



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

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week children and staff have continued to prepare for the Christmas festivities and the stage is up and ready for the productions next week. If you have purchased a seat for a performance, we ask that you carry out a Lateral Flow Test ahead of attendance for the safety and health of all. Should you feel unwell, please do not attend. Visitors are required to wear masks throughout the performances and single chairs will be socially distanced. Parents will be asked to sanitise on entry and exit and to follow the one-way system. We recognise that Covid remains a concern in the community and the academy continues preventive measures in line with government guidance.

The children have been engaging in a range of events and activities this week, related to the connected curriculum and also part of the Christmas fundraiser by the PTA. Children had fun in the Reindeer Run with the PE team, as they carried out their laps to Lapland. In year 3, I had the pleasure to attend their Egyptian Day and learning how to mummify a tomato. I am curious to see what the tomatoes will look like upon our return, in January.

It has been a wonderful term! I am extremely proud of all the children and staff for their hard work and enthusiasm across the curriculum and look forward to sharing your child's progress with you in the fourth coming virtual parent consultations in January. This will be via 'School Cloud' again based on the positive parental and staff feedback from last year. You will receive a separate letter detailing arrangements, including the online booking system.

I would like to thank all the parents and carers for their continued support to the academy. I recognise the importance of working together in providing our children with the best experiences and there has been an overwhelming sense of belonging and partnership working. Thank you. I am looking forward to the final week of term and would like to wish you a safe and happy Christmas break.

As always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls

From the Rockpool

Nursery and Reception have had a busy week. We learnt about the Jewish festival, 'Hanukkah' and 'The Nativity' about the birth of Jesus. The children all enjoy learning about different cultures and beliefs as they realise that we are all individuals and have different family routines and experiences. In Maths we have focused our learning on 2D shapes and have been spotting them in the environment. Perhaps you can hunt for 2D shapes around your homes and discuss their properties such as counting how many straight or curved sides it has? Have fun!

Have a wonderful weekend.

Around the Academy

In this exciting and busy week with the PTA Panto, Christmas dinner and jumper day, the children in **Year 1** have continued to concentrate on learning. We have used the traditional story of The Gingerbread Man to develop writing skills. We have thought carefully about adjectives to describe the characters and their actions to make our sentences more interesting. We have developed our understanding of time by putting events in the correct order, as well as learning how to read time passing in hour and half hour periods. In topic we have been comparing features of the U.K with Morocco and remembering countries that we have been lucky to



visit ourselves. The children are very excited and working hard with our preparations to perform our nativity next week.

Year 2 have been busy rehearsing for our sing a long Nativity next week, we are really looking forward to performing for you next week. We have also been writing newspaper articles as if we were in 1666 and reporting on the Great Fire of London as it happens, we have been thinking about eye-catching headlines that would make people want to stop and read our articles such as "Fire Consumes London" and "London is Bathed in Flames!". We are very proud of the Tudor houses that we have made, they have been displayed in a 'street' in our classrooms and have really helped us to visualise the cramped conditions that contributed to the fire spreading

Year 3 have had a fantastic week. We have been practicing hard for our concert next week – please send your child into school with a Christmas accessory to wear on Monday. In our writing we have been retelling the story of the Ancient Egyptian God Osiris and how his brother Seth tricked him. On Wednesday we celebrated the end of our Edison unit 'Who were the best builders?' by focusing on the ancient Egyptian civilisation. We began the day with our expert session led by Mrs Powell, learning about the Egyptian belief of the afterlife, the weighing of the heart ceremony and the requirement to add Shabti to their sarcophagus. We continued learning about the mummification process and even set up an experiment to mummify a tomato! Our afternoon was spent learning about and building Egyptian pyramids. They really were amazing builders! It was lovely for the staff to sit and have Christmas dinner with the children on Thursday, they looked great in their Christmas jumpers, headbands and tinsel. We are looking forward to our final week celebrating Christmas with the children.

In **Year 4** this week we have been writing short Viking stories called Sagas about a warrior trying to get to Valhalla, the Viking heaven. In maths, we have continued with learning about fractions and specifically equivalent fractions. This is always a challenging concept but they have all done so well and showed determination to succeed! In topic work, we have learnt about what it was like to live in a Viking Britain village. The children were quite amazed about how families had to live in one house with all their animals during the winter – can you imagine the smell! We've had our last Christmas Concert rehearsal this week too and you are all in for a real treat. Remember the children need to be in full smart uniform but can accessories with something Christmassy. We look forward to seeing you all Monday.

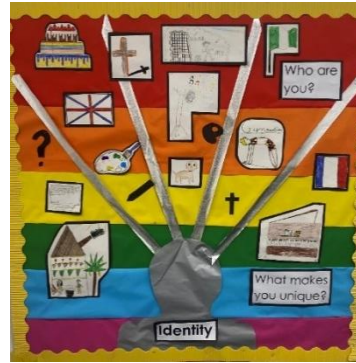
This week **Year 5** have been rambling like reindeers in PE and researching the area and perimeter of various shapes in maths, as well as recounting a well-known Christmas carrot's journey to his family. We realised how castles were used during WW1 and rounding up some Christian parables and their meaning and of course rehearsing for our Christmas concert next week!

