

Dallington School Newsletter

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www.dallingtonschool.co.uk

Headteacher Mogg Hercules
Deputy Headteacher Vanessa King

Upcoming Events

February

Monday 21st – Friday 25th

Mid-term Break

April

Friday 15th April

Last Day of Spring Term

Hands Up! Baby Hands Up!

Can you guess who this week's baby is?



The answer will be in the next issue.

If you would like your photo to appear in an issue, then please email it with your name and class to Jay (jay.smith@dallingtonschool.co.uk). Particularly embarrassing photos are most welcome!

The Mogg Blog

I was invited to have tea at Queen's College last night with Dr Ramsay. I don't 'do' envy, but to sink into a cosy, feather-filled armchair, in a room big enough to accommodate another sofa and several armchairs, bore little comparison with my office. It was so lovely to have time to gossip with my old girls, too.

I do believe the whitebeam trees, on our school forecourt, are coming into leaf and, I must say, I am relieved that the crocuses and snowdrops have appeared in my garden. Is Spring really on its way? I certainly hope it is.

Congratulations Kate!

Great news – Kate has given birth to a beautiful baby boy. Jamie entered the world on Sunday (sharing his birthday with Jay in Middle School), weighing 2.88kg.



Lower Nursery

We are well into our topic, Traditional Stories, and during the last two weeks the children have enjoyed acting out, listening to and recalling stories. This Friday (04/02/11) some of the Lower Nursery parents will be helping us celebrate Chinese New Year. Keep a look out for the photographs that will be displayed in the classroom!

From the beginning of this week, Lower Nursery has introduced Targeted Carpet Times, for which the children have been divided into three groups. There are many benefits to having smaller groups at carpet time and these include building the confidence of children and providing all the children with the opportunity to have a turn at an activity.

We are also trialling Free Flow Snack, during which the children can help themselves to a snack throughout the day. Group Snack at the end of the day remains the same.

Please see the Parents Notice board for our updated timetable.



BRAIN-NASTICS

Looking to stretch your thinking? Try:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bitesize/>

Teacher Interview

I have been talking to Ema (our tap teacher) and I have found out a bit about her.

Q How long have you been teaching dance?

A I have been teaching for 16 years, which is over half my life!

Q What inspired you to dance?

A When I was three, I saw a famous dancer called Wayne Sleep and he inspired me to dance.

Q Where did you learn to dance?

A I started in Birmingham which is where I come from and then I moved to London. I went to Italia Conti and then the London Studio Centre, where I trained professionally.

Q You were a judge at Dallington's middle school talent contest. What was it like?

A I totally enjoyed the whole thing, especially the instruments. I am learning to play the guitar, myself.

Q Can you recommend any West End shows?

A I recommend Mamma Mia and Wicked.

By Hannah Syed

Upper Nursery

The children in Upper Nursery have been talking about their favourite books. Many of them chose books based on popular children's cartoon characters seen on DVDs or television.

In Upper Nursery we aim to read a minimum of five stories/books to the children a day. Often we pick an author or illustrator and focus on their work for a period of time. Recently, one of the books featured was 'Gotcha Smile' by Rita Philips, Mitchell and Alex Ayliffe. It is all about a little girl who finds that using a special smile helps her to make friends. Her Grandpa told her that he used a 'Gotcha Smile' to make friends when he was little. This produced some interesting drawings by the children of their own Gotcha Smiles.

Looking at illustrations in books, the children have discovered that some illustrators use colour when drawing and others, such as Quentin Blake and Doreen Cronin draw with black pen and then colour it in. The children have been producing their own line drawings, having them photocopied and then colouring them in. This is a great way for children to explore how different colour combinations affect illustrations.

Fascinating Fact

Did you know that a snail has roughly 27,000 teeth?

