



Communication is a priority for us once again this year, we will communicate to parents and carers using **School Ping and My Child At School.**

In addition, we use **@DarlinghurstAcademy Instagram** to share what's going on within the Academy daily and class and year group news on **DB Primary**

### January dates

- Tea and Talk – Reading & Accelerated Reader – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 8.45am
- **Save the date for February**
  - Tea and Talk - Nursery – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 8.45am
  - Tea and Talk – Eco – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 8.45am

## Message from the Principal

Dear parents and carers,

This week across the academy there has been a lovely atmosphere at work and play in addition some exciting events. Members of the performance club had a wonderful time yesterday at Young Voices – as part of the largest children's choir in the world. Children performed in 20 arenas around the world, with our children singing at the O2. The children performed a variety of songs alongside other school communities, unifying children from across the region. It was such a boost to their confidence and I know will be one of their life-long memories. Thank you to all Miss Salter and the staff for making this possible. I know the parents and children have all shared how excellent the event was. Singing has so many benefits for personal development and well-being. It increases sensory development and also improves speech and language. It supports creative expression and awareness. There are many other benefits to physical and mental well-being, increasing self-esteem, collaboration and concentration but also breathing, brain activity and physical posture. Have you ever wondered why when you sing you feel good and refreshed? This is because it boosts oxygenation in the bloodstream, increasing mental alertness. Singing was an essential part of my childhood and I still love a good sing along, today. Singing can contribute to our children's personal, physical, creative, spiritual, social, cultural and artistic development - so many reasons. So why not turn up the music this weekend and sing along in the home or the car. Sing some rhymes with your youngest ones or let your older ones sing and dance in the bedroom – you could even join them!



This week Tiny Tiddlers had some new little starters, come along for the Taster session. It was enjoyed by all, with play, singing, story time and bubbles. Come along to the Harbour and join Tiny Tiddler Time each Thursday morning. We also have use of the space next door, in our room, 'Turtle Bay' for some music and movement sessions.

It is lovely to be able to have parent and toddler sessions and I am excited to see how our new venture takes off. Thank you to Miss Wise and everyone involved. It is a great opportunity to spend time with families and getting to know your little ones sooner. Should you have any board books or touch/feel books that could be donated to our Tiny Tiddler book collection, we would very much appreciate them. We recognise the importance of stories and rhymes in early reading. Each Tiny Tiddler session includes both of these and some bubble time too.

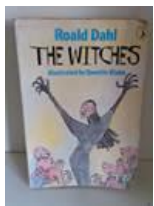




We continue to promote reading for pleasure across the academy. We have some reading nooks, our library, class collections and story time. Children are able to select books to share at home along with their phonics or Accelerated Reader book. We encourage our children to read every day, knowing that reading also has so many benefits.

Reading allows us to transport from our own world to another. Between the pages of a book we can become immersed in the lives of others and learn about a culture entirely different from our own. It helps with learning new words, experiencing a range of emotions and knowledge.

My own childhood memories of sharing books, takes me back to my dad making up stories about 'Cyril Squirrel' and reading the book, 'The Little Wooden Horse'. One of my primary teachers, Mr Dexter, was so good at reading stories aloud that he could bring a story alive. So much so, my imagination was ignited! I even was a little scared of the story, The Witches, by Roald Dahl! I would love to plan a chance for parents to share their favourite books or a love of reading with our children. If you would like to be part of a story telling event or simply be interested in a shared reading session in the future, please share your interest with the general office. If you are more of a reader, than a singer, why not indulge in a good book this weekend and enjoy the benefits.



We value the importance of reading and know that reading for pleasure can also benefit a child's social development and well-being. The effects of reading on child development and therefore part of our everyday routine at the academy and promote reading routines at home. Come along to the next tea and talk with Mrs Richards who is hosting a Reading tea and talk for year 2 – 6 parents on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January in The Harbour where she will be discussing



how to help your child at home with reading and Accelerated Reader. Take a look at the extract below for more information on reading, including some recommended reads!

As always, enjoy your family time together – and perhaps a little singing or reading too.

Mrs Nicholls

## Reading for Pleasure

This year we are enhancing the children's love of reading by recommending books. We are encouraging the children to do this as well as staff. Please see our list of recommended reads for Years 2 to 6.

