

Enrichment Celebration

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

In This Issue:

A celebration of Art and DT projects across the school



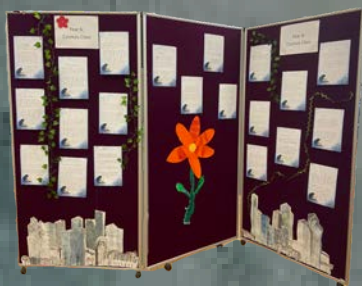
Y5's Catford Broadway Performance



Cultural Capital: Broadening Horizons with Trips



Writing Week: The Promise



Spring Is Here!

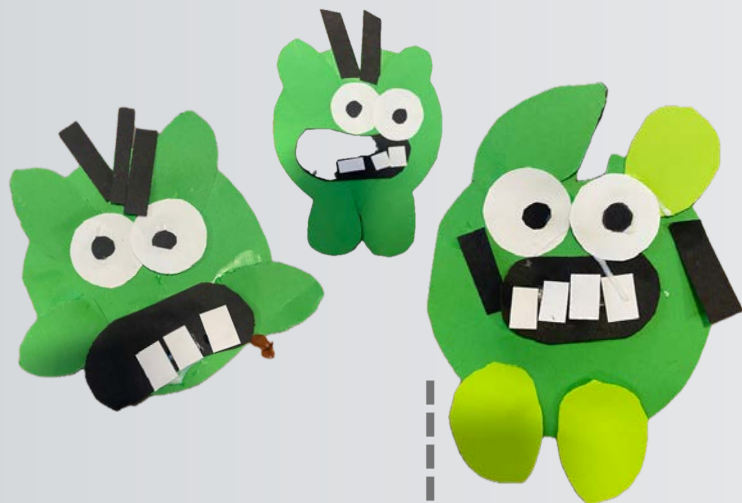
Welcome to our Spring addition of our Curriculum Enrichment Magazine. This issue has much to celebrate, showcasing what makes Dalmain shine including the incredible experiences and learning that makes our school so special. It's 2026, the dark mornings are disappearing and the blossom is on the trees! In this fourth issue, we will be sharing learning through the school, not only in Art, Enrichment, Trips, Music, Laban, Philosophy and DT but also our Year 5's performance at The Catford Broadway and our stunning writing week!



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 Facebook account Dalmain Primary SchoolSE23! and Bluesky accounts [dalmainps.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/dalmainps.bsky.social), [@dalmainpseyfs.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/dalmainpseyfs.bsky.social) and [dalmain-art.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/dalmain-art.bsky.social) for all things art.

EYFS: ARTISTIC EXPLORATION

Spring Term has seen some beautiful artwork produced by Nursery and Reception children with a variety of artistic activities linked to weekly learning. Here are some wonderful examples of the children's endeavours using a variety of media to explore different techniques through creative processes.



Nursery children created these magnificent trolls after reading *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*.

Nursery and Reception children worked as a team to create these wonderful collaborative flower collages which were combined with painted foliage for this term's writing week displays. As you can see, their work was beautiful!



EYFS: ARTISTIC EXPLORATION



Children in Nursery painted these beautiful trees for writing week, inspired by the story 'The Promise'!

Nursery children printed these wonderful flowers.



Check out these beautiful abstract compositions created using paint blowing!



YEAR 1 DT: PIZZA POCKETS

Year 1 learned about nutrition in the first half term, focusing on seasonality and produce. Children did their own research and also learned about the history of pizza!

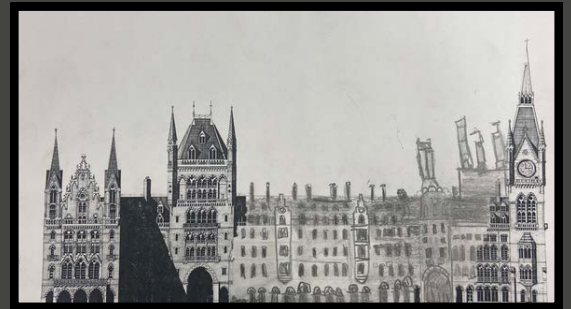
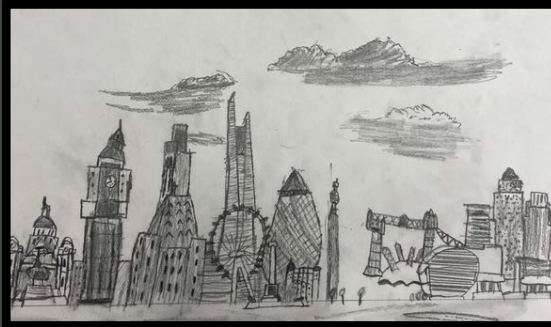
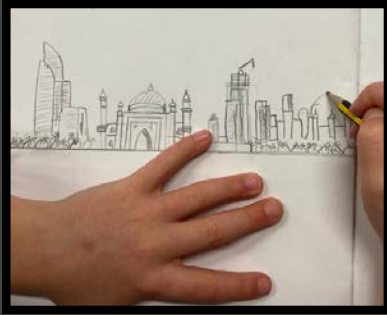
Children experienced taste testing, then used vocabulary to describe the flavours of ingredients we were going to be using to make our own healthy pizza pockets.

The project culminated with the children preparing their own vegetarian pizza pockets with a special recipe for the tomato base that incorporated roasted butternut squash, sage and garlic.



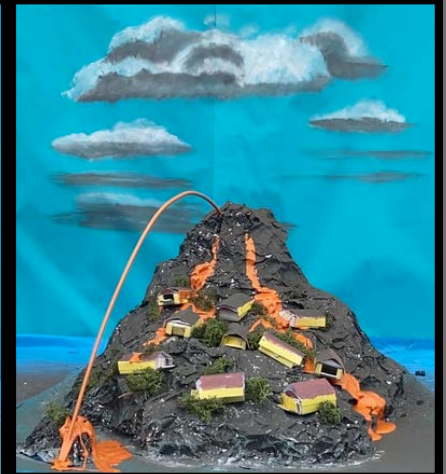
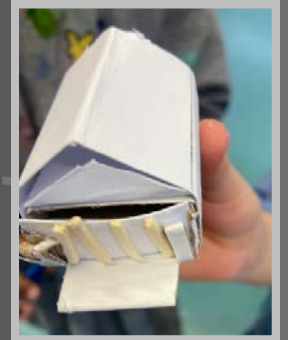
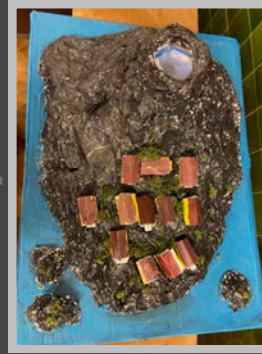
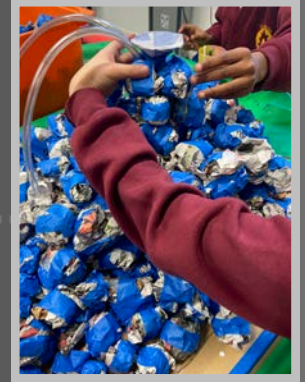
YEAR 2 ART: CONTRASTING ARCHITECTURE

