



# DRUMBEAT SCHOOL

## Newsletter — Autumn Term 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fantastic run up to Christmas. I am so proud of our lovely children who have been performing at the Old Vic in London and at the Christmas shows in Downham, Brockley and Turnham.

Thank you for attending and supporting. We have had some lovely feedback about the wonderful staff who look after your children.

We will continue to work hard with your children, providing a wide curriculum both within and outside of the classrooms. We aim to give to them the best opportunities we can and continue to make them happy everyday.

Happy Christmas.

Marie Neave  
Executive Headteacher

### *Dates for the Diary....*

**Tuesday, 19 December**  
**KS3 Christmas Show**  
**(1:30pm at Downham)**

**Wednesday, 20 December**  
**Last day of term**  
School will close at 1pm

**Monday, 8 January**  
**First day of term**

**Thursday, 1 February**  
**School Photographer (Downham)**

**Friday, 2 February**  
**School Photographer**  
**(Brockley & Turnham)**



## School Governor Joe Lettington

I became a governor in 2022 and very pleased to support this wonderful school. I feel passionately about social inclusion and work hard to promote the rights of the child in both my professional and personal life. Outside of being a governor at Drumbeat, I am a psychologist and prior to that, spent over ten years as a teacher in primary schools in and around London and in Spain. I live not too far from Drumbeat in the Beckenham area and outside of work, you might find me in the gym, socialising or reading a good book!

I sit on the education committee and bring with me experience of leading areas of teaching and learning in school and hope to be able to support and challenge school leaders to ensure the best outcomes for the children at Drumbeat.



### Lewisham Parent & Carer Forum

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum (LPCF) is a voluntary group of parents and carers of children and young people (0-25) with special/additional needs and disabilities (SEND) living in the London Borough of Lewisham.

They provide an opportunity for parents and carers to express their views and input into the planning and delivery of SEND services. They signpost, support and empower families to obtain the best possible support and services for their children.

Autism Support services available to Lewisham families:

**Lewisham Autism Support,  
The National Autistic  
Society, Drumbeat ASD Outreach team,  
SIGNAL and Autism is my Superpower**

Visit their website for more information on services and workshops hosted by Drumbeat Outreach and other organisations.

<https://lewishamparentcarer.org.uk>

**NO PARKING  
DO NOT BLOCK  
DRIVEWAY**

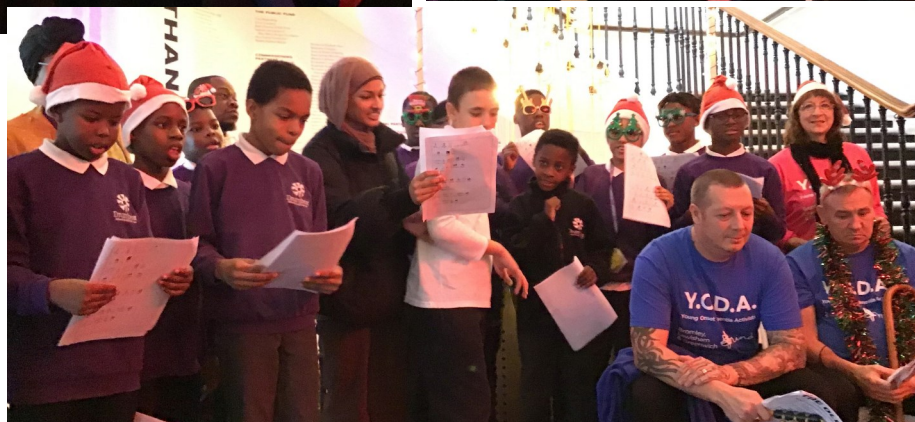
**Please be mindful when  
parking outside the  
school.**

**Please ensure that local  
residents' drives are not  
blocked and bus  
entrances are kept clear.**

## Drumbeat at the Old Vic

Some of our pupils sang in the 12 Choirs of Christmas performance. We were partnered with YODA- young onset dementia activists from Bromley. We performed in the foyer for parents and had mince pies and refreshments afterwards. The children were amazing and such a credit to the school.

