

Davies Lane Autumn Term News 2025

Maths at Davies Lane

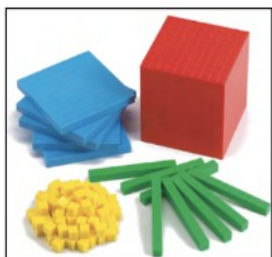
At Davies Lane our goal is that your child will develop a strong mathematical foundation and understand that mathematics is key to every-day life.

We believe every child can thrive in mathematics when curiosity and confidence is allowed to grow side by side. Our approach gives children daily opportunities to explore practical, hands-on activities that make numbers meaningful and fun. As they move through EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, pupils build fluency, strengthen their 'number sense', and develop the confidence to tackle challenges with creativity and enthusiasm. By nurturing this passion early, we help each child see mathematics as a tool for thinking, problem-solving, and lifelong success.

What this looks like in practice

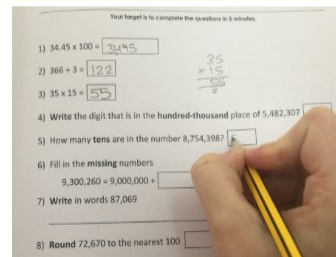
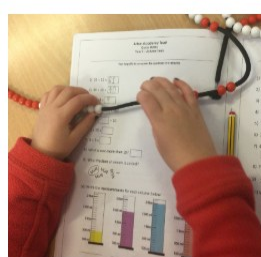
Through carefully structured daily practice, pupils develop mathematical fluency, gaining the confidence to apply their understanding across diverse challenges and everyday experiences.

Each day begins at 8.40am with a short 'Value of Number' session whereby key concepts are explored using concrete apparatus and practical based activities ensuring children really understand the basics of mathematics before moving onto the more abstract concepts.



These practical resources are an excellent multi-sensory tool to show children the patterns evident in number relationships.

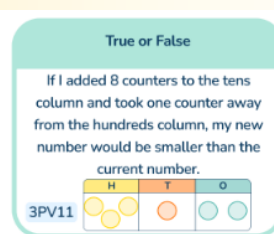
Maths lessons begin with a 5-minute Quick maths session focussing on the four number



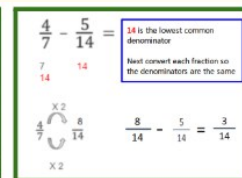
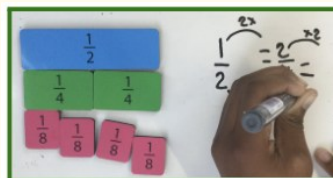
operations using key vocabulary before moving onto the more complex one and two-step problems using the skills of logical thinking. This allows for consolidation of concepts previously introduced.

Next, children complete a meaningful recap of prior learning which helps to reinforce and deepen your child's knowledge through revisiting previously taught topics. This allows the teacher to dispel any misconceptions, monitor and assess making future adaptations.

In the examples below, children are able to test ideas using practical resources formulating a response.



The main part of the lesson presents new learning taught through a series of small steps with worked examples building onto solving challenges involving reasoning.



Inspiring a Love of Learning Through Mathematics

At Davies Lane Primary School, our carefully designed mathematics curriculum inspires every child to “*remember more and know more*” — *building confidence, curiosity, and a lasting love of learning.*

Supporting your child at home doesn't require expert knowledge — just everyday moments that bring numbers to life! Whether it's doubling a recipe, playing a board game, singing counting rhymes, or working out prices while shopping, these real-world experiences help children see that maths is all around them.

Our pupils are not passive learners — they are active thinkers, questioners, and problem-solvers. With encouragement from teachers, families, and our wider school community, Davies Lane children approach challenges with determination and pride. Every success, big or small, fuels their confidence and joy in learning, helping them see that when they persevere, *they truly can achieve anything.*