Inspired by Year 2's Geography topic comparing London and Mumbai, children learned about artists Stephen Wiltshire and Uma Krishnamoorthy, both of whom specialise in drawing architecture. We began by looking at examples of Victorian architecture and train stations, like St Pancras and Mumbai Central station. Children then chose iconic buildings to draw for their final compositions using sketching techniques and focusing on scale and proportion.



YEAR 3 DT: VOLCANOES

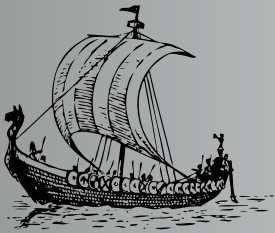
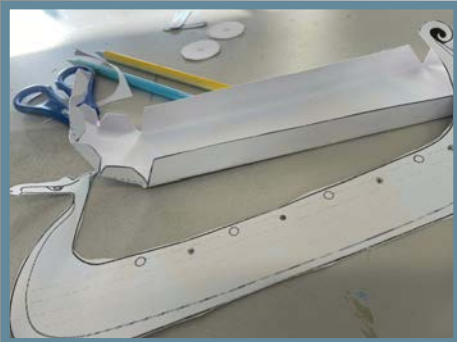
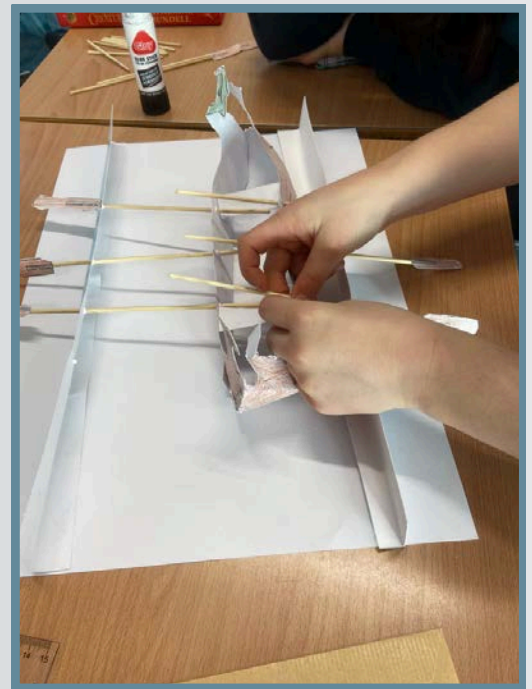
Year 3 simulated the volcanic eruption of Pompeii in the first part of the half term, using compressed air and pneumatics to recreate a volcanic ash cloud and lava flow. We have become experts at doing this now but I don't think even we were prepared for the power of the lava flow!



How do we do it, we hear you ask. The pyroclastic cloud is recreated by building a tube through the middle and attaching wire mesh to the top, bending it to recreate a crater. We wanted it to be as close to a real eruption as possible! The crater is then filled with powder paint and rocks made from painted sponge. Compressed air is fired through the middle of the tube, blowing the powder paint and rocks all over the playground!

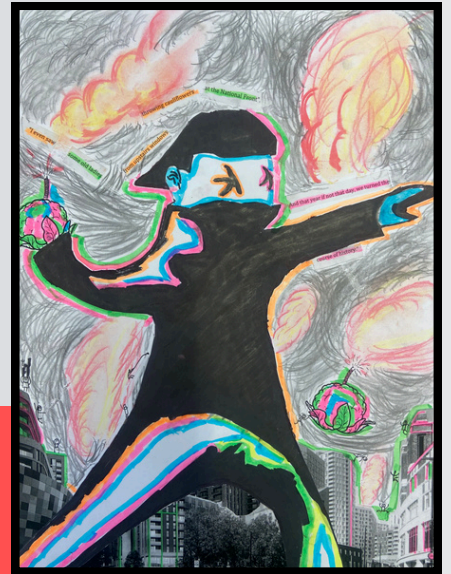
YEAR 4 DT: VIKING LONGBOATS

Using their previous knowledge of mechanisms, Year 4 built their own Viking Longboats in teams, using a sliding mechanism to operate the boat so the oars moved simultaneously.



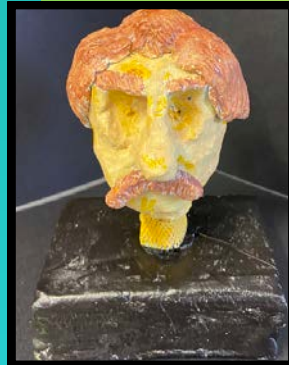
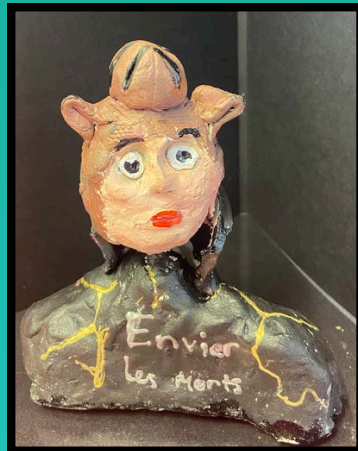
YEAR 5 ART: THE BATTLE OF LEWISHAM

Linked to Year 5's History Topic, children learned about how the people of Lewisham stopped The National Front from passing through the centre of Lewisham by counter protesting. We reflected on other protests that have happened since and looked at murals depicting forms of protest and activism through art. Children then created their own incredible collages inspired by their learning.



