



Message from the Principal

Community

This week there has been a great sense of community within school. Thank you to everyone for helping making the start of the year a shared experience. We are committed to strengthening our culture through increased opportunities to engage and communicate with each other.

Raising awareness and caring about our world

Today I welcomed children and Penguins through the school gate. We are supporting our friends at the Belfairs woodland education centre, in raising awareness about the plight of the endangered African Penguin. Children and staff participated in a penguin waddle.



It was such fun seeing everyone get their waddle on!.

Reception Pop in

This week has been a great beginning with our EYFS team and Year 6 team sharing learning with parents and children. The EYFS team opened the classroom doors early to allow for children to give their parents a tour of their learning spaces. The children talked about their learning and first experiences of Reception. It was great to see parents and children playing together within our provision. I'm not sure who was having more fun, the parents or the children. I know I enjoyed playing too. Thank you so much to our parents for such a positive uptake.

Year 6 SATS meeting

The year 6 team presented a SATs workshop to parents and children, outlining the structure of SATS and how we can help our children. We offer the opportunity of future SATS workshops for parents or a chance to sit a paper with a child and learn and share together. If this appeals to year six parents, please give us feedback and we can organise this, via mrslowe@darlinghurst.co.uk. Next week we are repeating the SATS presentation after school drop off, for those who could not attend an evening session. The presentation will be on Monday 8th October in the Hall at 9am. We hope this is helpful.

Parent focus group

The parent focus group met for the first time this year. Mrs Williams and I are pleased to be working with the group and thank you to Naomi Scott, Sarah Diggins, Nisha Jacob, Jenny Bier and Catie Back for taking up the posts.

PTA coffee morning

Thank you to our PTA for hosting a coffee morning this week. Parents enjoyed coffee and cake **together, raising funds for McMillian**. We look forward to sharing more events together.

Healthy Lunchbox workshop

Following on with food, we ended the week with a healthy lunchbox workshop providing an opportunity for parents and children to make a lunch together, learning about the amounts of sugar in food. Unfortunately, there was a low uptake on this workshop this year. We are keen to promote healthy lunches and are willing to host future workshops. If you are interested, we are happy to take bookings for future events. Please provide us with feedback if this is a preferred option by contacting Mrs Grant.

The rest of N & V today is focused on sharing the additional experiences that we provide, enriching learning and play.

As always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls



News

EYFS

This week we have been looking at our hands and feet and how our fingerprints make us unique. We can't wait to use our feet in a special way and waddle like penguins in outdoor learning today! During PE the children were experimenting with balancing on apparatus and did a fantastic job of moving across a thin beam. Well done to all of our newcomers who have settled in so well! **Nursery Team**

This week we have continued our topic 'All About Me' and have been learning about body parts, which included singing and dancing to a skeleton song. It was great fun! Linked to the 'Penguin Waddle Day' we have been finding out about how we can help all animals in the wild, as well as the penguins. We were keen to find out where certain animals may live and have explored this further using atlases, globes, books and the computer.

Next week we are thinking about healthy eating and the different types of food we eat.

The Reception staff enjoyed seeing the children proudly show their parents/carers their new classrooms during a 'Pop In' session on Thursday afternoon. Thank you for visiting us. The children were very eager to show their families and how they learn during the school day. **The Reception Team**

I love my learning! Rose, Starfish class

KS1 & KS2 Clubs Special

This half term we are super excited to announce that **Spanish Club** will take place weekly. The company 'Speak Like A Native' will provide two afternoon clubs for children from Y1-Y6. If you are interested, please enquire in the office. An assembly will take place this term to advertise the club. We are looking forward to both sessions filling up soon!

11+ Club update At the end of last term we sent out letters to all year 4 children to express their interest in attending an 11+ club. We are excited to announce that Leigh Tutoring has agreed on a joint venture whereby they provide tutoring sessions here at Darlinghurst Academy each week. We will be running two classes on a Wednesday afternoon shortly. Letters will be sent out to those parents who expressed an interest. If you missed the opportunity last term in expressing your interest, please enquire at the office where information can be shared and you can fill in a reply slip.

Pupil Premium – if your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, you can use your voucher to contribute towards payments of any paying curricular activity.

