

Dallington School Newsletter

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www.dallingtonschool.co.uk

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ TBC New Prospectus & Website launch party
- ◆ 11th February - Board of Governors Meeting
- ◆ Cycling Proficiency - 1st and 2nd weeks of February
- ◆ 15th-19th February - Half Term
- ◆ 11th March - Open Evening
- ◆ March 26th - Break up
- ◆ 6th May - Board of Governors Meeting

The Mogg Blogg

It was lovely to have Samir Hutchings with us to spend the day and even lovelier to receive a thank you letter from Samir mentioning how the day had brought back memories of his time at Dallington. Zaki will be joining his brother, Samir, at Westminster Under School in September and it is to be hoped that, should term times allow, Zaki will come back to spend time with us too.

The examination results should be out by March and, of course, we shall share these with you, as soon as we can! Some of the children sat their exams in October so, to wait until March seems like forever!

The formal exams are often followed and sometimes preceded, by interviews – another part of the selection process for the children.

My City of London School for Girls interview

In the morning, I set off for City of London School for Girls. I was rather nervous, as I had been waiting for this interview ever since I had received the news I had passed the examination and was up for an interview. I was given a name badge and led to a cloakroom area. I hung up my coat and bag and said goodbye to my Mum. I was led to a waiting area for a minute until a woman came to take me to the Drama department, as I was going to take a drama scholarship. I met the director of Drama, and he was lovely. I performed my Oberon speech from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and was applauded.

Ruby's account continued...

The director of Drama told me all about the different productions of the play he had seen. He even told me that it was the most popular play in history and every second in time, there was a different production of the same play going on! I was amazed. I said goodbye and was led from the room. I had one more interview, which was just the normal interview. I felt a little nervous. I was led down three floors and into what seemed like someone's office. A woman came in and shook my hand. She told me that she would be interviewing me. I felt a little better, as she looked friendly. She had a kind face with bright eyes.

She started by asking some basic questions, such as 'what is your name?' and 'do you have any sisters at this school?' We moved onto pictures. She showed me three different pictures, all different. She asked me to describe what I saw. Next, I was shown a picture of a made-up animal. It looked a little like a kangaroo. She asked me what habitat I thought it lived in. I told her that I thought it may live in the desert because it had long eyelashes that apparently 'covered its eyes' (I said I thought they would protect the animal's eyes from the sand) and 'small nostrils' (so that it did not get sand stuck up them!)

The next part of the interview was horrible. She put some cards with amounts of money on them in front of me. She asked me what the total of all the money would be. I got it right, but the one after it was too hard to do in your head. I thought a Year Nine would have found it hard to do in their head. After a few last questions about what I am reading (I, Coriander) and my hobbies (reading, writing and swimming) I left the school with my Mum. I met the head in the waiting room and she seemed very nice. Overall, it was a good experience, but I am glad that it is over!

Ruby MacGregor

Catherine's Group

We are very proud of the footballers in our group: Sophia, Molly, Jack, Thomas, Louis, Hamish and Griffin.

Sophia, Molly, Jack, Louis and Griffin played a very tough football match after school on Wednesday– two of our children described their team of opposition as “wolves with shaved heads!” We wish our team the very best of luck for their next match!

We have completed our work on decimals and we're now moving onto measurement. The children will be investigating: estimating, measurement, scale, area and perimeter. They will be using and applying their newly found knowledge practically.

The children have almost completed their very own illustrated 'anthology' of limericks, which they have written to coincide with our poetry work. Our anthology will soon be displayed proudly in our area.

This week marks the beginning of our tap lessons with our new dance teacher, Emma.

Whose boot is this?



If you would like it back, please come and speak to Dusty in the office or call her on the dog and bone.

Upper Nursery News

The children enjoyed having their teddy bears in school for a week prior to the dance exhibition. Most of the bears behaved themselves and sat quietly during story time each day but we did notice that marmalade or honey sandwiches mysteriously disappeared when no one was looking! The teddy bears helped the children perform one of several dances last Thursday.

Upper Nursery are also having fun getting to know Anna.

In preparation for the Whole School Project the children are being gradually introduced to the 3Rs, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Please help them understand these concepts by showing your child what happens at home.

Finally, well done to all our children for passing their first Water Skills test with Matt on Tuesday.

A note from Ambika

To all the parents 'past and present'. I was completely overwhelmed by your extraordinarily generous gift, words of kindness and all your good wishes. I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone. I was very very touched. Hope to see you all soon.

Ambika

Lower Nursery News

Our Fairy Tale theme continues with the construction of a Golden Coach for Cinderella to go to the ball! Lara had the idea whilst examining our class post box and suggested we could make it into a coach. We worked together to paint two large recycled boxes yellow and decided to use metallic paint to give it that 'real' gold look.

