



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 has seen a fantastic return with staff and children energised from the two week break and ready to learn! The children settled quickly back into their routines and enjoyed the new hooks for learning, linked to their topics. During assembly we shared our focus on the new learning and life skill – 'It's up to me' and we are focusing on responsibilities and independence over the coming term. Our children show a responsibility towards the world around them and we say this on the recent TV and news article about the Eco-Team. This week we were extremely proud to be on the BBC news, sharing our love and passion for the environment. Our children and Mrs Powell were tremendous in showcasing their expertise as environmental scientists, including sharing their views on COP26. It was a very proud moment to see Darlinghurst Academy on television and to show our wonderful school to a broader community. I particularly loved the comments of the news presenters at the end of the footage, noticing the leadership skills of our children and how inspirational they were! A huge well done to all involved and thank you to Mrs Powell for your inspiration and leadership. The week concluded with celebrations for the winning house for their 'team points' for the autumn 1 term. What a lovely sense of celebration!

As always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls

## Outdoor learning and Environmental Science Special

During the first half term, our children have loved being outdoors, enjoying the Autumn season. We are lucky to have our Outdoor classroom, Hagrids hut, the animal corner and our woodland area. Staff and children have been busy adding to the outdoor environment, planting seeds in the woodland area – the sailor's hideout and also creating a wellbeing area, with contributions from the PTA. Within Outdoor learning the children develop their learning and life skills and across the Autumn first half term, they focused on collaborative working, making suggestions within a group and taking on roles. Each year group has engaged in Outdoor learning linked to the connected curriculum, bringing their topics alive – outside! Our Reception children have been learning about seasonal change and hibernation. Within the history focus on 'toys', year one designed their own games using natural materials, playing these with others. Year 2 have explored different materials and their use. They considered waterproofing items for outside use and enjoyed experimenting with items. Year 4 enjoyed a blindfold challenge using their senses and guiding others around the extensive grounds. They also loved exploring music using outdoor resources and items – their own version of stomp. A great musical performance! In UPKS2, year 5 and 6 have continued their environmental awareness, considering litter and graffiti and climate change.

## Environmental Science – we were on TV!

We are extremely proud of our Eco Team – how wonderful to be on TV and showcasing our passion and provision linked to Environmental Science. I am sure you will have seen it, but if not take a look at our Instagram and watch a copy of the aired footage.

As mentioned in our 'Look East' news article, the pupils at Darlinghurst have an established Eco committee and are really concerned about the future of the planet and are playing active parts in making a difference. They certainly made their voice heard! Darlinghurst Academy has been recognised for its climate change work and has appointed monitors to





check energy use. Our school has been awarded the Green Flag the highest award in the global Eco Schools. Mrs Powell, our passionate and proactive Environmental science lead and an accredited UN climate change teacher, ensures that our children are knowledgeable and engage in climate change lessons, learning what could be done to protect the environment and tackle global warming.



During the past half term, our children have been planting wildflower seeds in the new Sailor's Hideout area and planting bulbs into old welly boots, during outdoor learning lessons. We are looking forward to these flowers providing showers of colour when spring arrives.



## Wellbeing Garden

To complement our beautiful new wellbeing bench, we have planted flowers into the flower box to brighten up the corner. Children and staff have enjoyed sitting outside in this new space of calm. Our Eco Club members have used plastic milk bottle tops (donated from by our parents) to make wind chimes and decorations, enhancing our garden further. Our leveret has arrived back and will shortly be able to join the new sculpture garden. Please look out for Little Boat.





## From the Rockpool

It was an absolute pleasure welcoming the children back into Nursery and Reception after our recent holiday. It certainly sounds like they have had some fun adventures as well as a rest. They have all returned with a positive attitude to learning which is a delight to see. This week we have focused on the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' which starts our topic of traditional stories. Throughout the week we have explored the different materials that may be used for building homes, discussing why some are better than others. We have also discussed the type of homes that we all live in. We hope that you have a wonderful weekend. **The Early Years Team**

## Around the Academy

The **Year 1** staff are so proud of the children for settling back in school routines, showing us they are ready and eager to learn. They are excited about our topic which this half term is 'Hello, I'm new here' and we will be learning about different features of the world; oceans, continents and countries as well as our local area. In maths we have been looking at patterns in numbers looking for missing numbers on number lines. For our writing lessons this term we are looking at traditional stories, starting with the three little pigs this week. We have enjoyed thinking about adjectives to describe the wolf and the way he huffed and puffed to blow the pigs houses down!