YEAR 6 ART: FIGURATIVE BUSTS

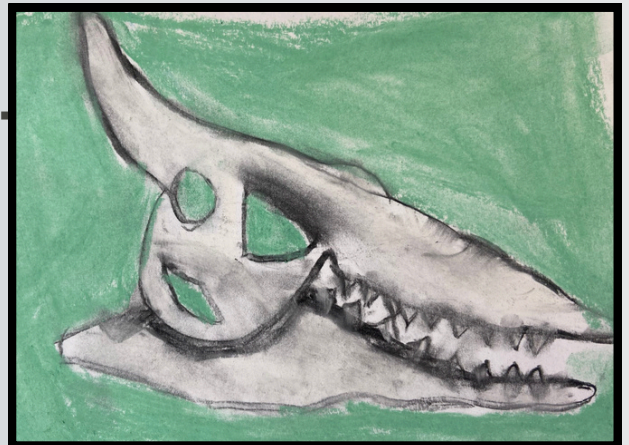
Focusing on the human form, children in Y6 learned about the sculpture work of Thomas J Price, Willy Ramos and Melanie Bourget. Children studied representations of figures, abstraction and how expression is conveyed through the positioning of body parts and features. Children created designs of their figures. Then, they made an inner frame from moulded aluminium foil and then built the busts with layers of clay. Children then painted their busts in acrylics.



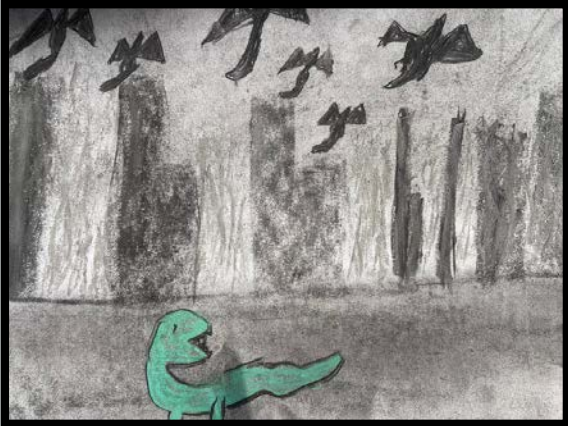
YEAR 1 DRAWING: DINOSARS

Dinosaurs And All That Rubbish is an environmental fable about a man who pollutes the Earth while building a rocket to find a new, perfect star. In his absence, dormant dinosaurs wake up, clean the trashed planet, and teach the man to share and care for the Earth upon his return.

Children in Year 1 have been drawing dinosaurs roaming cities and landscapes inspired by the story and the charcoal compositions of artist Abhijeet Shrivastava. Using charcoal and pastels, children have created stunning artworks of their own.

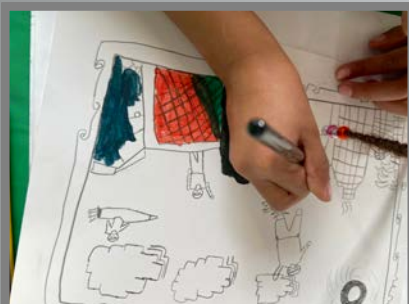
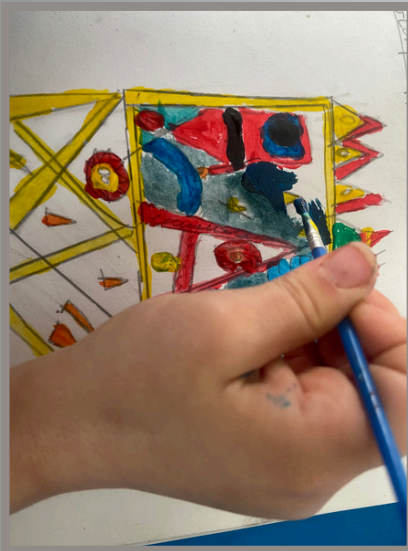
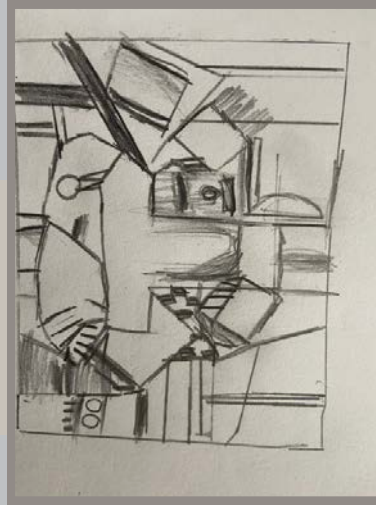
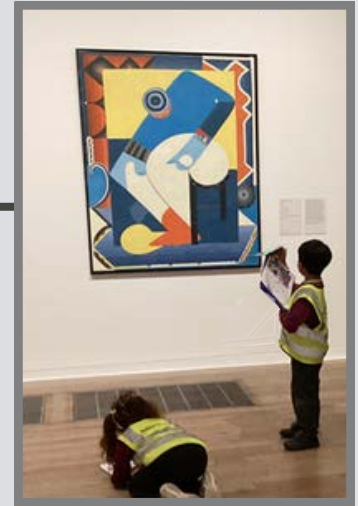


