at home, we help children develop healthier digital habits they can carry into adulthood.

4 Keep Phones Out of the Bedroom at Night

This applies to both children and adults. Many issues arise when children have unsupervised access to devices at night. Parents can model good habits by charging devices in a central location, like the kitchen, instead of next to their bed. No phones for at least 1 hour before bedtime. Swap your smartphone alarm for a traditional alarm clock to create a healthier nighttime routine.

By implementing these small changes, we can create a healthier digital environment for the whole family and set our children up for better long-term habits.

5 No Phones First Thing in the Morning

Checking your phone as soon as you wake up primes your brain for distraction and can trigger a stress response. Most things can wait at least 60 minutes in the morning. Starting your day without screens will help improve focus and overall well-being.

6 Avoid Multi-Screening

Encourage children to focus on one screen at a time. Constantly switching between devices can lead to shorter attention spans and difficulty concentrating. Keeping phones out of sight can reduce the temptation and improve focus.

7 Supervised Play Areas for Gaming

Encourage your child to play in shared or open spaces rather than alone in their bedroom. Choose games that limit interaction with strangers by avoiding those with chat features or open communication platforms.

8 Time Limits and Consistent Boundaries

Limit gaming to a maximum of one hour, and only weekends during term time. Make sure all parents and carers agree on the same rules and time limits to provide consistent guidance.

RECOMMENDED READING/USEFUL WEBSITES

- smartphonefreechildhood.org
- internetmatters.org
- oncollectivepower.co.uk
- commonsensemedia.org
- @thegamereducator - Instagram
- laurawyattsmith.com

Illustration & STEAM-based

Easter Art Club

31st March - 10th April

Come create toys, art, and gifts!

Develop problem-solving skills, creativity, and concentration
in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.



- ✓ **Ages 5 to 11**
- ✓ **Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays 10:30-12:30**
- ✓ **Moon Lane Books, SE23 1DE**
- ✓ **£25 per session**



We provide all art supplies.

Your child takes home a special project each day!

Sign Up Today! Limited Spaces.

More details and booking here
nyhagraphics.co.uk

SIGN UP NOW.....

LET'S DANCE!

WITH SPECIAL WEST END GUEST LEADING DANCE WORKSHOP!

AGE 7-15 **FRIDAY 10 APRIL** **9AM-3PM £35**

ACKROYD COMMUNITY CENTRE, SE23 1DL

TO BOOK A SPACE:
EMAIL: HAYLEY@HAYLEYSCOMET.COM
CALL: 07714 716209

HAYLEY'S COMET THEATRE SCHOOL

A gentle reminder that our school 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:

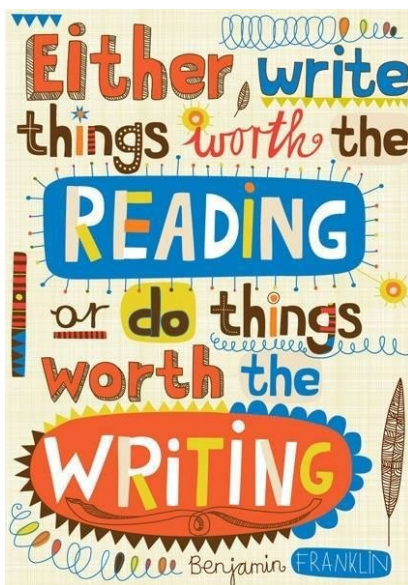
- Children may only bring 'brick' phones (phones without internet access) to school.
- Any smartphones brought onto the school site will be handed in, and parents will be asked to meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to collect them.

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

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: Miles & Mariyah

Year 1: Noah & Ollie

Year 2: Nabiha & Dorothy

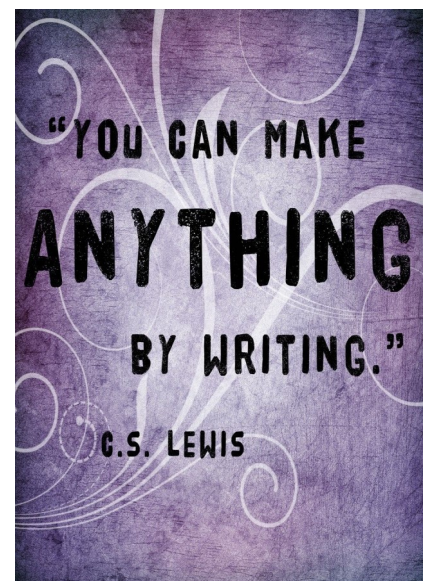
Year 3: Desmond & Clodagh

Year 4: Leyla & Kyron

Year 5: Soleil & Leo

Year 6: Ivy & Diana

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 3—Tiger Lily Class

Lots of exciting things have been happening in Tiger Lily Class this term, and the children have been fully immersed in their learning. We have enjoyed a wide range of hands-on experiences, giving pupils the opportunity to explore, experiment, perform, and investigate across the curriculum.

