



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

This week we celebrated the art of oral storytelling, with children sharing and hearing stories across the academy. Children in 'Tiddlers', Nursery shared real and imagined stories aloud, including stories of dragons who breath water instead of fire. During year one playtime it was lovely to see children sat on the logs, telling stories to each other and Reception took turns to sit on the story telling chair to tell stories to each other. I loved listening to their stories and witnessing their confidence. I enjoyed visiting Hagrids' Hut and the Reading village to share stories, passed down from generations within my own family to children in year two and five. I treasure the memories of my dad making up 'Cyril Squirrel stories' and shared one of the stories with the children. I also shared how oral story telling has and still remains a special time with my own children, making up pirate adventure stories and stories and antics of my children's cuddly toys. The children shared their own stories and special moments with their families. It was lovely.



In KS1 assembly, we spent time thinking about 'superheroes', fictional characters but also real life superheroes too. We spoke about how real life superheroes may not wear capes or have superpowers but are superheroes for the work they do and for keeping people happy and safe. The children talked about their everyday heroes and designed caps, logos and superhero posters to acknowledge their heroes. Staff and children around the academy shared their superheroes, highlighting their powers or resilience, inspiration, skills and why they are role models or deserve a little praise.



Some of the children named and drew pictures of their teachers too, which is perfectly timed ahead of next week, May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> is National Teacher Appreciation Week. We would love our children to draw some pictures of their teachers. Please send them to [generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk) FAO Mrs Hahn: teacher picture.



Older children have continued their focus on empowerment and who inspires them. Aaron in year six, drew me a picture of another Disney character that demonstrates such qualities, including our academy values,

'.....The lesson is to never give up and move forward like the little boat who could'.

The older children also focused on how they model and demonstrate academy values and British values during assembly and class PHSE sessions, with a particular focus on belonging and tolerance. The children



engaged in thought provoking discussions to celebrate diversity and challenge discrimination. This will continue in cross curricular writing with our children planning and producing written letters to social media companies to show racism the red card.

The Reception children explored cultural dance from around the globe including dances from South Africa, India, Spain, America and Japan. Mrs Hahn has also been dancing with some of the children, practising the 'Jerusalem dance'. Continuing the theme of traditions from around the world, children produced some Haiku poems that originated from Japan. The children showed skills of imagination, using as little words of possible – following a 5-7-5 syllable rule.

The Year 2 children also enjoyed learning dances for May Day, using the Maypole. It was lovely to see the colour ribbons and children dancing brightly.



I wish you all a lovely May bank holiday weekend. As always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls

## Around the Academy

In **Nursery** this week our topic has been minibeasts, and we enjoyed the story 'Superworm'. We have been busy taking great care of our caterpillars who have now turned into chrysalises and our ants who busy themselves every day building different tunnels. We are yet to find any ladybirds, so if you come across any at the weekend, please be sure to think of us! Please spend some time over the bank holiday weekend looking for minibeasts in your garden, some questions could be, what did you find? Where did you find them? Are they there all of the time? Above all have lots of family fun. Team Nursery.

This week **Reception** have continued their learning about life cycles and are intrigued watching the daily changes of our resident caterpillars. Currently they are in a little pot and spend their days feeding and crawling, or should I say wriggling, about! We are now learning about other minibeasts and on Wednesday the children all went on a bug hunt in the school grounds. The teachers are super-duper impressed with the confident writing that the children are producing. It is lovely to see how determined all of the children are to be neat writers. Well done, Reception!

Please remember to send your child into school with a named water bottle every day that is separate to their lunchbox drink. Also, it would be good if your child can have a named sun hat in school daily. As the weather gets warmer please apply sun cream on your child before school. If they need a top-up of sun cream applied during the day please teach them how to apply this themselves. Have a lovely weekend. The Reception Team

This week, **Year 2** have become scientists and have explored what animals need to survive. We learnt that a human can survive without water for 3 days but, usually, can only survive without air for 3 minutes! Linking to our sunflowers project, (seeds we planted last week and are now proudly watching grow), we have learnt how we need plants to take in carbon dioxide and give out oxygen so that we can breathe in the oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. Then, as scientists, we thought about what different animals may eat and what makes an animal either a carnivore, omnivore or herbivore. Year 2 were very good at trying to categorise the different animals in a Venn diagram. Building on our animal learning, we have been writing instructions on how to look after a cat. Next week, we will have the chance to write instructions on how to look after an animal of our choice. With the fantastic enthusiasm and interesting facts Year 2 come up with this week in our animal learning, I cannot wait to see what they do next week!

This week in **Year 4** we have delved deeper inside the human body. It was interesting to see where the children thought each organ was initially but we ended the week with them all being able to name and accurately place where our major organs are inside of us. In writing we have a non-fiction cycle linked to this explaining the function of both the heart and lungs. Ask your children about the lungs as we were all surprised about the



fact we learnt about the size of the left lung and why! Our science is nicely linking to our Learning and Life skills again this week with children using research techniques independently. Our two junior governors in each class are developing some super green fingers as they have planted sunflower seeds to grow ready to gift to the residents of Admiral House. The seeds have now germinated and beginning to shoot up nicely. The classes are full of love for our baby sunflowers who are now the constant center of love and attention each day! We are all looking forward to sending them on and spreading some sunshine to our wider community.



This week in **Year 5** we have been exploring different types of plants and flowers. The children were able to sequence the life cycle of a plant and explain each part scientifically. They have been growing their own plants in the classroom and checking the progress every day! In computing, the children learnt about the importance of abstraction in data. They really grasped this concept when they took part in an activity which required them to draw the simplest picture of an object and see if their partner could identify what it was. This highlighted that only the important information is needed for something to be recognised! In writing, the children have really enjoyed writing about the traditions they participate in as part of the religious calendar. There were stories about how Eid, Christmas, Hanukkah and Easter are celebrated in the households.

**Year 6** have been devising and conducting their own electrical experiments this week using buzzers, motor and fans. They have experimented how the amount of voltage in batteries affects the electrical circuits they have made. Next week, we move on to revising the 'Human Body'. We have also been writing newspaper articles about Sirius Black's escape from Azkaban. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this piece and will be writing about Bellatrix Le Strange's escape next week. In PSHE we discussed different lifestyle choices and how we would react in different scenarios. In music we are writing our own raps and used musical instruments to provide the backing track to a piece of electronic music. Please ensure your child continues to do an accelerated reader quiz at least every fortnight (if they are reading a novel) and continue to increase the speed of their times tables on TT Rock stars.

This month we have celebrated writing Haiku poems.

Our children have written and performed poems following that 5,7,5 syllable structure.

Please see below some fantastic examples and have a look on Instagram for some videos of our children reading out their poems.

### **Cheese**

Stilton and Cheddar  
My favourite British cheeses  
Can't decide which one.  
Roxanne Y3

### **Summer**

Summer is coming  
We must get cold things  
ready  
Or else we shall burn.  
Arya Y3

### **The Woods**

Trees, trees everywhere  
Leaves come falling to the  
ground  
Beautiful green leaves.  
Adam Y3



What have  
you  
missed on  
Instagram  
this week?

