



Communication is a priority for us once again this year, we will communicate to parents and carers using **School Ping**. Please let the office know if you have not yet registered.

In addition, we use **Twitter and Instagram** to share what's going on within the Academy daily. Please make sure you are following us **@Darlinghurstsch** on Twitter and **@DarlinghurstAcademy** on Instagram

## Message from the Principal

Dear parents and carers,

I cannot believe we are at the end of the Spring 1<sup>st</sup> half term and I would like to thank everyone for their participation in making it a great success. The children have enjoyed developing their knowledge and skills across the curriculum, sharing some fabulous end points with each other. Parents were impressed by the budding artists in year one, enjoying seeing the gallery of children's art work, 'Starry Starry Night'.

It was a delight to see how much fun parents, staff and children were having during the nursery stay and play session. Parents were joining in activities, alongside all the children, inside the nursery classroom and in the EYFS garden. I could hear lots of happy voices and saw smiling faces, all round. It's great to enjoy and share our children's learning together.

Our year two children, staff and parent helpers had a terrific trip to Duxford Imperial War Museum, returning with stories and facts to share. A great end to their science, design and technology unit, of which they have enjoyed learning about the history of the Wright Brothers and the chronology flight. They designed and made their own moving vehicles and reflected on the story of Mrs Armitage.

Our year five children have been busy preparing their fairground games and are looking forward to sharing these with families on our return. They have enjoyed learning about traditional games, such as tin can alley, beat the buzzer and Plinko.

Some children from performance club entertained the community, spreading love and positivity through song. They sang with energy and enthusiasm to passers-by, sharing little notes of positivity with them too. The community sang back their praises.

Our reception children had a lovely time with parents, yesterday during their valentines together. I enjoyed making love hearts and talking about the people we love.

In assembly the children focused on Valentine's day and also Love your pet day 20<sup>th</sup> February. Here is a picture of the new addition to the Nicholls family, our Belle.

Here are some quotes from children about the people and animals that they love.

As always, enjoy your family time together this weekend.

Mrs Nicholls



Achievement · Belonging · Confidence · Determination · Excellence

National Love your pet day 20th Feb



Achievement · Belonging · Confidence · Determination · Excellence





**excellence**

we aim for excellence in everything we do



I  my pet cat (only just turned into a cat) Emi because she's funny, friendly and ADORABLE! When she was only a couple weeks old I was worried she'd never like us but that didn't happen! She's hilarious because when you sit on your legs and she sees your toes she attacks them! Also when there's water around it'll be gone soon, Emi dips her hand in then spills the water. I'd say Emi's favourite thing to do is to find a hairband then make it skid across the floor also to play with my mums slipper! She's friendly and adorable because when you're sitting on the sofa she snuggles up beside you! Guess what she'll even sleep with you too! So that's why I  Love my Kitty, Emi!

I Love my Pet ginnepig called rough because he is cuddly and he loves us giving him treats.

I Love my pet dog Eva  because I can tell her what I might be sad about. I can play with her but sometime she  might get annoying. I wanted a dog forever and then suddenly last year for August  we got a dog.



## What have you missed out on **Twitter and Instagram** this week?



**Darlinghurst Academy** @Darlinghur... · 2d  
Some of our Performance club enjoyed performing to our local community down on Leigh Broadway today, sharing special messages.  
#primary #primaryschool #inspiringminds #leighonseas #leighonseaessex #choir #schoolchoir #learninginessex #essexschools #darlinghurstsharethelove



**Darlinghurst Academy** @Darlinghur... · 1d  
During our internet safety week children have been considering how to stay S.M.A.R.T online and sharing this important message.  
#internetsafety #internetsafetyday #staysmart #primaryschool #primary #inspiringminds #achievingexcellencetogether #leighonseaessex #leighonseas





## EYFS

Our topic in nursery this week has been the little mermaid and the children have had so much fun playing in the water with all of the sea creatures. They have been creating lovely under the sea pictures and colouring by numbers and have made some beautiful hearts to take home to their grown-ups for Valentine's Day! We hope that everyone enjoyed our stay and play sessions and received the dates for next half term on the show and tell list. Thank you all so much for coming and supporting your children. We hope you all have a loving Valentine's Day and a wonderful half term holiday. **The Nursery Team**

This week Reception have thoroughly enjoyed sharing 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', by Michael Rosen. On Tuesday, we had to question the bear as we believed that he had eaten all of our food and made an almighty mess in our classrooms, as the photographic evidence showed. He tried to blame the tiger from 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. Very cheeky! The children learnt how to create a story map to tell a story using pictures. This proved popular as lots of children chose to create their own story maps with great success. Thank you to the families who were able to attend the Reception Valentine Learning Together session on Thursday afternoon. It was a tremendously fun event and lovely Valentine crafts were created. We shall look forward to our Easter Learning Together session and hope that our Reception parents/carers will be able to join us.



Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle in school at the start of each week. We will return them at the end of the week for a thorough wash. Also, please ensure that all of your child's clothing and bag are clearly labelled. Many thanks in advance. We hope that you all have a wonderful week off. **The Reception Team**

## KS1

**Year One** have had a fantastic half-term and the children have worked so hard in all areas of their learning. In our Starry Night topic, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about different drawing and painting techniques and are very proud of their own creation of Van Gogh's painting. It was really lovely that so many of you came to our 'Art Gallery' to celebrate their creative work with them. Thank you, as always, for all your continued support. We hope you have a lovely half-term and we look forward to welcoming the children back after the break. **Miss Adams, Seagull class**

**Year Two** have been looking at the work of the amazing illustrator Quentin Blake. We have been exploring how to draw in the same style as him and have been thinking about the shapes that make up pictures rather than what an actual image is to help us to recreate it accurately. We have been experimenting with colour washing using water colours to complete our artwork. The children have surprised themselves when they have seen how much their finished pieces resemble the work of the great man himself.



We spent an amazing day at a rather blustery Imperial War Museum, Duxford on Thursday. The team would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped to make the experience one that we hope our children will remember for many years to come!

**Miss Scott, Oyster class**



## KS2

This week in **Year Four**, we have been using the information that was gathered from the chocolate surveys to design our own chocolate bar wrapper. The children decided on a name, slogan and unique selling point that would catch the customers' attention and entice them to buy it. They then had the opportunity to present their final designs to the class. It was fantastic to see many children thinking about eco-friendly packaging and whether their bar would be Fair Trade labelled, making links to previous learning from the beginning of the topic. Don't forget to keep 'rocking on' during the half term to continue improving your



scores and speed on Times Tables Rock Stars. Ensure you keep up with your reading too and complete an Accelerated Reader test when you have finished! Have a great half term! **Miss McCrory, Orca class**

In **Year Four** this week we made chocolate in our Art and DT lessons as part of our learning all about Chocolate curriculum. The children melted chocolate and mixed in flavours, added decorations and poured into moulds. **Mrs Buckley, Art Lead**



This week in **Year Five** we have been considering how we can work together to make the internet better, the theme of Internet Safety Day which was on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February. We have watched clips from the documentary that Jesy Nelson, from Little Mix, made for the BBC called Odd One Out and thought about how positive online comments make us feel. We have written supportive poems and letters to Jesy that we will share with her online over the coming weeks. **Mrs Bermon, Triton class**

Group	% Attend
JELLYFISH	92.6
STARFISH	96.2
SEAHORSE	93.3
PUFFIN	95.7
SEAGULL	95.3
LOBSTER	95.8
OYSTER	95.4
SHRIMP	96.5
DUNE	96.5
SEASHELL	95.8
CORAL	94.9
ORCA	96.9
GREAT WHITE SHARK	95.9
STINGRAY	93.2
SWORD FISH	96.2
NEPTUNE	96
POSEIDON	94.3
TRITON	93.5
GALENE	97.1
BEMBRIDGE	95.2
WILTON	95.6
MAYFLOWER	96.2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>95.4</b>

Dear Jesy Nelson,

I do not know how you feel,  
For I do not have a phone.  
But I can see that you feel,  
As hurt as a broken bone.

I do not know how you feel,  
But I know that you have seen,  
Slippery people like an eel,  
On your home screen.

I do not know how you feel,  
But I know you're strong and brave.  
You kept on going on and on,  
And you dug those trolls their grave.

I do not know how you feel,  
I know you were suffering.  
This is what I do know,  
You're Essex's pop star king.

Yours truly,

Simeon (Triton, Year 5)

A poem to Jesy Nelson,

Cyberbullying is bad,  
They make you very sad.  
Don't listen and try hard,  
Before they send a mean card.  
Be strong, don't cry,  
Just try, try, try...  
Don't hide away,  
Or they will do it every day.  
Show the world your power,  
And be pretty like a flower.  
Show them you're brave,  
Don't give them the attention they crave.  
You know you're beautiful,  
And know you're magical,  
So, don't let the haters ruin your day,  
And remember everything is all okay.

By Lilly A-B (Triton, Year 5)



Firstly, thank you very much to all of the parents that supported and attended our quiz night last week. Mrs Smith was an excellent host and everyone had great fun. Also, thank you to all those people that have contributed and purchased our cakes.

**Year Six** children have been writing newspaper reports about the Australian Bushfires this week and have shown great empathy for the tragic loss of Australian wildlife. They have also had their thinking caps on when discussing the role of art and charity within religion, writing letters on whether the Notre Dame cathedral in Paris should be rebuilt as a medieval landmark and tourist attraction or whether the funds raised would be better spent on social causes like poverty and homelessness. Great work **Year Six!**

Go out, have fun and keep reading over the holidays please. **Mrs Dunne, Bembridge class**

## Sports News

### KS1 Football

Last week our newly formed KS1 football team attended their very first competitive tournament at Len Forge. Looking very smart in their kits, our children travelled to the event on the school mini-bus very excited. During the afternoon, our team played six games against various schools including, West Leigh Infants, Heycroft and Chalkwell. All of the squad gave it their all, playing some lovely passing football and all with enormous smiles on their faces. At the end of the afternoon our team had accumulated 8 points leaving them in a very respectable third place overall. Well done to all the children involved and thank you to all of you who came along to support our team. It was lovely to see so many of you.



