



DRUMBEAT SCHOOL

Newsletter — Autumn Term 1

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been an amazing start back to the new academic year at Drumbeat. Our students have been full of energy and have enjoyed participating in lots of fantastic projects and charity raising events.

It is important for our students to be visible in the community and this is exactly what they are doing by taking part in marathons, organizing food festivals for Black History Month and visiting galleries. Downham students are enjoying being taught a new curriculum which has been written to further personalize learning and optimize what they can achieve. It has been a pleasure to see our students so happy to be back at school.

Enjoy the half term and look forward to seeing you back after the break.

Marie Neave
Executive Headteacher



Please note that pupils need to be in school by 9:00am and collected between 3:00—3:15pm.

If you wish to apply for early collection you can do so in writing.

Please call the office if you are going to be late.

Dates for the Diary....

Friday, 21 Oct

Last day of term

Monday, 31 Oct

First day of term

Tuesday, 1 Nov

Parent Workshop: Family Support
See page 3 for details

Tuesday, 8 Nov

Parent Workshop: Using Parent Pay
See page 3 for details

Wednesday, 9 Nov

Parent Workshop: Phonics
See page 3 for details

Tuesday, 15 Nov

Parent Workshop:
Communication—Pathway 1
pupils
See page 3 for details

Thursday, 24 Nov

Parent Workshop: Sensory
Processing Differences
See page 3 for details

Friday, 2 Dec

INSET (Staff Training Day)
Pupils will not attend school on
this day



Free school meals and extra support for your child

Are you entitled?

If you get certain welfare benefits, you can apply for free school meals for your child. You could save up to £400 a year if your child gets free school meals and it will mean they get a healthy school lunch every day. All children in reception, year one and year two are also entitled to free school meals.

Who can get free school meals

Your child can get free school meals if your combined annual household income is below £16,190 (as assessed by HMRC) and you get one of the following benefits:

- income-based: income support or jobseeker's allowance (not eligible if on contribution based jobseeker's allowance)
- income-related: employment support allowance (not eligible if on contribution based employment support allowance)
- universal credit
- income support
- the guaranteed element of state pension credit
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- child tax credit only.

If you get working tax credits

If you get working tax credit regardless of your annual household income your family will not be eligible for free school meals.

What other support your child will get

Free school meals are part of something called 'pupil premium'. As well as providing free school meals, pupil premium provides extra funding of up to £1,350 to your child's school. The school can then use this funding to support your child's education through extra tuition, teaching staff or after-school activities.

Please visit the Lewisham website for more information and to apply:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/student-pupil-support/free-school-meals-and-extra-support-for-your-child>

Even if your child does not eat lunch at school, it is important that you apply. The school receives extra funding to help your child if they are entitled to free school meals, we can also apply for other funding depending on how many of our students receive Free School Meals. So you wouldn't just be helping your family, you would be helping all of the children who go to Drumbeat.

Parent Workshops at Drumbeat

Date & Time: 1 November from 9:30—10:30am
Venue: Drumbeat Downham
Theme: Family Support
Led by: Vinicia Bellamy Family Thrive

Any family can go through difficult or challenging times at some point during their life. Family Thrive offers support helping families to get back on their feet. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet the team and find out what is on offer and how you can access this.

Date & Time: 8 November 10:00—11:30am
Venue: Drumbeat Brockley
Theme: Using Parent Pay
Led by: Charlotte Finch

We know that some parents are experience problems setting up and using Parent Pay This session will answer your questions and help you with the process. There will be time for parents to have a coffee together before the session ends.

Date & Time: 9 November from 9:30—11:30am
Venue: Drumbeat Downham
Theme: Phonics
Led by: Hannah (Literacy Lead) & Lucy (Pathway Lead)

At Drumbeat we teach pupils to read using the Read Write Inc: Phonics programme. It teaches children to read accurately by learning sounds and blending these sounds into words and learning to read the same sounds with alternative spellings. The programme also teaches writing and so children learn to form each letter and spell word. Pupils also read a decodable book containing the words they have learnt to read. They read this book lots of times to help their fluency and understanding and complete follow up writing activities. This session will explain how you can help your child with learning their sounds and with their reading at home. This session is aimed at parents/carers of Pathway 2 and 3 students at the Downham site however, all are welcome if they are interested in this topic and would like to attend.

