



Communication is a priority for us once again this year, we will communicate to parents and carers using **School Ping**. In addition, we use **Twitter and Instagram** to share what's going on within the Academy daily. Please make sure you are following us **@Darlinghurstsch** on Twitter and **@DarlinghurstAcademy** on Instagram

## Message from the Principal

Dear parents and carers,

A warm welcome back to all our community and thank you for a positive start to the second Autumn Term and the lead up to Christmas! We will be sharing our Christmas plans in further detail with you soon but please take a look at the N & V section within today's edition: 'Coming Christmas Celebrations.'

The children settled quickly back into their routines and new learning and revisiting bubble routines. Year one, entered their classrooms to discover their very own toy museums, with toys from the past and present. They enjoyed engaging in enquiry and discussion about toys, with curiosity and wonder. Ahead of their return, we shared a couple of pictures on Instagram. Did you guess what they were?



Did you guess that these were people? They were passengers on a train.



This was a xylophone on the back of a truck!

Mrs Haisman-Baker said, "The children enjoyed spotting all of the mystery toys and then had the opportunity to play with some of the old toys exploring the materials that they were made of."

Our Nursery children enjoyed sharing their half term experiences and talking with **confidence** and excitement about the sounds and colours of fireworks, before free flow where they engaged in exploration and play within the nursery environment. The Nursery came alive with their own excited sounds and movement. What a great start!





During Phonics, our Reception children have been focusing on their sounds and letter formation, showing **determination** and concentration as they practiced. They were proud of their work and keen to try. Across KS1 children have engaged in phonics well and their efforts and achievements are astounding. Many of our children continued to practice over the half term break and we thank parents for their encouragement and engagement in supporting reading at home. We continue our high level of focus during this half term.

Key Stage 2 have been introducing the children to their new Science topics in exciting and awe inspiring ways. Year 4 were given a sound show and had to recognise the sounds they heard to introduce their topic. How do we see? How do we hear? Year 5 experienced a rotation of different experiments involving solids and liquids to introduce their topic, 'Mysterious Materials'. Year 6 were given the task to create their own spaceship and planet as part of a special mission set by the Prime Minister of the future.

Across the academy, we have been focused on our sense of **belonging** engaging in national days and charitable events. This year, more than ever, we have witnessed the positive power that community can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge. On Wednesday we all observed the 2 minute silence and wore our poppies with pride. The children were reflective and respectful.

'We were still, we were calm, we were quiet as we wore our poppies today, remembering those who fought for freedom and in Flanders Field they lay. We will remember them. We were still, we were calm, we were quiet as we shared our poppies today, respecting those who fight for our freedom and have to go away. We thank them'.

We would like to thank Alix for singing our soundtrack for us. Please take a look at the video on our Instagram reels.



With today, being World Kindness Day and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Children in Need, we have been reminding children about the importance of mental wellbeing.

You can join in with the BBC Children in Need Colouring Pages, BBC Children in Need Presentations or KS2 BBC Children in Need Colour by Calculation Maths Activity, there are many free resources for the children to take part in and enjoy at [www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk](http://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk)



Through their reflections and actions, they have considered how to help children feel better about themselves as well as helping others. They have shown compassion and empathy to others, as well as giving compliments. In assembly, we returned to thinking about our 'buckets of kindness' and sharing the importance of acts of kindness. In KS1 we shared the books, 'A guide to daily happiness – Have you filled a bucket today?' and 'bucket filling from A-Z'. Each bubble has shown acts of kindness to their friends, teachers and staff. Year 2 thanked the academy cook for preparing their food every day and helping them at lunch time. One child left the academy gates telling their mum all about their invisible bucket. Let's continue to promote sharing, listening, taking turns, politeness, helping others, giving compliments and lots of smiles. We know that being kind is an important way of bringing joy to the others and also it makes us feel good too. It allows us to be a positive force in people's lives. Often, "It's the little things that matter the most".

Mrs Powell and Mrs Haisman Baker said, "It's important to show kindness in order to spread a ripple effect of positivity. You never know how someone is feeling and just the smallest caring act can make their whole day."





The theme this year for Anti-bullying Week 2020 is: United against Bullying. Anti-bullying Week begins on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November and starts off with Odd Socks Day to celebrate our uniqueness on the first day. We look forward to focusing on this important message across the week. We are all a piece of the puzzle, and together, we are united against bullying! Take a look at the Anti Bullying Alliance Website page at the parent and carers tab for more information. <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/anti-bullying-week-2020-united-against-bullying>



As always, enjoy your family time together.

**Mrs Nicholls, Principal**

## Around the Academy

Today around the Academy we have shown our support for Children in Need.





