Daubeney Primary School
Spring School Development Newsletter

What's this all about?

Welcome to the second edition of our School Development Newsletters for the year.
The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you, our parents and the wider community, informed of our progress against our School Development Priorities (SDP's) and other successes that we enjoy as a school community.

We hope that you find this newsletter informative. However, if you have any questions about our SDP's or our school improvement journey, please feel free to strike up a conversation with SLT, you know where to find us every morning and afternoon at the gates, or email your query to admin@daubeney.hackney.sch.uk



Our School Development Priorities (SDP's)

1. Continue to improve outcomes for the lowest attaining pupils (30%) across all core subjects.

2. Establish a library/learning resource centre to further enhance curriculum development.

3. Continue the development of leadership at all levels.

4. To develop the oracy skills of pupils to enhance their critical thinking, justification and explanation of ideas across the curriculum.

5. To further improve writing outcomes.

Leadership and Management



Mr Logan

The 12 weeks of the Spring term have absolutely flown by! There has been lots happening here at Daubeney from a leadership and management point of view, as always! The Spring 1 half-term had us focus on our Design & Technolgy curriculum under the guise of, 'Beautiful or Useful?' This was led by Ms Payne after taking on the role of Creativity Lead at the start of the Spring term. You can read a bit more about Creativity here at Daubeney by reading the section below on Creative Arts. The Spring 2 half-term was focused on our geography curriculum under the guise of, 'Intrepid Explorers'. You can read more about this in the section below on Anthropology which is led by the inimitable Ms Phillips.



In addition to the leadership and management of the curriculum, you'll be glad to know that our School Developemnt Priority 3 (SDP3), which is, 'continue the development of leadership at all levels' is certainly bearing fruit! As we sit today Mr Warren has successfully completed his National Professional Qualification (NPQ) in Executive Headship (NPQEH). Mr Logan's assessment window for his NPQH opens on 1st April for him to complete his assignment and secure his accreditation, should he pass! Our Deputy Head, Mr Dharma, has recently embarked on the start of his NPQH and we look forward to him successfully completing his course in approximately 18 months' time. Ms Bibi, one of our two assistant head teachers, has secured her NPQ for her Early Years leadership (NPQEYL). Our second assistant head teacher, Ms Gustave, has also secured her NPQ for senior leadership (NPQSL). In a similar manner, Ms Lester, our Teaching & Learning Lead as well as our literacy lead, has secured her NPQLT (Lead Teacher) accreditation. The same is true for Ms Cheung who as our maths lead has also secured her NPQLT.



There is also much growth and development for our governors and pupils to be celebrated too. For our governors this would have to be described qualitatively rather than quantitatively. Focusing on our SDP1 which certainly aligns with quantitative data, by reading the various sections below you will see how we are progressing on improving the academic outcomes for our lowest attaining pupils (30%) by working alongside parents and community partners to improve pupil outcomes.

By now I think everyone has had the opportunity to see our library. We are very happy as to how the library now features as part of our everyday practice and how this fits into our culture as a school which promotes reading for pleasure and being life-long learners!

Our SDP4 target is another area that we are proud of. We have seen that our introduction of Drawing Club has supported both the writing skills of our reception pupils but also helped to develop their oracy (verbal communication) skills which features very strongly as part of the EYFS curriculum. Needless to say, our debate of the week feature has brought on the oracy skills of our KS2 pupils in leaps and bounds in terms of formal debating. I can't wait for inter-federation debates and to form a Federation Debate team that can compete locally and nationally in time to come.

I think all the above implies that we are doing well against our SDP targets, and we look forward to seeing what our statutory test results look like to see if we can amend our SDP1 target to focus on our lowest attaining 25% of pupils next year!

Maths



Miss Cheung

From Numbers Day to CPD for teachers, we have had another busy term in the maths world! It has been a pleasure to see everyone embrace their love for maths in so many ways. We kicked the half term off with a trip to Guildhall in the City of London with 4 excellent mathematicians (Jeremy, Wyn, Rumaisa and Cason) from Year 5. We were lucky enough to be one of the 30 schools in London to secure a spot at the Maths Challenge led by a group of secondary pupils from Christ's Hospital. They took part in 5 timed challenges that tested their number knowledge and spatial understanding. Although neither of our pairs placed top 3, we are still immensely proud of their hard work and effort put into the day.

