



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](#)

October events

- Half term 24th October – 4th November
- **Save the date for November**
- Tea & Talk – Nursery – Tuesday 8th November 8:45am
- Year 1 – 6 - Parent consultations Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th November
- Individual and sibling photos – Wednesday 9th November
- Tea & Talk – Year 6 SATs – Tuesday 10th November 6pm
- Tea & Talk – Phonics in Reception – Tuesday 15th November 8:45am
- Children in Need – Friday 18th November
- Anti-bullying week 14th – 18th November
- Odd Socks Day – 14th November

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and carers,

What a great first half term! It has been eventful – full of excitement, engagement and excellence. There has been a great sense of community and because of this our value of belonging has not only been felt amongst us but also sensed by those who visited or attended the academy. This has included visiting speakers from our community, educational visits, prospective parents, local MP and others. Comments were made regarding our children; their manners, their confidence and their interests, 'The children are great! They have confidence and can explain everything they do'.

Our Sports and Eco team, along with their teachers were so impressive that the SGO, Kirsty Fitzgibbon said that we have set the bar high for other schools! We also received an email in response to our open evening calling us, 'a hidden gem' and how other local schools should take a leaf out of our book. During a tour of the academy, Anna Firth, local MP also commented on how the culture and ethos of the academy shines through with children and staff all exuding our values.

Upon our return, we have parent consultations and look forward to seeing you in person at the academy. The booking system remains open until Thursday 3rd Nov at 7pm. EYFS is having their consultations on 16th and 17th of November and bookings open Wednesday 26th at 7pm and closes on the 9th November. Nursery consultations are taking place week commencing Monday 14th November and parents are asked to contact Mrs Gue, directly.

We look forward to sharing how your child has settled into the year and feedback on their learning so far.

I hope that you have a wonderful two week break and look forward to seeing you return to the academy Monday 7th November. We continue to strive for excellent attendance and punctuality. Let's see if we can achieve excellent attendance together, next half term!



We are promoting sustainable water bottles and are looking to purchase some to sell from the school. More information to come.

We ask that all children bring a sustainable bottle to school, however metal water bottles are no longer allowed for health and safety reasons.

Please label your child's water bottle along with other personal items to add identification.

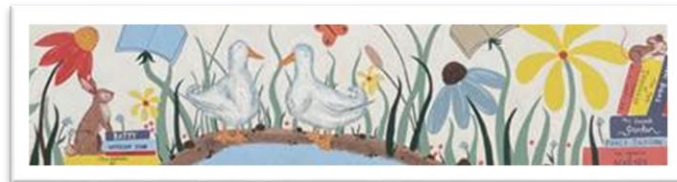


As always enjoy your family time together

Mrs Nicholls – Principal

Thank you so much to one of our parents, Stacey Michie for painting the front of our school library. We have loved seeing the mural take shape and make our school an even more cheerful and engaging space.

Stacey thoroughly enjoyed being on site and "being a fly on the wall for the past two weeks" as this has meant that she has had a first-hand experience of seeing Darlinghurst in action. She commented on "How lovely all our children are and that they have been so polite and encouraging, talking to me every break time. You really do have such interesting, well mannered, and engaging children." Stacey passed on her thanks to all of our children for keeping her company, giving her ideas, showing her all their different books, and for the special artwork given to her by Emily in year 6. "Whilst being here at Darlinghurst, I've also gotten to see some of the fantastic teaching methods that you carry out. I love that your



teaching does not stick to the class room! Your teachers do such a wonderful job. I'm forever blown away by the kindness and dedication teachers give to the children. I hope that you all enjoy the library for years to come and thanks once again for allowing me to be part of this special building." Thank you so much Stacey, for giving up your free time, to paint our Library mural. We look forward to working with you again on future projects.

Active Citizens

This week the Sports Committee and the Eco Committee had a visit from a special guest. Kirsty Fitzgibbon our school games organiser (SGO) visited our school and met with our committee children to talk to them about an exciting opportunity. Kirsty is creating a Sports Eco Committee and is asking children from all local schools to apply for membership, her plan is to bring the children together for meetings in person and on zoom to see if they can collectively come up with some ways to make school sports more eco-friendly and sustainable. Both our Sports and Eco committee members were quick to point out that we are always looking for ways to save the environment and how much we already do to help. Kirsty was blown away with how enthusiastic our children were and emailed us later to say 'It was great to meet the eco and sports committee. It was refreshing and inspiring listening to their ideas and how they are already thinking about their carbon footprint'. We look forward to working with Kirsty in the future and thank her for taking the time to visit us.



