



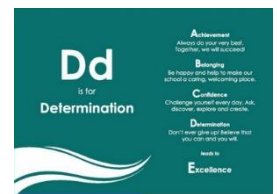
Communication is a priority for us once again this year, we will communicate to parents and carers using **School Ping** In addition, we use **Instagram** to share what's going on within the Academy daily. Please make sure you are following us and **@DarlinghurstAcademy** on Instagram.

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic start to the Summer Term. The weather may not be as warm as we expect at this time of year, but everyone is bright and happy to be back, ready to learn.

The academy value for this half term is **'Determination' - don't ever give up! Believe you can and you will!**



Determination



In assembly, I shared the importance of an, 'I can attitude' and that with persistence and practice, we can succeed. We used examples from the film, 'How to train a dragon', witnessing Hiccup's determination to help Toothless fly.

This half term, we are supporting children to develop their next steps and meet their personal targets. Targets are linked to an area of learning that they are working on, whether that is using finger spaces or developing their writer's voice.

I had the privilege of hearing a couple of written pieces by Connie and Scarlet in Bembridge class, describing Tom Daley. They both have a great writer's voice and flair. Their work echoed our academy values – especially Determination, showing the importance of self-belief and pursuing your dreams. Well done Connie and Scarlet!



We are proud of all of our year six children and are looking forward to their final term with us, enjoying the final stage at Primary school and supporting their transition to secondary.

Enquiring minds – think, think, think

This half term, our Learning and Life skill is – Think, Think, Think. We encourage our children to question, reason and explain. Take a look at the section in News and Views, sharing 'I can' targets for this half term and ideas to support these at home.

We encourage 'I wonder' questions across the academy, including the Early Years, harnessing the power of enquiry. We love to hear their responses and reasoning. As *Albert Einstein said, 'the important thing is to not stop questioning'*.

The children and staff have enjoyed the starting points of their new topics. Year 2 went on a bug hunt this week around the academy grounds and enjoyed telling me about the insects and their habitats. They created their own 'I wonder' questions related to the topic showing their curiosity and wonder. Other year groups are exploring their topic questions too:

Year 1: *Why is water precious?*

Year 2: *What makes us like other animals?*

Year 3: *Why are bugs important?*

Year 4: *What happens inside our bodies?*

Year 5: *Do we make the most of what's right on our doorstep?*

Reception are looking at 'Journeys' and Year 6 are focused on science - *Let's go around again!*



We know that our children love to ask questions. Why not channel the wonder at home too and engage in an 'I wonder' conversation.

Would you rather be a giant or the same size as a mouse?	If you met a man who was living in a cave, what would you ask him?
When you wake up in the morning, everything in your bedroom has turned green. Why do you think this has happened?	If you had to be one colour, what colour would you choose?

What do you think is the best age to be and why?	If you had 1 wish, what would it be?
How would you describe an elephant to someone who has never seen one?	What is your favourite thing to do in school and why?

This week we have also paid tribute to 'Prince Phillip,' engaging in conversation about the significant life and work of the Duke of Edinburgh. Our Head Boy and Head Girl shared condolence and reflection through their creative channels of poetry and art. Please look at the section directly below, dedicated to the Duke of Edinburgh.

As always, enjoy your family time together.
Mrs Nicholls

Tribute to Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh

Poem, by Simeon – Head Boy

As the husband of the Queen
Prince Philip has been
A national treasure
To remember, forever.

He served in the war,
He did his part, and, what's more,
He always lived to fight another day.
That's brave Prince Philip's way.

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh
Was not a regular
monarch, at all
he made children feel less small
by giving them awards
he was truly adored
by the nation
for ever and ever.

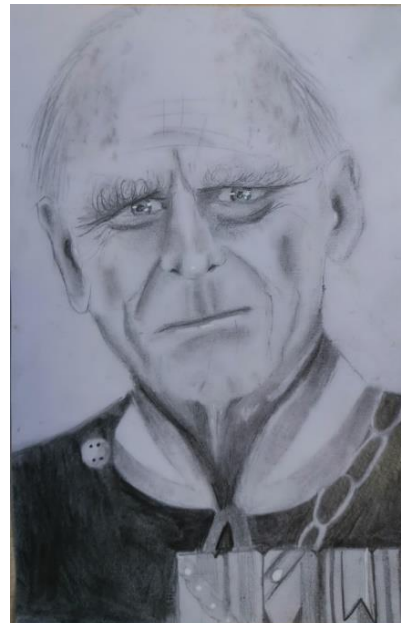
We will remember Prince Philip
because he always filled up
everyone with courage and joy

In memoriam



Art by Willow – Head Girl

Prince Philip – will be missed by all. He was a great man who served in the army for many years and helped many countries.





As a school community, we were all saddened to hear the news about Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. He is the only consort most of us have known throughout our lives and what a legacy he has left behind as the longest reigning one. Watching the tributes pour in from around the world has been a great reminder of just how many inspirational projects, charitable causes and schemes have changed people's lives for the better. We will definitely remember his wit, passion and humour.

