



# DRUMBEAT SCHOOL

## Newsletter — Spring Term 1

Dear Parents & Carers

We have had a lovely half term with classes being busy on trips and lots of exciting projects.

We have our Shakespeare evening coming up on 28 February so be sure you buy your tickets in plenty of time.

Have a look at the important parent workshops we have coming up and see if you can attend.

I hope you have a lovely break and thank you for your continuing support in making the school run so smoothly.

Marie Neave  
Executive Headteacher

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

**Friday, 14 February**

**Last day of term**

*School will close at normal time*

**Monday, 24 February**

**Pupils back at school**

**Friday, 28 February**

**Shakespeare Schools Festival**

The Albany Theatre in Deptford

7:00— 9:30pm

**Friday, 7 March**

**Toileting Clinic**

Downham from 9:15 — 10:45

**Friday, 14 March**

**INSET day**

Pupils will not attend school on this day

**Tuesday, 18 March**

**Parents Coffee Morning**

**Read Write Inc: Phonics**

Drumbeat Downham 9:30—11:00

See page 2 for details

**Friday, 21 March**

**Comic Relief/Red Nose Day**



**No mobile  
phones**

**We kindly remind you that using mobile phones within the school building is prohibited.**

**This policy is in place to ensure the safety and well-being of all our students. Using mobile devices can pose safeguarding risks and distract from the educational environment we strive to maintain.**

**Please be aware that you may be asked to stop using your phone or to step outside if you are found using it in the building.**

**We appreciate your understanding and support as we work together to create a safe and focused learning atmosphere.**

**Thank you for your cooperation.**



**Parent Coffee Morning**  
**Read Write Inc: Phonics**  
**Drumbeat Downham**  
**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 9.30-11**  
**with Hannah, Literacy Lead**

At Drumbeat we teach pupils to read and write using the Read Write Inc: Phonics programme. It teaches children to read accurately by learning sounds and blending these sounds into words. The programme also teaches writing and so children learn to form each letter and spell words. Pupils also read a storybooks containing the words they have learnt to read. This session will explain how you can help your child with learning their sounds and with their reading at home.



## School Hours

Start time: 8:50 am

End time: 3:00 — 3:15 pm

Doors open at 8:50am for drop off and  
2:50pm for collections.





**After School Club Now Available  
from 22nd April 2025  
Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays  
3:15-6:00pm.**

Bubbly Nursery is now offering After School Club for children aged between 4-9 years old from 22nd April 2025.

Summer Holiday Club - To Be Confirmed.

Mini Bus will be available to pick up children from Drumbeat and Watergate school to Bubbly.

If you are interested please complete the registration form on our website or contact us on:

*[www.bubblyspecialneedsnursery.co.uk](http://www.bubblyspecialneedsnursery.co.uk)*

Phone: 07954 952406

Bubbly is based at London Borough of Lewisham and accepting SEN children from neighbouring boroughs

# Art Club



This term, our gifted and talented artists have continued their project with the Horniman museum to create a piece of artwork to go in their permanent display. A handful of students were chosen to visit the secret location of the Horniman's Study Collections Centre in North Greenwich. We are one of only five schools who have ever visited this incredible collection of over 300,000 specimens!



We had a private tour of the building and learned about how they catalogue each artefact and take photos to document them. Each student was invited to take their own photos of the specimens in the professional photography studio.



Following the photoshoot, we learned how they remove pests from the artefacts, especially the taxidermy animals which often collect bugs.

We visited the enormous freezer unit and tried on some of the safety clothing they must wear. Lucy was asked to put a specimen into the freezer that is -35 degrees, which is the same temperature as the Arctic!

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After lunch we learned how to wrap fossils for transportation using specialist paper. It was much harder than it looked.



As well as using some magnifying glasses and microscopes to see the pests which had been caught in the freezer unit earlier.