It has been wonderful in **Year 2** to hear all the interesting facts that the children have researched about the Great Fire of London over the half term break. We have been so impressed with the depth of knowledge that the children are coming into our new topic with and we are looking forward to building on it over the next half term. We would like to ask families if they could start to save any small cardboard boxes (individual serving cereal or cereal bar sized) in preparation for the children making their own Tudor house. Our new Learning and Life Skill this half term is 'It's up to me', we will be working on our independence and problem solving skills throughout the half term. On Thursday, we made class poppy wreaths to help us to remember people that we care about and who are special to us. We also had a talk from Mrs Powell about COP26 and made a pledge to change one small thing to help the environment.

It's been lovely seeing the **Year 3** children back in school after the half term break ready and eager to learn. We have introduced our new Edison unit of work 'Who were the greatest builders?' and the children were really excited to be real life archaeologists - finding evidence about the past in trays of mud! In our writing lessons, we have been writing a story about a time machine that has taken us back to the Iron Age. I wonder where the children will end up next week?

Please continue to encourage your child to read regularly at home, complete AR tests and play TTRS every day. It really does make a difference in school.

We hope you all had a lovely 2 week break. **Year 4** have made a cracking start to the new half term and have all returned happy and full of energy! We have started a new connected curriculum topic titled, 'Why do we speak English in school?' This focuses primarily on the Roman, Viking and Anglo Saxon invasions of Britain and the legacy they all left, particularly with language and words. To start us off, we listened to a Queen's speech and what is meant by 'the Queen's English'. We also came up with a list of words that the children's grandparents would never have known, such as 'selfie, glamping, emoji, smoothie'. The list was endless! In writing we have continued with this theme and written about the Mildenhall Treasures, one of the most important Roman finds in this country. The children have been fascinated by the mysteries surrounding it and surprised by the unusual link with Roald Dahl. In maths our focus has been multiplication and division strategies. Make sure you are still completing at least 10 mins of TTRS as this really help with quick recall of facts.

This week **Year 5** have started to become historians. Pupils have examined photographs looking for clues to help them find out more about the past. In writing lessons, the children wrote non chronological reports based on The Royal British Legion to tie in with Remembrance Day. In RE, Year 5 have considered the parable of the Good Samaritan and talked about helping others no matter what our differing beliefs. E-safety lessons have allowed for plenty of discussion on a very important part of their lives. In our maths learning pupils considered



types of data, how it helps us and how best to use line graphs to show information so that it is easier to understand. Looking forward to more historical enquiry next week!

**Year 6** have returned after half-term ready to learn and have enjoyed starting our new topic 'Has there ever been a better time to live here?' Classes have talked about a range of historical events that they knew about including 9/11 and the fall of the Berlin Wall. It was interesting to see what prior knowledge the children had. We have made human timelines on the playground, ordering key periods of British history according to chronology and then created their own version in books. Our Reading texts are all history based and include Goodnight Mister Tom and The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas which link to World War II. We have also been writing about the experience of being evacuated and the children have enjoyed using slang and clipped words to add character.

Just a reminder about Homework expectations. Research tasks are to be completed alongside Maths, Spelling and Reading please.

## Junior Governors

On Thursday, some of our Year 2 Junior Governors walked to Admiral Court to deliver two crafted poppy wreaths and beautiful artwork created by the KS2 Art Club. They met some residents and discussed Remembrance Day. Admiral Court really appreciated the time and effort Art Club put into the fantastic art pieces and said it made a positive difference to the resident's day. They have proudly displayed the pieces in their lounge area. Well done Junior Governors and Art Club!



## Lest we forget

During WW1, much of the fighting took place in Western Europe. Previously beautiful landscapes turned to mud. Little or nothing could grow except for the resilient poppy which flourished in the middle of chaos and destruction.



The poppy is a well-known and well-established symbol of both remembrance and hope for a peaceful future. Poppies are worn as a show of support for the Armed Forces community.

How do you think these women felt?