YEAR 1 DRAWING: DINOSAURS



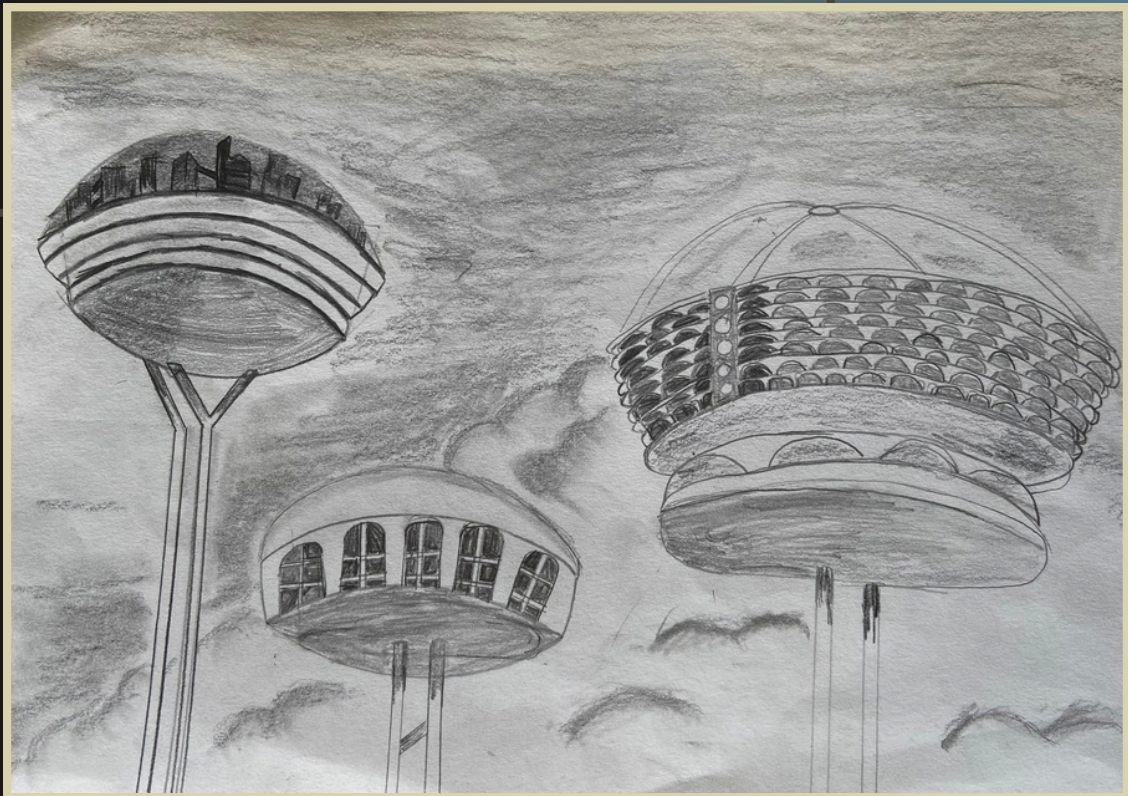
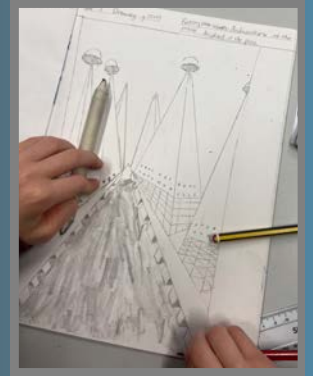
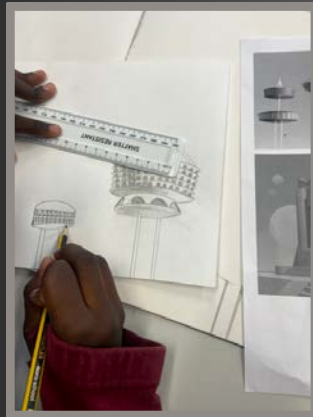
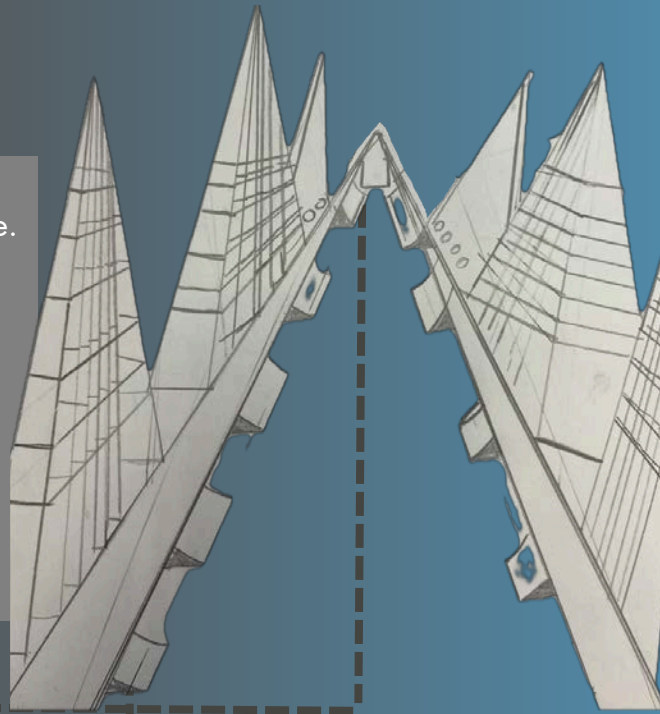
YEAR 2 PAINTING: NIGERIAN MODERNISM

Children in Year 2 have been exploring the work of Uzo Egonu as part of an exciting cross-curricular project linking Art and Geography. While studying Nigeria in geography, we examined how Egonu's abstract artworks uses tones of colour, layered patterns, and bold forms to express ideas about place, space, culture, and identity. Inspired by his style, the children experimented with mixing and building tones, carefully layering colours and shapes to create their own abstract compositions. This helped them develop artistic techniques and learn about Nigerian culture and visual storytelling. The project culminated in a special visit to Tate Modern, where students saw Egonu's work displayed as part of the Nigerian Modernism exhibition, giving them the opportunity to connect their classroom learning with real artworks in a world-class gallery.

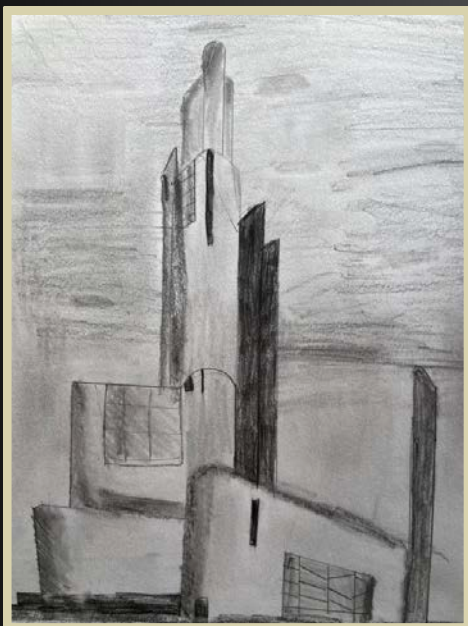
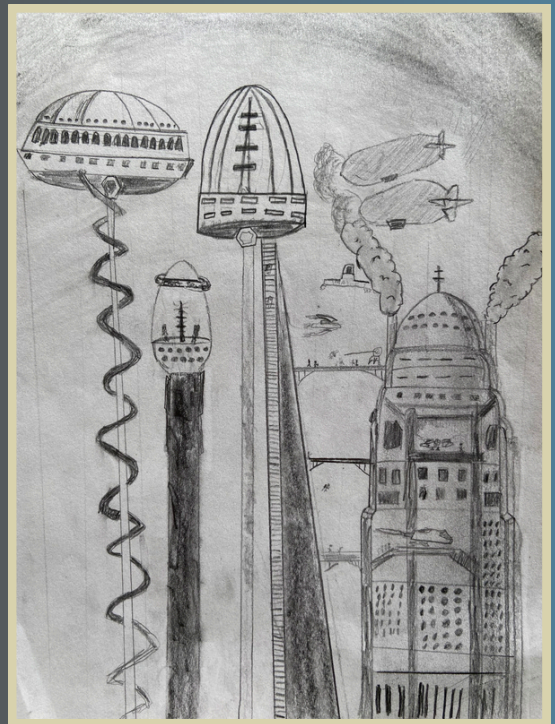
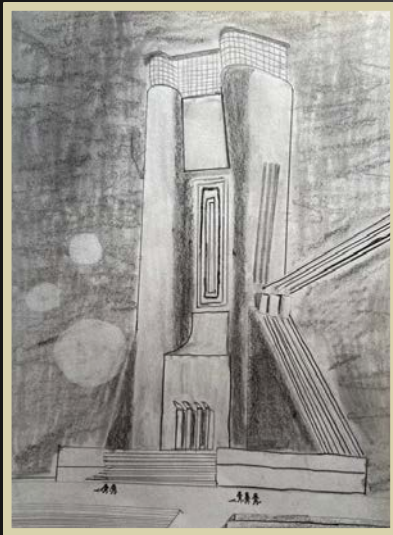