We are now moving onto the next stage of the project which will involve even more of our talented artists. They will be working with an artist to produce artwork which will be displayed in the museum's permanent collection and viewed by thousands of visitors each year. This is a very exciting opportunity for the students at Drumbeat and we are so proud that their talents have been recognised and celebrated in this way.



## Flamingo Class



Flamingo class have been so busy this term focusing on so many different areas of learning. We have all been working on shapes and patterns and have really enjoyed exploring shapes and completing/creating patterns. We have been focusing on books about animals such as 'Dear Zoo' 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and 'Rumble in the Jungle' Everyone has worked so hard on their learning map targets and we have had lots of fun with messy play and P.E too. We really enjoyed cooking this term!



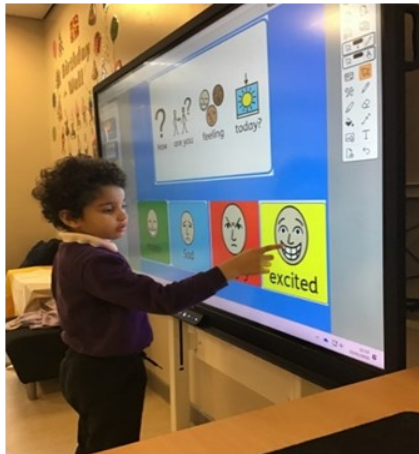


## Tiger Class News!

What a wonderful half term we have had since returning from the Christmas break. We have enjoyed working on our new targets this term, as well as exploring our topic 'Pirates' where we made our own Treasure maps and participated in an exciting treasure hunt! We have also enjoyed Trampolining this term. The children have thoroughly enjoyed themselves and have all worked so hard. We wish everyone a lovely, restful half term break and we look forward to seeing you all when we return.









## Pelican Class



In Pelican class this term we have been going swimming. We have had a wonderful time splashing about and practising our swimming skills. The class have been very brave and worked incredibly hard in these sessions.



In cooking we have been working on our cutting skills and learning about knife safety. The class have rustled up a range of dishes including a fruit salad, mini pizzas and a cous cous salad. Amazing work chefs!



In maths we have been learning about 3D shapes, we have been practising identifying the shapes by name and matching them in various ways. The class have engaged well in these sessions and have already demonstrated phenomenal progress.







## Lion Class



Hello from Lion Class!

We have been busy this term, doing lots of fun learning and developing skills in lots of areas. We visited the café at the Drumbeat Brockley site and used our money skills to pay for different items. We had to communicate with the Brockley students to request the items we wanted from the menu.



Then we had a go at using their outdoor gym!





# Galahad Class Spring Newsletter



Galahad class have had a very busy start to the spring term learning and exploring new topics.

In English, we have been working hard on our reading and writing targets using the Read Write Inc program. If you need a reminder of the log in details for your child's account to access these resources at home, please let me know. We have also been learning how to use a dictionary and thesaurus to improve our writing as well as looking at the use of nouns, verbs and adjectives to make our writing more expressive and exciting.



In maths, Galahad class have been learning about the value of money, making amounts using multiple coins and waiting for change once they have paid. This week we are further developing our maths and independence by walking to a local restaurant to pay and order our own food. We will be developing our road safety awareness by identifying safe places to cross and practicing crossing roads responsibly, practicing money skills by working out prices, calculating how much to pay, and handling transactions as well as enhancing our communication skills by interacting with staff at the restaurant to place their order.



Alongside all this fabulous academic learning, Galahad class have also been developing their social skills, their artistic expression and our independent cooking skills. They can now find the cooking instructions on a packet and follow them. This includes being able to microwave a meal, cook pasta alongside a delicious tomato sauce, as well as cook packet noodles.

We have also had a visit from the Safer Schools Officers who talked to use about online safety as well as behaviour and consequence when outside of school. They covered topics such as how to react when we get angry at someone in public, as well as how to ensure we have consent if we would like to interact or touch someone less known.

