

# Davies Lane Primary Spring Term News 2023

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Spring Term 2023

## Writing

There can be no doubt that looking through your children's writing on Parent's evening, you will have seen amazing progress evident right across the curriculum in subjects from Literacy to History to Art.

In Literacy, children will have had the opportunity to write for a range of purposes from creative narratives which develop settings and characters to newspaper reports, persuasive speeches and balanced arguments. In History, they will have been writing to show their learning and understanding as well as justifying their opinions and evaluating the importance of primary and secondary sources. In Art and DT, children will have written evaluations of their work. Having studied the works of a range of artists, they will have analysed the style of artwork and which techniques were used.




This term, Davies Lane has been successful in inter school Spelling Bee and debating competitions held across the academy. These provide children with an opportunity to showcase their skills in spelling and debating. In addition, children in Year 6 have had an exciting opportunity to enjoy learning writing skills from a visiting author.

The cyclical nature of the curriculum used at Davies Lane allows the children to revisit, improve and uplevel their writing skills. Their exposure to the many different purposes of writing

across the curriculum ensures that through their career at the school, the children develop into mature, talented and confident writers. Below are some examples of the different areas of writing from across the school.

14.10.2022  
Evaluation of Silhouette  
The techniques I used align with Edwards technique because I cut from black paper instead of hair cut the whole figure rather than just the face. I can easily tell which animal the silhouette represented because it had semi-circle ears and a semi-circle tail. The silhouette was cut out without damages. The edges were not smoothly cut. To improve on this I could cut my silhouette more carefully.

orbit = the act of going around  
Solar System = they are 8 Planets in the Solar Systems. ✓  
the Sun is in the middle. ✓  
what is a glossary?  
A glossary is part of the book it tells you what words mean.

06.10.2022  
  
Cup cups by Betty Woodman  
  
**CERAMIC**  
  
The objects are two elephants. The colours are silver and brown. The shapes are cylinder, circle, semi-circle and rectangle. I like the cup because it is very fancy.

In your opinion, would you prefer to be punished in the Tudor period or the Victorian period? Explain.  
In my opinion, I would prefer to be punished during the Victorian period because it was less severe than the Tudor. The Tudors had extreme punishments for petty crimes (stealing). The Victorians had fair punishments for different crimes. I would also rather be punished during the Victorian era because children had less harsher punishments than adults.

## Mathematics

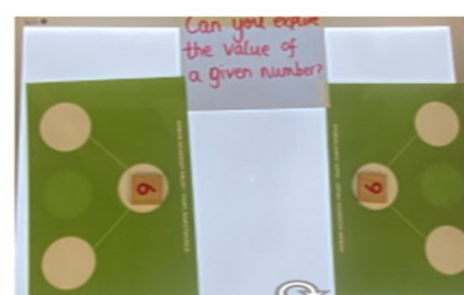
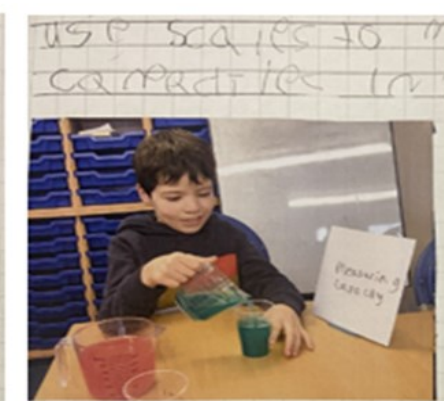
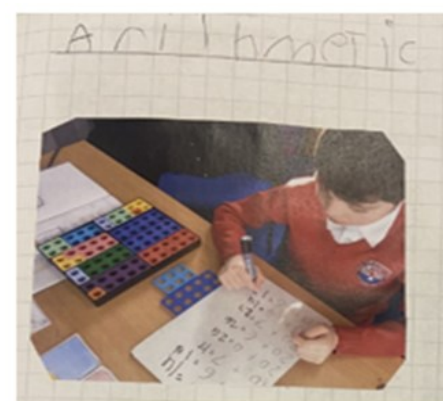
Maths at Davies Lane continues to be a hive of excitement for the children. We continue to make the Maths curriculum cross curricular, relevant to the children's learning and hands on.