Bricks 4 Kidz® after-school classes build on the universal popularity of LEGO® Bricks to deliver high quality, educational play. Every class is a fun, enriching experience for students, using motors, LEGO® Technic and the classic bricks loved by generations of children. (Mon or Wed, Years 1 to 5)

Westwood Karate Academy - BUDO 4 SCHOOLS is an after school activity club suitable for boys and girls. The art of traditional Shotokan Karate is not only good physical exercise, but it also improves motor skills, teaches respect for one another and follows traditional etiquette. With over 500 members at Westwood Karate Academy, our experienced instructors come into the school every Monday after school. Each term consists of 10 classes for £45 each term. This price includes a free Gi (karate suit) with the first payment, and also a grading assessment with free new belt and certificate at the end of the term. For further information please either telephone 01702 479197 or email us at westwoodkarate1@btinternet.com

Speech and Drama lessons are available to all children and are taught on the premises on a Tuesday lunchtime (12.00-12.30 Infants and 12.30-1.00pm Juniors). The lessons are a great way to encourage children to gain confidence in spoken English, enhance listening skills and allow an outlet for creative play acting. One-to-



one Speech and Confidence lessons and Adult Lessons are also available, please text/ email for more information on all the lessons.

I really like the way Miss Riley teaches us new things in Performance Club. The songs are great fun and the dances are cool too! **Ruby, Neptune class**

Performance club is amazing and inspires me to sing more. **Millie M, Triton class**

We have the best teachers in Performance club and would love to sing when I'm older. **Ashe K, Triton class**

Acorns club is fun and it is very, very enjoyable! **Nancy I, Shrimp class**

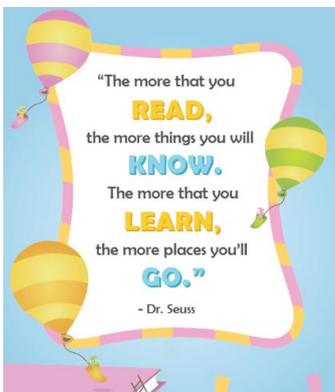
Across the UK in October, schools and organisations celebrate **Black History Month**. It is an opportunity for us all to celebrate and learn about Black culture in the UK and across the world. At Darlinghurst, we will be focusing our celebrations and learning on the week beginning 8th October 2018. Across the school, children will be learning about historical figures, different places in Africa and the Caribbean and significant events in Black History. We're looking forward to celebrating the diversity of our school as part of this, reflecting how Darlinghurst is a welcoming and caring place for all. As part of this week, we invite any parents of African or Caribbean heritage to come into school and share something about their culture. Please speak to your child's class teacher to make arrangements for this.

Here at Darlinghurst Academy we just love **reading**. We encourage pupils to read widely across both fiction and non-fiction to develop their knowledge of themselves and the world they live in, to gain knowledge, and to establish an appreciation and a joy from reading. We want reading to feed our pupils' imaginations and as such books within the library and classroom are easily accessible and presented in an appealing way in order to encourage respect for books and support our commitment to developing a love of reading. Recently, we have relocated and reorganised the school library to make it more pupil friendly and contains a huge selection of fiction and non-fiction books. In addition, the school day ends with twenty minutes of story time in every classroom. Your child's class teacher will read to the class from a quality text (often chosen by the class itself) and bring this story alive for the children and draw them into a world of imagination. We firmly believe

that this time is special for the children and encourages a love of great stories and we hope that the books being read to your children will become as firm favourites with them as they are with us. I still remember (and love) many of the stories read to me in primary school as I'm sure many of you do too. As a staff we share our passion for books with the children and we hope that this inspires them now and in the future.

Accelerated Reader

We know some children are still finding it difficult to log in to Accelerated Reader. All the children's accounts have been checked and are working. Please be aware that it is not possible to Google 'Accelerated Reader' and log in as every school has a unique page. Ours is <https://ukhosted20.renlearn.co.uk/2237772/>. The link can also be found on the 'reading at home' and 'SATs' pages on our website.



Starting secondary school in September 2019

Year 6 children will be bringing home information on how to apply for secondary school placement. The cut off date is October 31st 2018. Please speak to Mrs Lowe should you require any assistance.



Thank you to the **Darlinghurst PTA** for the wonderful MacMillan coffee morning.

Should you be interested in joining our PTA please come along to the AGM meeting Monday 8th October 8:50am in the Training Room

Thank you to **Miss Arnold** for organizing our fantastic Penguin Waddle today.

