



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

We have had a wonderful week with children coming to school ready to learn and showcasing what they can do. I love to hear about their successes and goals including the sharing of awards. Mrs Hahn also enjoys sharing 'Proud to be me' moments with children in celebration assembly. This week, children in year two have shown great attitudes to their learning engaging in maths and reading activities applying their knowledge well. During a writing session we shared creative ideas on how to catch a star and used adventurous language within their stories. I know that their 'My writes' next week will be full of rich vocabulary and ideas. In a whole class reading session we read about the Solar System and I was able to share my love of learning the planets as a child. The children wondered if there was life on other planets sharing their ideas. Some children referenced the film ET – taking me back to the first film I had ever seen at the cinema. I love the way our children generate awe and wonder. During assembly we have continued our focus on the value of Determination with links to motivation. This has great links to our learning and life skill – becoming better learners. In KS1 we used examples from our Disney or Pixar friends using examples from, 'How to train a dragon' and 'Monsters University'.



In KS2 we discussed how motivation can be internal or external and also some great motivational tips. Perhaps some of these motivational tips will help with goals set at home too:

- PAIR IT UP – pair something you like with something you are trying to get better at or a chore.
- REWARDS AND TREATS – work on something for a while and then reward yourself with something you enjoy.
- MAKE IT A HABIT - practice, practice, practice until it becomes a routine or habit.
- SMALL STEPS – break something into bite size chunks and celebrate every step.



I am going to try and use some of these motivational tips with my family too.

Next week we have our first on line parent meeting this year with Mr Turner and Mrs Grant – 'On line and off line safety' on Tuesday 25th January. Log into your child's teams account and calendar for the link. It will be great to see as many parents as possible attending the session and hearing some advice and tips on keeping our children safe.





The next workshop will be focused on Times Tables Rockstars. More information will be coming soon along with future workshops and dates to give you time to choose ones you wish to attend to help support learning at home or supporting health and well being. We are even hoping when the weather is brighter and should restrictions change to hold some shared sessions outside on the school grounds to support our physical health and well being with our PE team!

Can I also thank parents and staff for their engagement in our virtual parent consultations and ask parents to engage in the recent survey sent so we can use the feedback for future events. We value this communication.

PARENT CONSULTATION

As always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls

From the Rockpool

This week in The **Rockpool** has been another fun packed week. We have been reading the story of Kevin the Koala who was a 'Koala who could'. This story has encouraged children to embrace change because as we learnt from Kevin, change can bring new fun and adventures and this week in The Rockpool has brought us lots of new adventures! We have welcomed new families and children to learn and play with, we have experienced frosty mornings and an icy garden and felt what it's like to have frozen toes and numbing fingers, whilst having fun exploring what makes ice melt, writing our names in frost and hearing the crunching sound of the leaves beneath our shoes. We have learnt all about Australia, the country in which Kevin the Koala may live and made boomerang pictures in an aboriginal design.

Can we please ask if any families have old bike helmets they no longer use and are safe to use could they please bring them into school for us to use with our bikes and scooters. They are always very popular and unfortunately we only have two currently and for some children these are becoming a little snug. Any donations would be greatly received. Thank you.

Around the Academy

This week in **Year 1**, we have been very busy creating our own stories of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children have enjoyed remembering the story, creating their very own versions of the book and changing the characters using their own ideas. In maths we have been looking at different strategies that help us work out addition equations, they have used lots of resources such as cubes and ten frames to help them. In foundation, we have discovered and looked at the seven continents and 5 oceans. We used the continent to remind us of the parts of the world and where they all are. Then, we have looked at materials where the children have discussed and sorted out objects looking at the change in shape. We have had a fun packed week.



This week **Year 2** have been exploring the lives of the Wright Brothers. We have found out that their first powered flight only lasted 12 seconds which we realised would not have got them very far but by showing our Academy values 'Determination' they eventually managed to make longer and longer and longer flights. We also discovered that their interest in flight started as children when they were given wooden helicopter toys to play with. We decided to become scientists and conduct an experiment with our own paper helicopters. In R.E this week, we have been looking at a story from the Jewish faith and comparing it with one from the Christian faith. This has also linked to our PSHE learning around people that we trust to look after us. In writing we have looked at the story 'How to catch a star'. The story follows the adventures of a child who really wants a star of their own and we are looking forward to adapting the methods he uses in his quest to include sustainable transport.