I'm sure that NSPCC Numbers Day 2025 will be a standout in my mind for a long while, at least until the next one. I was immensely impressed with the level of effort and creativity that the children of Daubeney put into their outfits for Numbers Day (although it isn't a competition, I am almost certain that we had better costumes on Numbers Day than on World Book Day). From number hats to dice costumes and even a life-sized times table test, I loved seeing it all. Thank you for all the support from all the parents and carers this Numbers Day, whether it be helping with putting a costume together or for bringing in a £1 donation.



If you don't already know, two of our year groups are preparing for some statutory assessments that will take place in the summer term. In May, we will be having our KS2 SATS for our Year 6 pupils and in June, Year 4 pupils will sit their Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). Year 6 are preparing for their SATS in a variety of ways. Miss Aneta (maths specialist) holds morning boosters 3 days a week before school and afternoon interventions during the afternoon lesson 5 days a week. Miss Kepha, Miss Gedny and Miss Aneta have also begun their Saturday School sessions that started in Week 3 of the Spring 2 half term, where teachers focus on a variety of test taking skills as well as revising all the topics that may feature on the assessments. Saturday School will take a break over the Easter holidays and continue in the lead up to SATS week. The Year 4 children are also preparing for their assessments by practising their times tables daily in class and at home through a variety of online tools, for example Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS). The Year 4 teachers and I have also been testing the children regularly, not only to track their progress but also to acclimate them to the MTC interface through the website "URBrainy", which most closely mimics the interface of the government MTC website that the children will ultimately complete their assessment on.



Finally, an update on one of other priorities for the year, specialised maths training for our EYFS team through London North East Maths Hub, one of the 40 Maths Hubs that serves all the regions in England. Since the last SDP Newsletter from Autumn term, Miss Payne and I have attended 2 more sessions led by a EYFS maths specialist where we have been able to discuss, share and learn ways to improve maths for our youngest pupils. One of the most successful changes we have implemented is incorporating maths into daily routines. The reception teachers have always given Dojo points to pupils to promote good learning and excellent behaviour, but to "mathematize" this task, the teachers now reward pupils when they get 10 Dojo points and resets that pupil's points once reached. This means that children in reception are regularly working on their number bonds to 10 and proud voices announcing "I have 7 Dojos, that means I need 3 more" are often heard ringing throughout the reception classrooms. Another successful change has been through "mathematizing" tidying up. A simple task of requiring a set number of specific objects placed into their labelled containers, for example 10 pencils in a pot or 5 scissors in a cup, has meant that children are practising counting and finding out how many more of the object is needed. To ensure that the entire EYFS team benefits from the excellent training, I led a CPD just for the EYFS team this half term where successes were shared and ideas on how to implement these changes into the other reception class and nursery were discussed. At the time of writing, Miss Payne and I are preparing to go on our fourth session, which will be a visit to a nursery in Ilford, where we will hopefully be inspired to make more positive changes in EYFS maths.



Science



Miss Kepha

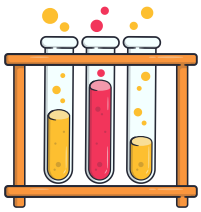
The highlight of this spring term was British Science Week. This year's theme was 'Adapt and Change' the children enjoyed various science workshops where Reception, year 1 and 2 had a fantastic assembly, followed by the Year 3 and 4 who learnt about great gasses, while years 5 and 6 learnt about states of matter (and even attempted to make ice-cream). The children had the opportunity to explore different hypothesis and the functions of dry ice.

Year 2 Aside from science week, Year 2 have also been investigating 'what does a plant need to grow and stay healthy?' They planted seeds and observed it over time. Through observation, they identified that plants which had sunlight, water, nutrients and space to thrived, while the plants without sunlight grew quicker but had weak stems and tiny leaves.



Year 3 discovered how shadows are made and investigated how changing the direction of an object or the material can affect the nature and shape of the shadow. The children then created shadow puppets in preparation for a shadow puppet performance. Working scientifically, children investigated and recognised that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by an opaque object.