### Around the Academy continued

This week in **Nursery** we have had so much fun finding out about the children's adventures over the half term break, with many of the children talking about the fireworks they had seen. As our topic this week has been Guy Fawkes night, Remembrance day and Diwali this gave the children a head start and enabled them to help us create some amazing firework pictures in outdoor learning. The children also made some beautiful poppies for Remembrance day and took part in the two-minute silence along with the rest of the academy, after speaking about remembering brave people at carpet time. What a busy week we've all had!

The **Reception Team** were as excited as the children to be back at the academy after our Autumn holiday. All of the children have returned with a continued enthusiasm to learn and develop their knowledge, which shows in their discussions and activities throughout the day. This week we have been thinking about the different senses we use. We talked about how we use our sense of sight to see fireworks but use our sense of hearing to listen to the sounds they make. We had fun creating firework pictures and writing onomatopoeia words such as pop, bang, whizz. On Wednesday we joined in the two minutes' silence for Remembrance Day with the rest of the academy. The children were so sensible and we are very proud of them. We have ended the week with a fun packed Children In Need Day which is always tremendous fun! Have a look on Tapestry to see what we have been up to! Have a wonderful weekend.

This week, **Year 1** have returned to the academy with great enthusiasm and have all put in an amazing amount of effort into their learning. We started off the week introducing our new topic 'Toys Old and New' by holding our very own Toy Museum. The children were able to view a variety of toys from across the years, identifying which ones they thought were old or new by looking at the materials they were made from. We had great discussions about how some toys may have been created years ago, like the Barbie, My Little Pony and Marbles to name a few, but how these toys are still around today. The best part of the day was getting to play with the toys, exploring how they work, which all the children thoroughly enjoyed. We have been really pleased with the children's efforts in Maths this week, looking at numbers within 20. We have carried out a variety of activities using the teen numbers to understand what the digits represent by partitioning and counting the 10 first.

This week the **Year 3** children have begun exploring our new topic 'Bright sparks - What is electricity?' In history, we have been finding out about Benjamin Franklin, who discovered that lightning is electricity. We have been compiling our own fact files using the information we have. We also discussed electrical appliances that we use at home and how they make a positive impact on our daily life. The children are looking forward to investigating our new topic further and having the opportunity to make their own circuits using electrical currents.



**Year 4** have returned to the academy full of energy and ready to learn, in maths we have been learning mental strategies for multiplication and division. In writing we have been practising how we write to inform by compiling a diary and from the point of view of a soldier during WW1. We are investigating in topic 'How do I see?' and had great fun carrying out an experiment to discover how light travels.

This week in **Year 5** we have started off with a bang as we started our new topic of mysterious materials. We hooked the children with a collection of hands on experiments. The children enjoyed the 4 experiments which sparked their curiosity and brought strong questions from the children. We explored Non-Newtonian fluid as we mixed water and cornflour to create a matter which is solid and liquid. Great fun! Creating a lava lamp we learnt that some liquids do not mix. Continuing with the theme of exploring we started discovering a new world as we commenced reading 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' in whole class reading. Unearthing already the different characteristics and traits of each of the Pevensie children. It is important to nourish a great love of reading and it is great to hear about the variety of books being read independently by children. Remember to do your accelerated reader tests when you finish reading. In maths we have begun to focus on addition and subtraction, building on prior learning from year 4 and autumn term 1. Throughout the maths lessons the children have developed their understanding to check calculations are correct using the inverse and using their known facts to help work out the unknown number or an individual digit of a number. In writing we are creating tension and building suspense as we write a narrative piece. Working on the technique of 'show not tell'. Ask your Year 5 if they can demonstrate how to show their character is nervous rather than tell you. After half term what an amazing first week back. Mysterious materials, excellent experiments, spooky stories and wonderful wardrobe adventures, a week to remember fondly. Keep safe and smiling.

In **Art**, the children from year 1 to year 6 have all contributed to this wonderful rainbow display. With the help of a visiting artist they have redesigned our house team logos.



Coming Christmas Celebrations: We are keen to still embrace and celebrate 'creatively' during the festive season. We will be using virtual communication to involve you in the festivities. We know how much we love sharing at this time of year. More information, coming soon on our festivities, including the Early Years Nutcracker Ballet, KS1 Christingle, KS2 12 days of Christmas and the academy Christmas advert remake – watch this space!

Whilst we love to give and receive cards, unfortunately we will be not able to give Christmas cards in the usual way but will provide a creative alternative within bubbles.

Please may we remind you of the expectations for PE kits. Children should come to the Academy on the day of their PE lessons. Wearing a blue sweatshirt and black joggers now the weather is cold. Please do not allow your child to wear a hoody.

Please do not send your child into school with a large bag. Homework books should stay at home so children should only bring a lunchbox if required and a water bottle.