Year 3 are continuing their journey on an adventure to Guatemala. We are studying Mayan culture and this week the children have been writing diary entries to celebrate the wonderful things they have seen or are planning to do whilst in Guatemala. They have been writing with expression using exclamation marks, added conjunctions to sentences and evaluating and marking their diary entries with a partner.

In **Year 4** this week we have been exploring different states of matter and working of sorting different items into solid, liquid and gases. Linking in with our focus of chocolate in connected curriculum the children have also identified chocolate in different states. For example cocoa powder or hot chocolate or a bar of chocolate that has been melted.

During writing, we have focussed on writing to inform and writing non-fiction as the children have been tasting and reviewing different types of chocolate. So far the chocolate has been given two thumbs up though year 4 have preferred milk chocolate.

In maths the children have explored analogue time and being able to read clocks and write the time in words and numbers. They have also focussed on minutes past and minutes to. Building up on the strong understanding of analogue clocks and the children have continued to work on chronological order and using a.m and p.m.

In RE the children have explored the similarities in the life and journey of Christians and Jews before exploring this week when you become responsible in your life journey. This has been explored with a particular focus on Bar Mitzvah's a celebration of maturity in a Jewish boys life.

This week **Year 5** have been looking at the Mosque as a place of worship, writing about a trip to the funfair, turning fractions into decimals, looking at the history of Southend's theme parks, greeted each other in French and reminded the children about the different types of forces.

This week in **Year 6**, children have enjoyed creating new creatures in their writing lessons. They have all chosen a habitat for their animal and have been describing how it has adapted to live there including descriptions of defence and feeding features. It has been great to see such creativity with combinations of animals and the children are really demonstrating the knowledge they have learnt from our Science lessons. Well done Year 6!



Proud to be me

Sophia from Coral class won a bronze medal for her ballet at the 'Live, Loud, Dance' competition this weekend.



Children's Mental Health Week



Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on **7-13 February 2022**. This year's theme is **Growing Together**. In school we will be encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown, socially, emotionally as well as physically and academically, and how they can help others to grow. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'. In school we continue to share with children strategies for supporting our own mental wellbeing, including talking with each other, as well as activities to reduce any feelings of anxiety.

Like last year, we are asking children to send in videos or pictures that best shows how they express themselves whilst also supporting positive mental health and wellbeing. These can be shared on the general enquiries email address on generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk with "Express Yourself" in the subject line. As well as being part of a display they may also be shared in News & Views and/or our Instagram account so please only send things in if you are happy for these to be shared to a wider audience.



As adults it's great that we can share with others how we are feeling, particularly during these cold winter months when all we want to do is wrap up warm and stay indoors but it is also important that we take time to look after ourselves. During Children's Mental Health Week it is also **"Time to Talk Day."** Why not take this opportunity to re-connect with someone you haven't spoken to for a while and think about your own mental wellbeing as well.

Time to Talk Day will see the nation's biggest mental health conversation. Taking place on **Thursday 3 February 2022**, it's the day that friends, families, communities, and workplaces come together to talk, listen and change lives.

Mind, Rethink Mental Illness and Co-op are all taking part in the day and it is possible to order free conversation starter packs to help you talk about mental health with your child while you are altogether at home


However you do it, have a conversation about mental health this **Time to Talk Day**.




Please find the 2021/2022 academy term dates

ACADEMY TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES – ACADEMIC YEAR **2021/2022** DARLINGHURST ACADEMY

	SEPTEMBER 2021	OCTOBER 2021	NOVEMBER 2021	DECEMBER 2021
M	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Tu	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
W	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Th	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
F	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Sa	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Su	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
	JANUARY 2022	FEBRUARY 2022	MARCH 2022	APRIL 2022
M	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Tu	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
W	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Th	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
F	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Sa	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Su	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
	MAY 2022	JUNE 2022	JULY 2022	AUGUST 2022
M	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Tu	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
W	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31
Th	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
F	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Sa	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Su	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28

 Holiday

 Public Holiday

 School Closure Day

Schools can allocate 5 non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions and are subject to alteration.

Autumn Term: 68 days
Spring Term: 59 days
Summer Term: 63 days



HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD PROGRAMME



Is your child aged 8 - 11 years? Would they enjoy taking part in nature activities, sports, arts and crafts and cooking sessions. Do you want them to have fun, learn something new and improve their health and wellbeing? If the answer is yes and they are on Free School Meals, please give us a call for more information or to book a free place.

9am - 1pm Monday - Thursday. Selected holiday weeks,

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WEB
www.wellbeingatgaronpark.com



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What have you missed on Instagram this week?