Year 4 This spring term, Year 4 have been learning about electricity and sound. Working in groups they used the different components to construct different types of circuits. They also tried out pieces of foil to see if they would work instead of using wires because as they discovered, foil is a conductor of electricity. They also learnt about sources of sound and how to distinguish between natural sounds and man made sounds and to recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.

Year 5: Amongst other fantastic learning, this spring term, and the science week experience, year 5 had a great opportunity of visiting Cardinal Pole secondary school where they had the opportunity to use a science lab to carry out a Bunsen burner experiment using different metals!



Literacy



Miss Lester

It's been an exciting term for Literacy at Daubeney. We kicked off Spring 1 with our Whole School Book Fortnight which was based on the wordless picture book 'The Midnight Fair' by Gideon Sterer. Children from Reception to Year 6 were inspired and enjoyed using the story as a stimulus for their own creative writing. This term we also celebrated World Book Day! It was a great opportunity to promote reading for pleasure across the school as there were assemblies, dressing up, book recommendations, reading activities and the book fair.



Improving outcomes in writing continues to be a focus this term. We started Spring 2 with another whole school writing moderation using the short animations 'Marshmallows' for Years 1-3 and 'The Black Hole' for Year 4-6. Children were able to apply writing skills that they had learned in the Autumn Term and showed great progress. The children were given individual targets for the term which have been made explicit to them so that they can continue to take ownership of their writing as they know exactly what they need to do to improve further. We also took part in the Hackney Education Writing Benchmarking where teachers had the opportunity to discuss and moderate writing with other teachers in the borough to ensure that their judgments were secure.

Our Years 3 and 5 are working with the CLPE and National Theatre on the Power of Play project which aims to improve children's writing outcomes through drama. The teachers have attended CPD sessions and have incorporated drama techniques into their writing lessons to help the children generate ideas and develop vocabulary. The children have enjoyed doing fun role play activities in their lessons and this has had a positive impact on their writing.



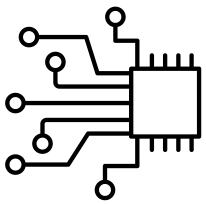
IT



Mr Power

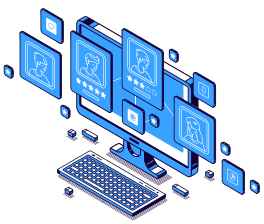
New computing trolleys have been purchased and set up in two locations around the school – Year 6 trolley is next on the list. These trolleys will be full, have devices assigned to them and improve monitoring and safeguarding procedures as well as lesson resourcing.
Senso monitoring software will be rolled out in the summer term for all devices. This will allow DSLs to be aware when inappropriate use of IT has taken place and know which children are involved.

Purple Mash is set up across the school so that as computing lead can I track and assess learning. Teachers have had CPD and support fromME in the use of purple mash for their classes as well as online safety and lesson resourcing. Y4 and Y5 MicroBit coding workshop sessions have taken place with myself. This has given pupils exposure to physical programming and teachers have now had training on using the MicroBit hardware and classroom software, to continue this once MicroBits are used across KS2.









Creative Arts



Miss Payne

I have had a wonderful first term as Creative Lead! This term, the children of Daubeney have transformed into wonderful and creative designers through our Design and Technology lessons. We have seen Year 1 design a chair for a bear, Year 2 design their own cars, Year 3 design dragons using linkages and levers, Year 4 design board games, Year 5 design working wells and Year 6 design their own shelters. The children have worked hard all term to bring their ideas to life! Check out the Creative Hub webpage to have a look (see QR code below).



Spring welcomed the first edition of 'ColourWave' - the new school magazine that will be published termly. The children have enjoyed creating artwork to feature in the magazine, as well as learning about local artists and creative projects they can do at home! Scan the QR code to have a look through ColourWave.

This term, I have loved looking through children's entries for the numerous amounts of Art Competitions including Football Boot design and Arts Mark.

Looking toward Summer term (yay, sun!), we have many exciting events coming up! We have an art exhibition planned to show off the entirety of the school's creative talent, we have even more competitions and new editions of ColourWave.

Miss Payne







Check out our Creative Hub!

