



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 parent/carer,

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term. This time of year always brings brighter weather and changes in nature, in addition to a focus on new life and beginnings.

We are pleased to hear of the changes ahead as the country moves into the next phase and looks forward to the roadmap ahead, particularly seeing our children back at Darlinghurst again. We know that our staff and children have enjoyed seeing each other every day in the virtual classrooms, staying together even though they have been physically apart.

We cannot wait to see them in person and the staff will be ready to welcome and settle them on the 8th March.

Ahead of their return, class teachers will spend time to focus on their return to prepare and support them in their transition back. This focus will continue within our curriculum provision to ensure that we meet their needs and provide a smooth and happy return. Until our full return, we will continue to provide our 'Gold package' for all learners.

Within my letter to parents and carers, shared on Wednesday 24th February, I outlined important information relating to the full reopening. This included our plans and procedures alongside expectations for attendance and uniform, along with my thanks to everyone for the tremendous effort and support they have shown over the past months. Together, we made a difference.

Please read the letter sent via Ping for full information: 'Parent Letter March Return'

Here is a reminder of our PE days. Children will continue to wear their PE kits on their PE day.



Class	PE Day of the week
Nursery	Monday
Reception	Wednesday
Year 1	Thursday
Year 2	Monday
Year 3	Tuesday
Year 4	Wednesday
Year 5	Tuesday
Year 6	Thursday



Here is a reminder of our gate times – please note a slighter later departure time for year 6.

Class	Entrance via	Arrival am	Depart pm	Exit via
Nursery am	Brook gate	08:50	11:50	Brook gate
Nursery pm	Brook gate	12:35	15:35	Brook gate
Reception Jellyfish	Brook gate	08:30	14:45	Brook gate
Reception Starfish	Brook gate	08:30	14:45	Brook gate
Year 1 Albatross	Side gate	08:30	14:50	Brook gate
Year 1 Puffin	Side gate	08:30	14:50	Side gate
Year 1 Seagull	Side gate	08:30	14:50	Side gate
Year 2 Lobster	Main gate	08:35	14:50	Main gate
Year 2 Shrimp	Main gate	08:35	14:50	Main gate
Year 3 Coral	Main gate	08:40	15:05	Main gate
Year 3 Dune	Main gate	08:40	15:05	Main gate
Year 3 Seashell	Main gate	08:40	15:05	Side gate
Year 4 Stingray	Brook gate	08:40	15:05	Brook gate
Year 4 Swordfish	Brook gate 2	08:40	15:05	Brook gate 2
Year 4 White shark	Side gate	08:40	15:05	Side gate
Year 5 Bell Wharf	Side gate	08:35	15:00	Side gate
Year 5 Billet	Side gate	08:35	15:00	Side gate
Year 5 Strand	Side gate	08:35	15:00	Brook gate
Year 5 Victoria	Side gate	08:35	15:00	Brook gate 2
Year 6 Bembridge	Main gate	08:30	15:10	Main gate
Year 6 Endeavour	Main gate	08:30	15:10	Main gate
Year 6 Mayflower	Main gate	08:30	15:10	Main gate
Year 6 Wilton	Main gate	08:30	15:10	Main gate

As always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls

Around the Academy and at Home

Welcome back to **Nursery** everyone, we were super excited this week to be read the story The Smeds and the Smoos, all about alien families, and loved hearing about your families too! Space continues next week, so get your helmets on and get ready to lift off (again)! Don't forget to log on every day and see what fabulous activities we've set for you, and as always teams on Monday and Friday at 11am! **Team nursery**

It was so lovely welcoming the **Reception** children back for our blended learning together after the half-term holiday. Everybody, including the teachers, were refreshed and raring to go with our new topic of space. This



week we have focused on fiction books and started with the story 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy. In the story the bear travels to space and visits the moon for a picnic. We also shared 'The Smeds and The Smoos' by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. This led us to many discussions about similarities and differences between us as individuals and what makes our own families unique and different to others.

In Maths we have explored capacity, weighed objects and also measured them using non-standard measures such as cubes and pegs. We had tremendous fun estimating and testing our actual results. We ended the week with a trip to the moon. The moon walking was 'out of this world' fun! Ha! Ha! Have a wonderful weekend. **The Reception Team**

The children in **Year 1** enjoyed telling each other about different activities they enjoyed in the half term break and have returned to learning with great enthusiasm.

We have been thinking about different families and how important it is to be loved by reading 'And Tango makes Three' by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson, a story about a special family of penguins whose children loved to visit in the zoo. In maths we have been learning about money, especially the value of different coins and notes and discussed which coins or notes we would like to have in our pockets! In topic lessons we have learnt about the unique animals and listened to traditional stories told by people living in Australia and had fun creating our own Aboriginal art pictures!

