



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

daily and class and year group news on [DB Primary](#)

### **Message from the Principal**

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year. I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and enjoyed the weather. The sun was shining for the majority of the time, which made it nice to be out and about, unless you went to Cornwall, the same time as me. Rain or Shine, I am sure memories were made.



Yesterday was a moment of great sadness for the country with the passing of our Queen. Our thoughts are with the Royal family and the nation as we mourn around the world. As a mark of respect the academy fell silent at 11am, with a floral tribute placed on our Elizabeth Line train, within our grounds. Today's celebration assembly was spent



celebrating the life and reign of our kind-hearted Queen.

### **Projects and developments**

I hope you took some time for yourselves too, especially on National Relaxation Day. A few members of staff and families shared pictures of their amazing views and a good selection of hammocks. This year at Darlinghurst Academy we have undertaken some summer projects in response to our pupil voice.

#### Quiet spaces:

This has included adding quiet spaces for relaxation and mindfulness around the academy, supporting the well-being areas for children and staff. We have a combination of indoor and outdoor spaces, such as our beach huts, including the Mindfulness Hut, mindful corners in each phase new intervention spaces include a cosy sofa and cushions. We also have our quiet quad with our stream of rockfish, linked to our message, 'There is only one you', and based on the book written by Linda Kranz. In addition we have been renovating our library space with arm chairs inside and mats and bean bags in the library garden. The building has also been decorated with 'Wonder Walls' by a highly talented artist, devoting his time over the summer to bring our library to life. Peter's generosity and time has been greatly appreciated and I know the children will love their library visits. Over the year, we continue to develop the outside of the library with murals of our English Garden – A garden and a library is the perfect place to read and grow. More to come on this development and thank you to, Stacey Williamson- Michie for supporting our vision.

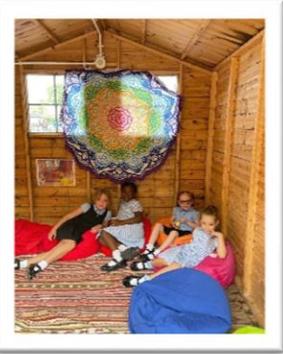




### Reading:

Continuing with the theme of promoting a love of reading, I know that children and staff enjoyed the reading challenge, enjoying reading at home and away, sharing photographs of their settings. Some looked picturesque and others looked exciting – Mrs Hahn enjoyed a book on a Safari and looked like she could read the lion the story, she was so close! Well done to all the children who completed the Library Reading challenge, 'Gadgeteers', receiving certificates and medals for your participation. We are keen to continue to share a love of reading over this year, with daily reading within the academy and home, school library and local library visits, special reading events, book swaps and more. We are hoping to create a reading trail around the academy grounds too. If you have any quality books to donate to our special reading spaces or future book swaps, we would be delighted to receive these. The reading team, will be promoting these, keep a look out for messages about, 'reading' at school and at home.

### Break and lunch times:



Last year, children and staff reviewed break time and lunchtime provision and in response activity zones were created utilising spaces and resources, alongside learning playtime games. Children used the equipment within the zones as well as playing in nature. The Play Squad and Peer Mentors were trained and supported break-times well and new appointments will be made this half term for these active roles. Mr Felton and the PE team, shared ideas with colleagues for playing and leading games. At the start of this year, he led a great session with our MDAs and LSAs teaching new games to them, which they will teach the children this year. It's lovely to see the children and staff engaging in play together.



In addition, our new catering team started with us in July and we had a taster of their school meals – hot and cold. The three week menu cycle is now in place and week 1 is underway. The children have a variety of choice with main meals, vegetarian, pasta, jacket potatoes and pick and mix. We recognise the importance of a healthy lunch, in



school and hope that our children give our school meals a try. We also promote healthy lunch boxes and politely remind parents that we are a nut free school and fizzy drinks are not allowed. We encourage healthy snacks. Our year six children were delighted to discover that the end hall is now dedicated to year 6 dining, with their own dining experience – inclusive of table cloths and their own serving area, offering fruit, salad, bread and water. The dining hall prefects support lunchtimes too.



### **Pick up and drop off**

Thank you for a great start to the term and adapting so quickly to pick up and drop off. It is lovely to be able to be on the playground. Please be aware that we have opened gates 5 minutes ahead of the start and end of day to provide a window for entry. Children can arrive within this window. At home time, children will not be led to the playground until 3:10, therefore please do not arrive too early as we have made these changes to reduce congestion outside the academy and to be able to be together in a larger space. For those parents who travel to school by car, please be considerate of our neighbours and each other, following the rules of the road. I understand that we are amongst a residential area and you may need to park, with a short walk into the school area.



### A positive return and welcome to new starters



All of our children have settled well into their new classrooms and have enjoyed seeing their friends again and making new friends with our newcomers. I have thoroughly enjoyed walking around and seeing everyone in action and establishing routines and expectations. The children have been proud to be in their new year groups, wearing their uniform with pride and many showcasing new haircuts too!



It has been wonderful welcoming our new children to the academy, including the Early Years as they start Nursery or Reception, Year 3 as they transition from an infant school to join us and also new comers from other schools and areas. Darlinghurst is a happy and caring place to be, where everyone belongs, welcome to our academy. The Reception children look delightful in their uniforms and have loved exploring and getting to know each other.



We value 'settling routines' and dedicate time to building relationships. The staff have played and talked alongside the children, getting to know them. All of our new Reception children have now started school.