Creative Hub - Daubeney Primary School

Sustainability



Miss Gedny

What a wonderful start to Sustainability Lead I have had this term! With wonderful weather creeping in we have really made the most of our growing and thriving Hop Garden. With the help of OPAL lead Ms Bibi our children are now able to explore and get involved in the Hop Garden during their lunch breaks.

This responsibility has been wonderful to see and really shows the positive impact being out in nature has on all our children.
Jules Kirby has helped to further enrich our outdoor space with frogspawn in our pond. Many conversations and interactions of joy and anticipation have been had as we have seen the frogspawn evolve into tadpoles!





A community call-out for houseplants (thank you again Jules!) has gone out and we hope to have each classroom with a range of houseplants – bringing the outside in! Our newly formed ECO Warriors team will further assist with ensuring these plants are well cared for – along with a whole host of other fun and exciting responsibilities within the school. Keep an eye out for more from these Warriors over the coming months!

Anthropology and RE



Miss Phillips

Spring two started with a bang as we jumped into our second Geography topic of the year. Mapping skills Day was a success as usual, allowing our children to immerse themselves in the topics we were learning and develop the skills needed to be good geographers. Follow the link to have a look at some of the highlights of Mapping Day across the school.

The Year groups are learning about:
Year 1 – The Wider World
Year 2 – Australia
Year 3 – Volcano
Year 4 – Rivers
Year 5 – Europe (Turkey)
Year 6 – Climate Zones & Biomes





It's a popular one with the classes enjoying lots of discussions and hands-on activities. Make sure to ask your child all about it!

The Junior Team ran a competition this month. They encouraged the children to make a poster inspired by festivals celebrated throughout the year by different Religions for the Hackney RE Calendar. We were delighted with how many we received and are looking forward to finding out if there are any winners!



Inclusion



Mr Dharma

Welcome to SEND and Inclusion. It's been an absolutely wonderful spring term with so many exciting and inspiring opportunities for inclusion at Daubeney. Our Junior SEND Team has been meeting each week with exciting news on how they have supported pupils: with reading; completing their learning tasks and also being a friendly listening ear to any peer who needs it. The team continue to ensure that visual displays, supporting the adaptive teaching and learning within the classroom, are monitored and kept up to date and fit for purpose. Meeting with the Junior SEND Team is, undoubtedly one of the highlights of my week.





Over the last couple of weeks, the team have been engaged in an interesting discussion on whether it is important for a child to know about a condition that they may be affected by e.g., Autism, Dyslexia, ADHD. Interestingly, all members of the team felt pupils should know about their condition so they can learn more about it and how to get support. This is quite different to what many parents feel on the same question. Let us know your thoughts.

Celebrating Autism Acceptance Week, during the last week of spring term, is always a fun filled week with lots of opportunities to learn about Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) and consider how it may affect the 700,000 people in the UK, who have been diagnosed with Autism. The week will culminate in a uniform-free dress up day, where pupils get to express themselves! Please do look out for photos on our school Instagram account @daubeneyhackney.

Music



Mr Brian

Daubeney Music Department Shines!

A Prestigious Award

The Daubeney Music Department and Noah (Year 4) have received an award from the Mayor of Hackney, Caroline Woodley! Mr. Logan, Mr. Brian, and Noah accepted a certificate and a £2,700 bursary at the Hackney Empire. Most of this will go towards new violins for the school.

Music at Daubeney

Preparations for our Marley in the Park concert are underway, celebrating Bob Marley's legacy. Songwriting is thriving, with Raeann (Year 4) showcasing her original songs in singing assemblies.

LSO Collaboration

Our partnership with The London Symphony Orchestra continues! We are studying Olivier Messiaen's abstract music and recently welcomed two LSO musicians to perform our own original piece





PE



Mr Simon

PE was amazing this term. It was filled with young Hackney events which included Personal Best and a SEND festival at Eastway Hub. For PE this term we played dodgeball: the children's favourite sport. The energy was fantastic and intense and most importantly they all improved their catching and throwing skills. After Easter, we will be focusing on basketball for KS2 and KS1 will be focusing on improving and developing gross motor skills in athletics.

After half-term, some children will be taking part in the 'Hackney Run' on Saturday 17th May, in which we take part in each year. The children and staff are looking forward to this event. We also look forward to our Sports Days, so keep an eye out for dates!