Across the school, there have been many ways we have paid tribute to Prince Philip and his action-packed life. There were many discussions about the role of the monarchy and its contribution within the wider community. Many children were surprised to find out that he was patron of over 80 charities! They were particularly interested in the development of the Duke of Edinburgh awards that have shaped and inspired the lives of countless young people. The awards definitely had the desired effect of 'fostering hope and encouraging ambitions' as lots of our children were keen to find out when they could sign up! Upon finding out about the Prince's dedication to solving environmental issues, the children explored how this has positively affected different commonwealth countries around the world. Through having these conversations, children understood that his passing is a significant moment in history.

Miss McCrory

After school sports clubs

The time has finally arrived where we feel able to safely offer some after school sports clubs. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer the same amount of provision as we did pre-Covid due to government restrictions. Therefore, for the first half of the summer term we will be offering a Multi-Sports club for Years 2, 5 and 6, and then after half term for years 1, 3 and 4. I will be contacting each year group with all of the relevant information for the club via school ping and will be starting the clubs as soon as possible. Should you have any questions please contact us via email at generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk.

Mr Felton

Around the Academy

Welcome back to all of our existing children and to those new children that have joined **Nursery** this week, the children have all settled back so well and are enjoying meeting new friends. Our topic this week is life cycles and we have been looking at the story of the very hungry caterpillar. We looked for caterpillars in the fairy garden, but only found worms and slugs! The children were very caring with what they did find, and loved investigating with a magnifying glass. We have also been looking at repeating patterns and the children have had fun making patterns from what they find in nursery! What a great week! Team Nursery

What a fantastic first week back at school after the holidays and the sunny weather has been rather welcoming. The **Reception** children have returned with a determined attitude to be the best learners they can be. This is reflected in their work especially their increasing writing skills. One of the highlights of our week has been learning about Ramadan. Why don't you ask your child to tell you all about it? We seem to have a jumper and cardigan eating monster in Reception! Please check that all of your child's school uniform is labelled clearly with their full name. Please check at home if you have any items of school uniform that do not belong to your child and return it to school for quarantine. Also, please ensure that your child has a named water bottle (that is separate to their packed lunch drink). Have a wonderful weekend. The Reception Team

In **Year 1** we started the week talking about Prince Philip and how he had helped the Queen. The children knew a lot about the Royal Family and asked sensible questions about the Duke of Edinburgh Award for young people, which many of them have decided they want to take part in. In writing we have used the story, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle and written out our own versions called 'The Very Hungry Grub', which were very interesting to read. In maths we have been using our skills in counting in tens and ones to count large amounts of building materials used by the three little pigs when they made their homes.



Year 2 have come back from the Easter holidays with an incredible enthusiasm for learning! We have had a busy, but exciting first week back. In maths, we have been learning to identify and compare 3-digit numbers. This has allowed us to crack codes and find missing numbers in 3-digit number sequences with different intervals! We have also begun to think about our new topic 'What makes us like other animals?' which will be in full swing by next week! In writing, we are completing a recount. For the subject of this week's recount, we went on a bug hunt. It was amazing how many different bugs we found in the outdoor learning area. This led to some beautiful pieces of writing.



Year 3 have continued their exploration of time in particular looking at a.m and p.m., time tables and the 24 hour clock. So the next time you are looking at the TV guide be sure to ask some time related questions. In writing, the children have been imagining what would happen if they shrank to the size of an insect and the adventures that could occur. With Topic we have been completing our voyage around Guatemala and comparing our knowledge before and after the unit with hopefully some improvements. Sadly, we have been exploring our Citizenship and Learning and Life Skills with a bit of thinking time around the sad news of the death of H.R.H Prince Philip. A busy and productive week. The Year 3 Team

So **Year 4** started the week with a new topic: What happens inside of us? We will be learning how the major organs in the body work and how to stay healthy. We had a letter sent to us from the Captain of a pirate ship asking for our help in making his crew fitter and healthier. By the end of this topic we will be putting together an action plan for the poorly and unfit pirates, Arrrr! This week we have been specifically looking at being healthy through diet, exercise, sleep and mental health and the children have set themselves a goal to improve a part of their lifestyles. Already this week there has been a lovely buzz about the topic and the children have been coming in sharing facts about the body that they have gone and found out themselves at home. Through all our lessons, we weave in a Learning and Life Skill. This term's theme is called 'Think Think Think' and we will be working on being able to scan through books for information, comparing and contrasting different points of view and being able to present information in different ways. We are all looking forward to a fun packed half term!