### Value of Number

A key focus of the Maths curriculum is the **Value of Number** which supports the visualisation of numbers by children. All children have been given Maths packs (shown in the picture below) which we encourage children to use to support



### Examples of the use of concrete Maths in Early Years and Year 2



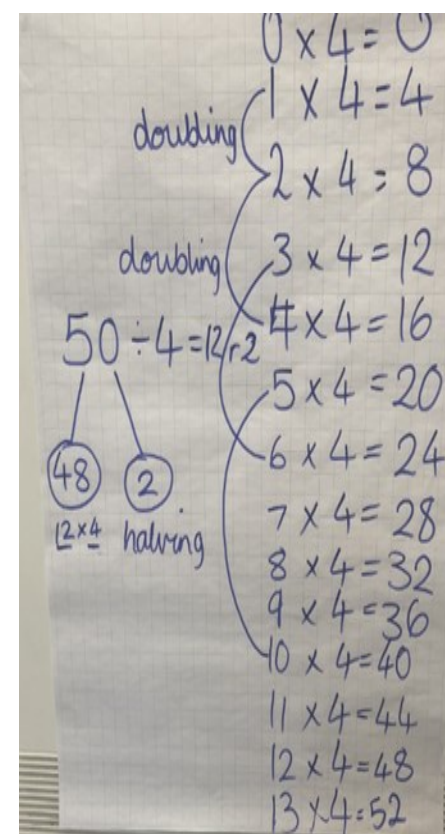
### Times Tables

By the end of Year 4 children need to know all of their times tables facts to  $12 \times 12$ . There are a number of useful websites which provide interactive games children can use at home to support them with this:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables>

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/>

As well as this, it is important for the children to not only know these facts but to understand the relationship between the numbers- see an example of what this might look like.





## Nursery

In Nursery, we have been looking at many different ways we can make a number, we enjoyed using part whole models to work out which 2 numbers make a whole.



Nursery also went on a 'bear hunt' around Leytonstone flats. Children were developing their story language and sequencing the story events.



Children enjoyed repeating phrases from the story 'We're going on a bear hunt'.



## Reception

In Reception, we have been looking at 'My unique locality' and 'Cultures and Communities'. We enjoyed exploring Leytonstone High Street, looking at the different restaurants and discussing where they come from around the world.

As part of our Maths composite, Reception enjoyed working together to design and create their own 3D building using junk modelling.



Children were able to identify many of the 3D shapes that they used such as cuboids, cubes and cylinders.

Reception also had fun at the Discovery centre, where we were able to listen to stories, create our own story and explore the different rooms of the centre.



## Computing

This term, across all year groups, the children have really enjoyed and been engaged with our computing curriculum. The emphasis this term was to 'Use Technology Purposefully'. We had wonderful examples of children really exploring what technology can do. For example, Year 1 were

creating a picture book. Year 3 filmed and edited instructional videos. Year 4 showed their creative sides by producing original electronic music using Chrome Bandlab. We had recognisable versions of Queen's 'We will Rock you', the White Stripes

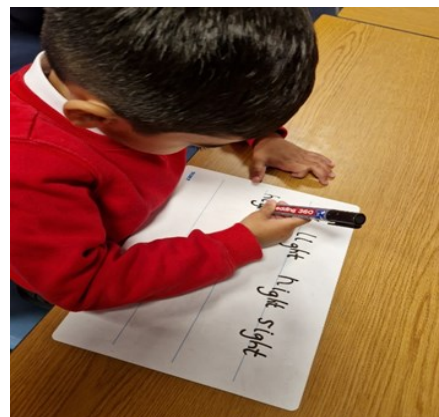
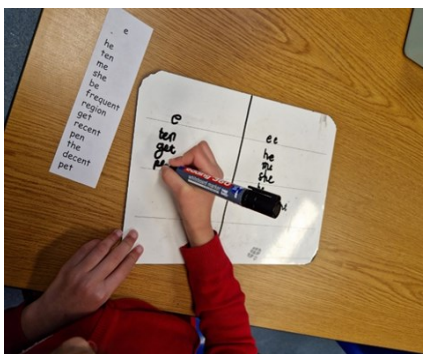
'Seven Nation Army' and even the Imperial March (from Star Wars - Darth Vader's theme). Year 6 created promotional videos or adverts using Flixier. Their topics ranged from reducing waste in a consumerist society to mental health issues.