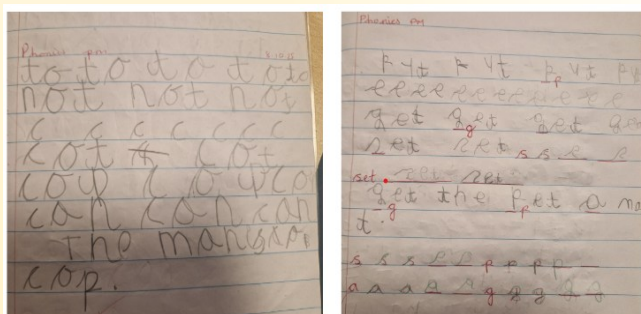
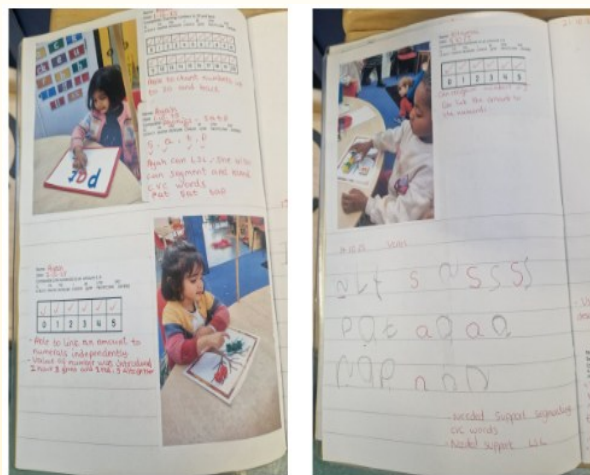
Phonics at Davies Lane

During the Autumn Term, across Early Years and Key Stage 1, children have been taught synthetic systematic Phonics daily following our Bug Club Scheme. These sessions take place twice a day and ensure children progress from exploring sounds to understanding grapheme and phoneme rules. Flashcards, magnetic letters and also phoneme frames are used in supporting children with decoding, blending and segmenting unknown words.

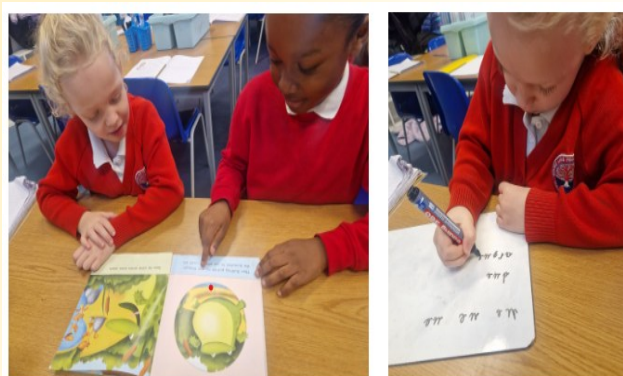
Each Phonics session follows the revisit/ review, teach, practise and apply model. To conclude each session, children apply their new learnt sound by spending time reading decodable books with a partner. To consolidate learning in school and support the progression of Phonics at home, many children take these decodable books home weekly.

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Phonics Coffee morning and thank you to all the parents who have been reading at home with their children regularly. It helps move the

children forward at a faster pace in their Phonics journey.

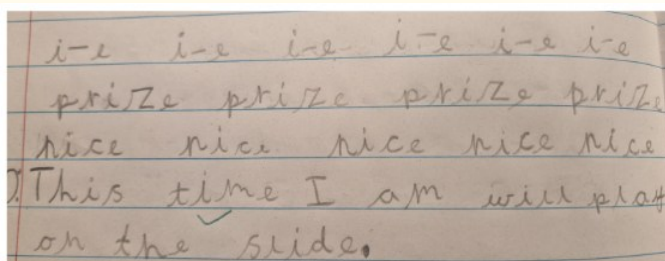


Nursery children have been focusing on forming letters and blending CVC words.



Reception children focused on letter formation and writing on the line.

Year 1 children learnt tricky words. They also read words with 'ue' in them, then practised writing words with their new learnt sound and





Writing at Davies Lane

At Davies Lane Primary, writing is not confined to English lessons — it is a vital skill that is nurtured and celebrated across all areas of the curriculum. Whether pupils are analysing the reliability of sources in History, justifying their opinions in Geography, or evaluating and critiquing in Art, they are encouraged to apply and develop their writing skills to produce thoughtful, high-quality work.

Throughout the year, children learn to write for a range of purposes and audiences, building on their knowledge through the cyclical nature of our curriculum. We know that strong writing grows from a love of reading. By exploring a wide variety of texts across different genres, our pupils gain a deeper understanding of how language works and how they can use it effectively in their own writing.

