



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,

Today is the final day of a fabulous half term and we made the Echo with a double page spread in a new feature, 'School of the week'. The first school to make this feature! It will also be online over the weekend. To read the headline, an eco-focused school with a huge heart made my day! I was delighted to talk about Darlinghurst (my favourite topic) and share our achievements and uniqueness alongside my favourite parts of the day. I love how they captured our sense of belonging and community spirit as this is something that we deeply value. Thank you to everyone within our school community for making Darlinghurst special. Grab the paper and take a look at the full account.



In other news, I have continued to share celebrations with children across the week, with a flurry of children sharing their own awards, certificates and their work. The competition winners of a young writer's competition also performed their poetry to me. Their poems gave me goose-bumps. It was also a proud moment to see that we were the first school in the book. Their writer's voice is of a high standard and congratulations to them all.

A group of children also attended a West end theatre with Caedmon Company and quoting their Instagram post our children gave;

'Jaw dropping performances of their brilliant work. It was an absolute honour and privilege to work with your incredibly creative children @darlinghurstacademy. Thank you to Mrs Roberts and the legend that is Mr Felton. A truly amazing morning in the West End'.



In other creative news, our academy has been successful in their application for a forthcoming art project with Metal – art gives children power! We are excited to move forward with this community project and more news to follow!

We also received our KS1 award for Physical Education, sport and Activity. We now hold awards for KS1 and KS2 PE. Our children love engaging in the PE provision alongside the PE team. Well done to all for your sporting achievements! Again this week children shared their trophies for extra-curricular activities, videos of skateboarding and photographs of dance competitions. It's wonderful to see such an array of extra-curricular interests. Can I please remind children to wear our academy PE kit and the academy jumper for lessons, no hoodies, thank you.





This week we have focused on keeping healthy, considering our mental health as we grow together and also staying safe on line, with special assemblies and curriculum learning linked to these important themes. This has been part of children's mental health week and safer internet day. The children demonstrated a strong understanding of how to stay safe and about their own and others wellbeing. Further information is included within this week's article.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy half term break and as always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls

From the Rockpool

This week in The Rockpool we have been reading the story of Gerald the Giraffe from 'Giraffes can't dance'. We have been thinking about our own different ways of moving and travelling around the school! We have been quiet as mice, stomping loud like elephants in the garden and dancing like monkeys around the playground. We have been thinking about the word camouflage and its meaning and how animals camouflage to keep safe from predators. We even had a go at camouflaging ourselves in our self-built dens. As you may know a very special 'love' day is quickly approaching, we have been busy making our own love bugs that will be making their way to a new home.

In Reception we have been looking at all things shapes!! We made tangram pictures using 2D shapes and then performed some extra special magic to turn our 2D shapes into solid 3D shapes. We learnt their names and all about their properties. Did you know 3D shapes have faces too? We also learnt the words vertex and vertices! Maybe you could ask your children if you can remember what those words mean?

In Nursery the children have enjoyed making a camouflaged cave (out of a large box) and have loved playing in it and on it! We've been learning about spots and stripes and how animals are hidden in the environments they live in!! It's been a very busy week!

When we return after half term we will be looking at space. The whole team are finding it very difficult to find any space related toys, rockets, aliens etc, and so we thought we'd ask if any of you have any space toys you are willing to donate to the Rockpool. Please let us know if you have any hanging around in the loft/garage/house, we are even willing to collect!

Thank you to everyone for their support this half term, the children have been superstars and worked so hard, enjoy your breaks and we are already looking forward to seeing you all fully refreshed in a weeks' time. Don't forget to check Tapestry for a VERY special homework challenge. The Rockpool

Around the Academy

This week **Year 2** have had enormous fun making our elastic band powered boats. The children had to show the determination to succeed as it was a little fiddly and we hope that the children enjoy testing their creations. We have also had a steady flow of vehicles made from recycled materials this week. It has been wonderful to see how creative the children have been. There have been many rocket ships, cars and even a pirate ship and a flying boat! Our final piece of writing this half term has allowed the children to apply all that they have found out about sustainable transport in an amusing story about a lady who just can't stop trying to improve her transport. It has been fantastic to see the confidence that the children have had to use their own whacky ideas in their work. The Year 2 team hope that you have a safe and restful half term and we look forward to welcoming our children back to school after the break.

This week, **Year 3** have finished their Edison studies in Geography about going on an adventure to Guatemala. As part of this, we have focused on friction, pushes, pulls, gravity and air resistance. Year 3 loved creating three different sizes of parachutes with paper squares, wool and numicon. They went into the playground to test the air resistance of these three parachutes. The children concluded that the smallest parachute fell to the ground first with the least air resistance, followed by the middle-sized parachute and finally the largest parachute fell to the ground because it has the largest surface area of all them.



