



Communication is a priority for us once again this year, we will communicate to parents and carers using **School Ping and My Child At School.**

In addition, we use **@DarlinghurstAcademy Instagram** to share what's going on within the Academy

May dates

- Bank Holiday – Academy closed – Monday 8th May
- Tea and Talk Nursery parents 'Getting ready for Reception' – Tuesday 16th May 8.45am
- Class Photos – Nursery, Year 1, 2 & 6 – Thursday 18th May
- Class Photos – Nursery, Reception, Year 3, 4 & 5 – Friday 19th May
- Tea and Talk Year 1 Phonics Screen – Wednesday 24th May 8.45am

Save the date for June

- Nursery & Reception Sports Day – Tuesday 6th June AM time TBC
- Year 1 & 2 Sports Day – Tuesday 6th June PM time TBC
- Year 3 & 4 Sports Day – Wednesday 7th June AM time TBC
- Year 5 & 6 Sports Day – Wednesday 7th June PM time TBC
- PGL 2023 Information Evening – Year 6 parents – Thursday 8th June 6PM
- Tea and Talk Outdoor Learning and Art – all parents – Tuesday 13th June 8.45am
- Tea and Talk 'Getting ready for year 1' – Reception parents – Tuesday 27th June 8.45am

Message from the Principal

Dear parents/carers,



Wishing you all a wonderful weekend and celebrations. The academy has been engaging in living history and learning about the Coronation and celebrating King Charles III. Children have enjoyed activities, tea parties, a special coronation lunch and a special celebration assembly to mark this occasion. Thank you to all the staff, including the kitchen staff, for making this week memorable.



Upon our return the year six children will be sitting their SATs papers and I wish them all the best. They have shown a great attitude towards their learning and I know that their determination has led to their personal progress and readiness for the papers. At this time of year, they start to look at key milestones with their own celebrations of their educational journey and plans ahead. They grow so fast and I can remember many at their start point in the EYFS or even nursery, ahead of joining our community. I cannot wait to see their first photographs again in the Leavers assembly in July.



Thank you to those parents who completed the survey questions. The Survey provides the opportunity to gauge parental voice. This is used alongside feedback or any issues raised to create a wider picture, aiding our understanding and actions. 111 out of 547 parents completed the survey and outcomes represent 21% of the community.

The vast majority maintain the view that children are happy and safe at Darlinghurst and that their child does well at the academy. This is reflected in the response to the questions regarding behaviour and bullying. This includes the parental view of children with SEND and that children are supported to succeed. This is also reflective of the viewpoint that the academy has high expectations for children and a range of subjects are available. These factors have led to 101 of the 111 parents completing the survey sharing that they would recommend



the academy to other parents. The parental voice has a positive impact on the academy and wider community. It is certainly having an impact as the wider community are talking about our academy offer, and despite low birth years, we remain full with Darlinghurst being a school of choice. Thank you for your continued support. I am dedicated to Darlinghurst and will continue in making sure that needs and change supports our children and community. I will be sharing future developments for lunchtime play. We have some new ventures and plans for this time in their day and for their personal development. Play and social skills are important parts of child development but also their enjoyment. As parents we want our children to be successful learners, prepared for change but also be happy and confident individuals. We want them to have happy and healthy relationships and equipped with the tools and help they need. Play and socialisation is an important aspect of their personal development and an area that can cause parents to worry should there be playground falls or fallouts. More information will be shared in due course.



I spent time with children this week discussing how we stay healthy. This included knowing that exercise, sleep and food were all important, along with our healthy minds. We discussed what we think should be a healthy snack for playtimes and healthy lunch boxes. The Junior Governors are gathering views to share with me to update our healthy schools information. As an Eco – school children were keen to reduce packaging and voiced the importance of bringing snacks in a reusable container or a snack that does not need to be unwrapped, i.e. fruit or vegetables. Can I remind parents that sweets, nuts and fizzy drinks are not permitted. During this term we will share our healthy snacks list along with suggestions for healthy lunch boxes. We hope to host a workshop for parents and children to engage in making healthy lunchboxes together. We would need this to be pre booked to order the food and prepare for the session. A school ping will be sent to gauge parental interest in the session and in response a booking system put in place, If any parents have work or experience in the field of ' health' and willing to share information or even hold a session with children please contact Mrs Grant.