YEAR 3 ART: RETROFUTURISM

Children in Year 3 have been learning about Retrofuturism, how past historical decades imagined what the future would look like. Children looked at the models of Fritz Lang's iconic film Metropolis and the designs of Hugh Ferriss. Then, they explored the 'Googie' movement that developed the monolithic structures of the 1920's and 30's into smaller, complex sweeping curves and pods reminiscent of science fiction from the 1950's, 60's and 70's. The project is a drawing focus. Children in Year 3 have been introduced to 1 point perspective and techniques to create depth, proportion and scale. The drawings are, I'm sure you will agree, truly spectacular.

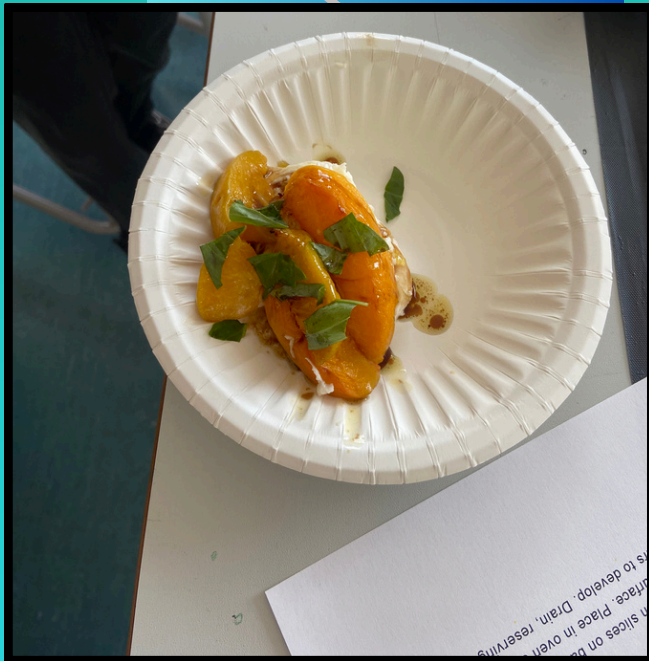


YEAR 3 ART: RETROFUTURISM



YEAR 4 DT ROASTED PEACH AND MOZZARELLA SALAD

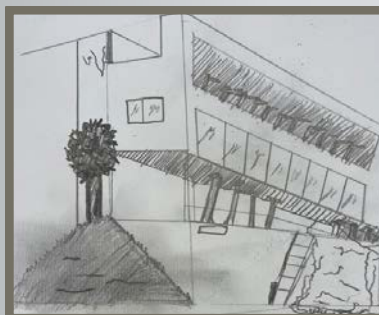
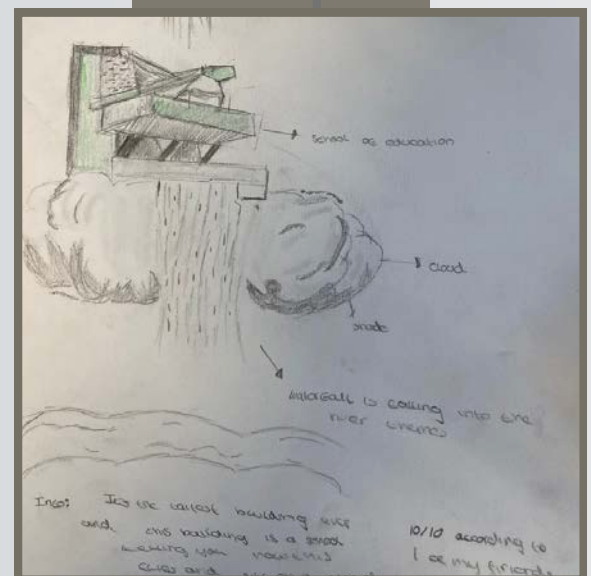
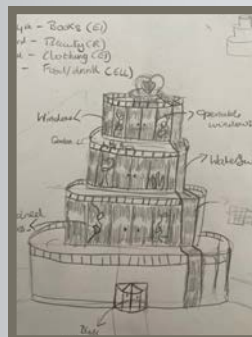
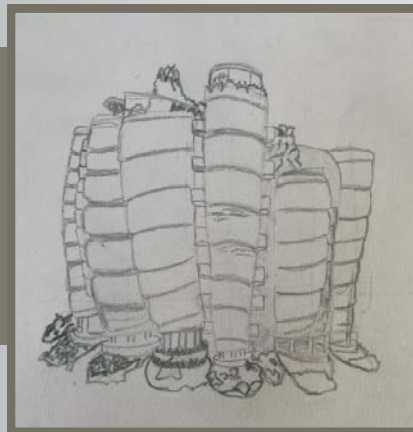
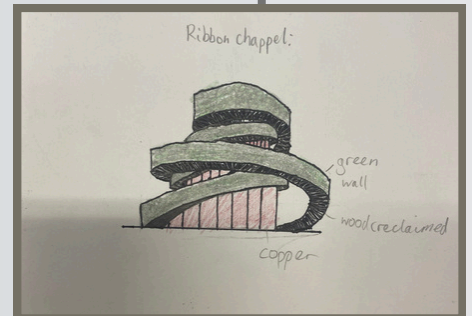
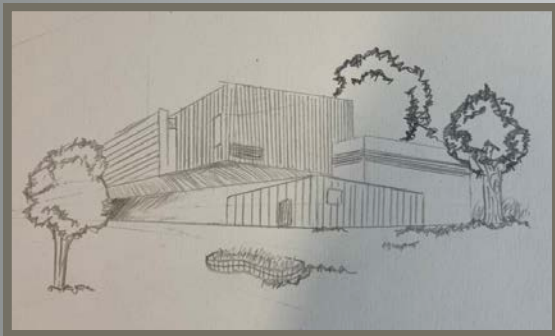
Children in Year 4 experienced the flavours of the Mediterranean this half term to research foods grown and produced in countries around its warm sea. After looking at nutrition and food groups, children taste tested well-known Mediterranean herbs and condiments. The final outcome of the project was making a roasted peach and mozzarella salad! Although there was some initial hesitation as to the recipe, it was a resounding success!