In Science, we have continued our study of soil by carrying out an experiment to investigate which type of soil absorbs the most water. The children thoroughly enjoyed planning the experimentation and making their own predictions.



In Geography, our focus has been on the River Thames and the water cycle. Year 3 also conducted their own fieldwork investigation at the River Ravensbourne, where they explored river features and considered both environmental and human impacts. In Maths, we went on a right-angle hunt around the classroom, identifying objects with right angles.

Of course, we cannot forget about our wonderful Reading Week. Throughout the week, the children took part in a range of engaging activities designed to celebrate and inspire a love of reading. Highlights included our cosy Bedtime Story event as well as presenting their favourite books to their classmates. The children were also captivated by the West End Storytelling workshop and enjoyed exploring The Gruffalo trail in the Wildlife Garden.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all Tiger Lily parents for your continued support. Your efforts in encouraging reading at home, helping children prepare and share their favourite stories, and engaging with the various activities truly helped to bring reading to life.



Year 3—Snapdragon Class

This half term in Snapdragon, we have continued to build on our love of learning through a range of engaging and enriching topics. In English and Teaching of Reading, we studied *Cinderella of the Nile* by Beverley Naidoo. This beautifully retold traditional tale inspired the children to write their own creative versions, drawing on rich vocabulary, character development and descriptive settings.

In Geography, we explored rivers, with a particular focus on the River Thames and its importance to London. The children learned about how rivers are formed, their key features, and the ways they are used by people. We also discussed the impact rivers have on settlements and trade.



A highlight of the term was our trip to Beckenham Place Park, where we explored the River Ravensbourne, a tributary of the Thames, and observed river features in a real-life context. In PE, the children have been creating expressive dance sequences inspired by the ocean, using movement to represent waves, currents and marine life. In PSHE, we focused on substances, particularly tobacco, and learned about the potential harms and how to make safe and informed choices.

We also enjoyed a fantastic Reading Week, filled with activities designed to promote a love of reading and celebrate books. It has been a great term, full of hard work, curiosity and enjoyment. Snapdragon have shown a wonderful attitude to learning!

Inclusion At Dalmain



No You're Not, Yes I Am - a portrait of autistic women.

This exhibition by documentary photographer Rosie Barnes, gives voice to autistic women from a wide range of diverse communities. The moving and powerful portraits and interviews explore and express the inequalities, misunderstandings and barriers experienced by autistic women and girls. These powerful voices advocate for change, paving the way for a society that appreciates and welcomes the full spectrum of human experience.

SET

SET Lewisham Unit 1 Lewisham Retail Park,
London, SE13 7RZ info@setspace.uk

Opening Dates/Times:

Monday March 23rd 6-8pm **Private view**

Tuesday March 24th 2-6pm

Wednesday March 25th 2-6pm

Thursday March 26th 2-6pm

with a Panel discussion 6-8pm

Friday March 27th 2-6pm

Saturday March 28th 2-6pm

Admission FREE

For accessibility visits please contact Drumbeat Outreach:
S.Gannon@drumbeat.lewisham.sch.uk



This exhibition is generously supported by Lewisham Public Health as part of its commitment to the Lewisham All Age Autism Strategy and contributes to the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS).