Spanish



Miss Alonso

¡Hola familias! What a busy and exciting term it has been for all things español! Here's a sneak peek at what each year group has been working on:

EYFS: Pupils revisited key concepts and continued to build their foundational language skills. They practised greetings and well-being related words, learnt the names of body parts, and explored fruit vocabulary in a fun and engaging way.

Year 1: Pupils focused on animals and adjectives, including colours, to describe them. They've been getting creative with their language skills, making learning both fun and colourful!

Year 2: In Year 2, pupils built on their language skills and started using more complex vocabulary and structures. They described animals in more detail, using creative adjectives to make their stories even more interesting!

Year 3: This term, Year 3 students have been learning Science and Geography through Spanish! Our Content and Language Integrated Learning approach, helps them strengthen their knowledge in both subjects while improving their Spanish skills.

Year 4: The focus this term was on food and culture. We explored the work of Hispanic artists, including Pablo Picasso, Wilfredo Lam, Salvador Dalí or Frida Khalo. We learnt how to describe a painting from the impressionist artist Joaquín Sorolla.

Year 5: Year 5 pupils learnt how to use high frequency words to describe cities and had the opportunity to revisit Geography content and vocabulary, as they learnt about Tenerife's volcano, el Teide.

Year 6: Year 6 pupils had the opportunity to master how to order food in a restaurant in Spanish, as well as learning about Spain's delicious local dishes. They've also practised using the future tense in their speaking and writing when talking about holidays and future plans.



Pupils had a blast with hands-on activities, games, and role plays that bring their Spanish learning to life. From singing songs to acting out real-life situations like ordering food in a restaurant, our pupils are not only learning the language but also developing a deeper appreciation for the Hispanic culture. It's been a fantastic term, and we can't wait for all the exciting adventures ahead in the next few weeks!

At the end of this term, five Year 5 pupils had the opportunity to visit our partner school in Tenerife and benefit from full language immersion. See link below to see our adventures!

I had the opportunity to speak at the annual Language World conference and share some of the learning experiences that took place at Daubeney with more than 400 language leads across the country.

Tenerife adventures II - Daubeney Primary School





OPAL



Miss Bibi

We are continuing to ask for donations of toys you are not using anymore, to make our playtimes even greater! These donations could be old storage, furniture, small world toys, dress up costumes or anything similar. We ask for these donations to be handed into the main office. We have delivered three OPAL stay and play sessions. Many children and families took part in the sari challenge. We are adding tools and equipment to the Hop Garden. Junior OPAL team support children from the younger years to walk over to the hop garden during lunch play, so they can access it too.





PSCHE

This term our topic of learning has been "Dreams and Goals" and "Healthy Me". Our Mental Health School Practitioner (MHST) Tobi has been working with year 4 building self-esteem. During Spring one, children celebrated mental health week. The whole school took part in mental health and wellbeing workshops. We ended the week with "Dress to Express yourself day". During Spring two, the JMHT are working on mindful shelters for KS1 and KS2 playgrounds.





EYFS

Nursery is getting very busy with many pupils joining us now and after the Easter break. Gentle reminder, we have a Saturday Nursery Fun Day 26th April, this event is for children aged 2-7 years old only. As we draw closer to the end of term, we want to thank all our lovely parents, who have continuously supported Daily Supported Reading (DSR) in Reception. We are only able to do this because of the support offered by parents.

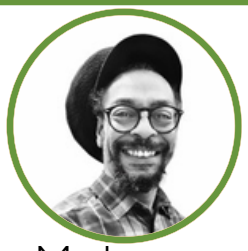




In Year 1, each morning, the children look forward to participating in their daily phonics sessions and reading in a small group with an adult. Many of our Year 1 children take part in the "Gift of Reading", reading with additional adults around school. Year 1 children are continuing with the integrated learning model. The classrooms look amazing, with stimulating, child centered displays and the integrated learning model supports our children to learn through play. The children have had the opportunity to participate in teacher-led activities and have been able to apply their learning in planned independent activities.