This week we welcomed **Year 5** back with a smile. After a restful 2 weeks the children were happy to be back just like the year 5 teachers! We introduced the new Edison topic of '*Do we make the most of what is on our doorstep*' and we began the topic by becoming adventurers and going around the playgrounds and fields to discover just what is on our doorstep at Darlinghurst Academy. We followed our exploration up the next day as the children took a closer look at nature and the plants and trees we have within our grounds, before turning our thinking to the wildlife that rely on the plants and trees. It was amazing to smell the lavender and spot the different trees and plants and see daisies peeking up through the grass. Over the course of our topic we will be growing a plant inside each classroom giving the children a front row seat to the transformation and life cycle of a plant or flower. In maths, the children have been exploring percentage and connecting their learning of fractions of amounts to help convert percent to solve word problems. Turning to English, we have set off on a fantasy journey this week in writing, as the children tell the story of a flying ship whose engine and wooden oars fail leaving him stuck in the sky. Creating their own flying creatures like a turtle with wings, a flying dolphin or a Pegasus, the children's animals save the man as they help pull his ship along in the sky before carrying him off on their backs ready for a new adventure. There is a wide variety of books being read in year 5 and we are so pleased when the children are ready for another accelerated reader test. Within the reading lessons this half term each class has taken a different book to read to invite and encourage discussions between different classes and inspire children's own reading books.

We are proud of the determination shown by the children each day and how each day they are growing just like the plants and flowers we are exploring. Keep safe and smiling, Year 5 Team



The **Year 6** children have returned rested and ready for their last term at Darlinghurst. It has been lovely to see them so enthusiastic about their learning. This week they have become palaeontologists and created their own fossils using clay and plaster of Paris. They created their own moulds using toy creatures and will begin excavating them next week – we are all excited to see what they find!

In Writing, we have been about Tom Daley's London 2012 dive and have been building suspense and atmosphere. The children have come up with some amazing work! Well done Year 6!

Learning and Life Skills

This half term, we will be focusing on the strand – **'Think, Think, Think'**. The purpose of this strand is to develop the essential skills that children need in order to use good thinking to support their learning. The key themes in this unit are:



- Information Processing and Evaluation
- Reasoning and Enquiry
- Creative Thinking and Problem Solving

Within these themes are a number of key skills such as:

- Finding, analysing, using and evaluating information
- Recording and presenting information
- Asking questions
- Drawing conclusions
- Making judgements and saying why
- Using imagination and being creative

Children need to be able to identify what sort of strategies or type of thinking they are using in certain activities in order to intentionally build and develop that thinking.

Through using and developing a common language and vocabulary around thinking, children and adults are able to have more meaningful conversations about learning.

In school, teachers will be teaching lessons related to looking at data, solving problems and planning experiments and discussing results. Your child may be set a research task or shown how to use a dictionary. As part of our Learning and Life Skills, class teachers set 'I can' statements which are targets for the children to meet. Perhaps you'd like to set some targets at home. Here are some suggestions from the 'Information Processing and Evaluation' strand:

- Early Years: I can recognize similarities and differences between things
- Years 1 and 2: I can identify where to find some information
- Years 3 and 4: I can undertake simple research from a range of sources with support.
- Years 5 and 6: I can use dictionaries and other reference materials and data bases effectively.

We'd love to hear how your children are getting on with these fundamental skills so please share photos and work with us via generalenquires@darlinghurst.co.uk

Mrs Powell



Care in the community

Last month, we continued to strengthen our strong partnership with Admiral Court Care Home through a new project called **'My Dear New Friend'**. Supported by the literacy trust, children were able to not only develop their writing skills but bring pleasure to some of the residents in our local care home. The children appreciated many residents feeling lonely as an impact of Covid -19 restrictions and this was definitely a way to cheer them up. The Junior Governors, along with many other children, wrote heart-warming letters about their interests at Darlinghurst Academy and even sharing a story or two about their pets! I have been told that the letters were received with such delight. We eagerly await the replies and hope to continue this positive relationship and encourage our children to continue to be true active citizens.

Mrs Lee



Make friends with My Dear New Friend





TTRS Top Rockers - March Week 4			
	% of class that used TTRS last week	Average daily minutes	Average correct answers
1st	Swordfish (90%)	Endeavour	Endeavour (1062)
2nd	Stingray	Coral, Billet	Coral, Mayflower
3rd	Bembridge	Dune, Swordfish, Strand, Victoria, Shrimp, Lobster	Billet

Next week - Friday 23rd April, we are celebrating National Picnic Day. We will be celebrating this by eating our lunches outside. Children are welcome to bring in their own picnic lunches or order a lunch on the day. Please see the menu below. Payment of an ordered lunch will be through ParentPay.



Menu: Choice of a Wrap, Salad Pot, Sausage Roll or Cheese Whirl (V), Choc Chip Cookie



This week, George Tinneny from Featherblade Restaurant along Leigh Broadway www.featherblade.co.uk has kindly donated an I pad to our Academy. We would like to take this moment to thank George for this donation, it is much appreciated especially in a time where technology is used so much.

What have you missed on Instagram this week?