Inclusion Team



Our Inclusion Team

Ms Sewani—Assistant Headteacher & SENCo

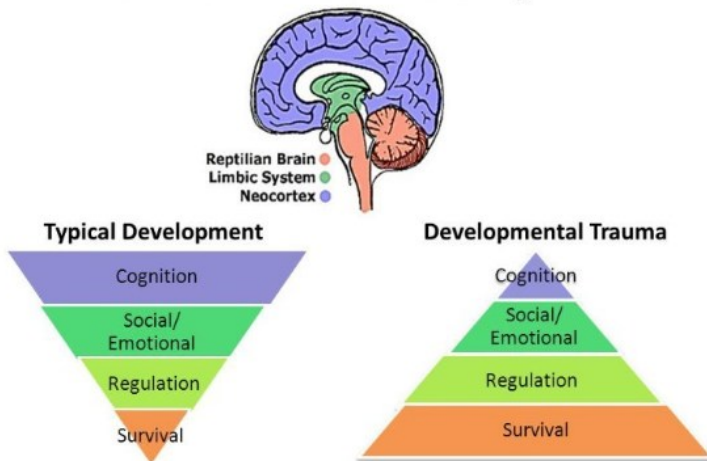
Ms Joyce—SENCo (*Maternity leave*)

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.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our recent coffee morning. Together, we explored the themes of **stress and anxiety**, and how an overwhelming environment, with all its associated sensory processing, can influence how young people feel and behave.

Trauma & Brain Development



Adapted from Holt & Jordan, Ohio Dept. of Education

We discussed the body's natural responses to stress – often described as *fight, flight, or freeze* – and looked at what happens in the brain when these systems switch on. It was a really insightful conversation about why certain situations can feel so intense, and how our young people might experience these moments in their daily lives.

We also shared a range of practical ideas for supporting children when things feel challenging. These included ways to create calmer spaces, strategies for helping them feel grounded, and approaches that can make overwhelming moments feel more manageable.

It was a thoughtful and engaging session, and we're grateful to everyone who contributed. We look forward to continuing these conversations as we work together to support our young people.



Year 4—Lily Class



What a short but busy term we have had in Lily Class! In Maths, we have explored shape and perimeter, which linked well with our Computing work on coding shapes using turtle academy.

In English, our texts *Tar Beach* and the poem *Undefeated* inspired powerful discussions about bravery and courage in the face of discrimination. In Science, the children became electricians, creating circuits, investigating insulators and conductors, and even devised dances to show the flow of electricity in PE.



In RE, we learned about Ramadan and Eid, while in Geography we explored rivers and mountains.

A highlight of our term was Reading Week, when we ventured to the wildlife garden for an adventure trail, took part in a West End in schools workshop, and made story props for *Tar Beach*!

Thank you for your continued support at home. I wish you a restful break and look forward to seeing the children in a couple of weeks!

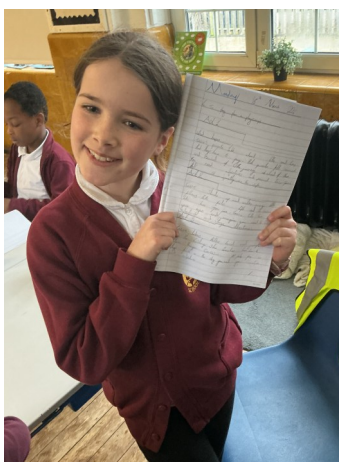
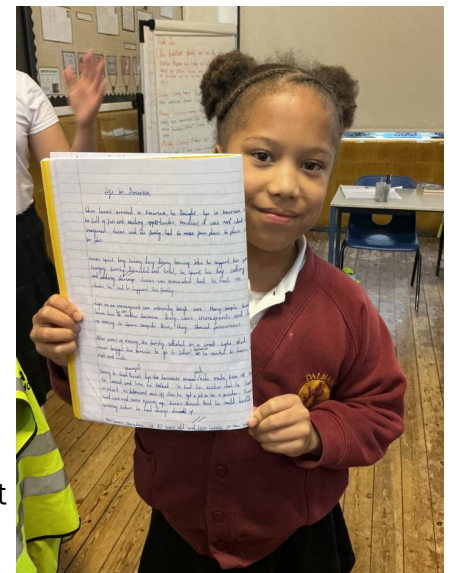


Year 4—Jasmine Class

We've had a wonderful half term in Jasmine Class, packed with exciting experiences and brilliant learning. Reading Week was a real highlight and the children absolutely loved completing a reading trail in our wildlife garden, discovering that reading can happen anywhere!

In English, we explored the picture book *Tar Beach* by Faith Ringgold and used it as inspiration to write our own playscripts, which we then performed together. The children were fantastic.