Year 6 have been learning about some local Southend landmarks and their history this week. We have also learnt about the harsh and gruesome Victorian punishments that people in prisons had to endure. In our writing lessons we are writing in the militant voice of Emmeline Pankhurst. Thank you for all of your support with the cake sales over the last two weeks. We made an amazing £244 from the Key Stage 2 classes and are awaiting the total from last Friday's sale. We are busy preparing for our Christmas concert and are looking forward to performing for you all.



RHSE special

RSHE provides the knowledge, skills and attributes pupils need to keep themselves healthy, safe and prepared for life. The personal, social and emotional development of children in the Early Years is encouraged through play and learning in order for the children to form healthy relationships and communicate effectively with mutual respect whilst settling into their new environment. These skills continue to develop throughout their school journeys to prepare them for life beyond school. Our shaping the future celebration in September really launches the key message that 'There is only one you'. Celebrating everybody's unique talents, accomplishments and cultures which is at the heart of our Darlinghurst values. Our RSHE lessons give the children an opportunity to share their ideas and opinions and know that these are listened to and respected by everyone. **Miss McCrory**



'I enjoy these lessons because I learn skills to prepare me for life.' – Evie Year 5

'I know that I will use the skills from RSHE lessons to help me when I meet new people in secondary school.' - Alix Year 6

Christmas productions

Monday 13 th December	Year 3 & 4 Carol Concert	9:30am – 10:30am
Monday 13 th December	Year 6 Carol Concert	2:30pm - 3:15pm (entry 2:25pm)
Monday 13 th December	Year 5 Carol Concert	1:30pm – 2:15pm (entry 1:20pm)
Tuesday 14 th December	Early Years Production	1:45pm – 2:45pm
Wednesday 15 th December	Nursery Nativity	9.30am – 10.30am
Wednesday 15 th December	Year 2 Nativity through song	1:45pm – 2:45pm
Thursday 16 th December	Year 1 Nativity through song	9:30am – 10:30am



Gates & Times - Last day of term 2021/22 – Friday 17th December 2021

	Class	Last day end time	Exit
EYFS	Nursery am	11:50	Brook Gate
	Reception Jellyfish	13:20	Brook Gate
	Reception Starfish		
KS1	Year 1 Lobster	13:20	Side Gate
	Year 1 Shrimp		
	Year 2 Puffin		Side Gate
	Year 2 Albatross		
	Year 2 Seagull		
LKS2	Year 3 Stingray	13:30	Side Gate
	Year 3 Swordfish		Main Gate
	Year 4 Dune		
	Year 4 Seashell		
	Year 4 Coral		
UPKS2	Year 5 Bembridge	13:35	Brook Gate
	Year 5 Wilton		
	Year 5 Mayflower		
	Year 6 Billet	Main Gate	
	Year 6 Strand		
	Year 6 Victoria		

Free school Meal Vouchers – via WONDE

The Government has provided Southend Borough Council with additional grant money for the winter months, called the Household Support Fund (HSF). The Councillors have decided they would like to offer free school meal vouchers to families for the Christmas holiday period 2021 and February half term 2022.

This is a temporary funding initiative and SBC are currently not aware of any additional funds beyond this point. If you are eligible for free school meals, you will receive £30 per child for Christmas and £30 per child for February 2022.

(You will receive the Christmas allocation week beginning 13th December)

If you have any queries please contact Miss Churchman, Finance Officer, on 01702 509202 or e mail finance@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk



Keeping children safe online

1 in 5 internet users in the UK are children. For many of us, we see our online lives and offline lives as different, but children are growing up with technology and the internet and for them there isn't a difference; online life and offline life is just life. Technology can move at an extraordinarily fast pace and it can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they are doing online, who they might be speaking to or discussing the potential risks and issues.



The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how urgent it is for us to think about the impact of the internet and how we all have a part to play in stopping online abuse. During last year's lockdowns the NSPCC helpline saw a 60% increase in contacts from people worried about children experiencing online sexual abuse.

No doubt many children will receive new computer-based games over the Christmas period or have access to online games. Whilst these can be a great way for them to keep busy and stay in touch with friends and family, it is also important that they play safely.



Things to consider if your child games online:

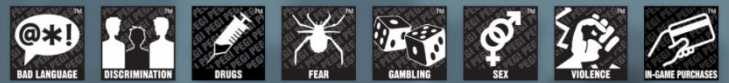
- age ratings of games they play
- messaging and contact functions on the games
- in-game purchases
- trolling, griefing and scams
- how to report problems
- where they can get further support.

Also, if you have more than one child in your home, be aware that games suitable for one child to play or watch, may not be suitable for another.

TWO LEVELS OF INFORMATION AS A GUIDE : THE PEGI AGE LABELS



THE CONTENT DESCRIPTORS



Further information on helping you and your family to keep safe online over this Christmas period has been sent via PING.



What have you missed on Instagram this week?