### Active Citizens

I have enjoyed meeting the prefects at the start of this year, having a meeting to once again congratulate them on their elections and to discuss their roles and responsibilities. They were great role models in assembly as we shared the 'Darlinghurst Direction' with the other children, remembering to always show our Academy and British values and to be positive role models and help others to be their very best. Children were also able to share other actions in the 'Darlinghurst Direction' that they have been developing, including using their presentation best. We look forward to launching our other active groups over the coming weeks, with new applications for roles being shared. We follow the British Value of 'democracy'.



### Tea and Talk

We are keen to spend time with our parents too and this year, are launching our first, 'Tea and Talk' session with our Reception parents. This will be on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, after drop off, in the Harbour. We have revamped the meeting room in the far building to host these events. We hope this provides a chance for parents to chat and Miss Wise will be there too. I will pop along for a chat too. Should Reception parents wish to attend, please email:

[msrlowe@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk](mailto:msrlowe@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk)

We will share other dates for Tea and Talk sessions for parents with the PTA and Staff. I know that Mr Turner is keen to host a TTRS Tea and Talk with you. The sessions with staff are replacing the traditional workshops, in response to the parent survey results. The sessions will be informal and staff will host short talks and around for any questions. A schedule will be shared outlining the sessions. We are also excited to announce that plans for Toddler, Tea and Talk sessions are underway and to be launched next term. The aim is for sessions to be hosted each week on a Thursday morning. We will be sending a short survey to gain your views. Should you have younger children, please take the time to complete.

**Tea and Talk  
in the Harbour**

Reception Parents

You are invited for tea and talk with Miss Wise. Come along for a cuppa and a chance to chat with other Reception parents too.

Date: Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
Time: After morning drop off at the Brook Gate.  
Location: The Harbour  
Duration: 45 minutes

Are you planning to join us?  
Let Mrs Lowe know via: [msrlowe@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk](mailto:msrlowe@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk)



### Learning and Life Skills

Next week, we are launching our Learning and Life skills – learning together. Mrs Cooke will be sharing some information in next week's N& V, including ways to develop this skill at home. They will also be a feature in children's homework.

### DB Primary and homework

Children's homework will be accessed via DB Primary. All children have a DB Primary account and this platform provides a secure and moderated online environment. Each class has their own community area to access home learning tasks, activities, blogs and more. This year, within DB Primary, we are providing a half termly overview of the homework, breaking down elements to focus on each week. Teachers will also add blogs or information, as needed. This platform allows for safe communication on line. Home learning tasks continue to support children developing their key skills in reading (phonics or Accelerated Reader), number bonds or Times tables (Times Table Rockstars), Spellings (SirLinkALot) and using Knowledge organisers to learn key facts.

### Logins

Children have logins for their TTRS accounts giving access to the APP or website. They will be bringing home their DB Primary logins next week. A link to DB Primary is on our website; software and homework links but also can be accessed: [Login to Darlinghurst Academy - secure-dbprimary.com](https://secure-dbprimary.com) A refresher of how to use DB Primary will be sent for your reference.



### Other communication platforms

Communication and relationships are important to us. We continue to share rationales with parents to keep you well informed on what we are doing and why. We plan to keep you well informed and review our approaches in response to feedback. We continue to use School Ping as our communication tool, sharing messages with you. We ask any new parents to download the app.



Our internal systems have now provide us access to, 'My child At School' a great APP that provides a simple dashboard of your child's class, attendance and clubs. This will be used for Club selection and will display the clubs your child attends for your reference. Clubs will commence, 19<sup>th</sup> September to allow for this new system to be launched and time for parents to enrol. A ping will be sent with information including enrolment in clubs. Should you need any assistance with this, please contact [ictsupport@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk](mailto:ictsupport@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk)

### Shaping the Future

I am looking forward to sharing news across this academic year. I am excited for the year ahead. Next week, we have our special annual event, 'Shaping the Future' on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September. This is a day of vision and values where children engage in a special ceremony and house activities. We welcome new comers to year one to six will be inducted into their key stage. This year's theme, is 'the Proudest Blue'. Another summer development was a new mural to celebrate this message, painted by Mr Clark. Thank you for your time and talent. I am proud of our children and they are to wear their full Darlinghurst Uniform – proudly wearing blue! Reception will be hosting their own mini shaping the future too. I look forward to sharing news on this event.



As always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls



## Proud to be me – Blue Peter Badges



## Attendance and Punctuality

The academy target this year is for every child to achieve 97% attendance. For children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital they attend regularly and are at school on time, every day the academy is open.

Good attendance is a learned behaviour and every parent/carer has the legal responsibility to ensure that their child is receiving an education.

There is no entitlement in law for pupils to take time off during the term to go on holiday. Requests for leave forms must be completed with an accompanying letter and handed in with ample time for the academy to review. Failure to follow the academy process in full will result in the absence being unauthorised.

Regular absence may trigger further intervention in line with our attendance policy. To report an absence please contact 01702 509205 before 09:30am, if you are unable to speak to a member of staff please leave a message with details of the reason your child is absent.

Gates open at 08:30am and close at 08:40am, after which children are late and must meet Miss Davis outside the front of the office irrespective of the weather. We continue to request that no mobile phones are used whilst on the school grounds. Signs are displayed on the gates to remind you of this.

Improving attendance is everyone's business and we look forward to working in collaboration with you again.

## Mobile Phones

Parents are respectfully reminded that mobile phones should not be used on the school site. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated



What have you missed on Instagram this week?