In Maths, we have been working hard on our times tables ahead of the Multiplication Tables Check in the summer, and we are so proud of the progress the children have made, with some achieving a perfect 25 out of 25 for the first time this year.



We have also been swimming this term, which has been a wonderful experience to be part of. The children made so much progress over such a short time and they should be very proud of themselves. In RE, we learnt about Islam and Ramadan and were lucky enough to have our own Eid celebrations in class with Mr Alasow.

In Geography, we explored rivers and mountain ranges, comparing the Alps to the Himalayas. It has been a term full of rich learning and memorable moments.

Thank you for your continued support at home! I wish you all a restful break and look forward to being reunited with Jasmine Class after the Easter Break!

A-Z OF MENTAL HEALTH

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

 <p>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>				

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

Year 5—Sunflower Class

The theme for this half term has been “Ambition and Desire” and Sunflower class have been reading about Philippe Petit’s famous stunts in ‘The Man Who Walked Between the Towers’. They have produced some outstanding pieces of written work which culminated in an informative newspaper-style report. We have been reading ‘The Good Thieves’, about a daring heist set in prohibition-era New York.

In the wider curriculum, we have been learning about life cycles in humans, animals and plants in Science, while in PSHE we explored the topic of alcohol and tobacco, including its effects and what influences people to engage with such activities.

In Geography, we followed up on our previous learning on North America, this time looking at the physical and human geography of California, whilst in RE we looked at the life of Jesus and his divinity according to Christianity.



Lastly, we capped off a wonderful term with a stunning performance for Trinity Laban at the Catford Broadway, where the children gave a beautiful, yet poignant interpretive dance based on the theme of “CommUNITY”. The evening was a huge success and Sunflower Class did themselves and myself proud!

I’d like to wish all of our students and families a restful Easter break—we look forward to the warmth of the Summer term!



Year 5—Poppy Class

This term has been packed with fun and adventure. For example, we have enjoyed learning about NYC and its dance styles in the 1920s and 1930s like Charleston and Lindy Hop, and also enjoyed learning about the French high wire artist Philippe Petit and his crossing of the World Trade Center.

We really enjoyed our topic in art, which was one of our first times doing design drawing and blueprints. Linked to our topic in writing, which was about the aerialist Philippe Petit, we have been creating machines to save him if he fell. For example, some people made disguised drones whereas others made a set of extremely soft and bouncy mats.



In Maths we have been converting integers into fractions. For example, one half equals 0.5. We also learnt about multiplying integers by 10ths and 100ths. This has been quite a confusing topic for some, whereas others have found it less challenging. But that is amazing because everyone works at different levels.

Overall, this term has been very enjoyable. Who would have thought we would be on the stage at Catford Broadway performing to one thousand people or that we would be designing rescue devices on blueprints?! We hope the new term brings as much delight as this one has!



2026 KEY DATES



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



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

ACTION TUTORING

We would like to congratulate all pupils in Years 5 and 6 who have taken part in Action Tutoring this term. The weekly maths sessions continue to have a very positive impact, and we are delighted to see that recent assessment outcomes show all participating pupils have made significant progress.



The children greatly enjoy the sessions and engage enthusiastically with the programme. The tutoring is carefully aligned with the curriculum content being taught in class, allowing pupils to revisit key concepts and encounter new learning in advance. This approach helps to build confidence and ensures that pupils feel more secure when tackling more challenging mathematical content in their lessons.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the dedicated tutors, whose support and expertise make these sessions so valuable and enjoyable for the children.

ACTION TUTORING

infinite potential

Action Tutoring sessions will resume in the first week after the Easter break:

- Year 6: Tuesday 14th April
- Year 5: Thursday 16th April

We look forward to seeing the pupils continue to thrive and make further progress in the coming term.

Year 6—Cosmos Class

Although this term has been short, it has been rich in learning and exploration in Year 6. In Maths, children have taken a hands-on approach to understanding shapes and their properties, exploring the relationship between faces, vertices and edges. They were introduced to the work of Leonhard Euler, applying his ideas to a range of 3D shapes through practical investigation and thoughtful discussion, developing both their reasoning and mathematical confidence.



A particular highlight was our class assembly. Cosmos class presented a creative courtroom performance—*The Case of the Cosmos Flower vs The Cosmos Universe*. The children worked incredibly hard, confidently showcasing their poetry, singing and dance to an audience of parents, staff and peers. It

was a joyful celebration of their creativity, collaboration and growing confidence, and a moment they were incredibly proud to share.

