



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.

Christmas Special



What a performance from our wonderful Nursery children, they were so brave, and full of Christmas excitement. The bloopers on our set made it even more entertaining and showed their confidence and that the show goes on! They all sang with confidence, remembered their parts, and showed bravery and determination when things didn't go to plan, and we are truly proud of them all. Well done Nursery!



Our Christmas countdown started on a windy Saturday in November with the KS2 choir singing at a local event 'Christmas in Southend'. Darlinghurst Academy was the only school choir taking part! They performed three songs pleasing the crowds and spreading Christmas spirit. They later joined other choirs for the big sing at the end. The children felt a real sense of community spirit and achievement taking part in this big local event. Well done to them all and the staff and parents for their support.

Our KS1 choir also wanted to perform to others and chose to entertain our youngest children in the Nursery. They performed on the outdoor stage and the Nursery sat and watched in awe. The staff and children sang along too. Well done KS1 choir for spreading Christmas Joy.





The Junior Governors decided to share the Darlinghurst Christmas spirit with our local residents and dear friends at Admiral Court. They worked together, like elves, during their lunchtimes to make each resident a hand-made Christmas card. Love and care went into each and every one. The Junior Governors enjoyed delivering them. The residents were extremely touched by this gesture and it bought a tear to the eye. Well done to the Junior Governors for taking the time and care that touched the hearts of our dear friends.



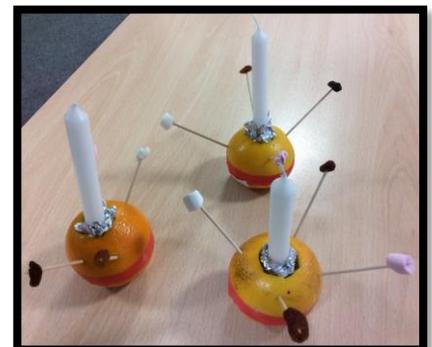
During P.E. lessons each child in the school joined in with the Reindeer Walk, walking ten laps of the grounds wearing reindeer antlers that were provided by our amazing PTA. Everyone joined in with the shared aim to combine distances walked to reach Lapland. Within the connected curriculum, the children engaged in outdoor learning sessions researching facts about Reindeers, their habitats and how they help people.

In nursery and Reception the children enjoyed a snug and cosy session in Hagrid's Hut. They enjoyed sitting around the fire, eating toasted marshmallows and sipping hot chocolate. Heart-warming!



Christmas lunch at Darlinghurst is always a special event with the catering team merrily cooking and serving this festive meal. With Christmas Jumper Day tied into this event, everyone felt extremely festive and enjoyed the meal and atmosphere. Children and staff sat and ate together within their phases, spending time talking about Christmas and families.

Children in Years 1 and 2 have been learning about Christingle and made Christingle candles as part of R.E. lessons. The children could explain the significance of each part of the Christingle for Christians. We would like to thank our wonderful PTA and 'The Toy Shop' who funded the oranges.





This week has been a hive of production and merriment with each year group performing either a nativity or a concert to families. The children enjoyed singing and learning songs and actions together making each performance unique and special. The children have talked about feeling a sense of achievement and belonging as they performed and parents and careers who attended were grateful of the opportunity to see their loved ones on stage. Thank you to parents for taking extra special steps this year to attend with the safety of others in mind. We are glad we managed to give a little Christmas, face to face this year.

What our children say:

Ivy Early Years: "I love cutting out shapes and sticking them on my snowflake".

Eliza Y1: "I liked drawing and making a Christingle. It teaches me about Jesus".

Harry Y1: "I liked pushing the sweets and fruit on the sticks to show the four seasons and what we can grow".

Tommy Y2: "I liked making a Christmas tree card to give to my family".

George Y3: "My favorite song for my performance is Walking in a Winter Wonderland. I like the beat and singing it to the families.

Amber Y3: "My best day was Christmas jumper day. I dressed up as the elf on the shelf".

Emme Y4: "I liked working with my partner to make cards and decorations. We helped each other with the tricky bits".

Nina Y4: "When I performed with the choir in Southend, I loved being part of a team to practice the songs and then perform them all together".

Tommy Y5: "First I was nervous before my performance but then I was excited singing to the audience".

Oliver Y6: "I showed my confidence to perform to families and I loved the Christmas dinner!"

Staff and the wider community have generously donated items/toys for the new children that have joined us, recently from Afghanistan. This has shown an overwhelming sense of belonging and generosity. We know that they will be greatly received and will show our value of belonging in action.



Children in writing club also made cards and wrote Christmas letters and to the residents of Admiral Court, wishing them a Merry Christmas. We can't wait to hear back from them.