Visit our Twitter feed for more photos - @DarlinghurstSch



Celebrating Excellence

Madison, Neptune class is appearing in 'Nativity a Musical' at The Hammersmith Apollo in London this Christmas with Danny Dyer and Jo Brand

Group	% Attend
TIDDLERS	58
JELLYFISH	99.3
STARFISH	99.3
PELICAN	97
PUFFIN	97.9
SEAGULL	95.6
LOBSTER	96.2
OYSTER	93.8
SHRIMP	98
DUNE	94.4
PEBBLE	90.8
ROCK POOL	98.5
SEASHELL	98.8
PORT JACKSON	98.6
REEF SHARK	96.2
SAND TIGER	97.6
WHITE SHARK	94.8
NEPTUNE	97
POSEIDON	99.7
TRITON	96.5
BEMBRIDGE	94.3
WILTON	98.5
MAYFLOWER	90
ENDEAVOUR	97.5
Totals	95

Well done to the winners this week. Keep up the good attendance aiming to keep hold of the title, looking forward to the results next week.

Come in to win

Mon 01 Oct
Black History Month
Mon 01 Oct
Harvest Festival Week
Tue 02 Oct
Parent Consultations
Wed 03 Oct
Parent Consultations
Wed 03 Oct
KS2 Cross Country (Garons)
Mon 08 Oct
International Week
Until: 12th October
Mon 08 Oct
Rugby World Cup Celebrations
Mon 08 Oct
Year 4 & Year 5 11+ Grammar School Parents
Information Evening
Tue 09 Oct
Individual Photos
Wed 10 Oct
Year 5/6 Tag Rugby (SRFC)

Please visit www.darlinghurst.uk/calendar/ for future dates



Notices



Come and enjoy the unique outdoor learning environment at Darlinghurst Academy

If you are a parent or carer of a pre-school child due to start school in September 2019 or 2020 and are interested in finding out about our approach to learning, we are inviting you and your child to join us. Unfortunately, other siblings on this occasion cannot attend. Wear old clothes with waterproof coats and footwear.

Our Early Years Assistant Principal and Outdoor Learning Teacher will be hosting outdoor learning sessions on 1st October and 9th October 2018
Session times 9.00am - 10.15am

Numbers for each session are limited, so early booking is advisable.

Please contact:
Mrs Dutton, Assistant Principal and Early Years Lead,
Darlinghurst Academy
Pavilion Drive
Leigh-on-Sea
Email mrsdutton@darlinghurst.co.uk to secure your place.

Do you tweet?



Follow us @DarlinghurstSch

School Day Favourites Lunch – Thursday 4th October

We will be offering a special 'School Day Favourites Lunch' on Thursday 4th October, to coincide with this term's statutory school census day. There will not be any jacket potatoes or pick & mix.

We would ask that all pupils who are eligible to receive a free school meal please order a school meal on 4th October, as the amount of government funding the school receives will be based on the number of children ordering a free school meal on that day.

Is your child due to start school in 2019/20?

Prospective parent tours

October 16th – 10:00am-11:00am and 1:30pm-2:30pm
November 6th – 10:00am-11:00am and 1:30pm-2:30pm
November 12th – 10:00am-11:00am and 1:30pm-2:30pm
December 11th – 1:30pm-2:30pm
December 12th – 1:30pm-2:30pm
January 8th 2019 – 1:30pm-2:30pm
January 9th 2019 – 1:30pm-2:30pm

Tours can be booked via the school office or by emailing generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk

School Meals

Whilst we are pleased with the positive uptake of school meals for our children, debts incurred for school meals are a cause for concern that we need to address. In order for your children to receive a school meal parents must pay in advance using our online ParentPay method. We cannot work on a credit system and parents will be contacted to bring in a packed lunch or pay upfront for a meal if there are outstanding payments. *If you need any help logging in to ParentPay please contact the finance team and we can help with any problems you may have.* If you are unable to pay your child's school dinner money debt please contact us and we can discuss ways to help you.

If parents believe that their children may qualify for entitlement to Free School Meals then please contact the finance office on 01702 509202 where we can help with your application.

Thank you for your co-operation in helping to reduce this increasing debt problem.

Sue Churchman, Finance Officer

