



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

April dates

- Tea & Talk – Reception parents - Tuesday 25th April at 8.45am
- Industrial strike action – Academy partially open to Nursery, Reception, year 1, 2 & 6 – Thursday 27th April
- Tea & Talk – 2024 PGL Information Evening – Year 5 parents – Thursday 27th April at 6pm

Save the date for May

- Bank Holiday – Academy closed – Monday 1st May
- Industrial strike action – Academy partially open to Nursery, Reception, year 1, 2 & 6 – Tuesday 2nd May
- Bank Holiday – Academy closed – Monday 8th May
- Tea and Talk Nursery parents 'Getting ready for Reception' – Tuesday 16th May 8.45am
- Class Photos – Nursery, Year 1, 2 & 6 – Thursday 18th May
- Class Photos – Nursery, Reception, Year 3, 4 & 5 – Friday 19th May
- Tea and Talk Year 1 Phonics Screen – Wednesday 24th May 8.45am

Save the date for June

- Nursery & Reception Sports Day – Tuesday 6th June AM time TBC
- Year 1 & 2 Sports Day – Tuesday 6th PM time TBC
- Year 3 & 4 Sports Day – Wednesday 7th June AM time TBC
- Year 5 & 6 Sports Day – Wednesday 7th June PM time TBC

Message from the Principal

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back. I hope that you are rested and enjoyed your Easter Break. I know that the children and staff have returned in readiness for an eventful term and this week has flown by. May and June is a busy time in Primary schools and this year we have two bank holidays at the start of May. Please ensure that children attend across this period as they engage in lessons and interventions that support them. The children have a positive attitude towards their learning and progress and their reports reflect their personal development. We want our children to achieve their very best across the curriculum and continue to provide a breadth of experiences across the summer term. This includes key events and celebrations so please check your pings and save your dates.



KS2 SATs take place on Tuesday 9th May until and including Friday 12th May. Year 6 will attend the academy at the earlier time of 8:15 for breakfast together. Arriving early allows them to settle and share time with their friends and teachers. The year six children have returned to the academy with focus and drive. The children are working diligently with determination as they revise and prepare for their forthcoming SATs. They have shown an, 'I can attitude' throughout the year with clear evidence of personal success and progress. The summer term is an important time for our year sixes as they come to the end of their key stage marking their academic achievements and successes across the curriculum. It is also a time where they celebrate their growth, friendships and prepare for transition.

**Year 6
SATs**

Also within the summer term, the KS1 assessment period begins during the month of May. The year one phonics screen takes place across the week beginning the 12th June. Year 4 children complete the multiplication check within a two week period from Monday 5th June. It is important that children





attend during this time and no planned absence occurs. Information on the above assessments will be shared with parents of children in year 1, 2, 4 and 6. Children continue to practice their skills in school and home through engaging in lessons, reading and on line tools such as TTRS and Numbots.

At the end of last term uniform expectations were shared in readiness for the new term with reminders that alternative clothing were not to be worn. The main uniform and PE kit is below for your reference:



- Black trousers, skirts or shorts - these should not be grey
- Polo shirts – these can be purchased from school suppliers (logo) or plain from retailers.
- Jumpers should be worn to provide a layer of warmth not layers/skins.
- For the summer term: blue and white gingham dresses are optional
- Suitable black school shoes should be worn.
- Black shorts or joggers– logo items can be purchased from school suppliers or plain from retailers. The joggers should be worn to provide a layer of warmth not layers / skins.
- A blue PE jersey is to be worn as a top layer for warmth and logo items can be purchased from school suppliers or a plain jersey from retailers.
- Leggings, cycling shorts, sportswear and hoodies are not part of our uniform.
- Suitable black trainers or plimsolls should be worn. Trainers that are different colours and worn outside of school should not be worn.
- Children should also remove earrings for PE lessons, if they cannot be removed for any reason they must be taped over with medical tape. A sunhat is advised for sunnier days and a labelled bottle of sun cream.

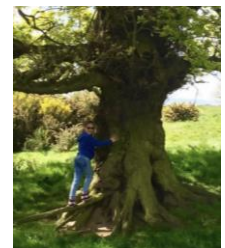
Uniform can be purchased via our uniform suppliers (schooluniformdirect.org.uk or paulsdiscount.co.uk) or retailers (supermarkets brands or from the high street). We also have a school shop and pre-loved uniform sales that allow families to recycle and purchase items at a low cost. This is used well and supports families with purchasing the uniform. Should you have any donations we would welcome them ahead of the next sale. Any arrangements that support children/families that mean adjustments to the above are agreed with the Inclusion leader.



In June, we are going to participate in the 30 days wild – the UK's biggest nature challenge. Last year we took up the challenge and this year we would love to share photographs of our children in school and also from their own experiences in nature. Past most popular activities included the following:



- Listening to bird song
- Exercising outdoors
- Eating or drinking outdoors
- Identifying wild flowers
- Planting wild flower seeds
- Going on a bug hunt
- Hugging a tree
- Making a wildlife home
- Going barefoot on the grass or earth
- Sketching, drawing or painting nature



Should you have photographs of your children and families enjoying the outdoors please send them to missarnold@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk. They may match one of the above or take a look at last year's #30dayswild on our Instagram for inspiration. Perhaps try doing some of the above over the coming month?