We will enjoy playing with it in our role play area when it is finished. We also have a gang of Gingerbread Men running as fast as they can around our nursery and we baked delicious gingerbread men last week with currant eyes and buttons. This week we have seen lots of heroes and princesses in the nursery building dens and having picnics. Castles have been constructed and demolished! We also look forward to the arrival of a new set of large wooden construction blocks with which we hope to build an even bigger castle next week!

As usual a busy and productive time of exploration and learning. We have been exploring story structure and writing our own fairytale books, examining shapes and patterns and looking out of the window at the trees outside the school. We observed the bare trees and the empty nest and produced a group collage. As winter turns into spring we will add to our collage as we see the view change and we will keep watch for the magpies to return to their nest!

As part of our social learning we now have a special 'Colour Café Time' every morning after the 'Tick Tock Welcome Song'. We split into different groups to enjoy snack time together. Last week each individual child made a special sandwich for their snack. This provides an opportunity for individuals to develop their speaking and listening skills and their confidence and competence in carrying out tasks such as pouring drinks and giving out biscuits and apple. It has proved very rewarding and enjoyable for the children.

Again don't forget to remember Lower Nursery if you have anything to RECYCLE we welcome your junk for our school project. (Fabric, wallpaper, boxes, paper, etc .etc.☺)

Finally we celebrated Milou and Sue's birthdays...so many happy returns to both of them and we await the birth of Catherine's new baby too!

Transition News

Year 1 – Claudia’s

Claudia’s class has moved on from “animals in the cold” to animals in really cold conditions: Arctic and Antarctic.

We started out by watching a lovely Google Earth flight from space to the North and the South pole and saw amazing photos of animals in both the North and South pole. This introduction sparked a lot of interest and questions, to which we will try and find answers in the next few weeks: Why are the poles called Arctic and Antarctic? Why is it so cold there? How do people live when it is so cold? Our main focus is animals. I can see a lot of penguins, ice bears and seals...Did you know that there is an amazing bird called an arctic tern, which flies from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back every year (70000 km round trip!), so that he can enjoy two summers?

I personally would be happy with just one summer... I’ve had enough of temperatures below 10°C, thank you!

Year 2 - Kate’s Group

It has been a quick half term but Year 2 has managed to fit a lot in! They have been writing stories, painting penguins, experimenting with ice and learning multiplication and division. The children enjoyed their dance performance where they did a complicated but successful routine to Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang! They are now enjoying tap dancing and I am looking forward to watching them!

Late News...

The tap shoes have arrived!

Jackie’s Group

This week Year 3 has been learning about the story of Persephone. We are using Persephone as the inspiration for our art display. We are currently creating Spring flowers before moving on to creating Persephone next week!

In football news, Louis and Lucy went to the Arsenal Stadium last weekend to watch the Arsenal v Man. U match. Following the 3 – 1 win to Manchester United, Lucy came away disappointed, while Louis was pleased that the team he supports won.

Year 1 – Cindy’s

In Cindy’s Year 1 class, the children have been learning about how animals keep warm in the cold Winter months.

Do you know the three native UK animals that hibernate? Ask one of the Year 1 children and they will tell you that they are the hedgehog, the dormouse and the bat.

Last week, the children made really interesting habitats for an animal that hibernates.

This week the children have made plasticine models of an Emperor Penguin. In PE they waddled like penguins, protecting their eggs from the ice just like a Father Emperor Penguin and they wrote simple descriptions of penguins, of what they do and what they eat.

In Maths we have been learning how to add. We have been learning all the ways in which we can make two numbers add up to 10 and we have been using a number line to help our calculations.

No, we haven’t been adding penguins, however, during swimming, the children have improved so much that you could be forgiven for thinking your child has turned into a penguin!

Two weeks to go ...

After half term, Dallington School will begin its first Whole School Project – an opportunity to again show our families the fabulous learning that occurs at Dallington and how learning evolves as children grow and move up through the school.

We will be learning how to **reduce** waste, **reuse** old materials in new ways and **recycle** more effectively so we can all live a more sustainable life.

We will be encouraging **care** and **respect** for our planet. We will challenge our children to be creative, dynamic thinkers and problem solve ways to live a more sustainable life at school, in the home and in the community.

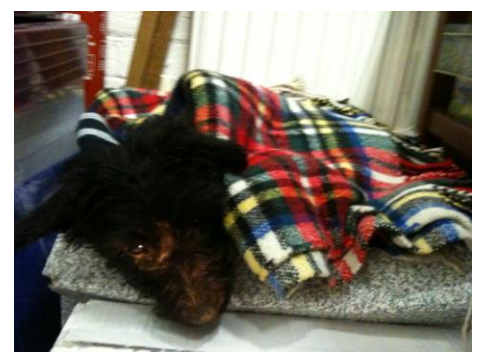
And we would love you to be a part of our learning journey too. If you have some great ideas about what our school can do to be more sustainable or if you would like to be involved in this learning journey please come and see your child’s teacher.

