



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 and **@DarlinghurstAcademy** on Instagram.

## Message from the Principal

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the final half of the Summer Term and what a bright and sunny start it has been. The weather has been glorious and the children have returned ready to learn. Due to the heat, we are reminding our children about sun safety and hydration throughout the day. For this term, children can wear the summer uniform, in order to keep a little cooler too.

This half term is always a busy half term, focused on not only completing this academic year but preparing ahead. Regular attendance to the academy is important, as during this time we continue to support our children's developments, preparing them for their next steps. This information will be shared in their end of year reports to parents. During this half term, we will also be sharing dates and transition information and other summer events. Any absence requests must follow the academy policy and be submitted with ample time for review. This week we revived our attendance celebrations, with classes receiving attendance certificates to classes for the highest attendance.

This week, was the start of 'Multicultural fortnight', with cross curricular learning across the academy in a range of subject areas. Children have been celebrating their heritage and learning about other cultures within our community and beyond. I have loved seeing the children engage and share their experiences, celebrating cultural diversity. I would like to thank parents too for their engagement and support. We continue with this theme, next week too.

At this time of year, we start to plan ahead for our Shaping the Future event - a time where children and staff focus on the vision and values of the academy and engage in activities within their houses. In preparation, I would love families to engage in a creative project, a pebble art project over the summer holidays so that we can create a shoal of fish for our special event and an outdoor art project.

This year we are using the story book, 'Only One you' by Lind Kranz. It is a book that encourages self-confidence & self-belief in children. The perfect choice. Not only does the captivating artwork inspire, but the short meaningful texts offer reassurance as well as useful advice.

The book focuses on Adri, a small fish whose parents decide that the time has come for them to share some wisdom with him. Alongside each wise message on every page are the gorgeously painted rockfish which perfectly depict the text. The book offers a plethora of helpful advice, such as; "Find your own way, you don't have to follow the crowd. Blend in when you need to. Standout when you have the chance."

At the end of the book Adri's parents remind him just how unique he is, & encourage him to swim off & make a difference in the world.

Please join us and get creative as we celebrate individuality & appreciate the diversity of the world around us.

### "Only One You" - Pebble Fish Craft Are you feeling creative?

Search for a pebble and create your very own, unique rockfish.

Bring it to school at the start of the academic year.

Your individual rockfish will become part of something bigger.



Mrs Nicholls



## From the Rockpool

Our topic in Tiddlers this week and for the next two weeks is under the sea, and in this heat, that's where we'd like to be with the children! Our story has been Tiddler, our favourite and the name sake of our class. We have spent time outside enjoying the hot weather (please remember sun cream and hats if the children don't already have them in school) with lots of water activities, inside and out. We loved hearing about all of the children's adventures over the half term break and even received a postcard from Myles. Please, if you can, take a trip to the beach over the weekend and see what you can find, just be careful of the Jellyfish! **Team Nursery**

It was lovely to see the Jellyfish and Starfish children return to class this week after their week long holiday. From what the children have told us it certainly sounds like you all had a fantastic time. This week we have continued our learning about plants with the focus on vegetables. We shared the story 'Oliver's Vegetables' about a little boy who says he only likes chips. As the story progresses Oliver tries lots of different vegetables and decides that he actually likes them. Sometimes it is good to try new things. Perhaps you could challenge yourself to try something new?

Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle in school every day, which is separate to a packed lunch drink. Also, please provide them with a named sun hat to keep in school or wear it to and from school daily. Please apply sun cream/lotion on your child before they come to school each day dependent on the weather. If it is not an all-day product it can be sent into school in order for your child to apply just before lunchtime. We thank you for your support. Have a marvellous weekend! **The Reception Team**

## Around the Academy

**Year 1** have really enjoyed learning about each other's special days out that we had in half term or previously and linking them to our new topic, 'Where would we go for a special day out?'. We have loved using the story 'Mr Gumpy's Outing' by John Burningham for ideas to write our own short stories about what could happen during an outing on a river with animal friends as passengers! We have continued having fun with the sunny weather at lunchtime by sharing different PE equipment, construction toys and story books with our friends in the playground to strengthen our friendships. We hope the sun will last!

**Year 2** have launched their new Edison topic "How did families have fun in the past". We have enjoyed exploring the kinds of games that would have been played before the technology that we all enjoy today was invented. The children have played jacks, pick up stick, noughts and crosses and dominoes. We are looking forward to finding out more about entertainment in the past particularly at the seaside. Our new learning and life skill is Speaking and Listening. We have been developing our active listening skills this week by sharing our own ideas and giving our own opinion when discussing the ways in which we like to have fun.

This week in **Year 3**, we began our Multicultural Fortnight by celebrating the African country of Nigeria. The children have been finding out lots of facts about this amazing country and are looking forward to finding out more in our forthcoming lessons. Later this week, they will be playing Nigerian games and creating art and craft activities next week too.

It's been a great start back to the half term for **Year 4**. We have been enjoying writing a story based on the Hans Christian Anderson story 'The Snow Queen'. We have also been exploring where all the continents of the world are situated and where to find them on a world map. As part of our multicultural fortnight we have been exploring the country of Malta and encourage any children who wish to, to prepare a short presentation on their country to share with the class. Some of our year group starting their swimming lessons this week which has been very exciting, the rest of the year can't wait to go next week! We've all been enjoying the warm weather at break and lunch and if parents/carers could ensure their children have a water bottle with them every day.



What a great start back to school. Not only is the sun shining but **Year 5** are too! As part of multicultural focus week, children have started to learn about another country and its cultures. We have chosen to take a closer look at Bangladesh, and as true geographers examined its location within the world, its physical features and how this compares with those of Great Britain. Lots more interesting facts and activities to follow!