We wish all our families celebrating Eid, Eid Mubarak and hope you enjoy your celebration and feasts.



As always, enjoy your family time together.



A special message to year 6

I would like to share a special message with our year 6 children and families, ahead of the forthcoming SATs. We are very proud of the effort being made by our Year 6 children as they prepare for their SATs papers and we would like to thank you for the support that you are giving your child with their learning.

As you know, SATs week begins on Tuesday 9th May as Monday 8th May is a bank holiday for the King's Coronation. To help the children relax together before their tests they can arrive earlier than usual at 8.15am, via the usual side gate. They are able to come together in the hall for breakfast with friends and staff. If not attending the breakfast, please ensure your child arrives promptly at the usual time. From experience, there can be a mix of emotions leading up to, and during the tests. Whilst they are keen to do their best we strive to minimise any pressure and this time and coming together has proven to be positive.

Date	Test
Tuesday 9 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">English grammar, punctuation and spelling paper 1Spelling test
Wednesday 10 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reading
Thursday 11 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mathematics paper 1: arithmeticMathematics paper 2: reasoning
Friday 12 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mathematics Paper 3: reasoning

You will note that there is no writing test. The assessment for this is completed by teachers and is based on children's writing across the year.

How you can help your child prepare for the tests

The best help is interest taken in learning and progress.

- Ensure high attendance
- Avoid placing your child under too much pressure
- Ensure/support your child to complete their homework: reading daily and completing a quiz on Accelerated Reader when they finish a book; practice their weekly spellings and complete their weekly arithmetic homework
- Help them get a sound 10-11 hours' sleep every night
- Ensure they eat a balanced diet
- Encourage them to attend the free SATs breakfast from 8.15am each day there is a test

If you have any questions or concerns about the SATs please feel free to email me or your child's teacher or catch us at drop off or collection.

Upper KS2 in the Spotlight

Year 5 and 6 have returned after their Easter break with a renewed enthusiasm for learning. The classes are settled and are ready to learn, working towards their 'I can' statements and children are working on their specific learning targets.



Our Connected Curriculum topic in year 5 this term is entitled 'Do we make the most of what is on our doorstep?' It is a science-based topic with elements of geography. We will be looking at various plants, animals and ecosystems with a focus on how they influence each other. The children will be also looking at the impact humans are having on bees and the importance of their role on humanity!



Hopefully, weather permitting, we will be taking a look at a local eco-system outside of the school and how plants, animals and humans interact.

In Writing, we will be looking at a range of text types and have started the term with a look at a child's perspective of the Christian festival of Easter and the Muslim festival of Ramadan. We will also be incorporating a piece of writing that touches on the upcoming coronation of King Charles 3rd.



On Thursday, we were given the opportunity to take part in 'Walk It' which is a road safety workshop run by Southend Borough Council where children were given the opportunity to learn about the importance of road safety and some of the 'dos and don'ts' that it can include. The children will hopefully put into practice the top tips that they learnt in this great practical life-saving opportunity.

In our SPACE lessons, we will continue to look at a wide range of issues such as E-Safety, getting on and falling out, friendships, peer pressure and the impact mobile phones can have on our lives. In Faith and Wellbeing, we will be focusing on Islam and what it means to be a Muslim in Britain today which will help the children understand how faith and life are connected in society. Year 6 have now entered their final term in Year 6. This half term is a very important one for them as they sit their SATs papers in the week beginning Monday 8th May (this is the King's Coronation so a bank holiday). They start their tests on Tuesday 9th May. We are busy revising in our GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) lessons and revising all key concepts in Maths. For our writing assessment, which is completed in the month of June, we choose our six best pieces of writing and publish them as final drafts, in order to be assessed formally.



Our connected curriculum topic is called 'Let's go around again?' The focus for this topic is rehearsing and building on the scientific concepts of human body and electricity. For the human body we will be learning about the internal organs and their functions as well as the circulatory system and the digestive system.



We have started our topic with some static electricity experiments. We used friction to produce static electricity and made our windmills move, bubbles move across tables and move the direction of water as it comes out of the tap. Ask your children how we did this! We are going to learn how to complete simple, parallel and series circuits for our Electricity topic this term. The children will also learn how to draw all the electricity symbols and components. This half term will culminate in a Science Fair, the children will devise their own experiment and present it, in groups, to the rest of Year 6.



In our writing lessons, we are writing formal letters of complaint. The children are imagining finding a rogue piece of glass, metal, hair in a product they have purchased and writing a letter of complaint to the company.

In RE, we are focusing on Judaism and have recently learnt about the first and second covenant, the ten plagues and the Jewish festival of Passover. Year 5 and 6 have started their gardening club with Mrs Blyth and have planted potatoes so far and are planting sweet peas and pumpkin seeds this week.

Attendance

- EYFS**
Starfish 97.7%
- KS1**
Albatross 96.6%
- KS2**
Strand 98.2%





Proud to be me



What have you missed on Instagram this week?