Date & Time: 15 November from 9:30—11:30am
Venue: Drumbeat Downham
Theme: Communication—pathway 1 pupils
Led by: Speech Therapy Team

In this session the Speech and Language Therapy Team will cover strategies to support students who may not yet be using spoken words or may use a small range of single words and may be communicating in other ways. We will talk about how to support students using a Total Communication Approach and how to respond to and support all forms of communication. This session is aimed at parents/carers of Pathway One students however, all are welcome if they are interested in this topic and would like to attend.

Date & Time: 24 November from 9:30—11:30am
Venue: Hybrid (Drumbeat Downham & Zoom)
Theme: Sensory Processing Differences
Led by: Kirsty (OT)

The session will provide an introduction to Sensory Processing differences. We will explore the eight senses, difficulties associated with them and a range of strategies for home, school and when out and about.



EYFS News



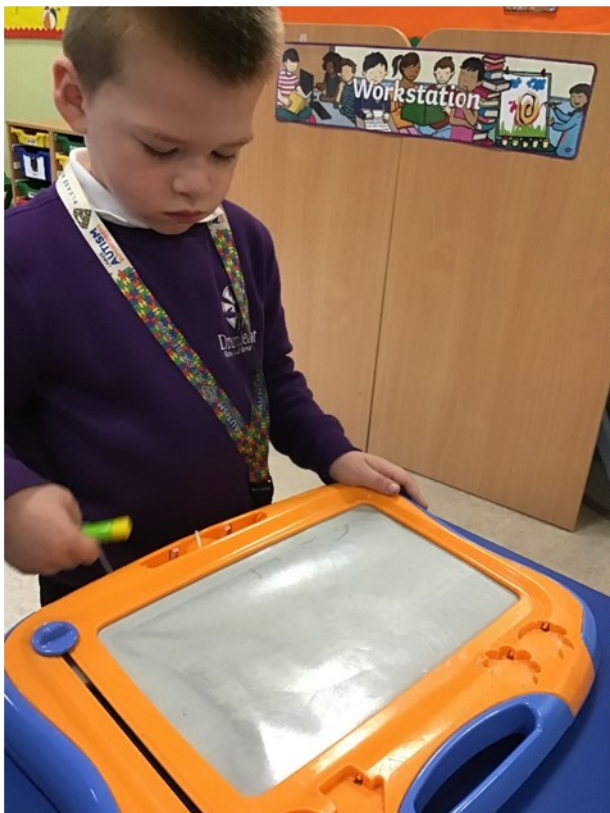
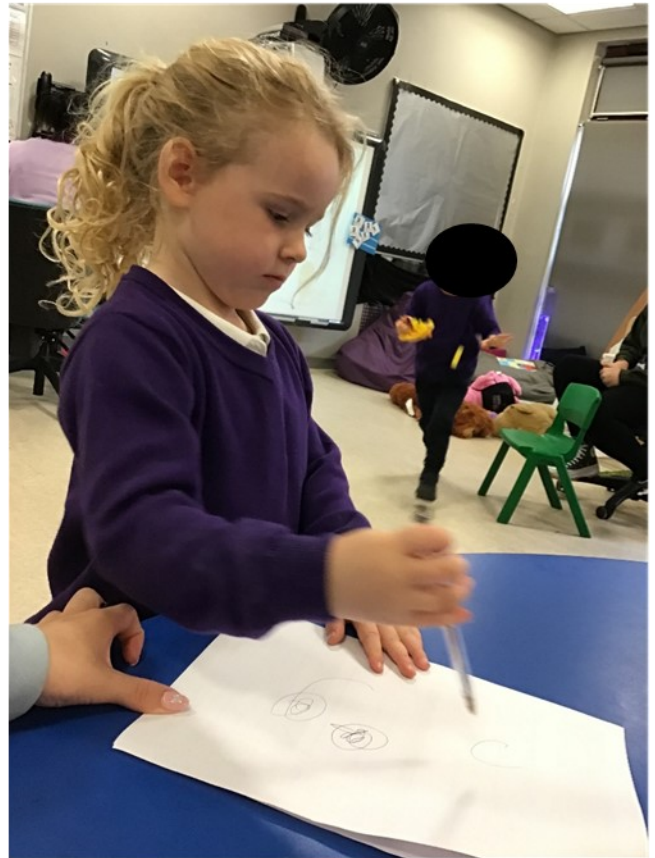
We have had a great start in EYFS and is a pleasure to welcome all our new children to Drumbeat school. They have all settled in very well and are learning lots already! We have been learning about our topic Food through Cooking, Sensory Food and AA sessions. This term we have also explored specific events such as Harvest Festival, Black History Month and Diwali.