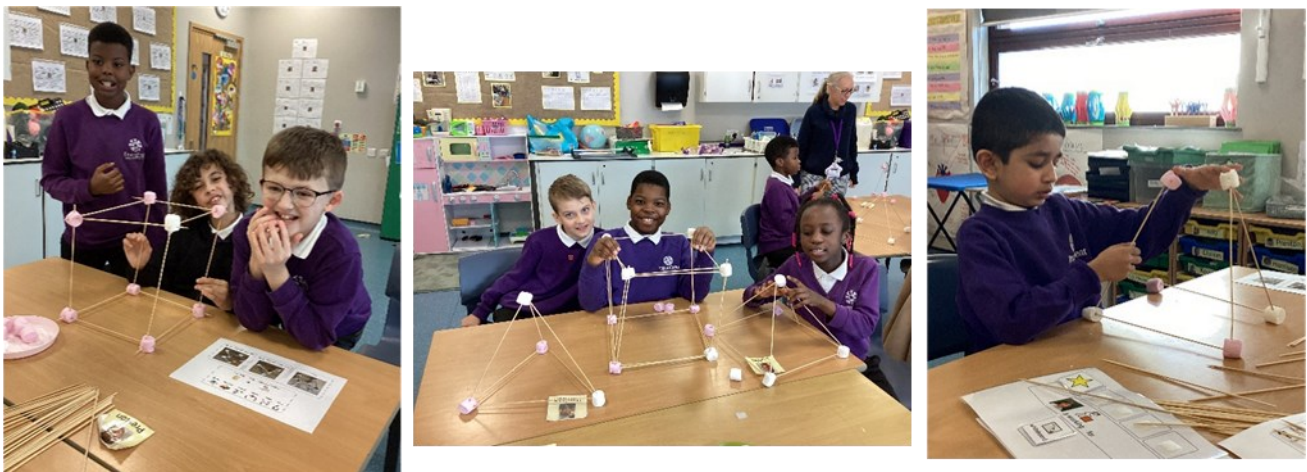




In Science, we have been learning about how animals grow. We have looked at the life cycles of butterflies and frogs, making these out of playdough and describing what happens during each stage of the cycle. We have also been sorting animals into omnivores, carnivores and herbivores!



In Maths, we have been making 3D shape models, using skewers for the edges and marshmallows for the vertices!



We are wishing everyone a lovely and restful half term break.



# Phoenix class Newsletter



## Phoenix class have had a fabulous half term!

We are so proud of the continued progress of all the children. Thank you to all parents and carers for your support. We are most proud of how happy the pupils are in the mornings, ready for a fun day of learning.

### Our learning

As you are aware we are constantly working on the children's EHCP targets. Although throughout the half term we will have a variety of different learning areas, topics and books we focus our learning on. This half term we have been developing our knowledge in a variety of topic areas. We have engaged with learning related to creating patterns using colours, shapes and pictures. Our progress in phonics has been fantastic and we continue to work through our personalised phonics program. In science we have been learning about animals, their habitats and their offspring. The children have enjoyed learning about animals making sounds and engaging in sensory activities related to animals. As well as so much more exciting and engaging topics in our wider curriculum.

Next half term we will continue to work on the children's personalised targets. We will continue with personalised interventions such as fun with food. In science our topic will be electricity. The children will develop their understanding of toys and utensils relevant to them that require electricity and those that do not require electricity. As well as observing how a simple electricity circuit works.

