



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**

February dates

- Tea and Talk - Nursery – Wednesday 1st February 8.45am
- Tea and Talk – Eco – Tuesday 7th February 8.45am
- Year 6 cake sale – Thursday 9th February 3.10pm
- PTA 'Make Someone Smile' event – Friday 10th February 3.10pm

Message from the Principal

Dear parents/carers,



This week I had the pleasure of sharing with the children a wonderful collection of donated books from members of our academy and wider community. The children were delighted and we spent time together in assembly sharing our love of reading. They have started to talk more openly about books and we are keen to support them in sharing their recommendations with others.



The Reading Ambassadors have been busy in the library and promoting recommended reads with a book, currently displayed in our Reception waiting area. Should you need to wait here, why not take a look at some of the books in the trays, while you wait. It would be good to have a few children's magazines or comics here too, to flick through. Should you have any old ones, we would happily accept them.



Over the week, children have shared their favourite authors with me and the genres they enjoy. This has included graphic novels, comics, fantasy, mystery and more. Nina shared with me, her interest in scary books and is writing her own Horror story. Thomas, is currently designing her front cover and I look forward to seeing the book soon. Look out for these two in the future as they are certainly budding Authors or Illustrators. Maybe they will be partners like, Quentin Blake and Roald Dahl, David Walliams and Tony Ross.



A group of children enjoyed bringing a story to life, having their very own Tea Party with their kind LSAs Mrs Blyth and Mrs Harlow.

Children in reception have enjoyed finding their book of the week, in their special phone box. The book of the week is, Chinese New Year and they have learned that this year, is the year of the Rabbit. They have found other books about Rabbits but also other animals from other animals on their calendar. They like to read books in their reading nook.



Darlinghurst Academy News & Views

27th January 2023



Story time, is a special time where children share a quality text together. I went along to year five and enjoyed hearing a snippet of their stories. Children also shared their favourite books with me too.



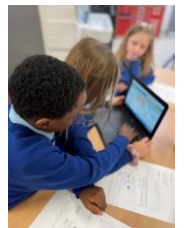
In other curriculum areas, children have engaged well in foundation subjects enjoying some food technology linked to the connected curriculum geography question, Should we stop eating chocolate? The smell of chocolate was lovely! I know I wouldn't be able to stop!



During Music lessons, I enjoyed children playing on the glockenspiels to the song, 'don't worry' by Bob Marley and enjoyed a piano performance by Evie, during her music tuition.



In Computing, children showed me how to send emails and in year six I joined children discussing, How the Internet works with detailed pro's and con's of the ethernet, wireless, fibre optic cables and radio waves. A wealth of knowledge!



I enjoyed many more moments in classes around the academy this week and I am proud of the learning that is taking place. I was able to give a tour to a couple of visitors this week too, who were both complementary of the children, curriculum and care.

Next week, will be a little different and I know that this will bring some disruption to our academy week and arrangements. I understand that this may cause some frustration and decisions have not been taken lightly. As always, thank you for your patience and understanding. Please read the letter sent via ping, informing you of Industrial action.

Enjoy your family time, together.

Mrs Nicholls



Lower KS2 in the Spotlight

What a great start to the new year from year 3 and 4! They have been working extra hard so far this chilly January and we've really noticed a difference in the level of concentration and engagement from them.

Our Connected Curriculum topic in year 4 this term is entitled 'Should we stop eating chocolate?' It is a science based topic with elements of Geography looking at where in the world chocolate comes from. We have been learning about cocoa producing countries within the tropical regions, the process of harvesting cocoa and deforestation.

Including a science element too, we've also investigated reversible and irreversible changes with a melting chocolate experiment. This topic has also connected within art lessons too with year 4 designing their own chocolate bars and wrappers. They have been using moulds to create different shaped chocolates as part of the design process. Using a Quentin Blake video tutorial, the children also managed to draw some incredible Mr Willy Wonka's.



In English so far this term, we've been writing character descriptions of Veruca Salt and Willy Wonka from the famous Roald Dahl book, which coincidentally, we have been reading in whole class reading lessons as well. Some of the descriptive language used for Willy Wonka has been lovely to see as the children have really tried to stretch their vocabulary use. The children are currently on a non-fiction writing cycle reviewing a new brand of chocolate bar. Some are quite harsh critics! From a grammar point of view we have been teaching the children how to use conjunctions to extend their sentences to more than one clause.