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Giraffe Class News

What a busy start to the year it has been! Giraffe Class have settled in so well and have begun playing together and learning all about each other. We have enjoyed starting our topic of Celebrations including Black History Month and the Harvest Festival. We have had lots of fun and made lots of mess!



Crocodile Class



We have really enjoyed our first term in Crocodile Class and have settled really well into the new routine. We have been doing many activities around our topic 'Pirates' including retelling stories, learning about different countries (travelling in our pirate boat), counting, making patterns and cooking. We have also been learning about Diane Lewis for Black History Month and been trampolining.





Zebra Class

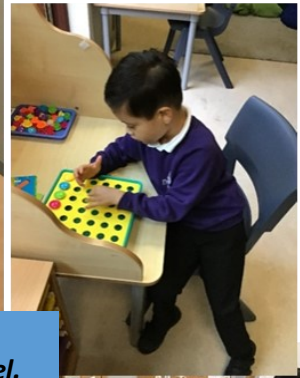
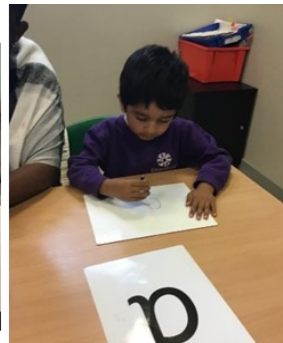
Hello from Zebra Class. This half term we have really enjoyed getting to know each other. In maths our main focus has been number and shape, we have sorted, matched and labelled a range of 2D shapes. For number we have worked on number recognition and sequencing, 1 to 1 correspondence and counting groups of objects and actions. In English we have engaged in Dough Disco sessions, Funky Fingers activities, communication sessions and phonics (RWI) lessons. We have also enjoyed participating in our weekly music, computing, PE, cooking, soft play, sensory room and art sessions.

Morning Stations and Play



Computing, PE, Cooking & Music





English
Writing: Dough Disco, Funky Fingers, and writing carousel.
Communication; Colourful Semantics, AA and What's in the box.
Reading; RWI program, 1 to 1 reading



Maths;
Shape; sorting, identifying and matching 2D shapes.
Number; Counting, number recognition and 1 to1 correspondence.



Tiger Class News



Wow, what a great start to the year we've had in Tiger class. The children have settled in well and are enjoying playing together. We have started our topic - Pirates! And have also been learning about Black History Month. We have enjoyed lots of messy play & art sessions too!





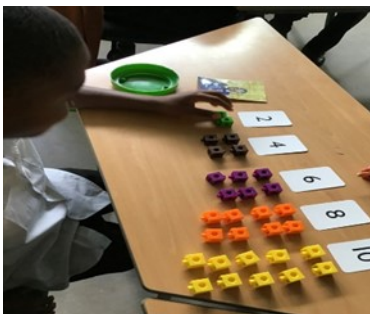
News from Flamingo Class

Wow – this half term has flown by! In flamingo class, we have been very busy with lots of different types of learning. We have been visiting 'Forest School' with our specialist teacher, Victoria, every Wednesday afternoons. It has been an amazing experience with wonderful opportunities for diverse learning across the curriculum areas. The children have enjoyed learning in the natural environment-peruse some of the pictures below.