To round off our Christmas Special, Santa's Elf came today to deliver Christmas gifts for all our children. Thank you to our PTA for sponsoring the gifts all the way from the North Pole. Merry Christmas to one and all!



Mrs Dutton and Mrs Hahn



[A shared experience of the arts between past and present pupils](#)

Children in UPKS2 went to a London Theatre with past (now grown up) pupils of Darlinghurst.

I am incredibly passionate about theatre and the arts and its power to spark imagination and the passion to chase our dreams however wild they may be. As a child I would write plays for my fellow friends at Darlinghurst Academy, perform on the stage in the school's main hall and after seeing *Oliver* in the West End I joined the schools brass band as I was so amazed looking into the orchestra pit. My brother Steven, also an ex Darlinghurst pupil, would write stories and plays and send them to publishers and wouldn't ever give up. He is now a stage and television writer and founded the Caedmon Company in 2020. All it takes is that one spark or one chance to ignite such a passion and some of our teachers at Darlinghurst definitely sparked that in my brother and I as children. Here we are some 30 years later, and with theatre still giving me the same butterflies it did all those years ago, it was an absolute pleasure to be able to take the Darlinghurst children on this beautiful trip funded by the Caedmon Company. It has been such a wonderful opportunity for the children and I hope it sparks a belief that anything in life is achievable, if we as individuals are willing to be daring to try. I cannot thank Caedmon Company and the Delfont Makintosh team enough for offering this day to the children and to Mrs Nicholls and Mrs Hahn for putting everything together in order to make it happen. I just know it's something that the children will never forget, seeing their faces, seeing their confidence grow throughout the workshop and watching them perform their very own pieces on the *Les Miserables* stage set at the Sondheim Theatre was priceless. They were fully engaged throughout the whole experience, asked interesting questions and all showed such bravery in standing on the stage to perform to their friends. I think we can all agree that this was a very proud moment for all. **María**

I always tell our children to Dream Big and believe in the power of possibilities. This experience, was one of those moments. I love the way that María and Steven were able to share their career pathways and their love of the theatre with our children of Darlinghurst today. How lovely that two generations of Darlinghurst, came together to share their love of the arts. The children returned to school and have since told me every detail about the experience. I could feel the energy and sense of awe and wonder that they felt as they shared their experiences and memories of the day. They said it was something that they would never forget and were grateful for the experience. I have always had a love of musical theatre and drama. My pathway was a creative one and I am passionate about the arts in the curriculum. Thank you to all involved. **Mrs Nicholls**

'I had a fabulous time and feel more confident' Art, Year 5

'I really liked every single part and we played some great games on the stage' Emily, Year 5

'We saw lots of famous sights of London. Everyone was very welcoming. I felt a bit nervous even on an empty stage.' Scarlett, Year 5

'I liked going on the stage because I felt shy at first, but then I got used to being in front of all of the seats. I enjoyed reading about Emmeline Pankhurst in front of everyone.' Nathan, Year 6

'Going to the theatre was an event that I will never forget. There was loads to see on the way there like Big Ben, the London Eye and much more. It felt very special that day as it was like no other. My favourite part was when we did the warm up game as there was lots of action in it. It was the best experience of my life.'

Bethany, Year 6

'I loved it there. My favourite part was to get to stand on stage and do the warm ups with the other people.'

Lilli-Rose, Year 6





The children enjoyed planting the new tree saplings we were kindly donated by SG Electrics this week. We are looking forward to them growing along our fence. This will help us in our bid to renew our green flag as our focus is on improving our school grounds so that they are more environmentally friendly for wildlife.



Save the date – Parent Consultations

Parent consultations are virtual and via video consultation, it will take place on two dates:

Tuesday 11th January 2022, 16:30pm-18:30pm

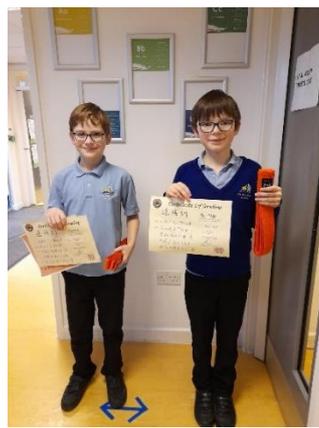
Wednesday 12th January 2022, 15:30pm-17:30pm

Parents will need to book via www.darlinghurst.schoolcloud.co.uk. Booking opens on Tuesday 4th January 2022 at 19:00pm and closes on Monday 10th January 2022 at 10:00am.

Please check school ping regularly for updates, instructions and any further information

Proud to be me

Thushanth, Year 5 was proud to receive a maths award.
Henry and Nathaniel from Year 5 were proud of their achievements.



What have you missed on Instagram this week?

