

# Dallington School Newsletter

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[www.dallingtonschool.co.uk](http://www.dallingtonschool.co.uk)

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## Upcoming Events

### February

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup>

**Mid-term Break**

Monday 28<sup>th</sup>

**Parent Governor Election**

### March

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>

**World Book Day**

### April

Friday 15<sup>th</sup>

**Spring Term Finishes**

### May

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>

**Summer Term Begins**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup>

**Individual and Class Photographs**

### **Handyman Wanted**

We are looking for a Handyman. Prefer - ably a local, reliable, skilled workman who would like some regular work doing odd jobs around the school. If you can recommend someone, please contact the office.

## The Mogg Blogg

Having just read an article, in an educational publication, about 'one unique week of thematic teaching,' I felt quite dispirited.

Apparently the school was transformed into a creative space, for the week, to enable the children to demonstrate their gifts and talents, through being challenged, enriched and inspired. To be freed from the constraints of curriculum planning and presentation was deemed to be 'a new and exciting approach to learning.' One child's parent commented that her son really enjoyed this week at school.

'Nuff said!

### **Here's Lookin' At You, Kid**

The beautiful baby pictured in the last newsletter was Normandie, from Year 5.

Can you guess who the mystery baby in this issue is?



## Lower Nursery

As the first signs of spring appear, it's time to say farewell to our topic, Traditional Stories. When asked to reflect on this term's topic some of the children's responses were:

Joshua said, "We have been learning about Little Red Riding Hood and the wolf. I like it 'cause the father said, "You wicked animal."

Celia said, "The Gingerbread man. I like the little old woman. It's so nice. I liked doing the baking."

Lily said, "Chinese New Year. Christopher's mummy was coming to Chinese New Year and she brought so many lovely presents for the children."

Meredith liked learning about, "Goldilocks, 'cause I love it. It's got the three bears in it"

Felix said, "Little Red Riding Hood, 'cause I liked it when the wolf ran to Grandma's. Little Red Riding Hood gave Grandma very nice food when she was not very well."

Emma said "I like Thumbelina and she was really small! There are fairies."

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Next term our topic will be, 'People Who Help Us'. If anyone has a profession that falls into this category please let us know. We would love to have you share some of what you do with the children. Wishing you all a happy half term!



*Lower Nursery share their favourite traditional stories*

### Student Interview

Ollie – Yr 1



Q1. What do you want to be when you're older?

A1. A Pilot

Q2. What's your favourite flavour of ice cream?

A2. Vanilla

Q3. Who is your best friend?

A3. Aaron

## Upper Nursery



Since the last newsletter, the whole of Upper Nursery has celebrated Chinese New Year. The little roosters and dogs spent the day celebrating the Year of the Rabbit. Workshop areas were set up for the children to make and decorate little red envelopes, Chinese lanterns, a huge dragon, copy Chinese characters and to peel, chop and grate vegetables for the stir-fry lunch.



While the children were at the playground the room was set up for a communal lunch, the dragon was hung as decoration and the food was cooked. It was wonderful to see everyone's faces when they returned. All the children (and staff) tried to eat with chopsticks, but were allowed spoons if they gave up! The main course was followed by a pudding of tangerines and lychees. Yum!



The Chinese theme has continued throughout the fifteen days of the celebration, with the children exploring fruit, ginger etc., as well as the children being observed using various aspects of our Chinese New Year celebrations in their child-initiated play.

### Exhibition Space



Caspar drew and painted the characters and the setting of the story that he was told on the Year 1 school trip to the Geffrye Museum.

## Year 1 – Claudia’s Group

As our ‘Space topic’ and the first half of the spring term was coming to an end, there was one more project to be finished that the children were looking forward to the most: making an alien out of papier-mâché.



After careful planning and sketching of ideas, we started making our alien heads on Tuesday. There seemed to be mixed feelings about the sensory experience; some children loved the feeling of gloopy and sticky glue on their hands, whilst others were never before so keen to wash their hands as during this week.

Tom, in Claudia’s class, will finish our topic off in the most spectacular way; his dad is taking him to Florida to see the launch of the Space Shuttle Discovery. We cannot wait for him to come back and show us the photos. Fingers crossed the launch will happen as scheduled this time!

In Numeracy, we have started using symbols, such as the equal and plus sign and we are exploring addition.

Have a lovely Half Term, everyone!

