



Headteacher: Mogg Hercules

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## Forthcoming Events

**Wednesday November 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Year 3 Trip to the British Museum**

**Thursday November 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Year 4 Trip to the Natural History Museum**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Upper Nursery Trip to LSO at St. Luke's**

**Friday December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Circus Skills Day**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Christmas Carol Concert**  
**St James' Church**  
Doors open at 5 p.m.  
Concert starts 5:30 p.m.



## Social Media



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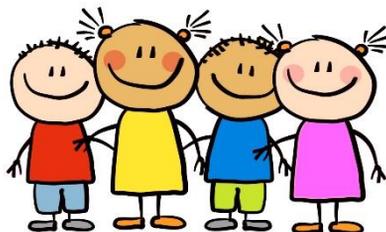
## The Mogg Blog

I have written an article, featured in Absolutely Education, November 2017.

"Is teaching to the tests, in Mathematics and English, especially since the National Curriculum was established, then modified, fulfilling a truly rich curriculum for our children, or are they just part of the performance measures and league table publications?"...

You can read the whole article here: <http://www.dallingtonschool.co.uk/news/testing-times>

And you can share it here: <https://twitter.com/Dallington1978/status/930403818831077376>



## Love Singing?

Sarah, our lovely music teacher, still has some places available at the Highbury Youth Choir. They are currently looking for North London's best young singers aged from 6 up to 18.

If you think that you would enjoy this, do come along to Christ Church, Highbury N5 1SA on Thursdays.

Ages 6-11 from 4-5 p.m.

Ages 11-18 from 5:15-6:30 p.m.



## The AbBlog

We had another very busy and positive Independent Schools Show last weekend.

Each time I go, it is clear how unique our setting and practice is at Dallington and it is a pleasure to share our school with the enthused parents who are excited to have found us.

On another note, please get in touch if you would like to join the Parent Band for the Carol Concert – rehearsals start soon!



## Children in Need



Lower and Upper Nursery are helping to raise money for this worthwhile charity through their cake and biscuit sale outside.

Children in Need has had Pudsey Bear since 1985 and has helped raise over £890 million.

Do please give generously.  
Have a lovely weekend!

## Lower Nursery

Hopefully you will all have seen the Remembrance Day display, on the staircase, that Lower Nursery helped create last week. Some of the class had been asking about the poppies that they saw some people wearing on their way into school.



Last week we made some cupcakes, which we each got to take home, and this week we have made even more of them, but to sell and help raise money for Children in Need. We hope that you bought some today!

We are currently talking about where we live and how we travel to and from school. As a class we used Google Maps to find out where each child lived, and we then 'travelled' back to school, one click at a time! Some of the children already know their addresses, with the number on their door and the name of the road. However some simply stated that 'I live in London. Can you find that on the computer?'



*Hugo painted a picture of the street where he lives.*

Good news parents! We have booked tickets for a Christmas show! We shall be walking to the Barbican to see 'Snow Mouse' on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of December in the afternoon. Do please make sure your child is at school that day, as it would be a great shame if they missed this experience.

Barney, Cathy and Christine

## Upper Nursery

The last week has seen the introduction of the children writing their names for self registration. It has been lovely to watch so many parents helping the children to do this in the mornings. We encourage the children to learn to use lower case letters, so please support this at home. Writing has also featured heavily with the children making posters and invitations for the Children in Need bake sale. The event covers many other aspects of the curriculum too; from thinking about the role of charities and thinking about others, using literacy skills to write for a reason, fine motor skills developed through making bunting and maths involved in the cooking we did. It also helped us to develop an understanding of money by selling biscuits.

The recipe used for the Pudsey biscuits is here for you.

### Pudsey Shortbread Cookies

Ingredients: 150g plain flour  
50g caster sugar 100g butter  
1 teaspoon vanilla essence,  
icing sugar, coloured icing pens,  
coloured chocolate beans.

Method: Sift flour into bowl. Add the sugar and rub in the butter until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.

When the mixture looks crumbly, squeeze it together to make a ball of dough. Roll out dough and use the Pudsey cutter to cut out biscuits. Place on baking tray, and press lightly to flatten.

Bake in oven at 170C/325F/Gas mark 3 for 15-20mins. Cool on rack. Ice the biscuits with white icing. Add 'coloured' chocolate beans as eyes, nose and eye patch. Enjoy.



Ambika, Christine, Sue and  
Melissa

## Year One

'The knee bone's connected to the thigh bone'...or should that be, 'The patella bone's connected to the femur'?

That's right, Year 1 has continued learning about the skeletal system and we have identified, labelled and classified bones, investigated joints and made models of the spine.

In Art, we took inspiration from the Vanitas movement and artist Damien Hirst, to create our own 'diamond-esque' skulls.

The children corresponded with him and he was delighted to see their creations!



This week we have begun to look at the muscular system, learning about the mighty Atlas, a character from Greek mythology, who was made to take the weight of the celestial sphere by Zeus. We have made sculptures using pipe cleaners, clay and polystyrene.

Next week, we will be returning to a Science focus to learn more about muscle development.

Thank you in advance to everyone who has been practising the original Christmas songs penned by Abi.

The children have really enjoyed preliminary rehearsals and we know you will thoroughly enjoy hearing them perform!



As Christmas is just around the corner, so is Angela and Megan's Toy Workshop Holiday Club!

Please complete the form and return it to Year 1 if you would like to attend!

Have a happy week!

Megan, Angela, Paula and  
Shakirah

## Year Two

Year 2 return full of vim and vigour for the festive second half of the autumn term.



