

# Dallington School Newsletter

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

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## Upcoming Events

### February

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
7pm  
Governor's Meeting

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup>  
All week  
Mid-Term Break

### March

Friday 30<sup>th</sup>  
12:30pm  
Easter Holidays Begin



## The Mogg Blogg

Welcome back!

It seems that teachers and children have had a wonderful break and are raring to go. It is heating up to be an action packed Spring term.

Classrooms are buzzing with activity. From next week, please come and see our new display in the basement.

Good luck to all our Year 6s who are sitting entrance exams for their future schools.

By Yr 5 and 6



## Lower Nursery

Happy New Year! Firstly, a very big thank-you to the Lower Nursery parents for all their lovely Christmas gifts and cards. They were very much appreciated and helped make our Christmas even merrier!

This term we have welcomed eight new children. They are settling in well and we have had some eager little helpers to 'show them the ropes'.

This term our topic is 'Things that Move.' We will be exploring the following features within this topic: Ways to Make Things Move, Travelling around London, and Journeys. In phonics, we will be covering: general sound discrimination, body percussion, and rhyming. We will continue to explore alliteration through the letter of the week.

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January we will be celebrating Chinese New Year and we will update you on the festivities in the next newsletter.

For the parents who are new to Lower Nursery, please note every week the following are included in our weekly routine:

**Tuesday:** Book share – Please choose a book with your child to read at home. Don't forget to sign for each book you borrow.

**Wednesday:** Music and letter of the week

**Thursday:** Star of the week and Luca to be returned and shared with the class. Book share is available on this day too.

**Friday:** Gym and show and tell.

## Upper Nursery

'I gotta....., I gotta.....' said many voices. 'But it didn't snow' went one plaintive voice. The children's reply to the question - Did you have a nice Christmas? This is England; it may snow on Christmas Day once in a lifetime!

The children all seem to enjoy being back at school, even if it is to catch up with their friends. We have welcomed two new children to Upper Nursery, Anoushka and Coco, who have settled well into the new routines. The new art displays are going up in the basement at the end of this week, so the children have been looking at the book, 'Lucy's Picture' by Nicola Moon. Each of the pictures will be created on bought handmade paper. This led to a discussion on how paper is made and hopefully we will manage to make our own paper during our current topic on materials.

Please go down next week and look at the children's masterpieces from next week.

## True or False

Did you know last newsletter's answers? Well, dolphins sleep with their eyes open, Coca Cola would be green if you didn't add colouring to it and the longest self-propelled flight of a chicken is 13 seconds!

See if you can answer these:

Is there a book with over 50,000 words, where none of the words includes the letter 'e'?

Is 7% of the population left handed?

Do mice have a life expectancy of ten years?

The answers will be in the next newsletter.

## Year 1

The New Year started with another lovely addition to our class: we welcome Sophie Hunter, who moved to Dallington from another school. She has made lots of friends already and she is also today's birthday girl: Happy Birthday, Sophie!

The children in Year 1 were given a choice of topics: Dinosaurs or Planets? After much discussion and a vote it was a clear decision: Dinosaurs!

Everyone is really enthusiastic and we have already learned about different kinds of dinosaurs, such as carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. The children are especially intrigued by the extinction of dinosaurs and the asteroid that, scientists believe, smashed into the earth. We have a visit to the Natural History Museum planned, on our path to becoming real Dinosaur Detectives.

For our display, we will design our very own dinosaurs. We have been sketching different ideas for it.



In Literacy, the children have been using pictures as inspiration. They looked at Albrecht Durer's drawings of a squirrel and wrote down their observations. They have been retelling the story of "Thunder the dinosaur".

In Numeracy, we are working on number bonds to 10, soon moving on to comparing and measuring lengths and masses.

We have also established a "Classroom Meeting": We meet once a week as a class in a circle and try to resolve the arguments that can appear at the playground or in the classroom. We are trying to work on solutions that are fair and work for everyone and decisions are being made by the whole class, not just the adults.

We are also looking forward to Chinese New Year next week.

## Congratulations



Well done Poppy (Yr 1) for passing her Grade One Piano Exam. A marvellous achievement!



## Year 2

Kate's back but Cindy's gone. The children have been continuing their project on the Ocean and are working well. Some children have been taking their 7+ exams. In Maths they have been working on subtraction and in English they have been working on adjectives.

In their project of The Great Fire of London they have been cooking Caraway Biscuits and are planning a visit to Monument (the monument to commemorate where The Great Fire of London started). Did you know the Monument has 311 steps which is roughly the height of four Dallingtons stacked on top of each other!