### Year 5/6 Girls Football

Our girls team were in action on Tuesday evening playing in an away league game against Hamstel School. Looking particularly smart, in our new kit, our girls got straight into the game attacking Hamstel's goal. First game nerves and the fact that our girls are a little too nice allowed Hamstel to boss the first half and go two goals ahead. Luckily, just before half time, Gracylee took the ball around the goalkeeper and slotted one home for us. In the second half our girls showed great determination with attack after attack on the oppositions goal. Unfortunately for our team, some great defending and goalkeeping from Hamstel kept the score to full time to 2 – 1. As each minute passed our team improved and I am sure they will take this experience into their next game and hopefully get the result they deserve. Well done girls, as always you make me very proud.



### Running Club

Hopefully, running club will be returning after half term. Please watch this space for more information regarding sign up for this club.

**Mr Felton, PE Subject Lead teacher**

## Mental Health Support

A recent report by the Mental Health Foundation supports a link between online use and poor mental health. As a school we are participating in the Mental Health and Well-being programme and with the work undertaken this week in school and the half-term holiday approaching this might be an ideal time to have that conversation with your child about who they are communicating with on-line – Do YOU know who your child is talking to online? Is their mental health at risk from excess use of image? There is a recognised link that excessive use can lead to feelings of anxiety, depression, shame, upset and even thoughts of suicide. We recognise that it can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they're doing online or who they might be speaking to. But talking regularly, like you would about their day at school, will help your



child feel relaxed and mean that when they do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you. It can help to:

- reassure them that you're interested in their life, offline and online. Recognise that they'll be using the internet to research homework as well talking to their friends.
- ask your child to show you what they enjoy doing online or apps they're using so you can understand them.
- be positive but also open about anything you're worried about. You could say "I think this site's really good" or "I'm a little worried about things I've seen here."
- ask them if they're worried about anything, and let them know they can come to you.
- ask them about their friends online and how they know they are who they say they are.
- listen for the reasons why your child wants to use apps or site you don't think are suitable, so you can talk about these together.
- ask your child what they think's okay for children of different ages so they feel involved in the decision making.
- Remind them to think before posting photos and videos that can be used illegally. We are aware that there are online requests going around asking for children to send pictures of feet. Whilst this may seem innocent any information sent means that the person requesting now has your child's contact details
- Whenever using online devices, make sure that it has its privacy setting on. Avoid befriending or meeting people **you** don't **know** through the internet. Are they who they say they say they are?



We will be taking part in National Science Week, 9th - 13th March.

Do you work in the science sector?  
Or have a job that involves scientific knowledge?

Would you like to come in and speak to our children about your role?

Please contact Mrs Smith on email - [mrssmith@darlinghurst.co.uk](mailto:mrssmith@darlinghurst.co.uk)

**Please can we remind you of the expectations of behaviour on the Academy grounds. Please refrain from using negative and obscene language.**

**Mon 24 Feb**

Spring 2 Term Begins

**Mon 24 Feb**

Year 5 Fairgrounds Parents Event

**Thu 05 Mar**

World Book Day

**Mon 09 Mar**

Science Week

**Wed 18 Mar**

Year 1 and 2 Writing Together

**Mon 23 Mar**

Year 3 and 4 Writing Together

**Tue 24 Mar**

Year 5 and 6 Writing Together

**Tue 31 Mar**

Nursery Open Evening

**Reminder, we are moving to School Ping after half term. Please let the office know if you have not yet registered.**



## LET'S WRITE!

Regular learning together sessions provide you the opportunity to come into school and work alongside your child to learn together.

### Join us for a learning together writing session

**Year 1 and Year 2**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March - 2:40pm-3:10pm

**Year 3 and Year 4**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March - 2:40pm-3:10pm

**Year 5 and Year 6**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March - 2:40pm-3:10pm

**3PR IS ON A MISSION TO MAKE SCHOOL PARKING SAFER AND LESS STRESSFUL FOR CHILDREN, PARENTS, TEACHERS AND RESIDENTS. HE IS HERE TO HELP EVERYONE FOLLOW THE THREE PARKING RULES; CARE, CONSIDERATION AND CAUTION.**



Learning together sessions provide an opportunity to come into school and work alongside your child.

### Join us for a Reception Easter learning together session

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>**

**April**

**2:10pm-3:10pm**



## NURSERY OPEN EVENING

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**  
3.45pm-6.00pm

At Darlinghurst Nursery, we provide a nurturing and caring environment for 3 and 4 year olds which supports and encourages all children to develop holistically



- Our Nursery is not just on the Darlinghurst site; it is an integral part of the academy.
- Our children work closely with the Reception team, giving them a great head start in their school journey.
- Our children enjoy PE and Art with our school specialist teachers.