In maths, fractions has been the main focus for the past few weeks. They were very rusty when they first started but have managed to accelerate their learning through to adding and subtracting simple fraction, ordering them up to 1 and finding fractions of amounts. You can see that all their time on TT Rockstars is paying off as they have been applying their division knowledge well to the work on fractions which heavily relies on it.

In other areas of the curriculum, the children have been enjoying finding out how different religions celebrate important life milestones. In our SPACE lessons, we've looked at a wider range of issues such as respecting each other's personal space, what the world would be like without democracy and our learning and life skill this half term of finding ways to help learning something new.

Well done to all our year 4's so far this term for showing amazing Achievements in all subjects, that incredible sense of Belonging supporting each other with learning, increased Confidence in tricky areas like fractions, a sense Determination to make progress in writing and you all know that A-D will eventually lead to Excellence! Keep it up year 4!

Year 3 have been incredibly busy with their learning this half term. In writing and the Connected Curriculum, they have been learning about the Mayan creation story and have written some brilliant stories. They have also been learning all about Guatemala including how volcanoes and earthquakes work. We have linked this learning to their understanding about forces and friction. This week, we conducted an experiment to see whose shoe had the most grip! Next week we will be applying our theories of different forces to making puppets.



In RE, we have been learning about Islam, Christianity and Hinduism and how people pray, making comparisons between these religions. Some children even bought in religious objects from how to share with other children. We also enjoyed looking at different objects from our school's collection.█



In Maths we have been busy applying our times tables facts to help us solve multiplication and division problems. This week we looked at multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100. The children have really been enjoying Mrs Powell's TT Rockstars Club at lunch and the opportunities to get some extra practice in.



In Computing, we have been learning about what emails are and how to send an email using DB Primary. Our children were really great at helping each other showing a great sense of Belonging. Our music lessons have also been very practical with the children enjoying playing the glockenspiels to different songs and even composing their own pieces! Our children have really loved the more discussion-based SPACE lessons but a real highlight was planning a party for Miss Carey as part of our Learning and Life Skills target: I can identify the different parts to a task.

Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics

Last week we took our newly formed Sports Hall Athletics squad to Garons for the annual SPSSA competition. This was the first time we have ever entered this fiercely competitive event (my first time too). 23 schools in total entered the event with over 575 children competing in sprints, obstacle relays, triple jump and speed bounce as well as many other events. Our squad dealt with the

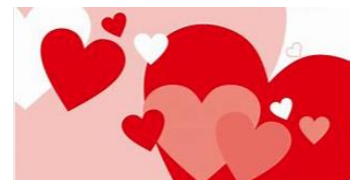


pressure of being the new kids on the block and the relentless speed in which the events happened. I set our squad a target of finishing within the top 10 schools and as always they did not disappoint, finishing 5th overall and only missing out on 4th place by 11 points! Their commitment to the training before the event and on the day itself was second to none and I can truly say that I am immensely proud of them all. Well done to all involved. **Mr Felton**



PTA

The PTA will be holding a Valentines Event – Make Someone Smile – on Friday 10th February straight after school in the hall. The event is for children to create a little something for someone special in their lives, mum, dad, friend, grandparents etc. If you would like your child to take part, please use your ParentPay account to pay 50p to cover the cost of the gift to ensure a small token of kindness is available for them to create, you are more than welcome to purchase more than one gift. The Make Someone Smile event will be open on parent pay on Monday 30th January and will close on Friday 3rd February.



Please collect your child from their classroom as usual and enter the office via the main office.

We look forward to seeing you for this lovely gift making event, for children to pass on a little something to someone special.



Attendance

EYFS

Jellyfish – 96.4%

KS1

Albatross – 99.3%

Lobster – 95.9%

KS2

Bembridge – 96.9%

Coral – 94.4%



Proud to be me



Well done to Saoirse from Shrimp class for completing her 3rd Park Run in 44 minutes. She came 2nd in her age group. You should be very Saoirse!!

Mrs Nicholls was also pleased to hear about the achievements of Rebekah and Dexter this week.



What have you missed on Instagram this week?