Already this term, every year group has read at least three key texts. These rich reading experiences have inspired children's own writing — helping them to craft vivid settings and compelling characters in their narratives. Pupils have experimented with language to build atmosphere and have brought their characters to life through purposeful dialogue that reveals personality and moves the story forward.

In addition to narrative writing, children have produced a range of non-fiction pieces, including non-chronological reports, biographies, balanced arguments, and persuasive texts. They have learned to identify the key features of each text type and to choose vocabulary carefully to suit their purpose and audience.

Beyond the classroom, opportunities such as our termly inter-school Debating and Spelling Bee competitions provide further platforms for children to develop as confident communicators. These experiences allow pupils to find their voice — to express ideas, challenge opinions, and articulate thoughts clearly — essential skills that will support them not only throughout their school life but well into the future.

With the long Summer holiday approaching I would encourage you all to join us in promoting this love for reading: take part in our 'Caught Reading' challenge; visit the library and sign up for their Summer Reading Challenge or simply sit down and read your favourite children's book with the family.

Inclusion

This Autumn term has been an engaging and productive time for our school, with a continued emphasis on creating an inclusive environment for all our pupils. Ensuring that every child feels supported, understood, and valued has remained central to everything we do.

We have continued to make important progress in enhancing support for our SEND pupils, who form a significant part of our school community. Our provision for children with speech, language, and autism spectrum needs has grown further this term. Tailored interventions and specialised teaching strategies have been implemented to ensure that all children, regardless of their learning needs, have the opportunity to succeed and thrive.

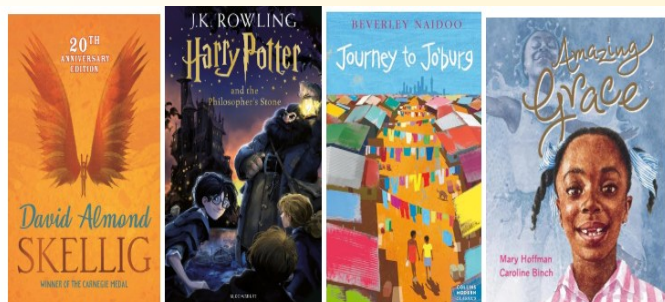
This term, we also welcomed new staff members whose expertise strengthens our support for pupils with high needs, including those with Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs), which are expected to increase over the coming months. These additions have been vital in meeting the challenges of supporting higher-needs pupils, particularly during key transition periods such as mealtimes and playtimes.

Beyond academic support, we have reinforced our commitment to inclusion across the school community. Greater collaboration with parents, improved communication strategies, and a focus on social and emotional well-being have all contributed to ensuring every child feels part of our school family.

It has been inspiring to witness how both staff and pupils have embraced the ethos of inclusion this term. We look forward to building on this progress in the coming term, ensuring that every child continues to flourish.

Reading at Davies Lane

Reading is arguably the most important thing our children will ever learn. It opens up every area of the curriculum and whole new worlds through reading for pleasure. At Davies Lane we begin every day with a shared novel to expand the range of books and stories our children have experienced. These are chosen to challenge and to entertain.



However, as with most skills, there is no substitute for practice in developing and improving ability. We therefore encourage all our children to read daily at home, using their reading journals to keep a track of what they have read.

There are many books the children can choose from in school both to suit and extend their interests. These can be chosen from class book corners or the school library and teachers are happy to give book recommendations.



We are always interested in hearing what our children think of what they have read so are happy for them to pass on recommendations of their own to friends or through writing a book review to display in class or in library areas.

Recently we held the caught reading challenge which had many of our children striving to read as many books as they could between mid September and the end of half term. These competitions both challenge and stimulate the children to be involved with their reading and

find new books and stories to enjoy.

You can help your children by listening to them read and filling in their journal with a comment from you once or twice a week. Please also encourage your children to fill in their own journals so we see what they are reading and praise them for the reading they are doing at home.

Most importantly keep reading and enjoying the huge world that stories and nonfiction books open up for us all.

History in Davies Lane

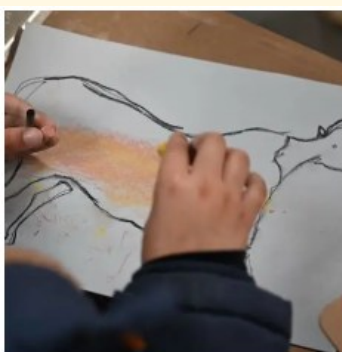
What a fantastic start to the school year we've had! This first half term has been full of fun learning, exciting discoveries, and brilliant history lessons in every year group.