### Year 2 suggested reading list

- Meerkat Mail by Emily Gravett
- Traction Man is Here by Mini Grey
- Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman
- Not Now Bernard by David McKee
- The Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton
- Garilla by Anthony Browne
- Frog and Toad Together by Arnold Lobel
- Dr Xargle's Book of Earthliets by Tom Ross



### Year 3 suggested reading list

- Malala's Magic Pencil by Malala Yousafzai
- KindredKiss by Philip Ridley
- The Turbulent Term of Tyke Tiler by Gene Kemp
- The Lion and the Unicorn by Shirley Hughes
- The Hundred-Mile-An-Hour Dog by Jeremy Strong
- Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl
- The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry
- The Ten Men by Ted Hughes
- The Worst Witch by Jill Murphy



### Year 4 suggested reading list

- The Hedgehog by Dick King-Smith
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl
- The Wreck of the Zanzibar by Michael Morpurgo
- One Plastic Bag by Miranda Paul
- The Abominables by Eva Ibbotson
- The Firework-Maker's Daughter by Philip Pullman
- How to Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell



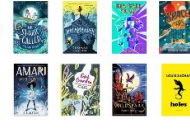
### Year 5 suggested reading list

- Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo
- The Girl Who Speaks Bear by Sophie Anderson
- Vargak Paw by S.F Said
- The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q Rauf
- Talking Turkeys and Funky Chickens by Benjamin Zephaniah
- The Heroes of Olympus by Rick Riordan



### Year 6 suggested reading list

- Refugee 87 by Elie Fountain
- Why the Wales Came by Michael Morpurgo
- Floodland by Marcus Sedgwick
- The Secret of Spiggy Holes by Enid Blyton
- Wonder by R.J. Palacio
- Skellig by David Almond
- Holes by Louis Sachar
- High Rise Mystery by Sharma Jackson
- Kiki's Delivery Service by Eiko Kadono







## Book Donations

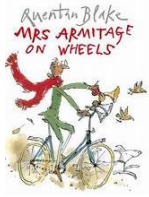
If anyone has any books that are no longer needed at home, please donate them to our school so we can keep our book stocks up to date. We would also welcome comics and graphic novels.

Thank you to Cooper in Year 1 who has recently donated some books; they have been distributed to the classes already!



## KS1 in the Spotlight

We are really pleased with how quickly the children have settled back into the Academy after their Christmas break. They have all been working very hard and showing our Academy values. Our new Edison units have already inspired the children. Some of the year one children have been bringing in globes from home, one even lit up! Year two have enthusiastically thought about all of the different types of transport that they know and they are very excited to build their own cars using proper wheels and axles.



Writing across year 1 and 2 has included texts around countries of the world and transport. This allows children to apply what they are learning in the wider curriculum to their writing. Year one children have particularly enjoyed exploring 'The Snail and the Whale'. The various places on the planet that they visit together have prompted lots of discussion around the different temperatures in different places with one child commenting that they "Would not like to visit a cold place with just a shell on".

In maths, year 1 have been exploring two digit numbers, comparing, and ordering them and placing them in number sequences. Year 2 have been looking at subtracting a two digit number from a two digit number and using a part-part-whole model to find a missing number in an equation.



As always, we like to make our learning as practical and engaging as we can. Year 1 have been making a variety of different puppets and had great fun making finger puppets for 'Little Red Riding Hood' and then acting out the story with their friends. Year two have made working axles with wheels and also built their own working wind turbines using recycled materials. They used their axles building skills to ensure that the turbine turned freely. We have also been exploring suitable materials to build cars from. We know that they need to be waterproof so that we don't get wet when it rains. The children have really enjoyed testing a variety of materials using a pipette to squeeze water onto a material on someone's head. It appeared that the squeezing skills became a little better when the material covered an adults head and there were some rather soggy adults in the year group!



Thank you as always for the support that you show. Can year 2 please ask that old 750ml plastic bottles and margarine tubs be sent into school for our end of unit outcome. We are already planning our self-propelled vehicles and can't wait to race them.



## Young Voices

Yesterday, the choir took part in an amazing opportunity singing at the O2 as part of this year's Young Voices choir. With over 8000 children from schools across Great Britain (and even abroad!), the children rehearsed this year's Young Voices songs throughout the day and later, performed them to thousands of parents in the evening. They all worked incredibly hard to learn the words and the dance moves, alongside the urban dance troop Urban Strides. Some of the children's favourite songs in which they performed were Rockstar, Just around the Riverbend, songs from Trolls and having the opportunity to perform Proud with the incredible musical talent Heather Small! They all gave 110% throughout the performance, demonstrating all aspects of Darlinghurst's key values. They all shone like stars and definitely made us all (teachers and parents) PROUD!



## Polite reminders

Uniform - please be reminded that school shoes and trainers should be plain black, hair accessories should be small and of school colours (black or royal blue) and that all year 6's should be wearing a school tie.

Parking - when arriving at school, please allow plenty of time to park. Please be considerate of our neighbours and each other and do not obstruct driveways or public footpaths.

## Attendance

### KS2

Strand 98.7%

Dune 96.8%



## Proud to be me

Well done to Rudi from year 6 who produced some fantastic work this week. Well done!



What have you missed on Instagram this week?