YEAR 6 DT: REIMAGINING THE SOUTH BANK

Children in Y6 have begun design work on our city makers project to reimagine the London South Bank. The collaborative project has been supported by Parents who specialise in the field and Allies and Morrison. Earlier this half term, children visited the South Bank site to look at existing architecture and visited the headquarters of Allies and Morrison, where they had a Q&A session about the role of an architect and visited the model making studio where they saw a 'classified model' under construction worth a staggering £180,000!

In the Summer Term, children will begin to adapt their designs and start constructing the model which will be revealed at an awards ceremony in school on the 3rd of June. Here are just some of their incredible designs!

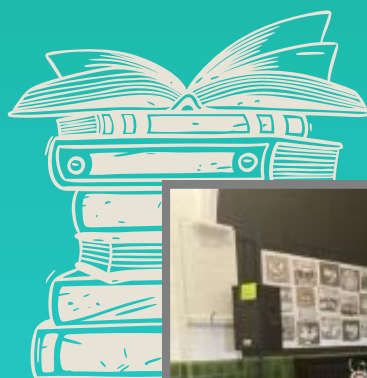
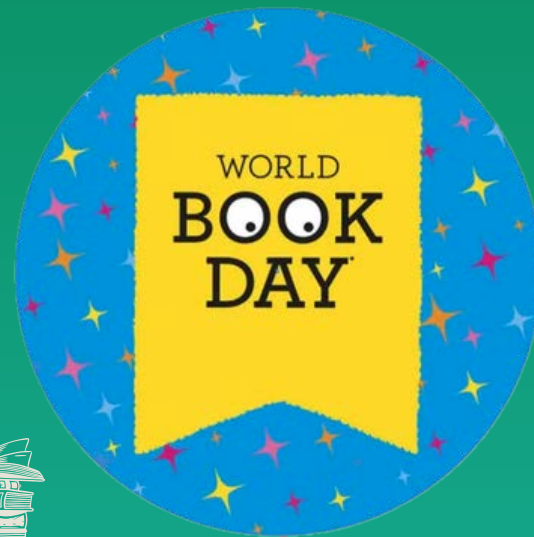


WORLD BOOK DAY

Our school had a wonderful celebration of World Book Day this year, bringing our whole community together to share our love of reading. A special highlight of the day was a visit from an author from Talmud, who entertained us with storytelling and spoke about the writing process, inspiring students across the school.

Each class also selected a winner who presented their favourite book to their classmates. These presentations were a great way for students to recommend books to one another and share why certain stories mean so much to them.

The day was a true celebration of our love for books and perfectly reflected this year's theme of Reading for Pleasure. Days like these remind us how powerful and enjoyable reading can be, and they encourage everyone to keep discovering new stories.



Music: Specialist Music Teacher Jane Jackson shares the incredible learning this term!

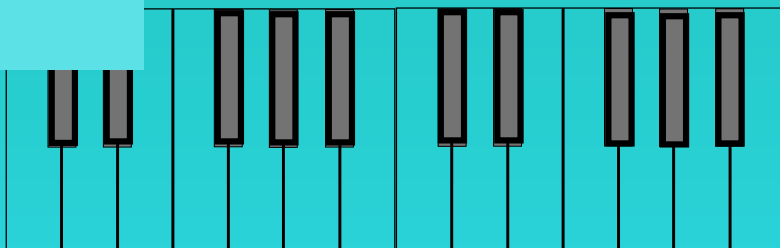
The children have been busy making music during the Spring Term. In Reception, they have been honing their rhythmic skills with the help of the claves. They have also been learning all about different rhythmic values with the help of our Mountaineer song.

In Year 1, we have been playing along to spider and slug rhythms and showed that we can find different ways to play our instruments loudly and softly.

In Year 2, we have been learning to both sing and play the song 'Doggie doggie where's your bone'. In this song, we needed to identify who has stolen the bone by recognising their singing voice.

In Year 4, we have been focusing on folk songs. We have been learning the Scottish folk song 'Mary Mack' which is a fun tongue twister alongside the Gaelic Mouth Music song 'Furrem be me heen'. Alongside singing, we play the chords of the song to accompany the tune. We have also had a great time improvising to these two songs that fit together to make a 2-part piece.

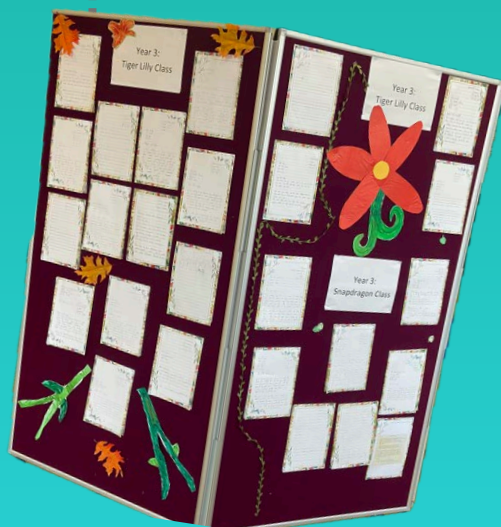
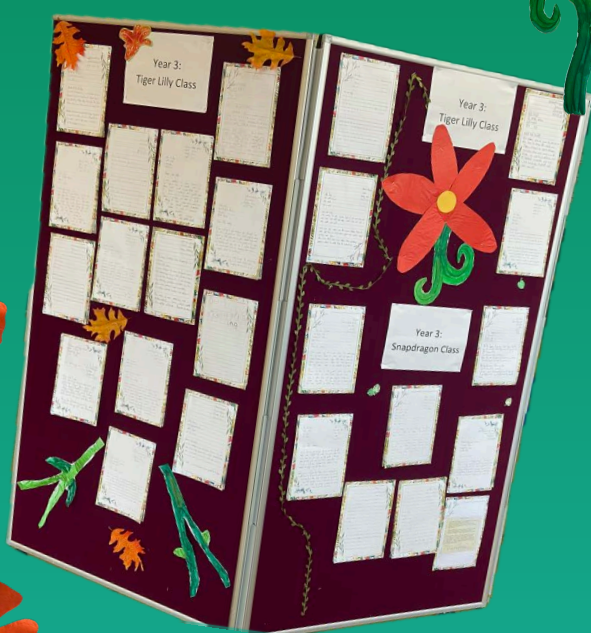
In Year 6, we have been extremely lucky to have the opportunity to attend a performance of pieces by the composer Ravel given by the Trinity Laban student orchestra. The concert will be a celebration of the music by the Ravel. The programme consists of Le Tombeau de Couperin and Bolero. As part of the concert the children will join in with the song Lonlon set to the melody of the Bolero. The children worked with a Trinity Laban student to perfect their singing of the Beninese lyrics originally sung by Angelique Kidjo. We shall have photographs of this occasion in the next curriculum magazine.