The 12 Choirs of Christmas supports mental health and wellbeing by partnering 12 community groups for people aged 50+ with 12 primary schools across London to create 12 intergenerational choirs. Here is a link to their website if you want to know a little more about them [www.blgmind.org.uk](http://www.blgmind.org.uk).



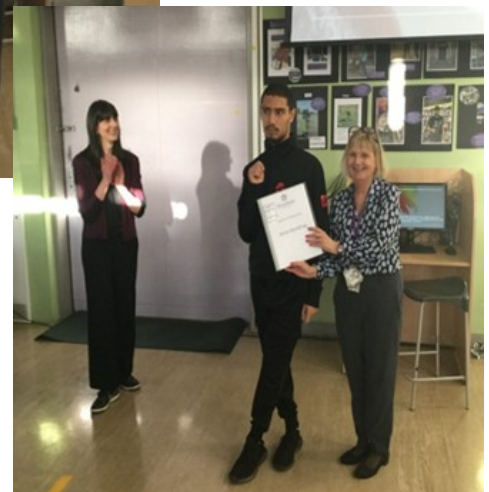
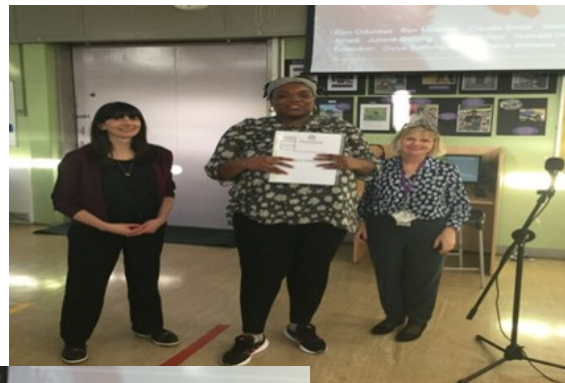


## Brockley Presentation Ceremony

On November 24th, we invited back the students who left in July to attend our presentation event at Drumbeat Brockley. This was an opportunity for them to receive their certificates and celebrate their achievements at Drumbeat. We had special guests to help us present the certificates. These were our chair of Governors, Madeleine Gabriel and ex-student George Harknett. George is now employed by the school as a midday meals supervisor as well as attending college. He achieved this by completing a short training programme at Drumbeat. George talked about his experiences and how proud he was to be working at Drumbeat. The students shared their experiences of college life and what they were doing now.

Some reported that they missed Drumbeat but felt ready for college. We were very proud to present them with their certificates and celebrate their achievements.

We hope that they will keep in touch with us!





## Crocodile Class News

We have had a very busy term! We have been cooking and exploring different food through 'fun with food'. A focus this term has been communication through 'grid', 'what's in the box' and general daily activities, all of which the children have responded very positively to. We have also worked on identifying our feelings through the zones of regulation. We have also covered books such as 'The Naughty Bus' and 'The Gingerbread Man', enjoying the sensory stories and exploring a variety of activities connected with these book including Maths and child-led play.



From the Crocodiles team and I, we wish you a lovely Christmas and a very Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

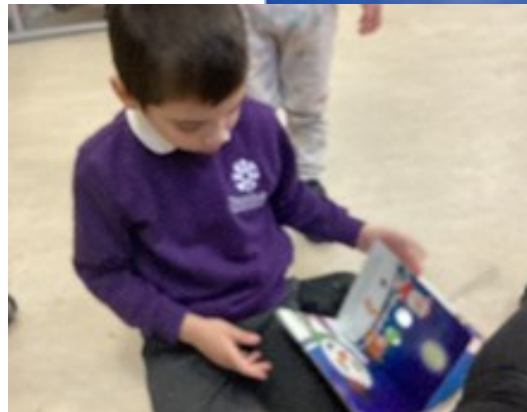
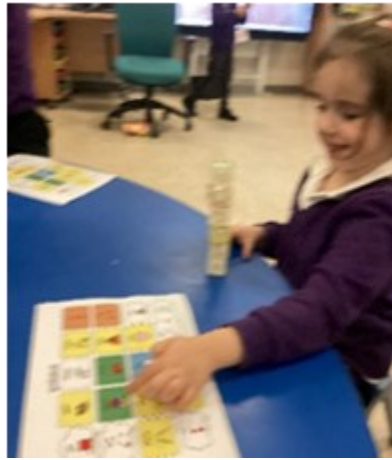
As a reminder, please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss anything regarding your child either in their contact book, by phoning the school or sending me an email: [r.nimmo@drumbeat.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:r.nimmo@drumbeat.lewisham.sch.uk)