You will get an opportunity to see our learning at Open Evening on...

Thursday 11th of March.

Please put this date in your diary!

Dusty down ‘n’ out in Maria-Luisa’s office



Mogg's Group News

We have had a very busy week. Here are some of the activities we have been enjoying:

Harriet's Routine On Thursday 28th January we were getting ready to perform the musical theatre routines which Harriet has been teaching us for the last term. There was a morning performance and an afternoon performance. First there was Upper Nursery and Year 1 performing nursery songs, such as, 'I'm the flippy floppy scarecrow with the flippy floppy hat.' Then came the musical theatre routines, with Year 2 doing Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. It was a fantastic routine. Next came Year 3 with Oliver. They sang 'Food Glorious Food' and 'Where is Love.' It was very good. I liked the costumes and the routine. Year 4 was next with High School Musical, singing a cheerleader song. The girls were singing and waving pom poms while the boys did some cool tricks with the basketballs provided. Then was Years 5 and 6 with Annie, singing 'Tomorrow' and 'It's a Hard Knock Life.' Everyone really enjoyed it.

Nicholas Vavrecka (Year 5)

Tap On Tuesday 2nd February, two people came in with about a hundred boxes of brand new tap shoes ready to be fitted on to all future tap dancers.

Thursday came and we had our very first tap lesson going over the basics. Unfortunately the tap shoes had not arrived yet so we had to do the lesson tap shoeless. Our teacher was Emma, she was really friendly and made it clear what she was telling us to do. Sadly it's gonna take more than just one tap lesson to become the next Fred Astaire!

Adam Grant (Year 5)

Dallington F.C. Match Report 03/02/10

First Half

We took one look at Moreland and they were giants – just like Farhad!!!! Our support was very helpful and cheered us on. We were all nervous with excitement and couldn't wait to play. We fielded a stronger squad in the first half, with Farhad in goal, Adam, Sophia and Griffin in defence, Monty and Elliot in midfield and Zaki up front. We had a few chances, but they scored the first goal and Farhad had no chance of saving it. Elliot and Monty came close but their goalie saved it.

Second Half

The second half squad had a tougher time, but we still played well. We had Farhad in goal with Laurie, Felix and Louis in defence. Elian played in midfield, James up front with Molly and Jack sharing the half. Moreland scored a second goal after five or six great saves from Farhad. They also slotted in a third. We played very defensive football with Jack and Elian dropping back to help. Farhad got slightly injured, but still carried on and got given man of the match after over twenty great saves. Well done Farhad. 3-0 was the final score.

Grovelling apologies to Lukas Von Haniel Torr for forgetting to mention him in the last report. Sorry!

Farhad Khan, Felix Naylor Marlow and Monty Gordon

Picture of the Week



Lukas at our first match.

More Mogg's Group News

Science Our new science experiment this week was Electricity Part 1. We all got paired up (I was with Felix). With our partners, we got a battery pack, 3 wires, a light bulb and a light bulb holder. We had to find at least 10 metal items. We attached two wires to the light bulb and one loose end to the battery pack. We attached the other wire to the battery pack as well. We put each of the objects into the gap in our circuit. If the bulb lights up, with the object completing the circuit, then the object is a conductor. If it does not, then it is an insulator.

Holly Anness-Bradshaw (Year 5)

The Greeks As you probably know, Mogg's group's project is on the Greek gods. We have recently been writing about Prometheus the Firebringer. It is about a Greek god called Zeus making a race of men in the Golden Age. The men in the Golden Age were noble. They spent their time dancing and feasting, but they very soon died.

Zeus made a new race of men called the Silver Age, but they were lazy and foolish and did not respect the gods. So Zeus made another race of men in the Bronze Age, who were just as bad as the Silver Age but, instead, they loved battle. They made weapons out of bronze and, finally, they killed each other.

Zeus turned to a Titan named Prometheus and asked for help. Prometheus built men out of red clay and breathed the breath of life in to them. These men were from The Age of Heroes.

Hannah Syed (Year 5)

Cycling Proficiency On Monday 1st February, Holly, Hannah and I went to the playground to do cycling proficiency. In the afternoon, Adam, James and Monty did the same. Our teachers were Simon and Virginia. They were very nice. First we did the A, B, C, H and S checks. A for air, B for breaks, C for chains, H for handle bars and S for saddle. Then we just cycled around the playground and we learnt emergency stops. At 11.20 we went back to have lunch.

The next day, we cycled on the road and practised right and left turns. On the last day, Simon's wife was having a baby, so we had a different teacher called Val. We went down to the canal. Now we can say that we have completed level 2 in Cycling Proficiency. It took a total of 8 hours.

Jessica Shaw (Year 5)