Our Junior Governors had their second official meeting this week. Previously, they had collated data from their classes about their thoughts on the current lunch menu. In our first meeting we discussed this data and feedback to the catering staff. As a result of this pupil feedback, there will be an updated menu launching after half term. Meat free Mondays are back on the menu for two out of the three weeks. Instead of the creamy chicken pasta there will be pizza and the pulled pork will be replaced with a sausage cowboy pie.

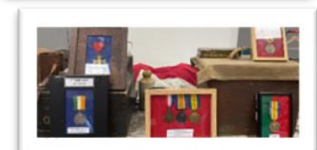
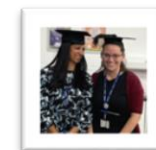
The KS2 Junior Governors also got the pleasure of Wendy from the kitchen attending our meeting and discussing the actions she has made in response to pupil voice. Wendy also let us taste test a new flapjack recipe. It was delicious and got the approval of all of our Junior Governors! The new menus have been created in response to the children's feedback and they are delighted to find that Pizza is back on the menu. Other changes were made in accordance to their views.

In addition, the Junior Governors discussed plans for a focus after half term. The KS1 Junior Governors have already thoughtfully decided on Christmas crafts they would like to create with their classes for the local care home Admiral Court.

Visitors



This week Year 5 enjoyed a World War 1 Workshop ahead of next term's curriculum. Using drama, the children explored themes of Continuity and Change and Significant Events in history. Pupils were able to understand the causes of WW1, re-enacting events with the use of costumes and various resources. This helped consolidate key facts in a fun and meaningful way. The children got hands on with various replicas of objects such as cameras, bombs and military uniform, finding out how technology during that time helped make positive changes to our lives. Pupils completed a quiz to consolidate their learning and even won old pennies as prizes! Year 5 children were particularly excited to handle weapons used and decoded secret messages using Morse code. The workshop enabled our children to make links to life in the past with their lives today. Many were surprised at the piece of explosive that was from the fighting in the Ukraine only months ago.



In preparation for the colder weather, you are now able to purchase a Darlinghurst Academy beanie for £5. Please visit <https://www.schooluniformdirect.org.uk/schools/product-category/darlinghurst/> to place your order.

Anti-bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week 2022 is coordinated in England and Wales by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. It will take place from 14th to the 18th November 2022 and has the theme Reach Out. The week will kick off with Odd Socks Day on Monday 14th November, where adults and children wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique. Children are to come into school in normal school uniform but proudly wearing their odd socks to start the beginning of this special week where lessons will also be focused on reaching out.





Anchor Room



The Anchor Room has now moved. It is now located at the front of the school next to our Extended Care – Little Mariners.

Polite reminder that gates close in the morning at 8.40 and children should be collected from outside their classrooms at 3.10. Any late collections will continue to be from the Anchor Room.



Secondary school admissions

The deadline for secondary school applications is the 31st October 2022. If you live in the City of Southend, applications can be submitted via the local authority's online portal:

https://one.southend.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en?ReturnUrl=%2FCitizenPortal_LIVE%2F. If you are not a Southend resident, you should apply directly to your local authority.

Vacancy

Are you looking for a new opportunity?

Little Mariners After School Club is looking for 2 people to come and join our friendly team between the hours of 3pm and 6pm Monday to Friday. A variety of shifts throughout the week are available.

Our club is a lot of fun and you'll be responsible for helping to run activities such as cookery, arts and crafts, circle games and movie nights with the children.

We need someone who can treat every child as an individual, can positively engage with them and knows how to have fun!

Experience of working with children - would be an advantage, to apply for a position please email

generalenquiries@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk



Attendance

EYFS

Starfish – 96.2%

KS1

Shrimp – 96.8%

Albatross – 97.5%

KS2

Billet – 99.2%

Dune – 98%



Proud to be me

Mrs Nicholls was pleased to see some excellent pieces of work this week from Laila, Michael, Muska, Rudi and Alfie in year 6 and Delilah, Asmaa and Lyla in year 5



What have you missed on Instagram this week?