Community



Mr Logan

This term our community cafe continues to be a valued asset. Thank you to those who have volunteered their time to support this endeavor, even if it is for only one session per week, it is very much appreciated! Here at Daubeney, we are very proud of the way that our parents are genuinely our partners in what we do. We have several parents who are key members of our governing board and who by fulfilling their roles contribute significantly to the culture of the school, and by the nature of their roles are developing their leadership skills which will benefit them personally, but we also benefit collectively as a school from their knowledge, skills and expertise.



There have also been two Daubeney Village PCTA meetings this term which has really helped to focus and re-energize the group. We look hosted an Eid Party to bring the Spring Term to a close and to demonstrate our eagerness for all members of our community to have a sense of belonging. In this vein, we have this term hosted our first Black and Global Majority Parent Group (B&GMPG). The desire is that this will afford all members of our school community a platform for their voice to be heard. The group will liaise very closely with the main PCTA to ensure greater representation at all events and liaise closely with Mr. Logan to reduce the disparity in pupil outcomes, over time.

The community has also potentially secured us a Climate Ambassador which will support us with our sustainability initiatives as we move forward with all things green at Daubeney.

We look forward to an event filled summer term starting with our VE Day Street party in May. Keep your eyes peeled for more information about this after the Easter break.

Save the dates

Wednesday 23rd April - School open
Thursday 24th April - Federation football tournament
Monday 5th May - Bank Holiday (School closed)
Tuesday 6th May - Year 5 Kiwi visit IntoUniveristy
Wednesday 7th May - Year 5 Robin visit IntoUniversity
Thursday 8th May - VE Day
Friday 9th May - Residential meeting @ 3.45pm (KS1 Hall)
Monday 12th - Thursday 15th May - KS2 SATs
Tuesday 13th May - Ducklings visit Hackney School of Food @ 9.30am
Wednesday 14th May - Parent Workshop - Art @ 3.45 (KS1 hall)
Thursday 15th May - RE Day
Friday 16th May - Year 5 Kiwi visit Hackney School of Food
Saturday 17th May - Hackney Run
Monday 19th May - Whole school Art Exhibition Rec/KS1 @ 3.45pm (KS1 Hall)
Monday 19th May - Maths team visit Museum of Brands
Tuesday 20th May - Cygnets visit Hackney School of Food @ 12.30pm
Tuesday 20th May - Whole school Art Exhibition KS2 @ 3.45pm (KS1 Hall)
Thursday 22nd May - WOW Day
Thursday 22nd May - Head of School Tea Party
Friday 23rd May - Last day of term
Monday 2nd June - School open
Monday 2nd June - Friday 13th June - Year 4 MTC
Monday 2nd June - Friday 13th June - Year4 Swimming
Monday 2nd June - Year 6 Hawks visit IntoUniversity
Tuesday 3rd June - Year 6 Eagles visit IntoUniversity
Wednesday 4th June - REC Parent workshop 'Getting ready for KS1' @ 9am (KS1 hall)
Monday 9th June - Year 3 Spelling Bee
Tuesday 10th June - Year 4 Spelling Bee
Wednesday 11th June - Year 5 Spelling Bee
Thursday 12th June - Year 6 Spelling Bee
Monday 16th June - Friday 20th June - Residential
Tuesday 17th June - Nursery Sports Day @10am
Tuesday17th June - Nursery Sports Day @ 1.30pm
Tuesday 17th June - REC Parent Workshop 'Sing and Sign' @ 9am (KS1 hall)
Thursday 19th June - KS1 Sports Day - Daubeney Fields @ 9am
Wednesday 25th June - Year 2 Hackney Music Service
Thursday 26th June - Year 6 Hawks perform at The Barbican
Thursday 26th June - Be yourself Day
Friday 27th June - KS2 Sports Day -Daubeney Fields @ 9am
Monday 30th June - Year 4 Nightingales and Hornbills visit IntoUniveristy
Thursday 3rd July - Transition Day
Wednesday 9th July - Whole School Picnic
Thursday 10th July - Head of School Tea Party
Thursday 17th July - WOW Day
Thursday 17th July - It Takes a Village
Friday 18th July - Year 2 graduation
Tuesday 22nd July - Year 6 Graduation
Tuesday 22nd July - Last day of term



Check out the school calendar here!

Calendar and Term Dates - Daubeney Primary School