



Communication is a priority for us once again this year, we will communicate to parents and carers using **School Ping** In addition, we use **Instagram** to share what's going on within the Academy daily. Please make sure you are following us **@DarlinghurstAcademy** on Instagram.

## Message from the Principal

It has been a lovely week with everyone returning from the half term break refreshed and ready to learn. Everyone looked smart and so many new haircuts too. So many children that have shared their work with me, this week, shared their new haircuts too!



We also shared our Jubilee experiences. Take a look at some of the photographs sent in from families and take a look at the article in the echo sharing our academy celebrations with the wider community.



For the month of June, we are participating in the 30 days wild challenge and are enjoying spending time with nature. Why not take part in the challenge at home. This weekend's suggestions are to make a mini pond, hug a tree and draw a feather. If you take part we would love to see some pictures. It looks like it is going to be a nice weekend.

This half term we have some key events coming up with Business enterprise, Sports Days, transition and year six leavers to name a few. We will share key dates and arrangements via Ping so please take a look. At the end of term we will be hosting a 'celebrating together' session where parents can join their children in class to look at their work. I know that it has felt a very long time since we have been able to host celebrating or learning together sessions. At the end of the year, we will also invite parents onto the playground for a meet and greet their child's new teacher. This will be very informal and an opportunity to introduce yourselves.



Finally, I would like to share some fantastic news. As you know, Darlinghurst Academy is passionate about the environment and are proud of our Green Flag award. Every year, schools resubmit evidence to sustain the award. The staff, children and families have shown a collaborative approach and responsibility which as not only shown impact but has been acknowledged with the highest accolade. I am delighted to share, we are now the first school in the area to be awarded the Green Flag, with distinction. I would like to thank Mrs Powell and the Eco Team for their leadership and commitment.



As always,  
Enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls

## From the Rockpool

This week we have focused our learning around the story 'The Snail and the Whale', written by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Axel Scheffler. It is a story about building new friendships and the determination to try new things even if we don't succeed at first which are so important in our everyday lives.

The weather has been kind to us this week and we have been enjoying many of our activities out in the garden including travelling on adventures in our rowing boat. Please remember to apply suncream to your child before school on the appropriate days. If it is not an all-day product send your child in with their own named suncream to independently apply before lunch. Also, please send your child into school with a named sunhat and a named water bottle (just Reception) daily. We thank you for your continued support. Have a wonderful weekend.

## Around the Academy

This week in **year 1**, we have enjoyed looking at the story 'The Queen's knickers' where the children wrote their own version of the story and were able to discuss the events in detail and share their ideas with their talk partners. It was a fun and great story this week! Also, we introduced our new topic 'Where we could go on a great day out?' and the children completed a geography lesson looking at maps and discussing lots of countries and naming all the continents and oceans. They found out a lot of information and were able to locate two countries on a map. The children are all excited to get stuck into this topic and become historian's and geographer's throughout this term.

This week in **year 2**, we have started our new unit which is Geography based. We have explored the continents of the world and the oceans and we have discovered that oceans make up 70% of our planet. The Pacific Ocean is the largest ocean and makes up one third of the earth's surface. We used the new learning about fraction of shape in maths to work out how much of the earth is covered. We also looked at the work the RNLI do to keep us safe in the water and explored the possible hazards that you could find. Next week we will be looking at coastal erosion and making our own cliffs in our outdoor learning spaces.



**Year 3** enjoyed our amazing Beach School Trip this Thursday. The children did us proud and behaved impeccably throughout the day. We walked both ways, so got plenty of healthy exercise and built up our steps too! Once arriving at the beach, we had a health and safety briefing and settled into the first of our four activities. These activities, were linked to our geography studies for this half-term, 'How can we make living here better for everyone?' The children created sand sculptures relating to local landmarks, such as the pier. They collected shells and objects from the beach and sorted them into categories. A litter picking activity, helped to clean the beach and we completed a survey back at school to find out what types of rubbish had been collected. We also studied the tides and the effects of these in the environment. Later, we finished off with lunch on the beach and a little time to relax before returning back to school. We all had a fantastic time! Thank you once again to everybody that participated in our trip and helped out to make it memorable and special for all of us.

Over this half term in learning and life skills, the children in **year 4** are focussing on speaking and listening. With a particular focus of speaking in a clear and concise way and being able to confidently talk about things which they are passionate about. In maths, the children have been exploring plotting coordinates on graphs and being able to read coordinates on graphs. Linking their work from before half term on shapes the children also worked on connecting coordinates to form different quadrilateral shapes. The children have also continued to practice for the multiplication test by playing sound checks every time they are given a laptop. In writing the children have been learning about Hans Christian Andersen and one of his most famous stories the Snow queen. It was then the children's turn to retell a version of the story. In their version they wrote the story of a child who is turned evil by a wicked trolls mirror and what happens when the child then meets the snow queen.