## Kangaroo Class

We truly have had the most amazing term in Kangaroo class, the whole class have made so much progress and we have all had so much fun along the way. We have been working on some many different things throughout this term that we had almost forgotten that this is the end of Kangaroo class's first full term at Drumbeat.



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And of course, who can forget getting ready for Christmas



Kangaroo class team wish you all a very relaxing, joyful break and we look forward to seeing you all in January 2024.





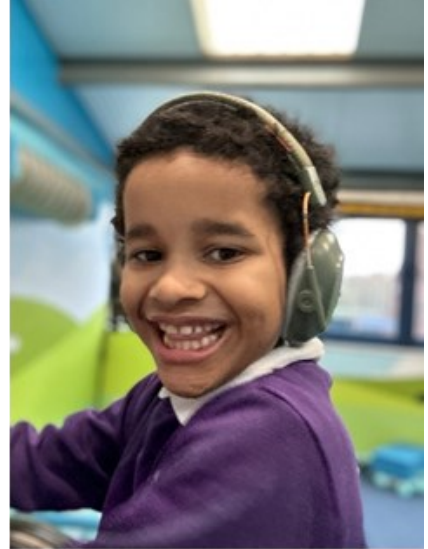
## Tiger Class Newsletter

We have had a fantastic autumn term here in Tiger class. We have enjoyed exploring our topic of 'London' and working hard towards our individual targets. We have experienced lots of new activities and most recently enjoyed our Christmas trip to Godstone Farm. The children have developed wonderful relationships within the class, and we have really enjoyed watching them grow this term. We wish you all a great Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!



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# Zebras Newsletter

## Autumn 2023

Hello from Zebra Class

We have been so busy this Autumn Term and wanted to share some of our highlights with you. For this year's Black History Month, we explored and learnt about music, food and textiles from different countries in Africa and the Caribbean. We really enjoyed attending a drumming workshop and even got to participate in a storytelling session called 'A' is for Africa. Our Key Stage topic 'Travelling around London' enabled us to look at the popular landmarks, vehicles and monuments in London.

We have continued to work on improving our maths and English skills and worked on counting in 2, 5 and 10, matching quantity to number consistently and were introduced to addition and subtraction. We looked at the properties of 2D shapes, and sorted, matched and labelled a range of shapes within the environment. In English we engaged in Dough Disco sessions, Funky Fingers activities, communication sessions and phonics (RWI) lessons. We attended our very first swimming lessons and we all gained confidence in the water. We have also enjoyed participating in our weekly music, computing, PE, cooking, soft play, sensory room and art sessions.

We hope you all have a great Christmas break, and we look forward to seeing you all in January!



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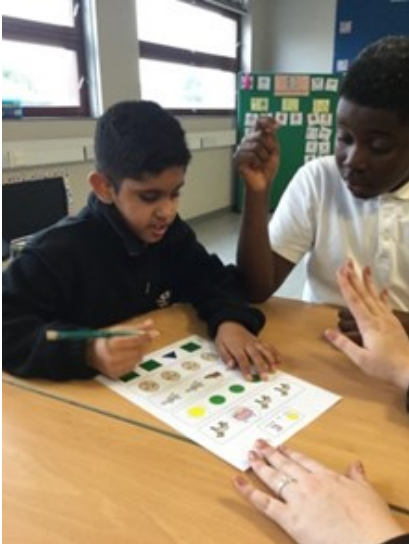
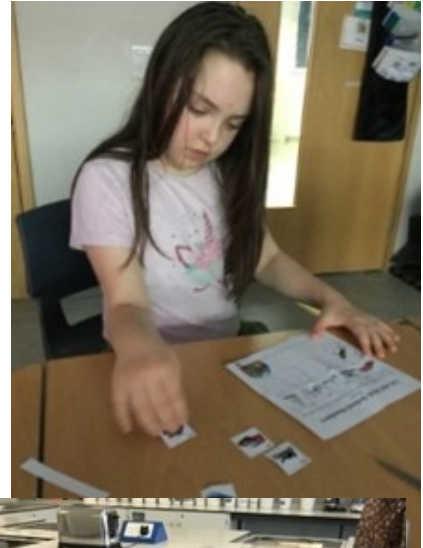