In writing we have continued this theme through writing stories based on Moana - the brave young teenager who longs to explore her Polynesian island. The children focused on using prepositions and descriptive vocabulary to enhance their story. We have also made links to locations in our maths lessons, exploring coordinates and translating them.

Lastly, don't forget those hats and water bottles for next week!

It has been lovely to welcome the **Year 6** children back after the half-term break especially with the warmer weather finally arriving. The children have enjoyed catching up with their friends and teachers ready for their final few weeks at Darlinghurst. They have been writing letters of complaint and practising using a firm but polite tone to inform a restaurant of something strange being found in their food – we've had things ranging from mice in hot chocolate to acrylic nails in chips...well done for your creativity Year 6! We have started learning about India as part of Multi-cultural fortnight and have practised our atlas and map skills by locating Commonwealth countries and main cities, rivers and mountains in India itself. We are looking forward to finding out more about this amazing country-we were amazed at how big it is in comparison to the UK!

Keep up your hard work and enthusiasm Year 6!

## Great Big School Clean

Keep Britain Tidy's Great Big School Clean is coming to an end on 13<sup>th</sup> June. We have really enjoyed being involved in this two-week event! On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May, we had a cleanest classroom competition. Children tidied up their classrooms and recorded litter and recycling. After careful consideration, the Eco team have chosen, the following as winners of their trophies...

EYFS/KS1 - Lobster who recycled lots of paper and ensured everything was in the right bin!

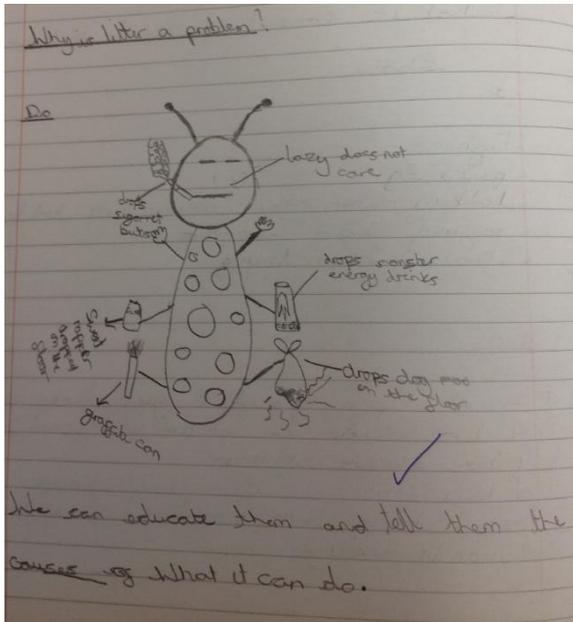
Lower KS2 - Seashell who recycled 53 pieces of paper

Upper KS2 - Wilton who recycled 407 pieces of paper!



Well done to every class for recycling and keeping our classrooms clean every day.





As well as this, different classes have been learning about litter. Year 1 and 6 looked at some 'vintage' litter dating back to the 1970s and were shocked at how it hadn't changed much! Year 1 read 'Somebody's swallowed Stanley' about a plastic bag's journey in the ocean. Year 6 created pictures to show what a 'litterbug' would look like and went outside to litter pick our school grounds, collecting 2 sacks worth!

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June, Our Eco team and their families joined forces with Belfairs' Eco Team to litter pick Chalkwell Beach. We were shocked by how much litter there was and collectively picked up 9 sacks of litter. Our most interesting find was a jacket. Thank you to our inspirational students who came during their free time to commit to this cause.

Finally, on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June, our Eco Team went out at lunchtime to litter pick Manchester Drive.



If you have been out litter picking with your family, please let us know as the Eco Team have designed certificates for all our school litter heroes. A special mention goes to these two families who collected 2 bags of litter from Chalkwell beach! Well done to Kyle and Tobias of Shrimp class, Jamie and Lilie of Jellyfish, Dexter from Tiddlers and their younger sibling Peyton.



## Leveret Trail

Hares about Town together with education partner Rickard Luckin and logistics partner Atlantic Pacific are ready to install our Leveret Little-Boat. Our Leveret will be part of the mini leveret trail in Southend's Museum venues, cultural hotspots and Shopping Centre's from 14 June to 12 September 2021.

Little-Boat will be positioned at **The Priory**, Southend.

Leverets from local schools will be dotted around Southend at the following venues:

**Beecroft Art Gallery, Southend Central Museum and Planetarium, Southchurch Hall, The Priory, The Forum, Southend Pier, The Royals Shopping Centre and The Victoria Shopping Centre.** There will also be a surprise Leveret at Leigh Train Station!



## Map and App

Families can obtain a trail map, with a suggested donation of £1.00 at many of the leveret centres, Hare-quarters at The Royals Shopping Centre, as well as Havens Hospices charity shops, and other retailers in Southend from late June. There is a downloadable app (at the cost of £1.99- proceeds go to Havens) on which you will be able to 'play' when walking the trail and collect rewards along the way.

## #tag Haresabouttown

You may have begun to see 'Hares About Town' pop up around town- if you spot anything, please take a picture and tag us #Haresabouttown and remember to send to us at Darlinghurst as well via [generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk) using the subject 'Hares about Town'.



## Celebrating Attendance

Congratulations to this week's winners

### EYFS

Gold – Jellyfish – 97.3%

Silver – Starfish – 92.5%

### KS1

Gold – Lobster – 98.9%

Silver – Puffin – 97%

### KS2

Gold – Bembridge – 99.3%

Silver – Billet – 99.2%





What have you missed on Instagram this week?