Well done for a great first week back Year 4! Remember to keep practising on TTRS in preparation for the upcoming MTC.

Welcome back **Year 5**. Wow, where has the year gone as we enter into the final half term? It was fantastic to see everyone back and ready to learn. This week we have launched our new Learning and Life skills topic on Speaking and Listening and Mrs Nichols treated us to an assembly that discussed some of the difficulties around speaking and listening in life. Our writing looked at the story of Moana and a dilemma that she faces in the story and RE looked at the Christian celebration of Pentecost.

It is the last half term for the children in **year 6** at Darlinghurst and it is always a very busy one. We have a lot to look forward to: PGL, a mud run, Leaver's disco and Leaver's assembly to name a few. Firstly, we are preparing for our annual Enterprise event where the children are in groups putting together business proposals to be approved. The children may come home with some of their money from their allocated budgets to buy materials for their stall or activity. The Year 6 Enterprise fair is on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June. The children have all had a PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) lesson on the dangers and rules about vaping this week. We are starting our new geography topic next week which is called 'What do we know about places in the UK'. In this topic we study the difference between counties, cities and towns as well as studying landmarks and coasts. We are also comparing the UK with two other localities: Afghanistan and India. In preparation for our Leaver's assembly, the children will soon be coming home with song words to learn, please encourage your child to practise them.



## Learning and life skills

This half term our focus for Learning and Life Skills (LLS) is Speaking and Listening. Our focus is to encourage the children to be active and engaged listeners and confident and concise speakers. We are also working on effective conversation and discussion skills.

In our introduction assemblies this week we have discussed what 'active listening' looks like and why is it important to take turns when speaking whatever our age.

The children will be exploring how important these skills are in their LLS lessons and how this will help them not just in the classroom, but also in everyday life in and out of the school. These skills are so important that some lessons will be all about developing their Speaking and Listening skills e.g. developing how well they can explain something to others; how well they can listen to and follow instructions; how well they can discuss something with each other to help them work something out or make a plan.

The children's targets are as follows:

|          | EYFS   | Year 1   | Year 2  | Year 3  | Year 4   | Year 5   | Year 6   |
|----------|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| Target 1 | I can talk about my ideas and express opinions | I can speak clearly and can be understood by adults and learners alike, using appropriate language.  | I can show that I am aware of the listener when I am speaking by holding eye contact and by adjusting what I say. | I can articulate my words and speak confidently in a voice which can be heard and understood. | I can use precise vocabulary and I can organise what I say in a clear and concise way. | I can articulate words clearly and use appropriate intonation to communicate my ideas. | I can make an individual presentation to my class summarising a piece of work; ideas; a process. |
| Target 2 | I can describe something that happened to me.  | I can take an active part in discussions and talk about my ideas confidently to different groupings. | I can explain my ideas and interests, providing relevant details.   | I can discuss the main points of what I have heard.   | I can talk confidently about something I am interested in to an audience.              | I can give a sustained talk to a class or group.                                       | I can articulate words clearly and use appropriate intonation to communicate my ideas.           |

To help your child at home please refer to the top tips for speaking and listening:

### Top tips for listening

- Give a purpose for listening in advance i.e can you retell your favourite part of the story?
- Demonstrate active listening, e.g. eye contact, asking questions, quick recapping.
- Help your child identify features of language, gesture and non-verbal cues which help the listener.
- Practice strategies to structure listening, e.g. physical responses to mark key points, forming mental pictures, thinking of a question to ask.

### Top tips for speaking

- Give your child time to think before they respond to questions.
- Expect your child to provide extended answers (with support if needed)
- Follow up on your child's contributions with further questions.
- Encourage your child to speak loudly and clearly so they can be heard.



## Jubilee celebrations

Thank you to all of our families that have shared pictures of their Jubilee festivities, we have loved seeing how you have celebrated.





## IN FOCUS Flags were flying for Platinum Jubilee celebrations at Darlinghurst Academy in Leigh



## Proud to be me



## Attendance

**KS1**  
Albatross 97%

**KS2**  
Coral 98%  
Bembridge 97%





## Outdoor Equipment Secondhand Sale



The Sports and Eco Committee will be running a Secondhand Sale on **16<sup>th</sup> June**.  
More details to follow.

We need donations of any unused equipment or used equipment in a good condition.

Examples include: tennis rackets, footballs, goalkeeper gloves, skipping ropes, hoops, bucket and spade or even a bucket of dinosaurs!

Please drop off at the office or your child can bring to their classroom in a bag by **15<sup>th</sup> June**.



What have  
you missed  
on Instagram  
this week?