## Phonics

At Davies Lane, we believe that synthetic phonics is an effective method of ensuring children learn to read quickly and proficiently. During the Spring Term, the children made significant progress in their journey to becoming fluent readers. Children and teachers have been working extremely hard in revising and consolidating phonics sounds. Using a range of multi-sensory methods, for example phoneme fingers, sound buttons, magnetic letter and flashcards, children have been encouraged to become more confident at reading real and pseudo words. A variety of interactive resources were used to support the children in decoding, blending and

segmenting unfamiliar words. The sessions were also a great way of teaching the children how to form and write letters correctly.

Thank you to all the parents who have been reading regularly with their children. We appreciate your support in consolidating their learning and encouraging their love for reading.



## Playground Advocates

The Playground Advocates have enjoyed meeting this term to **collaborate** and **explore ways** in which they could further improve the experience for their peers in the playground. A key focus for them this half is supporting their peers to use the **new playground equipment**. Each week a Year 6

class has the responsibility of collecting the playground equipment at the end of break times and returning them to the coloured containers; this allows the playground advocates to monitor and review the use of lunchtime resources as well as share the responsibility of caring for our school environment with their peers. The playground advocates have been really proac-

tive in terms of reporting on what is working well and suggesting improvements- they are working closely with their friends to develop games and to participate in a range of activities. Currently the advocates are developing a plan for a well-being area in the playground- watch this space. I would like to personally thank the advocates for all of their hard work and presence in the playground- it makes a difference.

## Learning Council

Learning Council have been taking a deep dive into the curriculum and have discussed strengths and areas for development in Art and D&T, Computing, Geography and History. It is evident from the books that we have the opportunity to learn about the lives of great artists and create our own artwork based on their works. We are impressed to see the progression of Art and D&T skills throughout the years and the use of mixed media seen in collages, charcoal drawings, clay

models and stitching.

We have identified that the Art curriculum is a mixture of studying an artist and the style of their work; creating a piece of art and evaluating the completed piece when finalised.

It is clear how important map work is in Geography to help understand geographical features and place historical events. Our knowledge of historic events is recorded well through our writing.

We need to make sure that we always put facts into our own words

and respond to green pen questions.

This term we also designed a survey to find out what everyone thinks about learning at Davies Lane. The results are looking promising so far with 89% saying that they enjoy learning at school. Maths and Computing are also coming out as our favourite subjects at the moment. Learning Council explained that during Computing lessons they often use coding to play and create games, which might explain why this subject is so popular. We look forward to sharing all the results with you so watch this space.



## Reading

Reading is always at the heart of our work at Davies Lane so we are delighted to see so many of the children reading regularly at home and taking pride in bringing in their reading records. It is a credit to them and to our fabulous families that it remains at the highest priority.

We have been fortunate this academic year to raise enough money at our recent book fair to allow us to spend money on lots of new lovely books for teatime club allowing the children to experience a new range of reading material.

This enhances the hundreds of lovely new books which have been added to our Middle phase and Upper phase class libraries.

We have also been able to restock many of our day-to-day readers so children have access to high quality new books which will inspire them to continue reading.