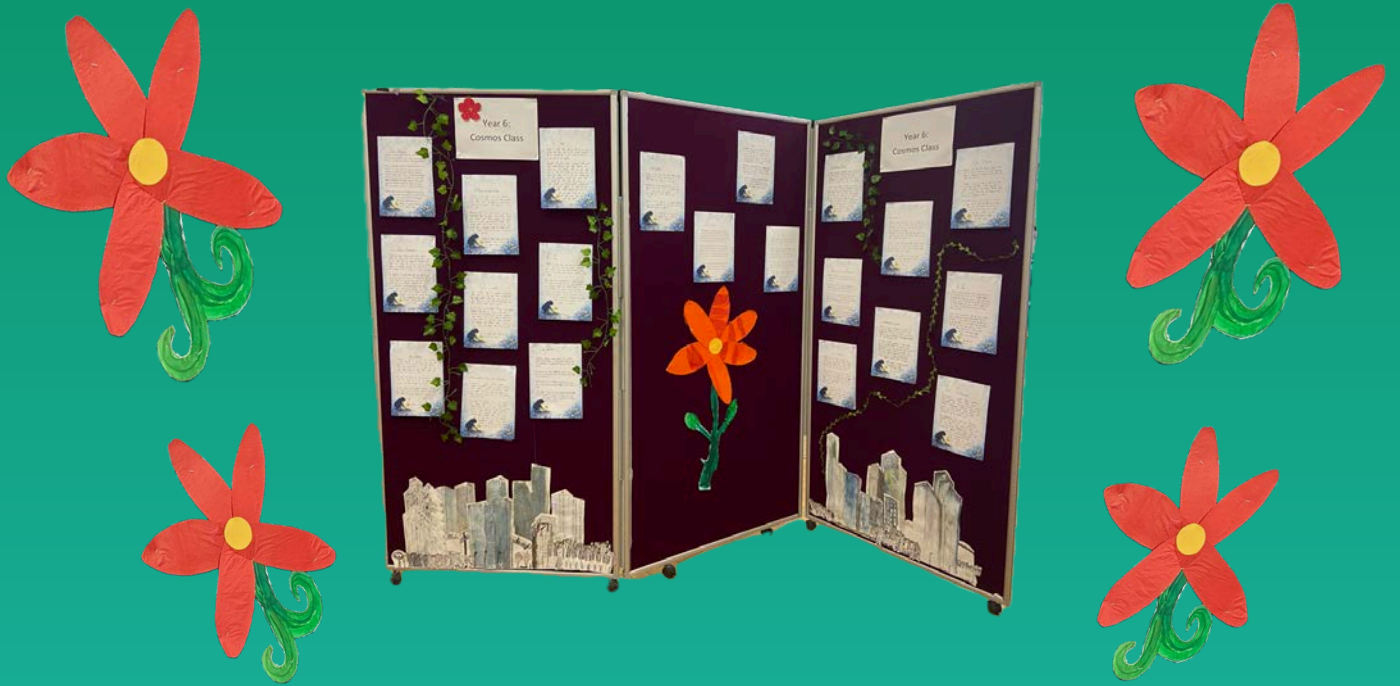
WRITING WEEK:

Writing Week at Dalmain Primary School was an exciting and inspiring celebration of creativity! In the days leading up to the event, children began to notice mysterious plants appearing around the school, sparking curiosity and discussion. Soon, they discovered that our whole-school key text was *The Promise* by Nicola Davies, a powerful story about kindness, responsibility and the positive impact we can have on the environment. Through the book's themes of hope, change and caring for our world, children reflected on how small positive actions can transform communities and help make the planet a better place.

We were also incredibly lucky to welcome two fantastic children's authors. Adiba Jaigirdar visited to talk about her new children's book *'Nadia Islam, on the Record'*, which follows an aspiring young journalist who starts reporting on stories on climate change in her school and community. The children loved asking her questions and finding out what life is really like as an author. Josh Lacey, author of *'The Dragonsitter'* and many other popular children's books, also visited our school and shared stories of his writing journey. Year 3 and 4 were fortunate to work closely with him during creative writing sessions, which left the children feeling excited, motivated and full of new ideas. We were also delighted to welcome our very own Dalmain parent author, Rebecca Seal, who spoke about her experiences writing and publishing a wide range of non-fiction books.



WRITING WEEK:



The week ended with a wonderful Writing Week exhibition in the Top Hall, where the children proudly saw their published work displayed for all to admire. We are extremely proud of the fantastic standard of writing produced by our pupils. What a brilliant Writing Week it has been!

Thank you for putting this together for the newsletter. I have also saved photos under Writing Week of the two authors selling and signing their books and of the fabulous Writing Week exhibition in the Top Hall under: Staff Shared - Teacher Files - Hanna - Writing Week. (Though you may need to choose images where the children's faces are not showing/put an emoji over their faces so they cannot be recognised).



LAMDA:

This term's LAMDA sessions, focused on developing clear speech, confidence, and performance skills in preparation for the performance to parents, where children from across the school recited poetry. Pupils began with articulation exercises designed to help students improve pronunciation, clarity, and vocal control. These warm-ups support strong speaking habits and help students become more aware of how they use their voice.

