



DRUMBEAT SCHOOL

Newsletter — Autumn Term 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy start to the term, greeting our new pupils to all three schools and welcoming back our students.

We have had lovely weather for most of the term but it feels like we are getting autumnal weather now. Students have been working hard on their phonics, reading and writing, art skills and their numbers. There have been lots of trips out to enjoy the lovely weather.

We have a new playground in Brockley which students love and we will be getting a new one in Downham at Easter.

We have been celebrating Black History with lots of events and hope to see you at the food festival to enjoy a multi-cultural meal.

Have a lovely break at half term and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Marie Neave
Executive Headteacher

Dates for the Diary....

Friday, 20 October

Last day of term

School will close normal time

Monday, 30 October

INSET DAY

Students will NOT attend school on this day.

Tuesday, 31 October

Students back at school

Flu vaccinations at Downham

Friday, 3 Nov

**Black History Month Celebration
and Food Festival**

Downham from 1:45pm

Friday, 17 November

Children in Need Day

Wear pj's or something spotty

Friday, 8 December

INSET DAY

Students will NOT attend school on this day.

Wednesday, 13 December

Brockley Christmas Show

Thursday, 14 December

Turnham Christmas Show

Wednesday, 20 December

Last day of term

**NO PARKING
DO NOT BLOCK
DRIVEWAY**

Please be mindful when parking outside the school and ensure that local residents' drives are not blocked and bus entrances are kept clear.



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>



School Uniform

Please name all your children's clothing as it is difficult to locate lost clothing without some form of identification.

Our school uniform consists of black trousers/skirt, plain white polo shirt and purple sweatshirt. If you would like to order uniform please visit **www.myclothing.com** and put the school name in the box, this will then take you to our page. The address is also on the school website under 'for parents'.

For swimming your child will need to bring a towel and swimsuit or costume. They will also need shorts and a T-shirt for P.E. lessons. These may be left at school, in a clearly marked bag.

Drumbeat Outreach

We are a team of highly qualified, experienced and neurodiverse specialist teachers and outreach advisers working with children and young people with autism and those with social communication differences in all age ranges and across all educational phases in Lewisham. We are not diagnostic dependent.

We hold tenaciously to the needs of children and young people and put them first every time. We aim to support successful and meaningful inclusion through promoting and celebrating the strengths and supporting needs of the children and young people we work with. We do this through working with parents and carers, teachers and support staff, partners in education, health and social care and most importantly through respectful engagement with young people themselves.

We offer a free service to nurseries and work under service level agreements with schools. We also have an extensive offer for parents and carers including courses, monthly workshops, (offered daytime and evening) eight different drop-in support groups that run twice termly and resources and information on social media including our informative podcast series. You can find all things Drumbeat on the link below.

[Drumbeat Autism Outreach\(drumbeatoutreach\) - Official - Linktree](#)

Drumbeat Outreach has been awarded Autism Accreditation/ Advanced Status by the NAS, through their autism-specific quality assurance programme and has received a Commendation for work supporting children and families.



Drumbeat Chair of Governors Madeleine Gabriel

I became a governor at Drumbeat in 2013 and have been Chair of Governors since 2021. I became interested in special education as neurodiversity is common in my family and my nephew is autistic. As Chair it's a privilege to play a role in running the school and get to know the staff, senior leadership team and pupils.



I live in Eltham and in my day job I'm a director at a national charity working on sustainable energy and climate change. My background is as a researcher, so I can bring skills in data analysis to the governing board. Outside of work I'm a keen runner and have just signed up for my first marathon!



Kangaroo Class

Kangaroo class have done an amazing job settling in at Drumbeat and we cannot believe that they have only been with us for 1 half term. We have been having lots of fun whilst we have been learning and getting to know each other and cannot wait for another exciting half term.



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Kangaroo class team would like to thank all the parents for such a smooth transition in to EYFS and for all your support so far. We are looking forward to sharing lots more lovely photos with you all, showing all the children's progress and achievements throughout the school year.



Dolphin Class News

We have had a fantastic start to the new term and are all enjoying being a part of Dolphin Class. This term our topic has been 'In and Around London' and we are planning a class trip to Greenwich Maritime Museum.

In class we have been working on developing our communication skills through the use of visuals such as communication boards, Makaton signing and PECS. We have also been going Forest school each week which we love as we all really love the outdoors in Dolphin class and we have also been participating in weekly walks. After half term we will be continuing to learn about London and we will be planning where we will be going on our Christmas trip.





Crocodile Class News

The children have settled into Reception so well and are already getting used to the class routine. We are so proud of them! The children have explored their new environment with curiosity and enthusiasm, showing great engagement.

This term, as well as settling the children with all their favourite toys, we have been looking at our topic 'food'. We have been using food in different ways, including to make faces, to write with and sensory play.



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

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From the Crocodiles team and I, we wish you a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 31st October.

Seahorse Class Newsletter



Wow the last 7 weeks have gone so fast! All the children in Seahorse Class are now used to the routines and expectations in the classroom and we have had so much fun!



The children have all made great progress towards their learning map targets. In addition to their learning maps, we have been celebrating Black History Month. We have enjoyed exploring Jessica Ennis-Hill as our person of interest and we made our own gold medals after taking part in a special Seahorse's heptathlon! We are really looking forward to the Celebration Food Festival on the 3rd November and a visit from a storyteller who is going to read us 'A is for Africa'. The children have been enjoying swimming lessons, learning about travel in London in topic and thinking about relationships and trusted adults in RSE. We have also celebrated 2 birthdays! As you can see, it's been a jam packed 7 weeks!