## Year 1 – Cindy’s Group

### Starry Starry Night

*Paint your palette blue and grey;  
Catch the breeze and the winter chills,  
In colours on the snowy linen land.*  
(McLean)

Last week Year 1 was introduced to Van Gogh’s *Starry Starry Night*. The children were really captivated by the painting’s beauty and made perceptive and interesting comments when they discussed the art work with a friend. After learning about Vincent Van Gogh, the children painted their own art work in the style of *Starry Starry Night*.



### Interview with Caspar

Q What did you like about “starry Starry night”?

A Caspar thought that the moon was really cool.

Q How did the painting make you feel?

A Caspar thinks that it made him feel sleepy but excited.

### Interview with Stella

Q What did you like about *Starry Starry night*?

A It was windy and I liked it.

Q How did the painting make you feel?

A It made me feel cold.

Q Tell me about what you did with your painting.

A I made it very starry.

Lastly, thank you George, from Cindy’s class, for helping your Mum make *Starry Night* cup cakes, that we shared last Monday. They were yummy and charmed our souls!

## Year 2

Hi from Year 2!

What a busy half term we’ve had!

We have come to the end of our Topic; *You, Me, Identity*. In the process, we have learned a lot about ourselves and others. We have looked at the freedom and choices we have

In Art we have explored how our identities can be depicted using different techniques and have made portraits in the style of Picasso, Cameo Brooches and Fingerprint figures. It’s not always easy to know who is who, but it is definitely fun trying!

In Mathematics, we have begun investigating measurement. We are able to make reasonable estimations and measure items in metres and centimetres.

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We have even measured ourselves- come and see our Height Wall in our classroom, where you will see how tall we are and how we compare to a height of 1 metre. Who do you think is the tallest in Year 2? The answer will be in our next newsletter. Last week we included a 'Who Am I?' riddle about one of our children. Congratulations if you guessed it was Geo!

In English, we have been learning about commas and how to use them when listing items in sentences. We have been reading examples, choosing our own list items, inventing our own sentences and writing them down. We have also been working on including Who, What, Where, When, Where, Why and How information in our diary writing. Our writing is becoming more detailed as a result. We look forward to writing about the many adventures we are going to have over the half term holidays when we return. What will you be doing? Who with? Where? Wh.....

In the meantime, have a great break!

### ACTIVE KIDS

Please start collecting 'Active Kids' vouchers when you shop at Sainsburys. We can use these to get sports equipment for the school. There is a collection box on the window sill outside the office.

## Catherine's Group

Catherine's Group has been listening to and discussing the story of Hamlet by William Shakespeare. Here are some examples of their work.

Teddy (Year 3) wrote:

Hamlet is the Prince of Denmark. He is lonely and the dead king's son. Hamlet is kind, brave and nice but wants to kill Claudius because Claudius killed his father. Hamlet killed Polonius and this made him upset, it was a mistake. Gertrude is his mother. Hamlet is worried and confused. Claudius wants Hamlet to go to England and he asked his friends Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to kill Hamlet.



The Ghost of Hamlet's Father  
by Fred (Yr 3)

Laurie (Year 3) wrote:

Hamlet is the King of Denmark's son. He is kind, sensitive, nice, clever, quiet, kind-hearted, gentle and very sad because his father is dead. Hamlet has to kill Claudius because he knows that Claudius killed his father. Hamlet really tries to like Ophelia but her dad Polonius won't let her like Hamlet. They are always sending little notes but Polonius stops her.

Enzo (Year 4) wrote:

Hamlet is the Prince of Denmark. He is sensitive, quiet and angry. He hates Claudius because Claudius killed his father. Hamlet does not have a good relationship with Claudius. The ghost of Hamlet's dead father asked him to kill Claudius because he was in Hell walking around the castle battlements!

Isie (Year 4):

Hamlet is a kind, sensitive person who is sad that his dad, the king, died and his mother married Claudius, his evil uncle. Claudius killed his brother (Hamlet's dad and Gertrude's husband) and seized the crown. Hamlet does not get on well with Claudius and is very worried about how he is going to kill him.

## Mogg's Group

Mogg's group has been waiting for half term for a long time. We deserve a break after all our "ahem" hard work! We have been doing hessian art for the last two weeks, which is sewing an Egyptian god or goddess on a piece of hessian. Maths has been going well. The Yr 6's have been doing theme park maths. We have to design and cost a theme park and make sense of some very hard rules and restrictions. The Yr 5's have been learning about angles. In Science we have been learning about the skin. We watched some very disturbing videos that contained photographs of the tiny organisms that live on the surface of our skin – Yuk!