### Dates for diary

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

**Last day of term** – school will close at normal time

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February

**Pupils back to school**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March

**Inset day** – Pupils will not attend school on this day

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March

**Comic Relief / Red nose day**

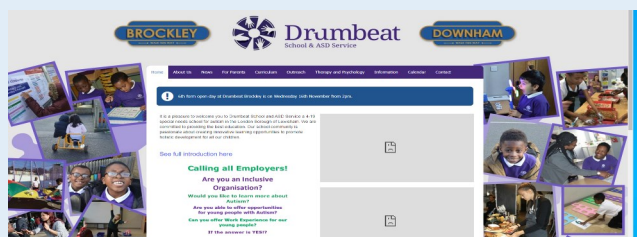


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## School Website



Important information such as term dates, school newsletters. We also share additional support documents such as communication tasks to do at home and visual school holiday timetables for the children.

Have a wonderful half term  
Please if you have any questions or information to share, please feel free to send me an email  
[r.martin@drumbeat.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:r.martin@drumbeat.lewisham.sch.uk)



We have a very active curriculum at Drumbeat and take part in some physical activity every day. Our set PE sessions will be on a Friday. If you have PE kit please feel free to send this in but it is not essential.

## Lunch and Snacks



In class, we have snack time once a day before playtime where pupils are offered fruit, crackers, plain biscuits or rice cakes. This is a valuable communication session for pupils and we are seeing amazing progress in this area.

If you are sending in any snacks, we encourage these to be as healthy as possible.

We are also a nut free school so please ensure no nuts products are sent in.

Thank you

# Lynx Class

We are all so proud of the effort Lynx Class has put into their learning this half term. They really have earned a well earned rest this half term and we are thoroughly looking forward to seeing them when they return!

## English

Children in Lynx Class continue to work exceedingly hard in their phonics sessions this half term. We have also been exploring retelling familiar stories through role play and sequencing pictures.

## Maths

This half term, we have worked really hard to represent data that we have collected using bar graphs—we will continue on this after half term and begin to explore interpreting the data we have collected and what this means.

Children have also been working to identify properties of shape, both 2D and 3D and the relationship between these!





## Science

In science we have learnt about animal classification, how we group animals based on their traits and food chains. The highlight for us was getting to visit the Horniman Museum where we saw some exciting marine life in the aquarium and cute animals on our animal walk! For the duration of this trip, the children were an absolute credit to themselves, we could not have been prouder of them!



## Draco Class

Draco Class have been busy building their own storyboards based on fairy tales like Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks & The Three Bears.





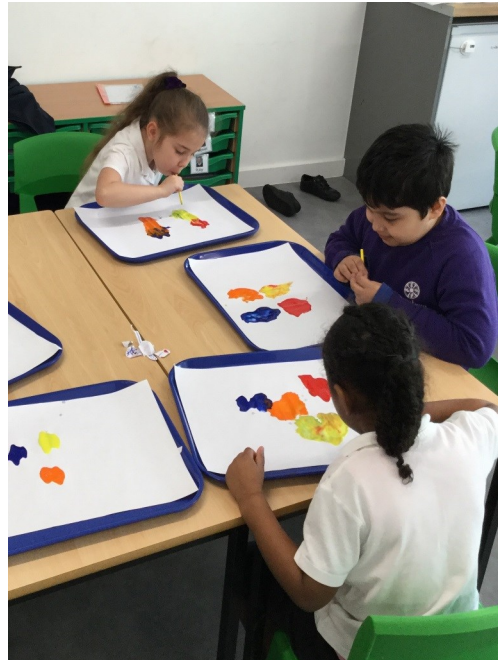
## Atlas Class

This term Atlas Class have enjoyed working on ball skills for invasion games in PE. In art lessons we had lots of fun learning different ways to apply paint and make marks. We have also been learning what adding more of something means in maths, along with directions and prepositions.