Children across the school have been diving into different periods of history – from exploring ancient civilisations to discovering how people lived in the past. It's been wonderful to see so much curiosity and enthusiasm in the classroom!

Year 3 have been especially excited as they look forward to their upcoming trip



to Celtic Harmony, where they'll step back in time to experience life in the Stone Age! They'll get to try out traditional crafts and also see what Stone Age homes looked like. It's a great way to bring history to life and help them imagine what it was really like thousands of years ago.



more exciting memories.

And it's not just Year 3 getting ready for an adventure – children across the school will be visiting places linked to the topics they've been learning. These trips are going to be a brilliant opportunity to explore the past outside the classroom and make even

Geography at Davies Lane

This half term, children across the school have been developing their geography skills and discovering more about the world we live in. From learning about our local area to exploring faraway places. The classrooms have been full of maps, models, and exciting conversations about places near and far!

Children have been learning to tell the difference between human and physical geography – identifying landmarks, rivers, mountains, and cities – and understanding how people and nature shape the world around us. There's been lots of map-reading, globe-spinning, and even model-making as pupils brought their learning to life in creative ways.



A highlight has been the brilliant models made by some of our younger geographers, who recreated famous London landmarks to show what they've learned. Their attention to detail and creativity have been amazing!

This term's French challenge has added an international twist to our geography learning, too. Children have been researching France – from its cities and landscapes to its famous landmarks. Many had great fun designing and building their own versions of the Eiffel Tower, combining geography with language learning and creativity.



It's been a fantastic start to the year, and we're proud of how curious and engaged the children have been. With more fieldwork, trips, and exciting projects planned for the rest of the year, there's a lot more of the world to explore – and we can't wait!

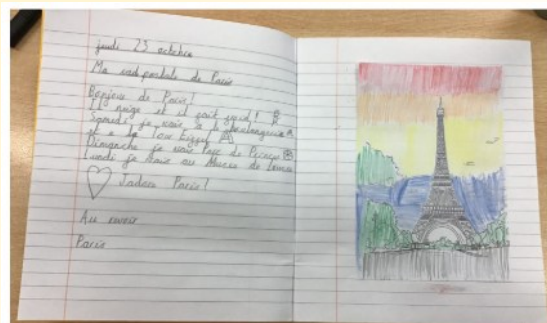
MFL at Davies Lane

We have weekly French lessons in KS2 and Mandarin in KS1. Children can also improve their language skills through language challenges and playground activities led by our Language Ambassadors.



This year we have an amazing team of Language Ambassadors. They are a group of very dedicated children from Year 5 and Year 6. They enjoy preparing fun activities for Year 3 and Year 4, and anyone who joins them has the opportunity to get a "Très bien" card.

We have a new award every week, The Eiffel Tower award, for the class that shows the best learning and behaviour in their French lesson. The Eiffel Tower lights up every time someone follows the 5Cs or does outstanding work. The first award went to Chestnut Class.



In Year 3, we learned how to introduce ourselves and we recorded a conversation in French for Google Classroom. Next, we will record a song in French and learn about popular French games.



Year 4 have been learning about Francophone countries and listened to a song about countries that have French as an official language. We have also written a postcard, including greetings, days of the week, types of weather and landmarks from Paris. We will learn about toys, birthdays and record a role play for buying and offering a present.

In Year 5, we learned about food. We discovered traditional French food and we also learned to choose ingredients for a recipe and to present the recipe in French. This term, we will also learn about types of music, musical instruments and we will write our own lyrics for the song “Je suis le musicien”.

Year 6 learned about our school: places in school, subjects and timetable. We have created, using our Chromebook, a presentation of our school day, entitled “Ma journée à l'école”. Next, we are learning about our world, continents, oceans, rivers and we will create a presentation about the journey on a river.

