

July 2023

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to thank you for your partnerships throughout this year and to share a few reflections of the year. This academic year 2022 – 23 there has been much to celebrate and I am extremely proud of Darlinghurst.

#### Academic Achievement

We are delighted that the children have shown great progress and outcomes, with Darlinghurst's performance above the national average in all national assessments: the Year 1 phonics check, the Year 4 multiplication check and the SATs, both in the individual subjects and combined. These results reflect the high quality of teaching and learning across the academy. We will proudly publish results on the website next academic year.

Across the year, opportunities to share progress and attainment have been provided with consultations, reports and celebrating work together. A reporting schedule has been mapped for the next academic year to further support parental knowledge and engagement. *This will be shared as a letter and on the website.*

#### Personal development and wider opportunities

We have a range of subjects and wider opportunities on offer and this was reflected in the parent survey with 100% agreeing the point.

The wider opportunities and achievements have been enjoyed and celebrated across the academy with children showcasing their interests and talents. We have seen so many of our children recognised for their achievements with winners across sports and the arts. Attached are some summaries of the events that have taken place this year.

Our staff have continued to be experts within their fields but also shared their expertise with other schools. This has included sharing best practice through network groups, presenting in conferences and being a part of projects or continued professional development. This has led to schools from other boroughs, London and beyond visiting Darlinghurst and learning about our practice. They leave with words of praise for our children, the relationships between staff and children and always have high praise for our values.

The children have shown personal and academic development across the year and curriculum. DFE aim is that all schools teach Climate change from 2024 and I am very proud that we already include this within our curriculum offer. This term the children enjoyed our new Global Dimension - climate change unit.

#### Active Citizens and awards

Our active citizens have played an important part in developments within the academy and wider community demonstrating commitment and passion.

The Junior Governors have spent time with our dear friends at Admiral Court throughout the year, celebrating special times and seasons along with our shared love of gardening and the arts. The Junior Governors considered healthy lunches and snacks this year, reviewing the menus and producing a new healthy snack policy to share with parents for 2023-24.

The Eco and Sports committee have also considered health and sustainability, establishing Eco-groups, growing their own vegetables, monitoring food waste and promoting positive healthy behaviours. The Sports Committee have introduced new sports and clubs at the request of our children and the Play Squad have led playtime games to engage others in active lunchtimes.

Our sporting achievements have also been outstanding with our children demonstrating excellence, determination and confidence.

Peer Mentors have supported the well-being of their peers demonstrating kindness and inclusion. Finally, our prefects have continued to engage in roles of responsibility around the academy and supporting events. They have received comments from visitors regarding their confidence and manners. I would like to thank the Head Prefects, Finley and Evie, for being positive contributors in all they do and for their duties throughout the year.

The children, along with the staff, have made such a difference and in acknowledgement, we have received renewals of our gold award for PE and remain an Eco-School with Distinction. We have received certification of being a Green Tree School from the Woodland Trust and the Planet Mark. A special award was given for the joint work of the Eco and Sports Committee as an Eco Protector Group.

Next year we are striving for the Platinum Sports Mark and plan to engage in initiatives and community projects such as the Healthy Smiles accreditation and My School, My Southend project.

### Community

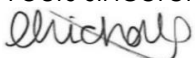
Thank you for attending our Tea and Talks and celebrating together sessions. They have been mapped ready for the next academic year and will be shared in advance to save the date. This year, Tiny Tiddlers was established for families and toddlers. This group has been well attended and appreciated by all. Continuing the success of the weekly group and our Tiddler Fests, we will be launching Tiddler Topic Time and Tiny Tiddler Tribe (outdoor learning group) for 2023 – 24. Our sense of community and belonging has shown examples of collaboration and community contribution. This has included parents, carers and the community supporting developments within the grounds: planting trees, improving wild life areas and renovating the allotments. Beach cleans and litter picks have also taken place with great support.

We have also been able to reshape reading areas through the donation of so many books. This really helps us to encourage genuine 'reading for pleasure'. Parents, staff and family have also spent time painting beautiful murals to support these areas.

Other donations such as uniform, wellington boots and Christmas jumpers have also helped to support others. Active groups also held pre-loved sales to support Reduce, Reuse, recycle campaigns. The Early years have also been grateful of donations for their zones inside and out. This year we have supported a number of charities and local projects, as part of national campaigns but also local support and need. Thank you for your generosity. This has included Children in Need, Save the Children and Comic Relief, Havens Hospice and St Vincent's supporting those who are unwell or in need of support. Our little elephant, which is part of the Herd in the City project this summer, has also raised funds and can be found in Shoeburyness at the Heritage Centre. A map can be downloaded for £1 to help locate all the elephants and to take a trip around the City.

Finally, I wish you all a wonderful summer break.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs E. Nicholls - Principal