# Seahorse Class Newsletter



This Autumn term Seahorse's have been super busy participating in lots of new learning experiences. We have been working very hard on all our targets and have been hugely successful in working towards reaching our individual targets for the term. Please see below some of the wonderful stuff we have got up to!



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***As always, please ensure you are checking your child's home contact book daily.***

If you wish to discuss anything regarding your child please write it in their contact book, phone the school or send me an email: [s.barrett1@drumbeat.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:s.barrett1@drumbeat.lewisham.sch.uk)

I know the children are super excited for Christmas and I hope you all have a very, merry Christmas! Shauna and the Seahorse's team.



# Penguin Class

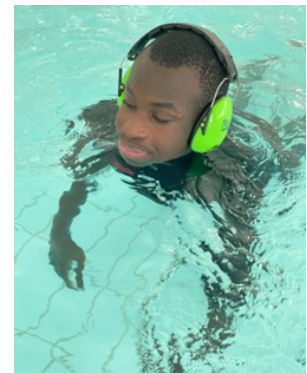
This term Penguin Class has enjoyed horse riding during the first half of the autumn term. All the children confidently rode their horses and happily took part in the sessions.





# Merlin Class

This term Merlin class have been to Forest school and enjoyed going swimming.



We spent some time at Ladywell athletics track and went on a bear hunt in class and at Beckenham Place Park.



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During Black History Month we made a Windrush boat together.



Finally we decorated our Christmas tree and made some handprint wreaths!





A huge congratulations to all the staff and students at our Drumbeat Brockley site for their fantastic Christmas production "Babushka and Anushka (A Curious Twist of a Christmas Tale)". As part of our enrichment offer, a group of KS3, KS4 and 6<sup>th</sup> Form students took centre stage as our leading roles for the show. They spent the term rehearsing their lines and exploring the characters and themes of our modern take on the traditional Christmas story "Babushka". Their hard work and efforts were evident in their

final performance, where they performed with confidence and produced a fun and festive experience for all. Each class took part in the show – singing, dancing and showcasing their artistic talents with props and costumes they had made in class. The cast and classes did a fantastic job and received rave reviews!

Congratulations again to all students and staff who took part, supported this project, and made it a huge success to be proud of! Merry Christmas everyone!

*Julia (Drama Instructor)*



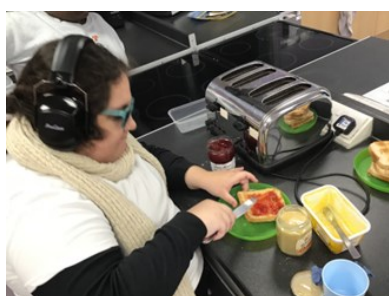


## Brockhill Class

A lot of exciting events and learning took place in Brockhill class this term. As part of the Black History Month project, Brockhill class learnt about Princess Ademola who was a Nigerian princess and nurse and produced a portrait of her. What's more, students had a go at making jollof rice, a popular Nigerian dish, for the first time and served it to parents and students at the Black History Month food festival.



To develop students' independence and employment skills, Brockhill class started leading the café for sixth form students on a bi-weekly basis. This serves as a great opportunity for students to utilize and practice their life skills and money skills in a meaningful context.