Thanks for your ongoing support over the last half-term. Have a lovely break together.

This week in writing, children in **Year 4** have been exploring the argument 'should we eat chocolate?' This has allowed the children to bring together the arguments and information they have accumulated throughout their connected curriculum lessons before putting forward a balanced argument. Within maths, the children have continued to revise a range of topics, focussing on the children's reasoning skills. Particularly how to unpack a question and apply their knowledge. During Edison, the children focussed on creating a healthy, eco-friendly chocolate bar and wrapper, using information from previous lessons. To celebrate and bring focus to children's mental health, they explored how to create a support balloon and to always set themselves a goal and reach for the stars! Over half-term just remember to be yourself and rock on with TTRS!

Year 6 have been finishing their topic about evolution and adaptation and have enjoyed thinking about how different species have adapted to their environment over time. The children have been interested to learn how climate changes have affected our planet in the past and the impact these changes have had on the environment. Some quotes from the children "I have really enjoyed learning about fossilisation and finding out why I have the same characteristics as my parents", Victoria Class. I have learnt that natural selection is when there is a competition for survival when only the fittest survive", Max from Billet. We hope you all have a wonderful half term and look forward to receiving lots of entries for the Express Yourself challenge.

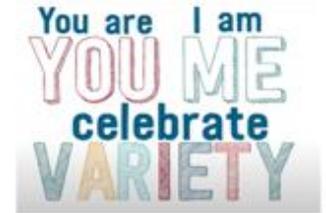
This week, children in Year 1, 5 and 6 have been creating Valentine art based on collage and cutting skills. They made some lovely work to celebrate.





Express Yourself Week 21st – 25th February

Over the month of February, we are learning about and appreciating diversity and what makes us all unique. Whether this be a talent, an interest, our families etc. We have been learning songs in our values assemblies and celebrating 'Proud to be Me' in our celebration assemblies. Over the half term, all children have been set a homework task that continues with this theme. We will be sharing homework, on our return, during our SPACE lessons (RSHE). We can't wait to see all the creative ways in which our children express themselves and look forward to celebrating variety together.



Proud to be me

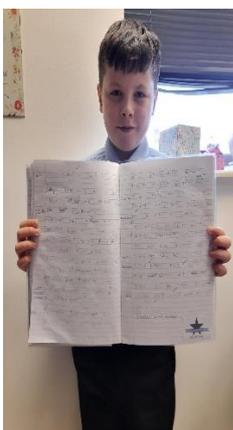
Tara from Swordfish class has been playing rugby for 7 months on Sunday mornings. She works hard every training session, listens to the coaches and has progressed every week. Last week she won the player of the week trophy as the coaches have recognised her progression. Well done Tara!



Evie from Albatross class and Ruby from Mayflower class competed in the Prestige Dance Competition at the weekend and both received trophies for their individual dances. Evie came first in her jazz duet dance and Ruby came 1st in her group contemporary dance and 2nd in her jazz. Great achievement girls!



Congratulations as well to Chloe, Dylan, Jacob and George in Year 6, Harvey and Emily-Mae in Year 4 and Oliver in Year 2. We have loved hearing all about your achievements!





EYFS

Jellyfish 96.6%
Starfish 96.1%

KS1

Shrimp 97.7%
Lobster 96.8%

KS2

Billet 98.8%
Mayflower 98.7%



**DARLINGHURST ACADEMY
BOOK SWAP 2022**

bookswap

**Help us celebrate World Book Day 2022 (3rd March)
at Darlinghurst Academy**

We would like all children to donate a good condition fiction or non-fiction book so that your child can take home a good condition book.

Where: Drop boxes will be available from Monday 28th February in your child's classroom.

When: All children will have had an opportunity to select a book by Friday 4th March.

**Any queries please contact the front office
E: generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk
T: 01702 478379**



Wellbeing Challenge

During half-term take time to re-charge your batteries together as a family.
How many of these activities can you do in a week?

	<p>Get 8 hours sleep</p>	<p>Go for a walk</p>	<p>Wear something that makes you feel good</p>
<p>Take time to read a book</p>	<p>Eat your favourite food</p>	<p>Drink 2 litres of water</p>	<p>Listen to a podcast</p>
<p>Do 30 minutes of yoga</p>	<p>Give someone a compliment</p>	<p>Have a "no social media" day</p>	<p>Catch up with friends</p>
<p>Try a 5 minute meditation</p>	<p>Go to bed 30 minutes earlier than usual</p>	<p>Write down 3 things you're grateful for</p>	<p>Do a deep breathing exercise</p>

We are supporting Safer Internet Day 2022!

Safer Internet Day 2022 | Tuesday 8 February

saferinternetday.org.uk

Safer Internet Day - 8th February 2022

All fun and games?
Exploring respect and relationships online





What have you missed on Instagram this week?

