



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

February dates

- 'World Thinking Day' – Wednesday 22nd February
- Tea and Talk – Connected Curriculum - Tuesday 28th February 8.45am

Save the date for March

- World Book Day – Thursday 2nd March
- Tea & Talk – Online Safety – Thursday 2nd March 2.15pm
- Reading Together Session (Parents are invited in to share a story with their child in class) - Thursday 2nd March 2.45pm
- Tea & Talk - Outdoor Learning & Art – Tuesday 14th March 8.45am
- Red Nose Day – Comic Relief – Friday 17th March
- Tea & Talk – Phonics in Nursery – Tuesday 21st March 8.45am
- Pre-loved uniform, toy and book sale – Thursday 30th March 3.10pm

Message from the Principal

Dear parent/carers,



I wish you all a happy half term break and send warm wishes from all of us at Darlinghurst. The weather is trying to get warmer and that is always an indication that Spring is arriving when the daffodils bloom in the grounds. We have also been sharing love and kindness around the academy in readiness for Valentine's Day and Mother's Day.



With Spring and the warmer weather around the corner we can hopefully say goodbye to some of our Winter germs that effect our physical health and well-being. This half term seasonal illness has impacted on the overall attendance - Chicken Pox passes around. In addition Strep A and Tonsillitis has impacted on others. Whilst we know that illness is not something that we can control at this time of year, it is important that children attend the academy and other reasons for absence, which are not medical or exceptional circumstances, are avoided. Let's see if we can improve attendance, together.



During our assemblies, we celebrated our value of belonging and the important British values of Tolerance and Mutual Respect and considered the question 'what does connecting with others mean?' This week, has been Children's Mental Health Week and we have reflected on the importance of being connected, whether that is connected with nature, connected with others or connected to the past. We thought about who we had already connected with that day and how we connected. We talked about the importance of, 'togetherness' and how at Darlinghurst we love to achieve or celebrate together.

Together

together we join to celebrate
together we clap and cheer
together we watch
improvements
and face the things we fear

together we grow and develop
together we all belong
together we make mistakes
and learn about right and
wrong

together we praise the gentle
the kind, the strong, the brave
together we share
achievement
in a thousand different ways

together we'll finish the
journey
wherever it started from
together we are tomorrow
together we are one

Matt Goodfellow



In the year 3, 4 and 5 assembly we looked at Inspirational and Influential children who made a stand for their rights and beliefs and how their actions have impacted on the lives of children today and connected with us. One of our pupils in year 6, shared her art work entry for the Royal Academy of Arts Summer Show 2023, which was a perfect example of how Malala Yousafzai's actions were still impacting on today. This moment connected with everyone in the hall. I am sure you will agree, Maryam's art is inspirational too.



In year 1, 2 and 3 assembly we used the story of, 'Room on a Broom' by Julia Donaldson to consider how in one day, you can connect with new people, making new friendships and helping each other. We looked at the characters that all climbed aboard the broom. The children liked my witches hat and broom stick and sharing design ideas for a new stick. Should they decide to make a picture of the new broom over half term, I would love to see them on our return.

This week, also included the important message of Safer Internet Day and to make space for conversations about life on line. The Theme, 'Want to talk about it? Was perfectly matched to 'Let's connect' and children explored the importance of talking to others about life on and off line. The day is coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre and they hope to answer the following questions to connect to others and bring about change too.



- What issues really matter to children and young people?
- What changes do they want to see?
- How can we all work together to advocate for them moving forward?

With your help we would like to continue conversations that shape how we talk about and respond to online issues and ask that you talk with your children at home too.

Please take a look at any forthcoming dates in the school calendar and we will keep you updated via Ping on events. With our love of reading for pleasure, I look forward to your return after the half term break and as always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls

EYFS in the Spotlight

Wow! This half-term has flown-by and what an exciting time it has been in Nursery and Reception. We have further developed our knowledge about bears and the countries that they tend to originate from such as polar bears in the Arctic and panda bears in China. Studying a map the children were keen to spot where we live and label it, then labelled where the bears live too. Nursery worked together plotting their information on the huge wall map. In Reception the children are filling in their own map which we will add other information to throughout the year.



We thoroughly enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year, which led to many colourful and creative opportunities. Our classrooms were awash with dragons, red envelopes, lanterns and fans and the children enjoyed practicing their own Chinese dragon dancing. We shared the story of 'The Great Race', which explains the order of the animals in the Chinese calendar. We are now in the year of the 'Rabbit'. What year were you born in?





This week, the focus has been predominantly on exploring how we can all be more environmentally friendly. We have shared stories such as 'Michael Recycle' and 'The Litter Bug', which led to many conversations about rubbish. What is rubbish? Now that was an interesting debate! As the week progressed the children discovered that so many goods can be re-used rather than be disposed of.



