

5th September 2023

Dear Parents & Carers

A big welcome back to you.

This is a big term for Daubeney as we are very likely to receive our Ofsted inspection in the coming months. After Lauriston's recent inspection, we are ready to receive them and show them our 'good' school.

For some of you, you will have been on our improvement journey for the last few years and it is important to recognise how far we have come, how the school has developed and progressed and how we are delivering a quality offer for our children and families. We are always developing and our School Development Plans hopefully give you an idea of the focus areas year on year which lead to improved outcomes for our children.

When parents visit Daubeney, they are blown away by how happy the children are and the offer they receive when they join the school. Ofsted inspections are way behind schedule, but we know they will come and visit soon and we can show off this wonderful school and have a grading which reflects our provision. Here are a few quotes from Daubeney parents:

'It is a kind school with a strong sense of community. The quality of teaching is excellent and the SLT are dedicated and kind, and seem to really know the individual pupils and their different needs. It's a school with a very positive outlook.'

'The staff are the best. We've had kids at Daubeney since September 13 and we have generally been very impressed by the quality of the teaching and the care that our kids have received from the staff.'

'My child is happy going to school every morning. He loves his teacher and I'm happy with the progress he's making education wise.'

We are constantly reflecting on our provision, developing our key areas and looking for new ways to innovate. This has included having a great focus on outdoor learning, mental health for our children, integrated learning in Y1, forest school, nurture, implementing floor books, using APEX, building a pond, developing our enrichment offer and trialling innovative approaches to supporting children with complex needs. Hackney Education are also pleased with the school's progress.

Our Ofsted inspection back in 2019 was at the start of a new framework which focused solely on curriculum progression. At the time, the school had many many many strengths including strong Early Years provision, PE, PHSE and Music, personal development and children's behaviours and attitudes. Since then, the school has prioritised its focus on the curriculum and in particular:

- Improving children's outcomes across all key stages
- Implementing a robust and systematic phonics scheme
- Reviewing and implementing, across the Federation, a structured and rich curriculum offer which demonstrates progression and children 'knowing and remembering more'.
- Developing leadership at all levels

As part of this, we have worked closely with Hackney Education. They are in agreement, that Daubeney is a 'good' school and recognise the hard work implemented to improve some aspects of our work. We are not the finished

article though, as there is always work to do to make things better. We value the feedback from our children, staff and families into what to do next to improve the school.

You will know that falling pupil numbers are affecting London (particularly Hackney) Schools. There are over 600 fewer Reception children for this September. This issue makes school choices ever more important for parents and with multiple schools in the area, there is competition amongst schools. We think we are offering a great education for our children and families. But, still having an outdated *Requires Improvement* Ofsted judgement from 2019 is frustrating as we think Daubeney is a 'good' school. This judgement is one of the first things prospective parents look at when choosing a school and it creates a misconception - that report does not reflect our current position.

This September, we have a smaller cohort of children starting in Reception but we are approaching this as a positive. We are going to open up the two classrooms into one large Reception space...called *The Ducklings*.... and will use the space creatively to offer a variety of experiences across the environment. *The Ducklings* will still have two class teachers who will support the children. They will work together in demonstrating their own teaching skills and benefit from learning and sharing together. As numbers increase (and we hope this is the case), we may decide to split into two class groups or continue with a larger Reception cohort and exploit all the opportunities this has for collaboration and shared provision. We will be able to outline this at our open days. The Reception Team for September are VERY excited.

We have also renamed all our classrooms! This provides a wonderful opportunity to learn about a new creature and in developing individual class identities. We have a stable staff group with very little movement. From recent discussions with some of our long serving members of staff, they stay at Daubeney because it is a strong, community, supportive, friendly with wonderful parents and carers and the children and opportunities for them to grow.

Our play facilities are having a transformational change; children enjoy a huge range of exciting, open ended and challenging play experiences which have been praised by our OPAL Team. This complements the range of outdoor learning which is now a positive feature at Daubeney. Our building is in excellent condition because we continue to invest in making improvements. Check out our freshly decorated infant hall!

Our children have the opportunity to be part of several junior teams. These include a Junior Mental Health Team, Ambassadors and be a part of the Junior literacy team, Junior art team, etc, etc.

This gives them experience of applying for positions, working in different groups and giving something back to their school. What a brilliant preparation for adulthood. Our recent Ambassador interviews were testament to how astonishing our children are. Over 40 applications!!!

The whole SLT would like to host a **coffee morning** on **Monday 18th September @9am** in the **KSI hall** to chat to our parents and carers about our next school development areas. We would love to give our existing parents a chance to have a **tour around the school** to see what our provision looks like. This will take place on **Wednesday 27th September @ 9am**. These events will also allow you to give us some feedback from your perspective about how your children are learning.

The Daubeney community is quite unique and we want to spread the word far and wide about what we offer. It is important you feel confident in what we are doing, so please continue to chat to us and provide your feedback. You know we are available on the gates, by phone, in person or by email if you have anything you'd like to chat through.

We continue to be ambitious for Daubeney and are looking forward to an exciting and successful year ahead and seeing you all tomorrow morning.



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