It has been a full and rewarding term, and Cosmos class now look forward to building on this learning with enthusiasm as we move into the Summer Term.





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Year 6—Iris Class

What a term it's been! Our class has been full of creativity, curiosity, and exploration, with three fantastic trips to inspire our learning.

In Art, D&T, and Computing, we've been working on our 'London Reimagined' project. We kicked off with a visit to Allies and Morrison architect practice, exploring how cities are planned and designed. From touring their projects to seeing models come to life, the trip sparked ideas for our own future city designs and introduced us to careers from architects to graphic designers. Inspired by London itself, we then took a walk along the South Bank to gather ideas for our creations.

At the British Museum, we revisited topics like South America and explored the Benin Kingdom and its famous Bronzes—exhibits we will study in more detail next term.



We'll finish the term at Blackheath Concert Halls, experiencing *Revealing Ravel* from Trinity Laban, and performing an adaptation of Ravel's *Bolero* called *LonLon* by Angélique Kidjo, featuring West African languages.

In English, we have been exploring social change and activism through the suffragette movement. Inspired by *Suffragette Battle for Equality* by David Roberts, pupils have written letters in role as suffragettes, created timelines of events, and composed newspaper reports. We have also been reading *The Little Matchstick Girls Strikes Back*, which has given us the chance to examine the harsh working conditions faced by child labourers in the past. The children have written diary entries and persuasive pieces, imagining life as one of the matchstick girls, and reflected on how laws and social campaigns have improved working conditions over time.



In Maths, we have focused on 3D shapes, exploring Euler's formula, reflections, translations, and symmetry. The children have also been building their own polyhedra from nets, linking practical construction to mathematical reasoning. Additionally, we have investigated angles, coordinates, and problem-solving challenges that tie geometry and real-world applications together. These hands-on activities have helped pupils see how Maths connects to the world around them, from architecture to design.

Our class assembly, themed on our name Iris, showcased our learning and growth. We opened with a Laban dance routine and shared

fascinating facts about the iris, celebrating how our class has flourished this year.

It's been an inspiring term full of learning, creativity, and memorable experiences. We can't wait to see what next term brings!



SUMMER TERM CLUBS

Term 5	Term 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wb 20th April • Wb 27th April • Wb 4th May • Wb 11th May • Wb 18th May 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wb 1st June • Wb 8th June • Wb 15th June • Wb 22nd June • Wb 29th June

Monday	Netball	3:30 – 4:30	3,4,5 & 6	PEN
	Art Palette	3:30-4:30	R-Y6	Art Room
Tuesday	Karate	8:00 – 8:45	Yellow / orange belts	Top Hall
	Football	3:30-4:30	REC	PEN
	Football	4:30 – 5:30	1 & 2	PEN
Wednesday	Drawing	3:30-4:30	3,4,5 & 6	Art Room
	Basketball	3:30-4:30	4,5 & 6	PEN
	Art Palette	3:30-4:30	R-Y6	Rose Room
	Football	4:30-5.30	3 & 4	PEN
	Football	5:30- 6:30	5 & 6	PEN
	French	3:30 – 4:30	3 - 6	<u>Maths Room</u>
Thursday	Karate	8:00-8:45	White & Red Belts	Top Hall
	Art Palette	3:30-4:30	R-Y6	Room 15
	Tennis	3:30-4:30	3,4,5 & 6	PEN
	Chess	3:30-4:30	3,4,5 & 6	Rose Room
Friday	Multi-skills	8:00 – 8:45	3, 4, 5 & 6	PEN
	Gymnastics	8.00 - 8.45	Rec & 1-6	Top Hall
	Chess Club	1:00pm-2:00pm	3,4,5 & 6	Top Hall
	Cricket	3:30-4:30	4,5,6	Pen
	Forest School	3:30 – 4:30	2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	Wildlife Garden
	LAMDA	Across the day	Spaces available Y2, 4 & 5+6 group	Library



LOOK OUT FOR OUR NEW
SCHOOL VIDEO—
ARRIVING APRIL 2026!





HAPPY EASTER

We hope you get some well-deserved
rest and recharge for the exciting
term ahead! 🌸🐣