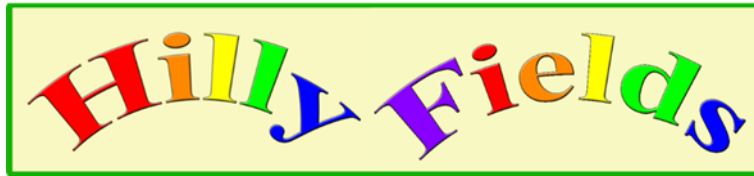


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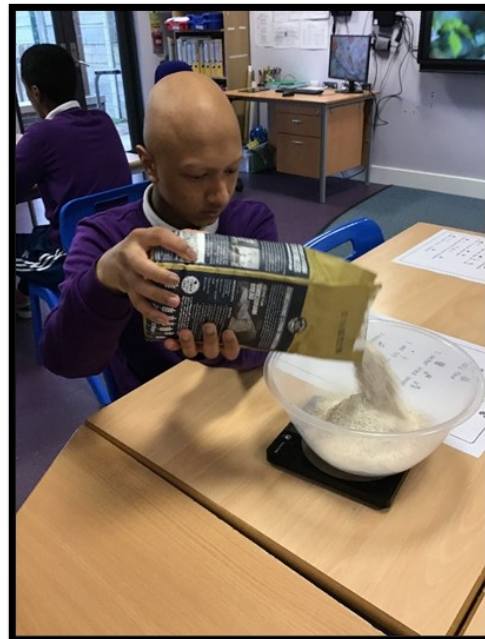








In Hilly Fields we have been learning to make bread.



We weighed out 500g of wholemeal bread flour, added a sachet of yeast.  
Then we added sugar, salt, oil and warm water and kneaded our dough.

We baked our bread in the oven.

It was delicious!



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## Peckham Rye

Peckham Rye class have been experimenting with painting techniques. The students have looked at paintings by Monet, Van Gogh and Rousseau and they created artwork in their style. Here are their paintings of Van Gogh's sunflowers and A starry night. Well done Peckham Rye, everyone worked so carefully and painted some wonderful pictures.



# **Downham Health & Leisure Centre**

## **Intensive Swimming Courses**

**from 17—21 February 2025**

Covers stages from preschool (3 years old) to stage 5

Lesson times:

Preschool	10:00am
Stage 1	10:30am
Stage 2	11:00am
Stage 3	08:30am
Stage 4	09:00am
Stage 5	09:30am

Costs £40 as a one off payment for the course

Lessons can be booked online or in person at reception





## Missed your flu vaccine?

**Live or go to school in the borough of  
Lewisham? Aged 2-19?**

Come down to a flu catch-up clinic and protect  
yourself this winter!

Monday 17 February, 15:30 - 17:00  
Downham Health Centre, BR1 5EP

Tuesday 18 February, 15:30 - 17:00  
Downham Health Centre, BR1 5EP


Wednesday 18 February, 15:30 - 17:00  
Downham Health Centre, BR1 5EP

Saturday 22 February, 10:00 - 14:00  
Downham Health Centre, BR1 5EP

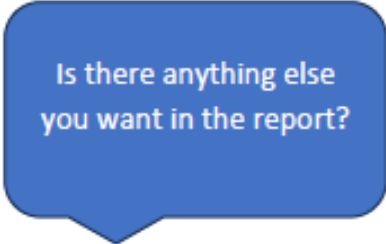
**No appointment necessary.  
Call 020 3903 3635 for more  
information**

**Have you or your child or young person had an appointment with community paediatrics at Kaleidoscope?**


**We would love to hear your views!**



How do you feel about what the report said?



Is there anything else you want in the report?



Is there anything you didn't like in the report?


We need your help to make our clinic reports/letters better! We're planning to make some phone calls and/or have a group chat, but you can also share your thoughts by email.

**Who can help?**

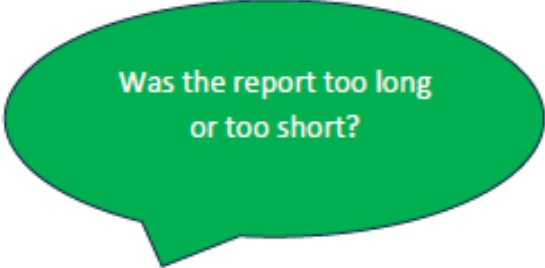
Parents or carers of a child or young person aged 0-19, or the young person themselves, who have had an appointment with community paediatrics and received a report or letter after the visit.

