



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

May dates

- 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 June 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/carers,



Just a reminder that this Monday the academy will be closed on the 1st May as it is the May Bank Holiday. The following Monday, 8th May, is also an additional Bank Holiday in celebration of the coronation of King Charles III. Next week we will be enjoying a special Coronation Lunch and celebration assembly.

Strike action continues with planned strikes on the 2nd May and the academy continues with partial opening with year 3 4 and 5 having home learning. Learning packs will be sent home today in readiness. I know that the industrial action has caused disruption and thank you for your understanding and patience.

Safety on line

This week in assembly I shared the importance of e-safety and use of social media with some of our older children. I recognise that children have relationships and communicate on and off line, particularly as they get older. As we know technology now means our children's childhood experiences are very different to our own. Therefore, we educate them on relationships on and off line and how to navigate these happily and safely. Children and families are particularly good at communicating with the academy in supporting children. During the assembly a number of children were surprised at the legal ages for social media platforms – age 13, engaging well in conversations around why this would be. They considered their on line interactions alongside interactions face to face.



Well-being

Today a new friend came to the academy in the form of a Purrble. This is a little creature that made its way to my office. Like us, at times the Purrble needs help and a friend. I shared this with some children and the effects were amazing (and on me too – as the label rightly says for all ages (even 1 to 100)). The Purrble's heart races with emotions but responds to being held, slowing its heartbeat into a gentle purr. It also calmed us in the process. It was a wonderful gift to receive and I know will help many when they are





feeling yellow or blue to feel green again. At Darlinghurst, we know it feels good to feel green and help children to manage their feelings and emotions through using colours to express their feelings. They also love our mindful minute each day as the use calming relaxation after play, ahead of the afternoons learning.

The Pastoral team are always on hand to support others and our curriculum has an important focus on health and wellbeing. We have mental health first aiders and Mrs Grant is our designated mental health leader. I know that families have felt well supported by the team and other staff or are signposted to support externally. Unfortunately, due to a couple of recent interactions with other parents and staff members, it is necessary to raise the importance of conduct and curtesy amongst our community. Should emotions heighten please refrain from using inappropriate language or aggression towards others at the school gate and surrounding area. Pick up and drop off is a busy time and naturally children are in the proximity.

Extended care

An opportunity has arisen to join our team of Breakfast Club Assistants in supporting the breakfast club and ensuring high standards of safety. If you are interested in supporting our children at the start of each day please express your interest to lindsey.corben@legratrust.org.uk. The role will start after half term (June). If you are interested in a future role at our after school club, we would also love to hear from you.



Our Extended provision at Little Mariners supports families with care from 7:30 and also after school until 6pm. The provision is accessed via a pre-booking system and contracts are in place for those attending. This provision is popular with a number of children attending half and full sessions. This is a paid provision and is not a facility for late collection at the end of the school day. Should unavoidable lateness occur please contact the office and inform them so that support can be put in place. Children remain with their class teachers and then passed to the attendance officer and a member of the safeguarding team. In cases of regular lateness the attendance officer will discuss the frequency and issues in an attempt to offer support to families to arrive on time. A meeting is held to discuss continued lateness with the offer of external support and services. Should parents require a paid space at after school club to avoid continued lateness a booking form would need completion and would be dependent on availability. Please note that after school club is runs on a pre-paid system ensuring security of space and to avoid late payment. Parent Pay is used for all payments and shows accounts, including dinner money. It is important that all payments are kept up to date to avoid arrears.

Support can be given by the following staff members:

- Any information on finance please contact mrslane@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk
- Enquiries for Little Mariners, please contact mrsroberts@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk or visit our website for a booking form.
- Attendance, punctuality and Lateness, please contact missdavis@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk

Our pre-loved uniform has been most welcomed and should you have any further items that you can donate this would be a great support to those that need replacements for the summer term. As the weather becomes warmer (I hope) the summer uniform can also be worn.

We also continue to support the community with donations to the hungry cupboard. Thank you to children that have given to the cupboard. Our elephant has also left Darlinghurst to join the Herd in the City in support of Haven's. We cannot wait to see it within the community during the summer trail.

As always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls



EYFS in the Spotlight

As the new Academy term continues, Nursery and Reception have been exploring some exciting new topics in their learning. From the magical world of 'Jack in the Beanstalk' to exploring the wonders of gardening, our children have been busy discovering new things about the world around them.

We have been exploring the traditional tale of 'Jack in the Beanstalk'. Our children have enjoyed learning about the adventurous journey of Jack as he climbs up the beanstalk to the land of the giant. As part of this theme, we have been engaging in some fun activities, including planting our very own beans. The children have been curious to see what would happen if they travelled up their own beanstalk, and have been eagerly watching as their plants have started to grow. It has been a great opportunity for them to learn about the life cycle of plants and how they can grow and flourish with the right care and attention. Many children have told us all about the gardening that they have been doing at home too.



This week, we have been thinking about the story, 'Oliver's Vegetables' and discussing the different types of plants that grow above and below ground. The children have been curious to learn about how plants grow and what they need to thrive. We have been exploring the importance of sunlight, water, and nutrients in the growth process, and have been excited to see the results of their own planting in the Rockpool garden such as the radishes.



In our Maths, we have been using vegetables such as green beans to explore the concepts of adding and subtracting. The children have enjoyed using hands-on materials to learn about numbers and counting, and they have been excited to apply these skills to real-life situations. For example, we had to count out the correct amount of beans to put into each pot. It has been a great way



to introduce the children to the idea of healthy eating while also learning and reinforcing important mathematical concepts. In Reception, the children have practised writing addition and subtraction equations. Well done, children!



PGL Residential 2024 (current Year 5)

Next year's Year 6 residential trip will take place between 24th and 26th June 2024. Details of the cost are now on ParentPay. Thank you to parents who came to listen to Mr Turner talk last night. If you missed it, his presentation will be on the school website by Monday.

Extra-curricular clubs

Our extra-curricular club provision has started back this week. Our clubs are always very popular and spaces are filled quickly. The My Child at School app allows you to book your child a space on their preferred club, it will also show if they are placed on a waiting list. Please keep checking back regularly, if your child is on a waiting list and a space becomes available, this will be reflected in the app. Please ensure your child only attends the clubs that you have a confirmed space for, you will be asked to collect your child if they are not registered.

If your child no longer wants their space, please email mrsalexander@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk and we can offer it to someone else.



Attendance

EYFS

Jellyfish 97.1%

KS1

Albatross 97.9%

KS2

Bembridge 99.2%



Proud to be me



What have you missed on Instagram this week?