Students also learned and performed poems appropriate to their age group. As part of this process, we explored the meaning of the poems so that students could understand the language, themes, and emotions within the text. This helped them move beyond simple memorisation and develop expressive, thoughtful performances.

A key element of the classes is building presentation and performance skills. Students practised projecting their voices, using expression, and presenting confidently in front of others. These skills helped prepare them for their final showcase as well as festivals, and LAMDA examinations throughout the year.

The aim of the classes is to support students in becoming confident communicators while enjoying poetry, performance, and creative expression. The performance to parents this term was a resounding success! Well done LAMDA children!



YEAR 5 LABAN PERFORMANCE:

Once again, the children in Year 5 were delighted to take part in the Live Dance Showcase at Catford Broadway Theatre. Sunflower Class performed on Tuesday 3rd March and Poppy Class on Wednesday 4th March, and what a truly wonderful occasion it was. Live Dance celebrates the talents of young people in primary schools and provides a vibrant platform for showcasing the creativity, commitment and performance skills of young dancers.

We are extremely fortunate to work with Wendy from Trinity Laban, who teaches dance to our Year 5 and Year 6 classes each week. These sessions are consistently inspiring, enabling children not only to develop their dance technique but also to grow in confidence, creativity and self-expression. The enthusiasm for these lessons is evident, with many pupils naming dance as one of their favourite parts of the school week.

For the Live Dance performance, Wendy and the Year 5 children collaborated to choreograph a powerful and imaginative piece exploring what it means to be part of a strong and supportive community. The dance, contemporary in style, combined structured improvisation in pairs and small groups with striking whole-class unison sequences. The children performed to a textured instrumental score that was both uplifting and empowering, perfectly complementing the Year 5 curriculum focus this term: Belonging and Equality.

On both evenings, our Year 5 classes opened the second half of the showcase with their spellbinding performances, setting an exceptionally high standard for those who followed. Their energy, focus and artistry were truly inspiring to watch.

We are immensely proud of our partnership with Trinity Laban and the meaningful impact it continues to have on the children at Dalmain. A huge well done to everyone who took part in the showcase — it was a truly wonderful and moving performance that will be remembered with great pride.

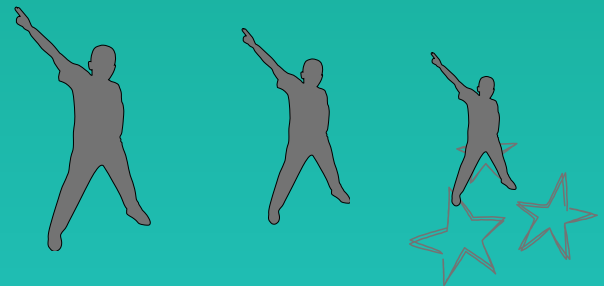


TRINITY LABAN: Y6



Year 6 began the year exploring light and how it travels. Through choreography, they investigated how light reflects, creates shadows, and moves in different directions depending on how it is reflected. Working in small groups, the children created routines to demonstrate these ideas through movement.

More recently, the children have been exploring themes from our Writing Week text, *The Promise*. Using the city as inspiration, they considered how to work together to represent the height and scale of a skyline using their bodies. They then shifted their focus to the people within a city, creating movements that reflect how individuals move through urban spaces. Finally, they combined these ideas to develop routines that capture the atmosphere and emotions of city life.



PHILOSOPHY:

Throughout the spring term, Year 4 have explored some mind-boggling philosophical questions with our specialist Philosophy Teacher, Stephen. The children engaged in thoughtful debates, pondering complex topics such as what truly makes a friend and whether any action can ever be considered wholly good or wholly bad. It has been wonderful to see them develop their critical thinking and debating skills.



TRIPS & ENRICHMENT:

Year 1 visited the Horniman Museum to a workshop based around the differences in water creatures and their habitats. We had to go on a journey to help Wally the Walrus, who lives in the Arctic Ocean, find a seahorse friend who lives in a warmer climate. We went searching through ponds, rivers and seas to find a seahorse friend for Wally! Along the way, we met frogs, a caiman, jellyfish and a whole multitude of other water creatures. We also visited the aquarium, where we got to see some real-life seahorses, poison-dart frogs, star fish, jellyfish and many other creatures. It was a lot of fun!



Year 1 wild flower planting in Science! Following the success of our cake sale in February, we were able to purchase two new planters for our outside area. We enjoyed a science lesson, where we got our hands mucky making seed balls using soil, clay powder and wildflower seeds! We are excited to see how our new planters bloom with a range of beautiful wildflowers as the Spring weather continues to brighten our outside learning environment.



Year 2 visited the Tate Modern to study the work of Uzo Egonu at the exhibition on Nigerian Modernism. The experience was linked to both Geography and Art learning this half term. The children sketched a variety of fascinating paintings and sculptures and now painting their own modernist paintings in Art lessons which we will share in the next issue!



Year 3 visited Hillyfields as part of their Science to investigate soil and the different minerals it contains.



Year 6 travelled to the South Bank for a site visit for their DT architecture focus to reimagine the buildings on the Thames with a focus on sustainability. Part of the morning was spent visiting the headquarters of Allies and Morrison for a Q&A session and visit to their incredible model making workshop.



TRIPS & ENRICHMENT:

Reception had a wonderful time taking part in an Irish dancing class with a **World Champion** who just happens to be an ex pupil! Eva Celeste taught them different steps and gave an amazing demonstration. She was wonderful with the children and they even got to try on sparkly costumes.



Children in Y3 went on the Gruffalo Trail to hunt for the infamous, warty, prickly beast. Luckily for him, they didn't find him!



Children across the school took part in storytelling workshops with West End in Schools. Children acted out parts of fables and stories and created dramatic tableaux.



Year 3 visited Beckenham Place Park to carry out a fieldwork study on rivers. The students took part in a range of activities exploring river features, as well as the environmental and human impacts on the local area.



Year 4 had an exciting visit from the Freshwater Theatre Company, who transported them back in time to discover the world of the Romans. Through interactive storytelling and drama, the children learned all about the invasion of Britain, Queen Boudicca and Emperor Claudius, and Roman daily life.

Lily Class completed two weeks of intensive swimming lessons at Forest Hill Pools. The children worked hard to both build their confidence in the water and develop their stroke techniques, making fantastic progress. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to become safer and stronger swimmers.





THANK YOU!

We are sure you will agree there has been much to celebrate this term. Pupils have shared wonderful experiences and produced outstanding work throughout the curriculum. Have a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you all once again at the beginning of the Summer Term!