**How can you help?**


Email us if you want to take part at [lg.communitypaediatricsecretaries@nhs.net](mailto:lg.communitypaediatricsecretaries@nhs.net). Let us know if you'd like a phone call, to join the group chat, or just share your thoughts by email. Please let us know the best phone number and times to call.



Could you understand what was written in the report?



Was the report too long or too short?



How could our reports be better?



# AQUA ACTIVE

## Free water based sessions for people with complex needs and disabilities

Enjoy the benefits of the swimming pool with four FREE Aqua Active sessions for children, young people and adults\* with complex needs and disabilities.

- Changing Places toilet at each site provide access to a hoist and changing bench
- Specialist wheelchairs available so the pools are accessible
- Floatation aids on hand to enhance the experience
- Practice swim moves or just have fun in the water
- 4 x FREE Aqua Active swimming sessions

For more information and to register visit  
[www.mytimeactive.co.uk/aqua-active](http://www.mytimeactive.co.uk/aqua-active)

SCAN TO  
FIND OUT  
MORE



Use your Aqua Active sessions at any programmed general swimming session at either:  
The Pavilion, Kentish Way, Bromley, BR1 3EF or Biggin Hill Pool, Church Road, Biggin Hill TN16 3LB  
[contactcentre@mytimeactive.co.uk](mailto:contactcentre@mytimeactive.co.uk) - 0208 323 1765  
Check the website for general swimming times: [www.mytimeactive.co.uk/swimming](http://www.mytimeactive.co.uk/swimming)



\*Carers go free. Terms and conditions apply.

**aquaactive**  
by mytimeactive



**PLEASE UPDATE YOUR  
CONTACT DETAILS**

**Please ensure that your contact details and address is up to date.  
If you have any changes, please let the office know.**

**NO PARKING  
DO NOT BLOCK  
DRIVEWAY**

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

**do not block residents' drives/  
cars and keep bus lanes clear.**



**Please let your child's teacher  
know if you wish to attend any  
of these clinics.**

## **Toileting Drop-In Clinics (Downham)**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**9.15-10.45am**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**9.15-10.45am**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025**

**9.15-10.45am**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**9.15-10.45am**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**9.15-10.45am**



# **SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES—2024/25**

## **AUTUMN TERM 2024**

**Autumn Term 1**                      **Monday 2 September – INSET DAY**  
**Tuesday 3 September – Pupils first day of term**  
**Friday 4 October – INSET DAY**  
**Friday 25 October – Last day of term**

**Half Term Holiday**                      **Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November**

**Autumn Term 2**                      **Monday 4 November – First day of term**  
**Friday 6 December – INSET DAY**  
**Friday 20 December – Last day of term\***

**Christmas Holiday**                      **Monday 23 December – Friday 3 January**

## **SPRING TERM 2025**

**Spring Term 1**                      **Monday 6 January – First day of term**  
**Friday 14 February – Last day of term**

**Half Term Holiday**                      **Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February**

**Spring Term 2**                      **Monday 24 February – First day of term**  
**Friday 14 March – INSET DAY**  
**Friday 4 April – Last day of term\***

**Easter Holiday**                      **Monday 7 April to Monday 21 April**  
**(Easter weekend 18 – 21 April)**

## **SUMMER TERM 2025**

**Summer Term 1**                      **Tuesday 22 April – First day of term**  
**Monday 5 May – Early May Bank Holiday**  
**Friday 23 May – Last day of term**

**Half Term Holiday**                      **Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May**  
**(Spring Bank Holiday will be taken on 26 May)**

**Summer Term 2**                      **Monday 2 June – First day of term**  
**Friday 4 July – INSET DAY**  
**Tuesday 22 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.*