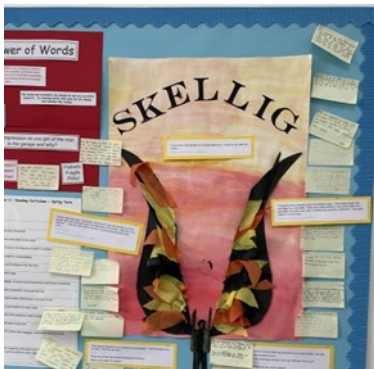
Our caught reading challenge has led to some interesting photographs and created a lovely display in our library which is now being well used thanks to our wonderful year 5 and 6 librarians who open the library at lunchtimes for the children to use.

There are several events coming up



next term for you to look forward too: the school's summer reading record challenge, the library services summer reading challenge and the travelling book fair included.

In the meantime, happy reading!



## Lunch Bunch

This spring term, our Lunch Bunch have been working tirelessly on seasonality foods and how the school can support to improve the school menus. They have also been working closely with the kitchen staff to ensure that food is

freshly prepared, nutritious and well sourced in an effort to make it a positive experience for the whole school.

We are also proud to say Davies Lane is now closely linked with Food

for Life schools programme.

They're trying to make sure everyone has a say in how they can improve their lunchtimes and making sure it's seen as an important and enjoyable part of the school day. The Lunch Bunch team also believe by increasing the amount of freshly prepared healthy food on offer, it looks and tastes good, so there's less waste, which helps with cost control.

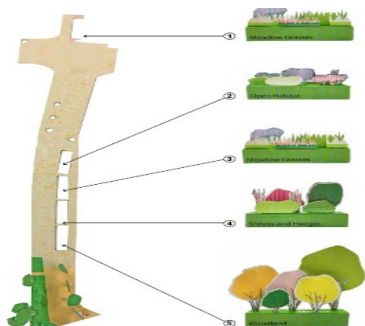
Again, a big thank you goes to our Lunch Bunch team as they continue helping during lunch hours in making sure cutlery and trays are all arranged orderly for children to access more easily during lunch



## Eco Warriors

Congratulations to the Davies Lane Eco Warriors for their amazing accomplishment of receiving the International Eco School Award with merit! It is truly inspiring to see young people taking action and making a positive impact on their school and community.

Your efforts towards making a sustainable future are commendable and will go a long way in spreading awareness about the importance of taking care of our planet. Keep up the great work, Eco Warriors!



The Eco warriors' continued efforts to engage with our local community have been a great success. After the impressive 'Green Link' project, last term, where they designed a rain-water garden to be installed outside our school by the local council, the Eco warriors are now focused on taking this initiative to the next level in the coming term.

All designs for the project have been finalized and handed over to the construction team.

This is an excellent opportunity for our community to come together and make a positive impact on the environment around our school. We are confident that this project will bring immense benefits and we're excited to see it come to life.

On behalf of the school, we would like to congratulate the Eco warriors for their incredible efforts, enthusiasm, and great input in the scheme. Your dedication and hard work are greatly appreciated, and we are proud to have you as a part of our school community.



## Science

What an amazing term this has been! Davies Lane Primary School participated in the annual science competition at Forest School this term. Our school was represented by four exceptional pupils - Teddy (Ash), Osian (Rowan), George (Birch), and Sasena (Redwood) - who were tasked with completing a set of three exciting experiments.

We are proud to share that our pupils worked incredibly well together and were able to clinch

the top prize - First Place! This is a true testament to the strength of our Science curriculum at Davies Lane and the incredible resilience shown by our pupils.

Competing against almost 30 other schools, our team fought hard and emerged victorious.

We would like to congratulate Teddy, Osian, George, and Sasena for their outstanding achievement and thank them for representing our school with such great pride and enthusiasm.



## Chicks to chickens

Across the school, a few year groups have had the opportunity to witness the life cycle of a chick! This hands-on experience was incredibly valuable for their education and development. Observing the process of a chick

developing from an egg into a fully-formed chicken taught the children about the importance of life cycles, reproduction, and the development of living organisms. These year groups thoroughly enjoyed the experience which can help to spark children's interest in

science and the natural world. By giving children the chance to observe science in action, we can help to create a generation of curious and engaged learners who are excited to explore the world around them.