This week in **Year 2** we have started our new topic 'What is the best way for Mrs Armitage to travel?' Mrs Armitage is a character created by Quentin Blake. The story that we are reading at the moment tells us about Mrs Armitage adding lots of equipment to her bicycle with unfortunate consequences. The children are re-telling the story this week in writing lessons.

In history we have been learning all about how transport has changed over the years. We used a timeline to show when certain kinds of transport like sedan chairs and cars first started to be used. We have also looked at photographs of Leigh-On-Sea from a long time ago and compared the kinds of transport that we could see in them and what we may expect to see now. Some things have changed a lot and some things are still the same e.g. fishing boats and bicycles.

A big welcome back to all the **Year 3s** both in and out of school. This week we have hit the ground running with our learning on Identity and family in support of our LGBTQ+ and multi-cultural communities. The children have drawn amazing family portraits and identified what makes them unique.

In maths we have been underpinning our knowledge of multiplication and division by investigating why we add or subtract zeroes when we multiply and divide...or do we?

For English we've continued to develop our creativity around the amazing Pobble 365 images...every week is so different, I wonder what next week's picture will be?

Our new Curriculum Topic 'Let's Go On an Adventure' starts this week but I cannot reveal the location except to let you know we will be learning about an amazing country with a magnificent ancient history...that also has a Star Wars connection! Take Care and see you all in person very soon. **The Year 3 Team**

Well done for such a good start back from half term **Year 4!** This week we have done some writing based on our new book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. The children have written from the point of view of Charlie Bucket in the form of a diary entry. We have learnt about different types of families and made some beautiful family trees. We've also started our new topic 'Should we stop eating chocolate?' – everyone enjoyed the taste testing on Monday afternoon! Remember to keep up your TTRS – there's another new battle this week.

This week **Year 5** were introduced to our new topic 'Fairgrounds'. We had some brilliant discussions around what we already know about them and then they thought about the 'I wonder's' that they want to find out throughout this topic. Sticking with the fairground theme, in writing we have been exploring using all 5 senses to write detailed descriptions about a day in the funfair! The children used their experiences of being in Adventure Island and Chalkwell fair to give their writing a real-life feel. In maths, the children have been continuing to explore the area of compound shapes. They have applied these skills in a wider world scenario word problems such as laying carpet throughout different rooms in a house or designing school playgrounds. As part of LGBTQ+



month, we discussed and celebrated different families in the community. Don't forget to continue sending in any family portraits that have been created! **Miss McCrory**

Year 6 have come back refreshed and ready to work. They have started a new topic called 'Has there ever been a better time to live?'. This topic is about Charles Darwin and his theories on evolution and the origin of species. It is also LGBTQ month and we have explored different types of families, the children also really enjoyed compiling their family trees. Year 6 also made and flipped pancakes with their class teachers on Tuesday afternoon, please see photos below. It was a great time to chat and watch their class mates having fun!



Eco News

Weekly Eco Challenge - Marine

71% of the Earth's surface is water-covered and in recent years it has become increasingly obvious that human beings have not been treating our rivers, canals, lakes and oceans with the respect they deserve. This week, I'd like you to focus on something we love to do in the water, swim! It's a bit cold to swim in the sea at the moment but you could investigate your swimming costume.

- What makes it a good swimming costume?
- What is it made from? How was it made?
- When your swimming costume no longer fits or gets old what will you do with it?
- What other items could you turn your costume into based on the properties of the material it is made from?



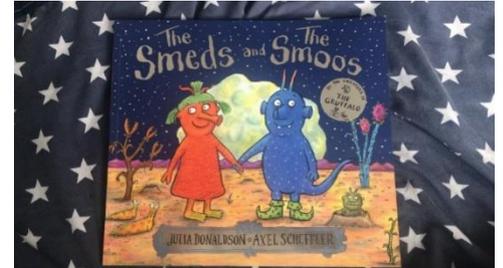
Perhaps you could draw a design for an eco-friendly swimming costume or what you could make yours into if you upcycled it. Don't forget to send your ideas and findings to me at generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk