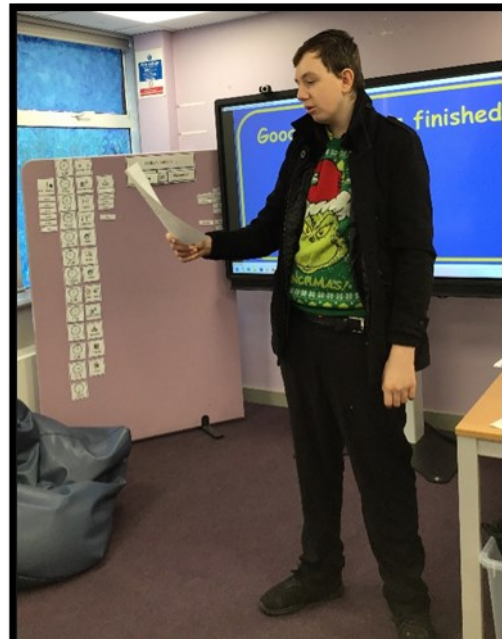
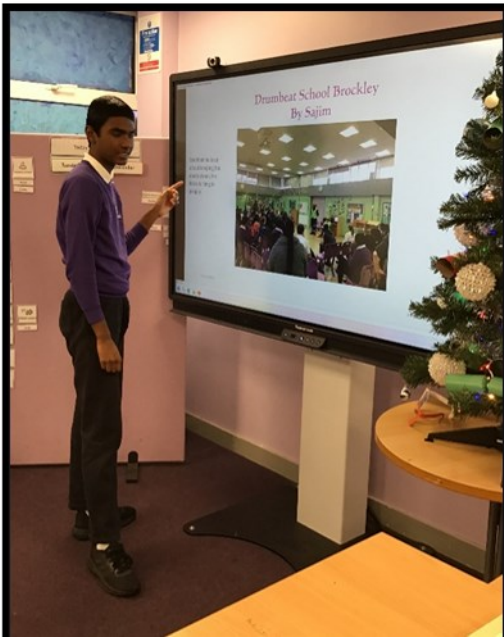


The students participated in sensory arts, music, drama and cooking lessons to develop their creative skills and practical skills every week. Below are pictures of beautiful sunflower paintings students produced using forks and various delicious dishes they made.



## Hilly Fields

In Hilly Fields we have been making presentations using Word and PowerPoint.



We made presentations about subjects that we are interested in. The subjects included Drumbeat assemblies, classroom pets, the Cars movie, logos, animals and cars.



We shared our presentations with our classmates.



# SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES — 2023/24

## AUTUMN TERM 2023

**Autumn Term 1**      **Monday 4 September – INSET day**  
**Tuesday 5 September – Students first day of term**  
**Friday 20 October - Last day of term**  
Half Term Holiday Monday 23 October – Friday 27 October

**Autumn Term 2**      **Monday 30 October – INSET day**  
**Tuesday 31 October – Students first day of term**  
**Friday 8 December – INSET day**  
**Wednesday 20 December – Last day of term\***  
Christmas Holiday Thursday 21 December – Friday 5 January

## SPRING TERM 2024

**Spring Term 1**      **Monday 8 January – First day of term**  
**Friday 9 February – Last day of term**  
Half Term Holiday Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February

**Spring Term 2**      **Monday 19 February – First day of term**  
**Thursday 28 March – Last day of term\***  
Easter Holiday Friday 29 March – Friday 12 April  
(Easter weekend 29 March – 1 April)

## SUMMER TERM 2024

**Summer Term 1**      **Monday 15 April – First day of term**  
**Friday 24 May — Last day of term**  
(May Day Bank Holiday on 6 May)  
Half Term Holiday Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May  
(Spring Bank Holiday will be taken on 27 May)

**Summer Term 2**      **Monday 3 June – INSET day**  
**Tuesday 4 June - Students first day of term**  
**Friday 5 July – INSET day**  
**Thursday 25 July – Last day of term\***

*\*School will close at 1pm on the last day of the full term.  
INSET days = Staff Training days. Pupils do not attend school on these days.*