Science at Davies Lane

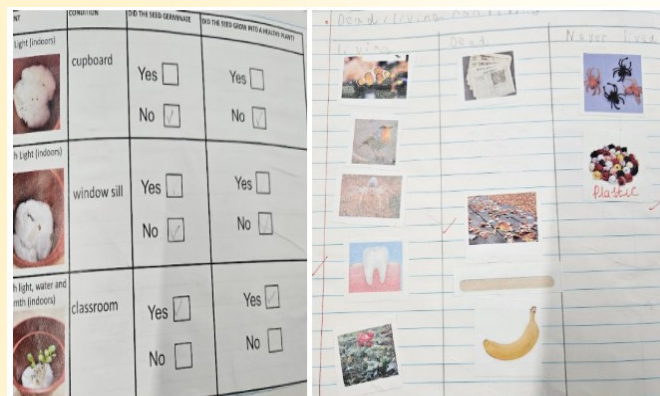
This term at Davies Lane, our young scientists have been diving into skill-based learning and working scientifically — developing key enquiry skills such as classifying and grouping, observing over time, making comparisons, identifying and pattern seeking, researching, and conducting fair tests.

Across both sites, children have been actively involved in planting, growing, and harvesting vegetables through our Forest School sessions. These hands-on experiences have al-

lowed pupils to explore the natural world first-hand, from sowing seeds to observing plant growth and even investigating light and shadows in outdoor learning spaces.



Every child at Davies Lane Primary School engages in high-quality science lessons that spark curiosity and nurture a love of discovery. Our approach ensures that science extends beyond the classroom, giving pupils a wide range of opportunities to question, explore, and experiment in real-world contexts.



We look forward to sharing even more exciting scientific learning and discoveries with you in the coming term!



PE at Davies Lane

PE at Davies Lane has been buzzing with energy this Autumn term. Our students continue to develop essential physical skills through an exciting range of lessons, including football, dance, gymnastics, and athletics. Each week, they participate in carefully planned PE sessions that support both gross and fine motor skill development—vital for their overall physical health, coordination, and mental well-being.



We are delighted to share that this year, many of our PE lessons are being led by specialist sports coaches, who bring professional expertise and fresh enthusiasm to every session. Their guidance is helping our pupils refine their techniques, improve performance, and gain deeper confidence across a variety of sports.



Each lesson begins with focused warm-ups to prepare students both physically and mentally. From perfecting balance and coordination in gymnastics to building teamwork and communication skills through football, every activity nurtures growth and enjoyment. In athletics, students have been working on sprinting, jumping, and throwing techniques—making steady progress and setting new personal bests.



This term has also seen Davies Lane pupils taking part in an impressive number of PE festivals and competitions, both within the Arbor Academy Trust and across The Borough of Waltham Forest. These events have provided incredible opportunities for our students to demonstrate their skills, resilience, and sportsmanship and our sports captains have been instrumental in leading, motivating, and celebrating their teams' successes.



Beyond our regular PE curriculum, we continue to offer lunchtime sports sessions led by professional coaches and a wide variety of after-school sports clubs, giving students even more chances to explore their passion for sport. The enthusiasm, determination, and joy our Davies Lane students bring to every activity make us incredibly proud—what an inspiring term it has been!



Music at Davies Lane

Music at Davies Lane has had an outstanding Autumn term, filled with achievement, creativity and celebration. We were thrilled to see our school come first place in every category at the Arbor Trust Interschool instrumental music competition – a remarkable testament to the talent and dedication of our pupils. Our orchestra also had the incredible honour of performing at the Youth Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, an unforgettable experience that showcased the confidence and musicality of our young performers.



Within school, our rich and varied music curriculum continues to stretch and inspire pupils, exposing them to a wide range of musical styles and traditions while giving them countless opportunities to create, perform and enjoy music together. Children have the chance to develop their skills further through one-to-one lessons in piano, guitar, flute, trumpet and trombone, and whole-class lessons in ukulele, toot, percussion and recorder continue to be a highlight of the week.

This year, we are continuing with the rollout of the ABRSM Music Medals program, where pupils have the opportunity to celebrate their hard work and progress as young musicians with a formal qualification.