LGBTQ+ Month

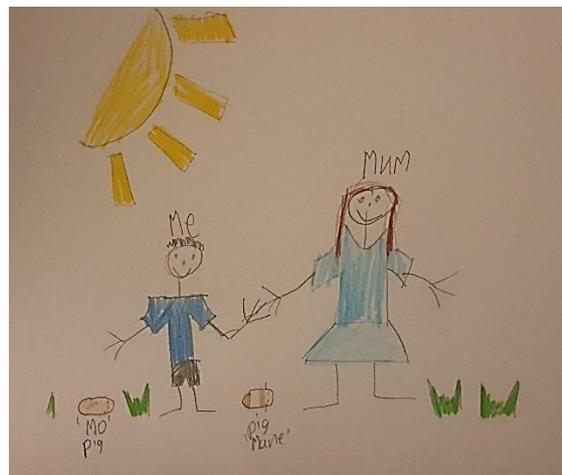
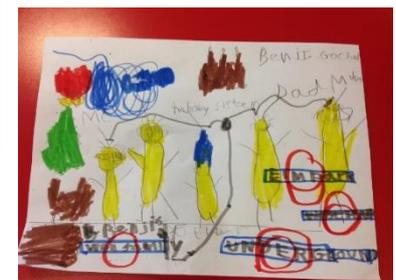
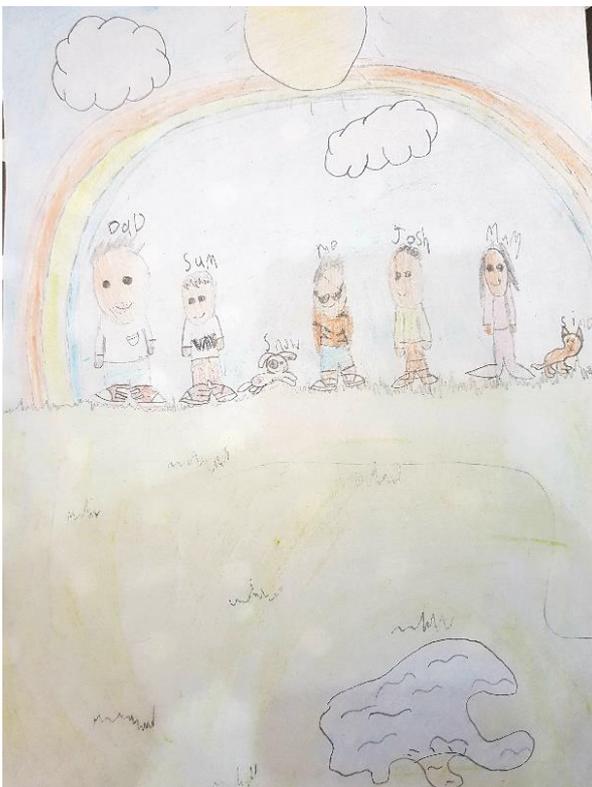
This week, we have been celebrating differences by talking about different families and also our own identities. Children listened to the stories 'The Family Book' by Todd Parr and 'Red, A Crayon's story' by Michael Hall which focused on celebrating differences amongst different families in school and the wider community as well as thinking about what makes our individual selves unique! For story time in Reception, children were read the book, the Smeds and the Smoods, a great story on how families can be different.



Mrs Nicholls likes the story, 'the Driftwood ball', by Thomas Docherty. It is a story about George and Celia who just want to dance together at the ball, but badgers and otters NEVER mix. However, they embrace their individuality and each other, bringing change and inclusion, to their community.



We were really impressed by the different pictures children drew of themselves and their families.