We have been busy practicing our phonics on a daily basis and improving our reading and writing using the structures of Read Write Inc scheme. I am very proud of the way the children have taken on this new daily structure.

As part of our 'Celebration' topic, we have been learning about the harvest festival, Diwali and have been celebrating 'Black History Month' by focusing on an exceptional athlete, Dame Kelly Holme. The children have been practicing their 1500 metres running and celebrating 'wining'. We have tasted a variety of food from Nigeria, Ghana and the Caribbean. We have enjoyed a number of stories from around the world, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed.

In addition to our regular learning, we have also been focusing on our PE and improving our balancing, moving, following instructions and jumping in different ways. We have also been engaging with cooking and following recipes.



Black History Month Food Fest at Brockley

Friday 13th October was a very exciting day for students at Brockley! We hosted our first ever Black History Month Food Fest. To celebrate BHM, each class has been assigned an important black figure to work on throughout October. They then researched foods that are native to their black figure's country of origin and cooked them ready to share with other classes and parents. Students, parents and the staff at Brockley all really enjoyed tasting the diverse range of food that was on offer. There was fried chicken and Jambalaya from America; roti, callaloo and cassava pone from Guyana; dumplings, ackee, saltfish and ginger cake from Jamaica and many more tasty treats! Thank you to all of the parents who made the effort to come down and join part of our BHM celebrations.



London Mini Marathon

On Saturday 1st October Drumbeat students took part in the 2.6 Km London Mini Marathon.

Students got to run past Buckingham palace to cheering crowds and cross the world-famous Finish Line on The Mall and collect their well-deserved medal. We got very lucky with the weather and had glorious sunshine on the day. A massive congratulations to all students that took part and a BIG thank you to those staff that gave up part of their weekends to support our students.



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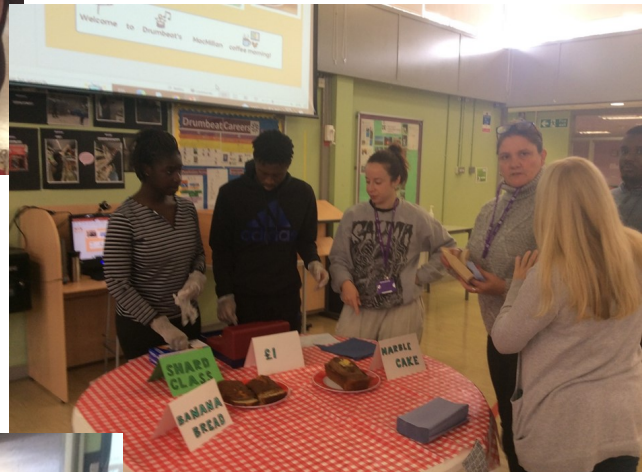


MacMillan Coffee morning and Jeans for Gene's day

Drumbeat students have taken part in two different charity events this half term. On Friday 23rd September students and staff took part in Jeans for Gene's day and got to wear jeans for the day and help make a difference for children affected by genetic conditions. We asked for a £1 donation and managed to raise over £60 for this great charity.

On Friday 30th September we had a special MacMillan coffee morning event where students prepared and made cakes and hot drinks to sell to classes and parents in aid of Macmillan cancer support. We managed to raise £120 and was wonderful to see all our students and parents come along to the event and enjoy hot drinks and cake together in the hall.

Thank you to all students and parents for making this such a successful event and we look forward to inviting you again next year.



Sherborne developmental movement

Drumbeat students continue to attend Sherborne developmental movement sessions with trained staff and so far this year they have been working on gross motor skills such as rolling, sliding on back and front and crawling and experimenting with different levels, up, down, low, high etc. As it's the start of academic year and we have created new groups we have been doing lots of work on developing positive relationships based on trust. This has involved students saying hello through light touch, being guided by someone else with their eyes closed or using an eye mask. We have also been working on students being more comfortable being closer to other through various games using our resistance bands and massage balls.