Nursery immersed themselves into creating many different new items using goods that would otherwise have been put in the bin. Food packing was turned into objects such as a 'STOP' sign for our Rockpool garden zebra crossing. It was a joy to hear the new musical instruments being played in the garden too; all made using unwanted food packaging. The children learnt that 'chick peas makes a hard sound and the sand makes a soft sound.' Well done, Nursery! You are certainly



being super eco-friendly.

During the week the children had tremendous fun making their own paper in the Rockpool garden. First, they collected scrap paper from around the school and shredded it into smaller pieces. Then they filled a tube full of the tiny pieces of paper. Next they added water and learned that the water reacts with the paper and slowly breaks it down. To speed up the process a variety of tools were used to mix and churn the water and paper up. Using whisks, spoons, mashers, graters and their hands the children pretended to be like a huge washing machine churning the mixture into 'pulp'. Then they sieved the pulp to remove some excess water and then took the slushy mush and squeezed it between our hands and placed on grease-proof paper. To remove even more excess water we placed a towel over it and stepped on it until the towel was wet. We then placed the paper in the sun to dry. The end result is amazing! We are rather proud of our new paper and look forward to writing on it after the holiday. Perhaps you could have a go at making your own paper too? Have fun!



We hope that you have an enjoyable weeks holiday together. Don't forget to 'reduce, re-use, recycle'.



Outdoor Learning



Although the weather has been cold, January for outdoor learning has been very busy and the children have really enjoyed being outside. The whole school have been part of the RSPB Birdwatch 2023 and we have finished recording our results and will be sending them off shortly.



Our children in Reception have learnt about different types of ways animals can camouflage and how they use the environment to do this. In year 3 they have been creative making Mayan Temples in the wellbeing garden and year 6 have been busy



making bird feeders and investigating invertebrates and vertebrates connecting with their Evolution topic.

We look forward to continuing outdoor learning when we return after the holidays. **Miss Arnold**



Pre Loved Sale

Our aim is for pre-loved uniform to be available to everyone. The pre-loved uniform can be purchased, for a small donation, in the main school hall on the following dates:

Date	Time	Area
Thursday 30 th March 23	3.30pm – 4pm	Main Hall
Thursday 13 th July 23	3.30pm – 4pm	Main Hal

We welcome donations of your used logo or non-logo school uniform, shoes or PE kit that are in good condition to the school office. By donating or using pre-loved uniform, you:

- support the school
- help others
- save good clothes from landfill
- help the environment

*Please note that stock may be limited

We will also be including a pre loved toys, books and games stand. We would be grateful of any donations of these items and will gladly accept them at the Office.

Tea and Talk



It has been wonderful welcoming families to our newly launched Tiny Tiddlers Toddler Time. We have had a wonderful time singing songs, making valentines cards, listening to stories and playing together. Our next session will be Thursday 2nd March, please come to the brook gate at 9.30am and Miss Wise will meet you. Sessions are £2 and can be paid for via your child's ParentPay account or cash on the day. All families with pre-school age children are welcome, spread the word!



This week the Eco Committee hosted a 'Tea and Talk' for parents sharing what they have learnt and the different projects they have been involved in this year. Our Committee made a power point and shared key facts and tips linked to waste, litter, car pollution and healthy living. They confidently answered questions from our parents about what they have been doing and their future plans to help

achieve the Eco-schools Green Flag Award again this year. A huge well done to the children who took part to make this a huge success and highlight the incredible work they have been doing. Make sure you keep checking Instagram and News and Views for further updates on their hard work throughout the year!



World Thinking Day

World Thinking Day is a global event where children are encouraged to celebrate international friendship, and speak out and raise awareness for issues facing young people around the world. Children who are part of the girl guiding or scout movement are welcome to wear their uniform to school on this date





World Book Day

On Thursday 2nd March we will be celebrating World Book Day. Today your child will be bringing home their WBD voucher which can be exchanged for a special £1 book at local book stores. Here are some of the new titles for this year. Look out for more information after half term.



Join us during half term to plant fruit trees!

On Tuesday 14th February between 11am-1pm, members of the gardening charity, Trustlinks, will be planting fruit trees at the end of our field and they need your help! Trustlinks is a community charity focusing on wellbeing and using gardening to bring people together. Invite your parent/carer, Nan, Grandad, Aunty, older siblings etc... everyone is welcome! If you would like to join us please email generalenquiries@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk. (All children must come with an adult)



TrustLinks

Great British Spring Clean Litter Pick

This year again, we will be hosting a community litter pick as part of the Great British Spring Clean 2023. It will be taking place from Leigh-on-Sea Station on Saturday 1st April 10am-12noon. The Eco Committee would love for it to be a sponsored litter pick again, raising money for SVP St Vincent's Centre, Southend. You can find out more about this wonderful charity here: <https://www.svp.org.uk/st-vincent-southend> If your children would like to take part and require a sponsorship form, please email generalenquiries@darlinghurst.org.uk

Attendance

KS1

Albatross 95.6%

KS2

Dune 97%

Bembridge 96.2%



Proud to be me



What have you missed on Instagram this week?