In 1921, The Royal British Legion ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. This year makes 100 years since the first poppy appeal!



Yesterday, Darlinghurst Academy took time to reflect on all those who have given their lives in order for us to have the freedom we enjoy today. Children showed their respect by observing a two-minute silence. In class, children wrote information about the Royal British Legion, had discussions about the various coloured poppies and their meaning and also created beautiful art work.



Did you know?  
**There is no 'correct' way to wear a poppy**  
**Poppies are recyclable!**



Next week is **Anti-bullying week** and we start off the week with **Odd Socks Day on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November**. All you need to do is wear odd socks! (and your normal school uniform). It's a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique in **Anti-Bullying Week!**

The theme this year is One Kind Word.



**ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2021**

**NEW THEME  
ANNOUNCED**



**ONE  
KIND  
WORD**



## Children in Need

A reminder that Children in Need is happening on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November**. We would like your child to come dressed in spotty accessories alongside their school uniform such as headbands, face paint, spotty socks or spotty hats. Please make a donation of £1 via ParentPay to contribute to this charity.

## Christmas is coming .....

**Save the date** – please see dates below for our Christmas productions with more information to follow:

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December – KS2 Carol Concert

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Early Years Production

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Nursery Nativity and KS1 Production

Please be aware that our last day of term is Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> December and will be an early closure. Further details will be communicated.

## PTA Christmas card project

You should by now have received your child's template for their Christmas card design. The online shop closes at midnight on the 16<sup>th</sup> November.

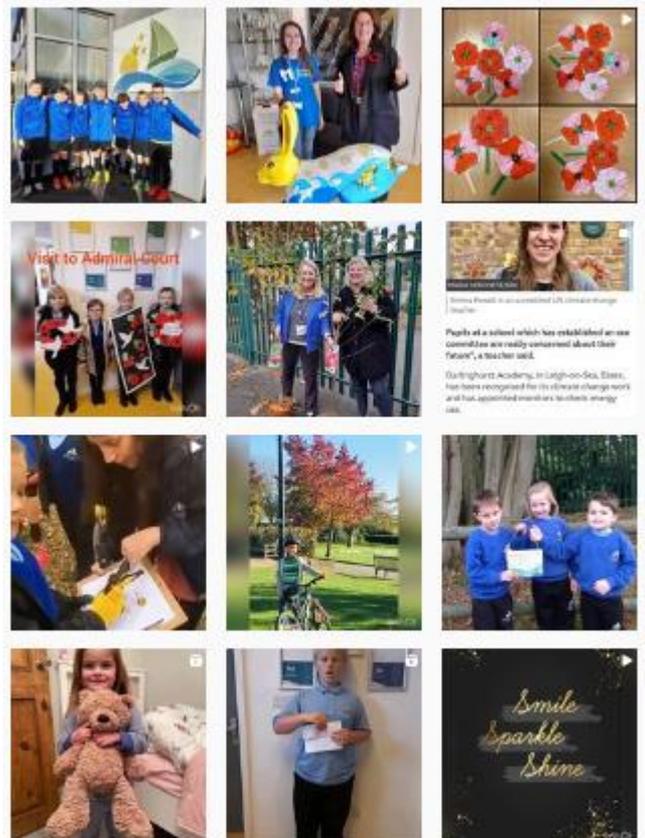
This project has been organised as a fundraising activity by the school and PTA. All orders are greatly appreciated as any profit made will help support the school and PTA with their fundraising.

Please check the name and class information detailed on the template and make any amendments in the corrections section online when you place your order.

Thank you very much for your support.

**The PTA**

What have  
you missed  
on Instagram  
this week?





## Would you like to understand more about County Lines in Essex?

Join our panel of experts for a live webinar



Lindsay Dalton  
CEO, Pace



Sarah Pritchard  
Barnados



Your local  
Police Officer

Free webinar for parents & carers

23 November, 7.00 - 8.00pm

Do you know how to keep your child safe?

Do you know about child criminal exploitation in Essex?

Are you worried someone is taking advantage of your child, making them do something illegal?



Learn what county lines is



Understand the signs that your child might be at risk or involved



Learn how offenders groom and exploit children



Understand what is happening in your local area

Register <https://essexwebinar.eventbrite.com>