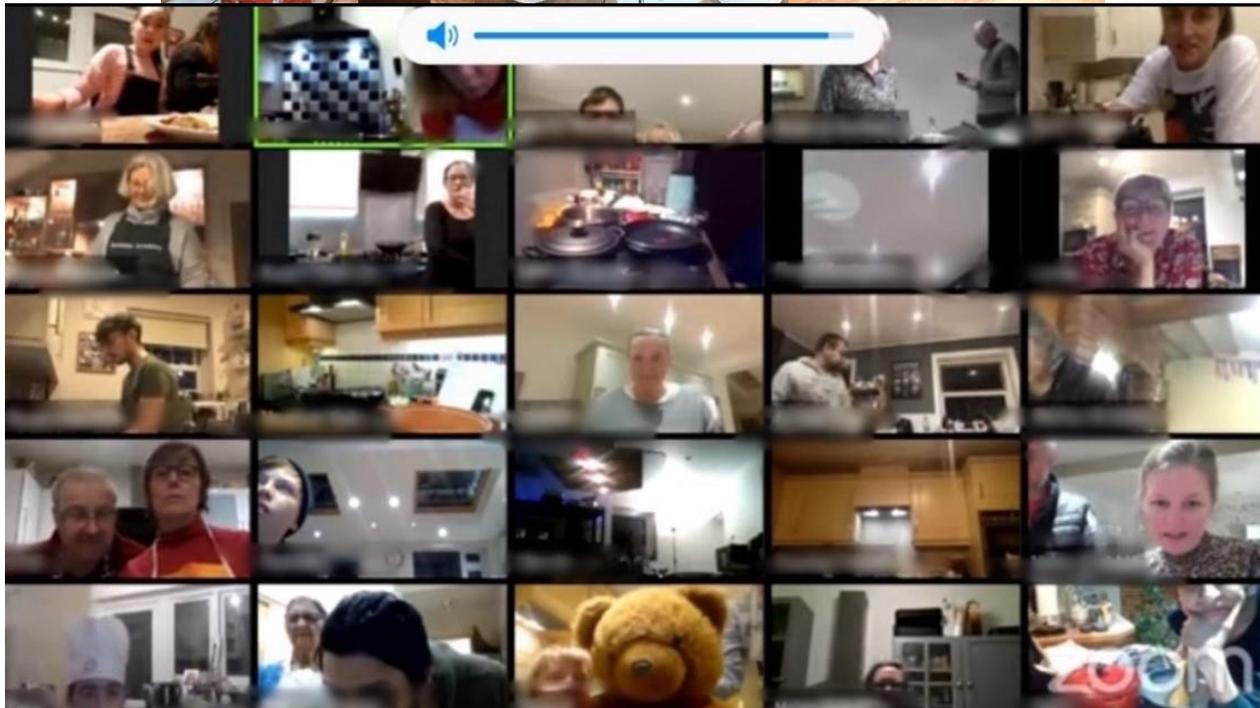


Guinness World Record Cook-Along

Well done to all the children and families that took place in the Guinness World Record Cook-Along Attempt. The world record was achieved and they are now world record breakers! Mrs Dunne and family really enjoyed the exciting event.

Me and my children had a fantastic time cooking together. It was very exciting to see yourselves on screen cooking with over 800 people. I had both my children cooking. My son, Dhillon, made Butter Chicken and my daughter, Ciara, made Butter paneer-it was scrumptious. I saw Darlinghurst mentioned in the messages lots of times and it was lovely to see us all encouraging each other. It was the most fun we had had in lockdown!

Mrs Dunne



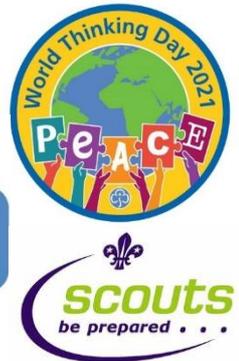
Tara (y2 shrimp) along with the family had a lot of fun cooking along 800+ people on Friday.

Thank you for letting us know about it. Tara's butter paneer was delicious. She even made her own whole-meal nan bread to accompany the paneer, having fun making ET with the dough beforehand. Hope you all had fun. **Anita Sandhu**





On Monday 22nd February, all Guiding and Scouting members had the opportunity to join together to celebrate **World Thinking Day**. Here at Darlinghurst we were able to participate, by wearing our Guiding and Scouting uniforms for the day, either in our bubbles at school or for live lessons at home. World Thinking Day is an annual event which falls on the 22nd February, this date is important to all members as this is Lord Baden Powell's (founder of Guiding and Scouting) birthday. During this time, members are encouraged to think about all the other Guiding and Scouting members around the world, have the opportunity to renew their promise and raise money for WWAGGGS (World Wide Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) which helps support those members in other countries with limited resources.



This years, World Thinking Day embraces the theme of Peacebuilding – to Stand Strong, Stand Up and Stand Together. Guiding and Scouting values peace at its core. The aim of the 2021 theme is to bring Girl Guides and Scouts across the world together to call for and to create peace.

Learning and Life Skills

This half term, we will be focusing on the strand – 'Knowing Me, Knowing You'. In order to understand and feel good about themselves and also understand what impact their actions have on others, children need to develop skills involving personal reflection. The key themes in this unit are:



- Understanding and coping with feelings
- Self confidence
- Empathy
- Making choices

Research into the way the brain functions tells us that when individuals experience too much stress they shut down cognitively. Our emotions and the way we feel about ourselves have a strong impact on our ability to learn. This term we will help children to understand their emotions and manage them so that they can learn best.

Perhaps you'd like to set some targets at home related to our new strand. Here are some suggestions from the 'recognising feelings and understanding emotions' aspect:

- Early Years: I can identify ways to be kind to others
- Years 1 and 2: I can explain how I am feeling with trusted friends and adults
- Years 3 and 4: I can show understanding and respect for others' feelings by the way I behave to them
- Years 5 and 6: I can show compassion for other humans facing difficult situations

We'd love to hear how your children are getting on with these fundamental skills so please share photos and work with their class teachers on DB Primary.

