

24th October 2025

Dear Parents & Carers,

Today, we bring our eight-week autumn 1 half-term, the longest half-term of the year, to a close and look forward to a well-deserved break for all, children and adults alike!

Before going any further, I would like to clarify that we return to school on **Monday 3rd November at 8:45am.**

As we bring the half-term to a close and pause for reflection, it's been a **tremendous start to the year** with us sharing our school development priorities with you; hosting a successful school improvement (SIP) 1 visit; conducting our first local school committee governors' meeting of the year; the Daubeney Village PCTA hosting a welcome event for our new Reception parents; school council elections have been concluded; pupil progress reviews have been administered; subject leader action plans have been submitted, this is in addition to Daubeney being featured in the Love Hackney magazine in both September and October! It has certainly been an action packed and busy half-term where our curriculum focus has been on becoming 'Intrepid Explorers' for our geography teaching and learning! In our usual fashion, I encourage you to visit our highlights page to look back at some of the wonderful learning experiences our children receive here at Daubeney. <https://www.daubeney.hackney.sch.uk/highlights>

For the final time this half-term, please find below our Golden Expectation and word of the week, to facilitate those home learning conversations.

Golden Expectation: **Listen respectfully and follow instructions**

Word of the Week: **Community**

As we break today for the autumn half-term, as mentioned previously, you may want to encourage your child(ren) to enter the **BBC's 500 Words competition**. Their website has lots of resources and inspiration to help children write a short story. They will need to submit their story online so they will need an adult at home to help them. The deadline is Friday 7th November.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

During the half-term, if you've not done so already, we'd like you to take the time to secure your **Parent Consultation** appointment as the booking platform is now open. Our parent consultations are scheduled for **Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th November** (3:30pm – 6pm). Access the link below to secure your appointment. <https://www.daubeney.hackney.sch.uk/appointments/event?id=16>

For the final time, we implore our **Y6 families**, to submit their secondary applications, if not done already, as the deadline for **Secondary Transfer Applications** is **31 October 2025**.

Parents must complete an online application via this hyper-link <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/>

Further details about the process can be found in the link below.

<https://education.hackney.gov.uk/content/secondary-before-you-apply?guidebook=189>

As previously mentioned, we'd like to encourage both our **Y5 & 6** parents to secure their child's **residential** space and afford time for payments to be made without causing a financial strain by paying in small instalments over the year rather than paying a large lump sum.

<https://www.daubeney.hackney.sch.uk/viewer/1058#sitelive-viewer/>

Looking back on the week, it started rather wet and miserably on Monday. However, that did not detract from the engagement our KS2 pupils had with their **Black History Month (BHM) workshops**. Nor did it deter our former, now y7 pupils, returning to spend the day in their former school with their former teachers and peers. I think this says a lot about our Daubeney family ethos. Similarly, a lot can be said for the ethos of our **Daubeney Village PCTA Grounds Group** members who met on site at 8pm to generate ideas to make our Hop Garden, and grounds in general, a place that our community can access and engage with more as a community.

Tuesday was a standard teaching and learning day, if you consider having **Arsenal Football Club** delivering lessons at school standard teaching and learning. Arsenal Football Club are working with us to transform the lives of young people through a variety of projects funded through The Arsenal Foundation. The Arsenal Foundation is a fundraising and grant-making organisation designed to grow the reach and effect of the programmes the club supports to help an increasing number of young people across the globe fulfil their potential and help their communities thrive. To learn more about this initiative access the link

www.arsenal.com/thearsenalfoundation

Wednesday passed by relatively quietly, whereas on Thursday it was our whole school **Intrepid Explorers WOW day** and our KSI pupils also had the opportunity to enjoy a drumming workshop as part of our BHM programme. Below is a reminder of the topics covered this half-term in geography.

Year Group	Geography topic
Year 1	Me and My World -The local area
Year 2	Hot and Cold
Year 3	Rainforests
Year 4	Earthquakes
Year 5	Mountains
Year 6	The UK

Friday brought the week to a close in the usual manner of our celebratory **Golden Achievers' assembly** and celebrating some of our wonderful students alongside their family. And not only does today conclude the autumn 1 half-term, today also marks the **1st anniversary** of the opening of our, **Da Café**. I must say a massive thank you to everyone who has supported the café by volunteering their time to work in the café or for spending their money in the café with the knowledge that all profits go to the school which will afford us the funds to purchase those 'little extras'.

As we now prepare ourselves for the holiday, I know many of you will be thinking how to occupy your little ones. Below are some **suggested half-term activities** or links that will provide information you may find useful during the half-term.



Many of you may want to **visit the library** this half-term, access the link below to find out more about 'Comic Creators Club', 'Rymes & Stories' or writing workshops with Sara Nisha Adams.

<https://www.lovehackney.uk/hackney-central-library>

Whilst at the library you may want to borrow some books that are being promoted by our **Junior literacy team** which can be found on our reading road maps. <https://www.iels.org/reading-road-map/sl63/>

If your child enjoys engaging with art, they may want to take part in an exciting **creative challenge**: designing a logo for **London: City of Languages**, a new initiative celebrating the rich diversity of languages spoken across our city. The winning design will be featured on official materials and the website, with all participants receiving a certificate. Selected entries will also appear in an online gallery.

Deadline for submissions is Tuesday 4th November (please submit to Ms Sara after the holiday)

Format: Original hand-drawn or digital designs in a square layout

This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to showcase their creativity and celebrate the multilingual spirit of London!

As it will be the **final week of BHM**, you may want to visit some of the locations within Hackney that are celebrating BHM. [Black History 365 Events — Love Hackney](#)

For those who don't mind venturing beyond the borders of Hackney, why not visit the **National Portrait Gallery** to learn about women from Hackney who have changed the world!

<https://www.nelondoner.co.uk/news/26092025-national-portrait-gallery-recognises-hackney-women-for-their-contribution-to-the-community>

If the above is not quite up your street, you may want to explore the **Hackney 10x10 activities resources** via the link below if you'd like to engage in exercise, have a musical experience, learn to swim, take part in drama and performing arts or experience museums, theatres, galleries and heritage sites.

[10x10 resources for families and carers | Hackney Education](#)

As we bring this week's letter to a close, please do have lots of fun, as all work and no play makes for a dull child (and adult)! But whatever you do, **be safe**, whether in the real or online world.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 3rd November for what will be an even more action-packed half-term than this!

Yours sincerely,



Mr Gregory Logan
Head of School



Robin Warren
Executive Head Teacher