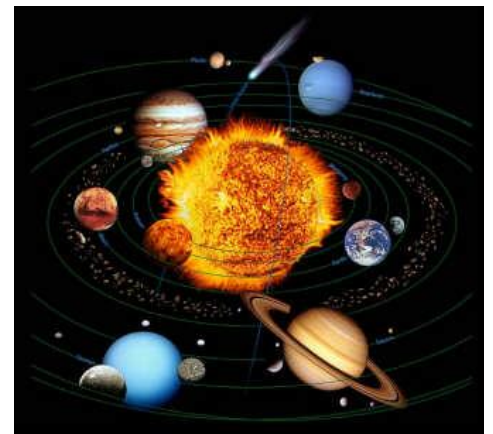
Well you do now.

Year 1

Both Year 1 classes have been enthusiastically learning about Space. The children have been investigating the planets and how they orbit the sun. They have also been learning about why we only see stars at night and they can now tell you facts about stars. They absolutely loved the concept of how big stars are when compared to the size of our sun. They were literally speechless for a moment, before they burst into cries of disbelief and amazement.

The children have finished their display. The rockets have blasted out of the atmosphere and the aliens have arrived in London. The children think our display is looking 'out of this world.'

We also have been learning about Chinese New Year. We have made a lucky red envelope, with a wish inside for a friend in the class. We are also making dragon puppets. On Friday we get to share and taste special foods from China!



Year 2

Hello from Year 2!

We have had a very busy fortnight as we continue to explore our topic, 'You, Me, Identity.' In English, we have been writing acrostic poems using our names. We have also created Who Am I riddles about ourselves and others. Can you correctly guess the identity of this riddle?

Who Am I?

I am a boy. I have brown hair. I have a fringe. I play football every day and I do martial arts.

Solutions to come in our next newsletter! If you cannot wait, please come into Year 2 to read our class book.

In Mathematics, we have been learning to read, interpret and create pictograms and bar graphs. We have made graphs based on our eye colour and birthdays.

In Topic, we have been exploring themes of Love and Belonging. Our focus text is 'Koala Lou' by Mem Fox, which talks about the loving bond between a mother and her child. (Listen to an audio file of Koala Lou read by the author [here: http://www.memfox.net/audio/koala_lou.html](http://www.memfox.net/audio/koala_lou.html)). Which brings us to our most exciting news to share yet...Kate is now a mother! Baby Jamie was born at 2:20am Sunday morning, 30/1/11, weighing 2.88kg or 6lb5o. Congratulations Kate!

Until next time, have a great fortnight!

Catherine's Group

The children have been writing book reviews. Here are two to tempt you into your local book shop.

The Boy in the Dress

By David Walliams

This book is charming and sad but it will also make you laugh. It's about a boy who's different, although he looks normal. He's called Dennis. His mum has left. His house is lonely without her. He lives with his brother, John, and his bitter, mean dad. All he has is a photo of him and his mum on a summer's day. Finally, his life gets better when he gets the chance to do what he's always wanted to do; even if it is putting on a dress!

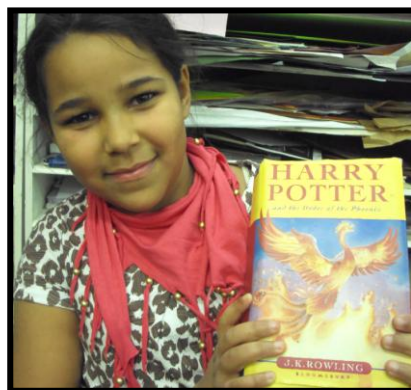
Review by Albie Marber

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

By J.K Rowling

I am reading Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling. It's all about magic and death. It's really good. I've got loads of great words to say about it: excellent, exciting and magical. I know I said loads, but I think three is enough.