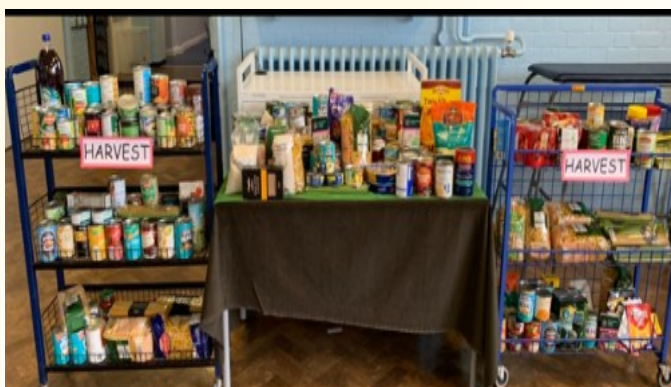


RE

We aim for the children to know and understand a range of religions and world views so they can describe and explain beliefs and practices as well as recognise the diversity that exists within and between communities.



Our commitment to fostering a sense of belonging and community is very important. We have used Harvest to connect children with the community and encourage generosity. Linking religious education to real-world actions and community involvement is a powerful way to instill values of compassion, empathy and social responsibility in children.



A highlight of the term was our Annual Autumn Art Gallery, which displayed beautiful outcomes from every year group. This event reflected not only the creativity of our students but also the progression of skills across the school.

Art at Davies Lane

This Autumn term has been an inspiring and creative season for our Art department. We kicked things off with a vibrant Art and Photography Gallery, where members of our local community were invited to celebrate and enjoy the incredible creativity of our pupils. The event was a great success, showcasing a wide range of artistic styles and techniques.



In addition, we had the pleasure of demonstrating our art curriculum to prospective parents during open days. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting on the high quality of children's work and the thoughtful way art is taught and celebrated at our school.



We were also proud to take part in an inter-school watercolour and sketching competition, where our talented pupils impressed the judges and proudly brought home a prize. Their hard work, dedication, and artistic skill truly shone through.



We are incredibly proud of our pupils' achievements this term and look forward to even more creative opportunities in the months ahead.

Computing

In Autumn term at Davies Lane, our students have been delving into the dynamic field of computing, engaging in practical programming projects that spark imagination, promote problem-solving, and strengthen teamwork. The aim of our computing curriculum is to deliver enriching learning opportunities that go beyond teaching technical know-how—encouraging resilience, creative thinking, and the confidence to learn through experimentation.

Here's a glimpse of what some year group have been exploring:

Year 1:

Our youngest learners started their journey with programmable toys, discovering how to use simple sequences and commands. This hands-on introduction helped them grasp the basics of giving instructions to a device, all while building logical thinking and coordination through playful exploration.

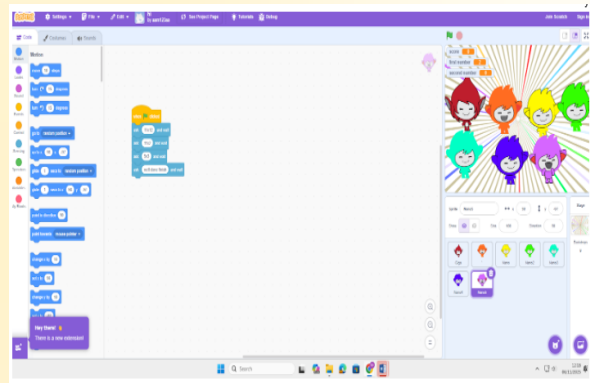


Year 3:

Year 3 students took their first steps into digital storytelling by creating their own animations. Using beginner-friendly coding tools, they brought their ideas to life with short animated scenes that conveyed a story or message. This activity offered a perfect blend of creativity and coding practice, helping students develop both technical and narrative skills.

Year 4:

In preparation for the government's Year 4 Times Table Test, students designed a times tables quiz game using Scratch. This project blended mathematics and computing, as they coded an interactive game to help users practise multiplication. The challenge encouraged students to apply programming logic in a purposeful way, while also reinforcing their own numeracy skills.



As always, our students have shared exceptionally positive feedback! Many have said that computing stands out as their favourite lesson, especially because it encourages them to think quickly and creatively. One Year 4 child remarked, "Computing is fun because we get to tackle challenges, and it feels amazing when our game finally works!" Another student said, "It's my favourite class because we can try new ideas, learn from our mistakes, and solve things together."

As we continue to develop these essential skills, we're excited to dive into more hands-on projects that inspire curiosity and build digital confidence. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us foster a love of learning and creativity here at Davies Lane!