This term we are exploring the theme of 'Light' in our cross curricular topic work.

We listened to the story of Diwali using our lovely Indian puppets, before half term, and the children have made their own comic books to retell the story of Rama and Sita and the 10-headed demon Ravana.



We will also learn about other festivals of light – Hanukkah and Christmas – and have started to learn our special songs for the end of term Carol Concert.



In Science we will explore the sources and properties of light and we are delighted that Danu's mum has offered to come and speak to the children as she is an astrophysicist! See if you can find out exactly what an astrophysicist does at work, you may like to be one when you grow up!



Eileen and Ann

## Year Three

Year 3 has been making tremendous progress in their current maths focus: Division.



We have written our own division words questions, played division games on the iPads, used cubes to solve division problems and also played a game finding three consecutive numbers from a number square that create a division sum.

In Science we learned all about the layers of the earth; the inner core, outer core, mantle and crust. Alongside Year 4, everyone made a plasticine model of the earth and then sliced it in half to reveal the layers.



Continuing our topic on the Romans, we used Google Earth to map out where the Romans built the first roads across Britain.



Milko and Wendy

## Happy Birthdays

All these children were born in November.

- LN Finley
- UN Lilianna
- Y2 Isobel, Alexander
- Y3 Theodora, Avalon, Emily, Georgina
- Y4 India, Alex
- Y5 Arlo



## Charity Corner

Congratulations to Upper Nursery for coordinating the annual Children in Need bake sale.

We are finalising donations as we go to print but we shall update shortly. The children loved being involved; maybe you 'spotted' them in their spotty clothes!

Our next Charity initiatives will be to support Shelter and Help Refugees.

Children and staff can wear their favourite pair of slippers on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December in exchange for a gold coin donation. It is a stark reality that over 125,000 homeless children live in the UK. All monies raised will go towards emergency housing for homeless children. Novelty slippers are encouraged as we like to share funny, fluffy photos across our social media platforms.

This year, our retiring collection from the Christmas Carol Concert will be donated to Help Refugees. This charity funds more than 70 projects across Europe and the Middle East and works in partnership with the White Helmets in Syria. They also work at reducing the perils of refugees travelling on dangerous seas and providing healthy food to children in refugee camps in Greece.

£5 can help provide a week's worth of fresh fruit and vegetables to a child refugee in Greece.

Please donate generously.



Megan  
Charity Coordinator

## Year Four

Year 4 has been continuing with their Earth project, with a focus on the seven continents.

Here are some of Year 4's fantastic findings:

Africa

*'Kwame Nkrumah was the first Prime Minister and President of Ghana, having led it to independence from Britain in 1957.'* Maya (Maya lived in Ghana before coming to London)

South America

*'There are 12 countries in South America and more than 385 million people living on the continent.'* Layan

Asia

*'Around 60% of the world's population live in Asia.'* Bronwen

Oceania/Australasia/Australia

*'The world's largest reef is the Great Barrier Reef and can be found on the North Eastern coast of Australia.'* Tabby

North America

*'North America is home to the largest highway in the world.'* Ethan

Antarctica

*'Antarctica contains three quarters of the world's ice. It is estimated that the ice is around 4 kilometres thick.'* Raon

Europe

*'Europe is home to the smallest country in the world, the Vatican. It is the smallest country both in size and population.'* Alexander



Catherine and Sam

## The Joy of Reading

Celebrating the joy of reading is crucial if we want to see all children reading well by the age of 11. Regularly reading for pleasure has a positive effect on children's vocabulary, spelling and maths. From the Lower Nursery up to Year 6, do encourage your child to look at books, whether fiction or non-fiction. Even the youngest child can find pleasure in looking at books; talking about what they see and even retelling the story in their own words, can bring a great deal of joy to both parent and child.

Often you'll want to listen to your child read aloud – reading to an adult is the most important thing children in the early stages of learning to read can do to develop their reading. But don't stop reading aloud to them. It's a great way of building their understanding, showing them what expressive reading sounds like and letting them enjoy a story.



Making time to read with your child can have great educational benefits, but it can also be ten minutes of respite from hectic family life to curl up, read and talk together. By all means ask questions and discuss vocabulary, but don't be afraid to lose yourselves in a good story too.

- Children who read often and widely, get better at it.
- Reading helps to improve concentration.
- Reading teaches children about the world around them.
- Reading helps to improve vocabulary and language skills.
- Reading develops a child's imagination.

## Years Five & Six

We hope you've had a great Halloween and Bonfire Night! Years 5 & 6 have made an exciting start to the half-term.



We are working on our reading comprehension skills and book club has restarted.

*"My group is reading Northern Lights. It's mysterious and has a lot of suspense. We are really enjoying reading it and can't wait to see what happens next!"* Sofia (Year 5)

As part of the BFI Film Festival, we have been lucky enough to see a preview screening of the film *Wonder* based on the book by J.R. Palacio.

*"It was an amazing yet moving film, because the main character went through some difficult stuff because he looks different from other children."* - Theo and Josh (Year 5)

In Science, we have moved on from looking at space, to looking at various forces that apply on the Earth; starting with gravity, air resistance, water resistance and friction.



*We dropped objects each with a different mass to see which would hit the ground first!*

Coming up soon we will be doing a workshop with the WeDraw Maths team about angles and shapes. We are lucky enough to be testing out some new educational software that they have created – so look out for that in a few weeks' time!

Shoaib, Mogg and Janet