Happy 5th birthday to our Darlinghurst ducks. Nursery and Year 2 children sang Happy Birthday and left cards.





IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY!



Next week we will be celebrating World Book Day. On Monday 1st March we will launch our Book Bingo competition and our Masked Reader event!



Who is reading behind the mask?

Throughout the week, we will be completing lots of exciting activities linked to reading and on Thursday 4th March you can dress up as your favourite book character.

We would like to promote our World Book Day week by using photos of the children in their costumes in the local newspaper. Could you please send any photos to generalenquires@darlinghurst.co.uk by Friday 5th March.

We look forward to welcoming all children back to the Academy on Monday 8th March 2021.

As before it remains vitally important to communicate any absence to the Academy on the first day of your child's absence. If your child displays any one of the main COVID-19 symptoms, they do not attend school and you seek a test immediately and inform us of any positive test result.

If a member of the household is awaiting COVID-19 test results or has a positive test result the entire household must isolate.

If a member of the household is advised to isolate as a result of being in close contact with a person who has tested positive, it is only that individual who has had close contact who is required to isolate, not the entire household.

If you or your child are experiencing any anxiety or worries around COVID-19 and returning to the Academy see our 'Back to school tips'.

In line with Government guidance, usual school policy and procedure applies and attendance to the Academy is again a legal requirement. Please see our attendance policy for further information.



Upon returning to the Academy full uniform is an expectation.

New uniform can be purchased online from www.schooluniformdirect.org.uk and delivered to home at a reduced cost or to the Academy. Uniform deliveries to the Academy are expected Wednesday afternoons.

In line with Government guidance rooms will be ventilated so we are happy for children to wear appropriate, plain, base-layers under their statutory uniform. Please avoid wearing additional items that are not of school colours.

Secondary School Admission Applications

Secondary school offer day is the 1st March. If you have not yet applied for a secondary placement, please contact the admissions team at the local authority and include your child's full name and date of birth. Please contact via www.southend.gov.uk/school-admissions/secondary-school-admissions.

Please find below frequently asked questions which may help with any queries you may have.

Question	Answer
How do I accept the school offered	All offers are accepted automatically. If you are happy with the offer you do not need to take any action. Your allocated school will send you a pack in due course – usually this is in the period March – July 2021. Please do not contact schools before the end of July. _
How do I refuse the school offered	You can email admissions@southend.gov.uk We will record that you wish to decline the place, however we can only take that place away once you have confirmed the alternative arrangements in place for your child's education. Until we are certain of alternative plans, your child will retain the offer made.
How do I apply to go on a waiting list	Your child will automatically be on a waiting list for a higher preference than which has been offered. This does not include the selective places at schools or at the grammar schools. If you have an offer but wish to be on the waiting list for a school lower on your list you can email the admissions team to 'switch' your preferences around so that you are on the waiting list.
Who do we call for the waiting list positions	Only the Admission Team at Southend-on-Sea have waiting lists for schools in Southend. If you need the waiting list position for schools outside of Southend you can email/call the local authority for that school after 15 March 2021. Waiting lists updates will not be ready daily, parents can check after easter. The Admissions Team will contact you if a place can be offered to your child.
Do schools know what I have applied for	No, schools only know if you have applied for them. Schools do not know the preference order or the outcome for your application for other schools



<p>How do I appeal</p>	<p>Parents are able to appeal for schools that are higher preferences and they did not get an offer. All appeals for secondary schools are submitted directly to the respective schools and information is available on the respective school websites.</p> <p>You have until 31 March 2021 to submit for an on-time appeals. Late appeals are accepted and usually heard in late Sept.</p>
<p>I thought I am guaranteed a place at my local catchment school?</p>	<p>No. There are no guarantees for any places. However, we would advise that you put your local catchment school as one of your preferences. This will improve your chance of getting at least an offer of a school place at one of your preferred schools in March. Check your catchment school on the postcode look up table on School Admissions (select secondary and look down the bullet points)</p>
<p>I did not apply what do I do</p>	<p>You can apply at any time. The Admissions Team can advise of vacancies in the borough and provide you with an application form.</p>
<p>What does 'Refuse by LA' mean</p>	<p>'Refused by LA' this is in the instance where your child did not sit or pass the 11+</p>
<p>Why have I been offered a school I did not apply for</p>	<p>Where all the schools you applied for reached their admission limits before they could offer your child, your child has been added to the waiting list and we have made you an offer to the next nearest school to your home address.</p>

What have you missed on Instagram this week?