### Exhibition Space



This wonderful sculpture was made by Ronan, in Upper Nursery.

## Years 3 and 4

Just before our Christmas break we were lucky to have a trip to the Unicorn Theatre to see The Snow Queen. Unusually, this production was set in India, complete with a Bollywood scene! The children really enjoyed it but some of us did miss the snowy setting of Hans Christian Andersen's Scandinavia!

Over the Christmas holidays Mattia was lucky enough to visit Rome, Umbria and Lake Garda to see family and friends. Here is an excerpt from his exciting diary:

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December we flew to Rome. When we arrived in Rome it was dark and we went to a restaurant for dinner. I had a really delicious pizza with ham, mozzarella and tomato. The next day we went to The Colosseum. It is colossal and amazing. They have re-built the floor to show you what it was like in Roman times. We were shown the part where the lions were and where the gladiators fought. I really liked it. Inside the Colosseum it had been made into a sort of museum. The next day, we went to the Roman Forum. I liked that too. I like to see humongous things that are thousands of years old.

Adam, a member of our group moved to Exeter in January. We miss him. This week, the children have been writing letters to him. Letter writing has been the focus of our literacy lessons this week. We have enjoyed discussing how letters should be structured and what actually makes a good letter. Anyone for Pliny?

## Angelic Music

Recently, a composer with whom Abi worked, Julian Marshall, used our basement to rehearse an up-coming charity concert of his work. As a thank you, Julian donated some money to the school, with which Abi is going to buy some instruments for the children. Perhaps you would like to go along to the concert and support the Barenboim-Said Foundation ...

### ***The Angel in the Forest***

#### **A dramatic song cycle**

Music by Julian Marshall, text Gertrud Kolmar with additional text from the Old Testament

**St James's Church,  
Piccadilly W1, January 21st  
2012, 7.30pm**

James Gilchrist (tenor solo)  
Sophie Harris (cello)  
Christopher Wray (choir master)

The Welten players and singers conducted by Ian Belton.

Special Guest reader: Dame Janet Suzman

All profits to the Barenboim-Said Foundation

The concert will be introduced by Iain McGilchrist (author 'The Master and his Emissary')

## Years 5 and 6

We have been busy weaving with strips of decorative wallpaper and we are now painting these, trying to make the colours we use as true to the original strips as possible.

At the Sobell Centre we are doing squash with Glen and volleyball with Nick.

In Maths, Year 5 is doing checkups to see what they have learnt over the last term. Year 6 is learning about number and algebra.

We have been doing a lot of writing recently, including writing for this newsletter.

## Crazy Photo



Vroom vroom! This kitten already knows how to drive a racing car!



## We'll Done



Congratulations to Lulu and Maya (with help from Albie), in Year 5, who held a bake stall just before Christmas to raise money for children with cancer ([www.clipsargent.org.uk](http://www.clipsargent.org.uk)). They managed to sell all their goods; raising £117 for a very good cause.

## Arty

Megan Piper, an ex-Dallington pupil and ex-member of the Board of Governors, had a good reason to step down from the Board due to the imminent opening of her gallery. Please visit [www.thepipergallery.com](http://www.thepipergallery.com) to find out more.

## It all went swimmingly!



Congratulations to Stella and Adam, who both won medals at the Virgin Gym Swimming Championships in Southend, Essex, just before Christmas.

## Match Report

Red Team: Enzo, Theo, Devon, Laurie, John, Hattie B and Lucas.

Blue Team: Louis MW, Louis B, Geo, Sam, Adam and Elian.

The match started with both teams passing the ball well. After about five minutes Louis M-W scored a great goal. The score was now 1-0 to the Blues. After some fluent passing by the Reds, Theo broke through and skipped over Louis B's attempt at a challenge, he then slotted the ball into the bottom right hand corner. The score was now 1-1.

Out of the blocks, Hattie B hit the post; this was extremely agonising for her as that would have been one of the first goals she had scored. Geo was like a magnet attracted to the ball and he had a number of near-shots.

Suddenly Louis MW wriggled through a few challenges and miss-hit it and it went into the corner of the net. It was now 2-1 to the Blues. Theo scored again. The score: 2-2.

The whistle for half time blew.

The second half began and Louis MW scored his hat-trick. The score was now 3-2. The Blues were winning, but not for long as Theo scored his third goal. He also had a hat-trick. The score was 3-3.

Laurie then hit the ball extremely sweetly and it flew into the back of the net.

Louis B shot and scored which made the score 4-4. An absolute thriller!