Review by Lucy Shaw



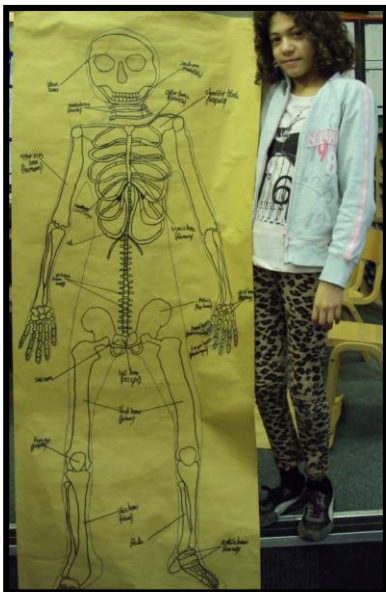
Kung Fu Grading

On Sunday, I did my kung-fu grading. I was very nervous, although I had been graded before. There were 60 people altogether, including me. The grand master of Fujian White Crane Kung Fu was there. He was 60 years old and quite scary. It was patterns grading – the 4th I had done. I had to wait a little while. My mum and sister had come to support me. Sadly, my Dad could not come because he was training the football team. We walked upstairs to get to the place where I would do my grading. We all sat down on chairs and waited for Dennis, the grand master, to call us up in no particular order. Aaaaah! He called me up. My legs were shaking as I walked up onto the stage. I was really scared of Dennis. He had been doing Kung Fu for more than fifty years and was very strict. I started my pattern. My legs were like jelly with a touch of lemon flavour. It took about a minute to do and then I waited for Dennis to say if I had passed or failed. Oh no. He said I had failed. Only kidding; I passed! When Dennis said I had passed, everyone in the room applauded.

By Louis Menzies-Walker

Mogg's Group

The whole of middle school has been doing an art exchange called Paint Pal. So far it has been a great success. During our Paint Pal work middle school is going to paint three pictures and send them off to children in a school in Rammolutsi, South Africa. Paint Pal is for a charity called Dramatic Need. This charity gives disadvantaged children in Africa a chance to do some art while connecting with children in England. The first picture we will send is of our whole family. Mogg's Group has also been doing our curve stitching. Some of our work is now on the basement wall. We have all finished stories about the Egyptian myth of Osiris and Isis. We are now concentrating on the Human Body, which is our new science project.



Some exciting news is that the Yr 6 blog is now live. You can access it at: <http://yearsixdallington.blogspot.com/>. It has a special section for everyone in Yr 6 and all the people in Yr 6 have written it themselves.

Exhibition Space



By Joshua in Upper Nursery

This is a drawing by Joshua, of himself, with a 'gotcha smile'. He got the idea after he heard the story *The 'Gotcha Smile'* by Rita Philips Mitchell and Alex Ayliffe.

Film Review

Jemima and Nicholas went around the whole school seeing what animated movie the children liked the most. The most popular animated movie was 'Despicable Me.'

'Despicable Me' is a story about a man who is an evil genius. He adopts three girls and fosters two of them as part of his evil plan. It turns out he really loves them and there are loads of dilemmas and bad guys trying to stop him from getting the girls back.

We think that 'Despicable Me' is a very good film. If you haven't seen it, you should watch it as soon as possible.

Student Interview

James Bingham
Captain of Dallington F.C

How well do you think Dallington F.C. will do in the league?

I think we'll get a few draws and might win a match, but we won't win the league.

How many goals will you score?

Two in seven games.

Who do you think will win the league?

St Lukes.

Who will be captain next year?

I am not allowed to tell you that.

Any tips on being captain?

Don't let your team do what they want.

Match Report

Dallington Vs. St Luke's

In the first half, St Luke's got off to a flying start but Dallington was putting up a good fight. St Luke's first shot on goal went straight and, unfortunately, it went in. Louis ran up field and one of the St Luke's defenders ran into their own box and Dallington was given a penalty. Louis had a powerful shot, but the goalkeeper saved it.

In the second half, a St Luke's striker ran up from the halfway line and curled a shot around our goalie. Albie was really in the game and tried his best to score, but couldn't. After some substitutions our defence was breaking form and St Luke's pushed through and scored again.

Final Score: 0 - 3