South London Art Gallery



Drumbeat students continue to develop links with outside organisations and have been working with the South London Art gallery on a collaborative art project.

Recently, Drumbeat student were invited to attend a private guided viewing of the Simeon Barclay installation, In the name of the Father.

Following the visit, Drumbeat's students will be attending workshop lead by resident artist. Those workshops are aiming to improve their observation and motor skills in create their own sculpture.



Tower Class



It's been a busy and eventful return to school after the summer and Tower Class students have risen to the challenges presented with real enthusiasm.

During our first week back, we witnessed a new Prime Minister being elected. The students did some useful research into who had become the new PM and how; also, who some of the major members of her team would be and what their responsibilities were.



However, no sooner had the class embarked on this exercise, Queen Elizabeth II, passed away, aged 96 years old, having been on the throne for 70 years. The students extended their research projects to include researching information about the royal family.



We also had some very interesting discussions on the major issues facing the new government – e.g. energy crisis; pollution of the environment; war in Ukraine; Brexit; NHS crisis and Strikes. They were able to conduct their own research into one of these issues of their choice.



More recently, the Tower Class students planned, prepared and then made a range of excellent cakes for the Macmillan coffee and cake morning, which was held on Friday 30th September. It was a great success and £68.00 was raised by Tower's cake sales alone.

Work included researching who and what Macmillan is; how it was founded; what they do. Posters were designed and produced by the students, then put up around the school; invites sent out to staff and students, then ingredients planned and purchased in order to make and bake a range of delicious cakes.





We have been gifted new Drumbeat polo shirts in sizes 7/8, 9/10, 11/12, 13 and small.



We also have second hand sweatshirts in good condition sizes 3/4, 5/6, 7/8, 9/10, 11/12, 13, small, large and x-large.

Please contact Karen in the office for more details.

Outgrown old school uniforms?

If you have any school uniforms that your children no longer use, please consider donating them to the school. These uniforms will be donated back to the Drumbeat community.



Ofsted Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think of your child's school, including:

- how happy your child is at the school
- how the school manages bullying or challenging behaviour

If your child has special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), we will ask how well the school supports them.

The questionnaire can be completed at any time - you don't have to wait until the school is being inspected.

We will use your responses to help us plan inspections. The information you provide can:

- inform discussions inspectors have with school leaders during an inspection
- help Ofsted decide when to inspect a school

In addition to this, we also publish the overall summary of the responses to Ofsted Parent View. This information is anonymised.



**Just a
reminder...**

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.



**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.**

YOUTH PAN DISABILITY

FREE WEEKLY MONDAY EVENING MULTI-SPORTS
DURING TERM TIME FROM 4-5PM

Starting Monday 3rd October 2022



FOR AGES 9 TO 15

(PLAYERS MUST PRE-REGISTER BEFORE ATTENDING)

SIGN UP LINK: tinyurl.com/ballersdisabilityyouth

VENUE: PETER HILLS SCHOOL (3G PITCH)

SALTER ROAD ENTRANCE, ROTHERHTHE, SE16 5ED

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

RICHARD WHITE AT BALLERS ACADEMY

07359 397 813 / richard@ballersacademy.co.uk

Makaton



Makaton taster

Dates and times

Please sign and in and be ready to start at least 10 minutes before the times listed below:

Wednesday 12 October 2022

09:30-11:30

Wednesday 9 November 2022

14:00-16:00

Wednesday 18 January 2023

09:30-11:30

Wednesday 22 March 2023

14:00-16:00 (Face-to-Face)

Location

Remote or face-to-face

Cost

- £20 per person

Makaton Level 1

- This is a two-part course. **Both sessions must be attended in full to receive certification.**

Dates and times

Please sign and in and be ready to start at least 10 minutes before the times listed below:

Wednesday 30 November

and Friday 2 December 2022

09:30-12:30

Wednesday 19 April

and Friday 21 April 2023

09:30-12:30

Location

Remote

Cost

- £75 per person for parents/carers of a child currently accessing speech and language therapy support from Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust
- £85 per person from all other settings



For more information email LG.CYPTherapiesTraining@nhs.net

To book please scan the QR code or visit <https://forms.office.com/r/EtjGVAuUiv>

Workshop	Aims	Who should attend
Taster session 2 hours	To provide a general insight into Makaton and who can benefit from its use. To learn approximately 30 signs/symbols and to find out how to access further training if appropriate	Suitable for anyone interested in finding out about Makaton
Level 1 workshop This workshop runs over 2 sessions	To introduce the Makaton Vocabulary and its benefits; To learn signs and symbols from stages 1–2 and Additional Vocabulary (approx. 140 signs/symbols). Cost includes certificate of attendance, participant manuals, which provide lots of background information, and line drawings of the signs and symbols that you will learn during the day.	For family members or carers or those who need a detailed understanding of how to use Makaton in everyday situations.
Level 2 workshop This workshop runs over 2 sessions	Extend and deepen your understanding with a Level 2 workshop. Within this workshop you will consolidate previously learnt signs and learn signs/symbols from stages 3 - 4 and Additional Vocabulary (approx. 140 signs/symbols). You will also explore different ways of teaching and using Makaton on an everyday basis. Cost includes certificate of attendance, participant manuals which provide lots of background information and line drawings of the signs and symbols that you will learn during the day.	
Level 3 Workshop This workshop runs over 3 sessions	Previously known as a 'Follow-Up Workshop' or an 'Enhancement workshop', Level 3 concentrates on improving and developing signing and symbol skills. You will learn translation skills, using signs and symbols. Cost includes certificate of attendance, participant manuals, which provide lots of background information and line drawings of the signs and symbols that you will learn during the day.	You must have completed Level 1 and 2 Workshops, or the old Beginners or Foundation workshops in order to attend this course.
Safeguarding workshop This workshop runs over 4 sessions	The aim of this workshop is to build on existing knowledge of Makaton and embed it within a Safeguarding framework; to learn topic specific vocabulary and to develop skills to support a child's/adult's understanding and expression to safeguard themselves and communicate their experiences and wishes. Cost includes participant manuals which provide lots of background information and line drawings of the signs and symbols that you will learn during the 2-day workshop.	Parents and carers of children and adults with severe communication and/or learning disabilities or professionals who may be involved with Safeguarding Issues. Participants MUST have attended the Level 1 and Level 2 (Beginners or Foundation) workshops.

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES — 2022/23

AUTUMN TERM 2022

Autumn Term 1 **Thursday 1 September & Friday 2 September – INSET days**
Monday 5 September – Students first day of term
Friday 7 October – INSET day
Friday 21 October - Last day of term

Half Term Holiday **Monday 24 October – Friday 28 October**

Autumn Term 2 **Monday 31 October – First day of term**
Friday 2 December – INSET day
Friday 16 December—Last day of term*

Christmas Holiday **Monday 19 December – Monday 2 January**

SPRING TERM 2023

Spring Term 1 **Tuesday 3 January — First day of term**
Friday 10 February – Last day of term

Half Term Holiday **Monday 13 February – Friday 17 February**

Spring Term 2 **Monday 20 February – First day of term**
Friday 31 March – Last day of term*

Easter Holiday **Monday 3 April – Friday 14 April**
(Easter weekend 7-10 April)

SUMMER TERM 2023

Summer Term 1 **Monday 17 April – First day of term**
Friday 26 May — Last day of term
(May Day Bank Holiday will be taken on 1 May)

Half Term Holiday **Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June**
(Spring Bank Holiday will be taken on 29 May)

Summer Term 2 **Monday 5 June—INSET day**
Tuesday 6 June—Students first day of term
Friday 21 July – Last day of term*

INSET days = Staff Training days. Pupils do not attend school on these days.

**School will close at 1pm on the last day of the full term.*