As always, enjoy your family time together on this special bank holiday weekend.

Mrs Nicholls





KS1 in the spotlight

This half term seems to be flying by in Key Stage 1. We are all enjoying finding out about King Charles III in preparation for the Coronation and have been writing facts about him in our writing lessons. Year 2 have also been looking at the life of Jane Goodall and have found out about her ground breaking research techniques.

Maths so far this half term has seen the children exploring capacity and volume and temperature. They have learned how to read scales where not all numbers are shown and exploring two digit numbers and place value.



Year 1 have been busy finding out why water is so important to us and the world that we live in. They have explored different sources of water and the impact that the lack of water can have on the environment.



Growing plants has helped them to understand how important our delicate eco-system is and they have used scientific enquiry to help them to understand what it is that plants need to survive. As you can see, they now know how essential water is to the process as seeds that were not carefully watered did not fare as well as those that were!



Year 2 have been thinking about what makes us like other animals. They have compared the habitats, diets and habits of different animals and classified them into groups. Hands on learning has enabled them to distinguish which animals suit different habitats and why they have adapted in the way that they have to suit their environment.



To help the children to better understand the impact that humans have on our environment, the children went on a short walk around our local area. They looked for traces of animal activity, (we found badger and fox tracks as well as traces of nest building) and took the opportunity to collect litter to help our local environment to be a safe place for all of the wonderful creatures that we share it with. They then made a pictogram of what they had collected and talked about human impact.



Children have also looked at healthy eating and how this contributes to our mental health and wellbeing. Great fun was had chopping up a variety of fruits to make into mini fruit kebabs and the children enjoyed tasting their creations at the end. Not everyone liked all of the fruits but everyone had a try.



Both year 1 and year 2 are looking forward to our upcoming end of half term trips with Year 1 going to a local allotment to find out how food is grown and year 2 visiting Call of the Wild to observe animal habitats and feeding habits. We look forward to sharing our experiences with you.





30 Days Wild



In June, we are going to participate in the 30 days wild – the UK's biggest nature challenge. Last year we took up the challenge and this year we would love to share photographs of our children in school and also from their own experiences in nature. Past most popular activities included the following:



- Listening to bird song
- Exercising outdoors
- Eating or drinking outdoors
- Identifying wild flowers
- Planting wild flower seeds
- Going on a bug hunt
- Hugging a tree
- Making a wildlife home
- Going barefoot on the grass or earth
- Sketching, drawing or painting nature



Should you have photographs of your children and families enjoying the outdoors please send them to missarnold@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk. They may match one of the above or take a look at last year's #30dayswild on our Instagram for inspiration. Perhaps try doing some of the above over the coming month?

Herd about the City

Our beautiful elephant 'Aurora' has left the academy and is now on her journey. Everyone will be able to view Aurora amongst other entries in Southend City during the summer holidays. Further details to follow soon.



PTA Information

Upcoming Events

- Fathers Day Sale
- Summer fete

Wrist Bands available

- Adventure Island tickets are available to purchase at a discounted rate. If you would like to buy a ticket please contact Amanda on 07964243779 and the PTA can arrange collection.
- Also available are Sealife Centre tickets and Golf tickets. The prices are as follows:
 - *Adventure Island £16
 - *Sealife Centre £7
 - *Golf (2 courses) £5



Attendance

EYFS

Jellyfish 96.8

KS1

Lobster 98.9%

Albatross 95.8%

KS2

Victoria 100%

Stingray 98.4%



What have you missed on Instagram this week?