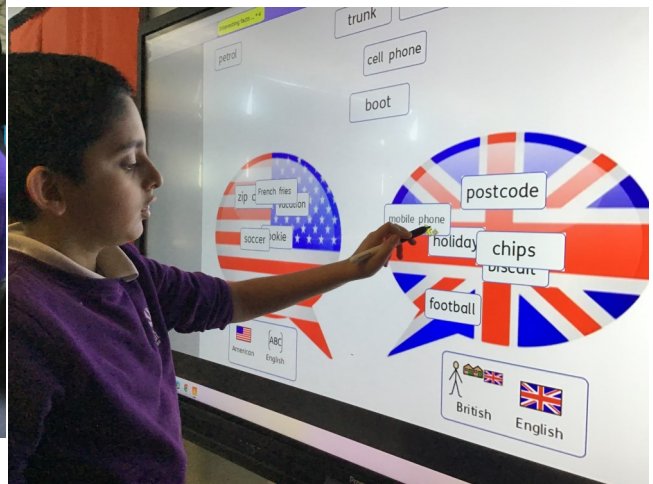
As always, please ensure you are checking your child's home contact book daily.

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

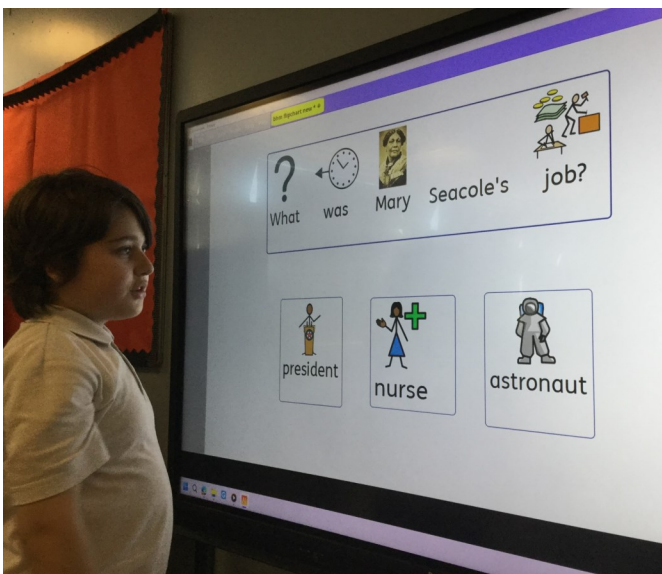
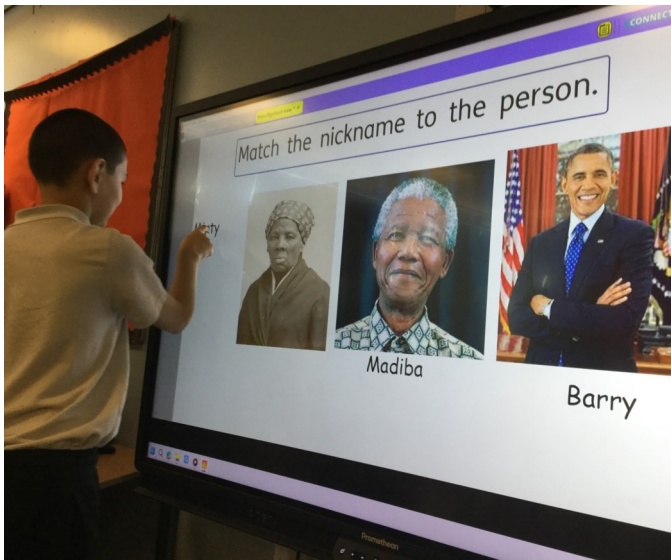
Have a restful half term! Shauna and the Seahorse's team.

Lancelot Class

Hello from Lancelot class! It's been a busy and fun half term. As part of our topic work, the students enjoyed learning about different cultures and comparing them with their own. They also learnt about some prominent black people from the past and present, when engaging in the Black history month activities. We are looking forward to our trip to the Royal Naval college where we will be learning about the first black sailors of the 18th century Greenwich. The students enjoy the weekly pet therapy sessions, and they love interacting with Flo, the dog. Everyone is working hard on their targets and lots of progress is being made across the curriculum. We did lots of dancing and craft activities in class this term, and everyone had lots of fun. Have a lovely half term break!



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These sessions are for deaf, disabled and neurodivergent young people aged between 6-16 and will be adapted to all needs of the group. All abilities/disabilities welcome!

Please find further in the attached flyer and information below:

- When: Tuesdays
- Where: Lewisham CommUNITY Space, Lewisham Shopping Centre, Molesworth Street, London, SE13 7HB. Inside, in front of the H&M shop
- Time: 4.30 – 5.30pm
- Age: 6 – 16
- Cost: FREE

Register:

www.planethoop.co.uk/book-online

To book onto this class, visit the Book Online page on www.planethoop.co.uk/book-online. Scroll down, select the Inclusive Hula Hoop Sessions, choose your preferred dates and book it in by filling the **Assessment Form** provided and clicking the booking button.

The Assessment Form must be filled in before attending your first session. The form can be accessed via the booking link above or here: <https://bit.ly/InclusiveHulaHoop>

Inclusive Hula Hoop Sessions, Lewisham



Sign up now:

www.planethoop.co.uk/book-online

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.*