



## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents / Carers

This week has been a busy week of preparation and celebrations. Current and new staff all enjoyed meeting their class children for transition day on Monday. I was delighted to see the busy activities in each class.

As we draw closer to the end of the summer term, we say goodbye to some of our Darlinghurst staff members.

After 17 years of teaching generations of the Darlinghurst community, Mrs Amran is moving on to Montgomerie Primary School in Benfleet after a well-deserved appointment as Deputy Head Teacher. I would like to personally thank Mrs Amran for holding the hands, opening the minds, and touching the hearts of the children and staff at Darlinghurst. We will miss her.

Mr Bird, after 15 years of teaching and providing above and beyond first aid is, as many of you know, retiring.

'You listened, you motivated, you shared, you inspired, you helped, you encouraged, you taught, you retired'.

After working hard for so many years, I am sure the community will join me in wishing you hearty congratulations as your retirement day nears.

After 5 years at Darlinghurst, Miss Niemann is moving to Bournes Green to teach in Year 6 and Mrs Ablethorpe is moving onto Milton Hall to lead Year 2. Mrs Meggison is also moving on to teach there, within Year 2.

Mr Holmwood is returning to the first school he worked at, Temple Sutton, where he will be leading Year 6.

Miss Casey is also moving to teach there in Year 6.

Miss Burley is relocating to a forest school in Kent.

Thank you to the staff for building the characters, confidence and creativity in our children. I wish them every success in their chosen pathways in their careers.

Finally, I would also like to welcome the new staff joining us from September. It will be a privilege to work alongside them as we move into a new academic year. I feel confident that they will be an asset to our community. Mrs Hahn will be joining us as Vice Principal. We welcome Miss Carey into Year 1 and Mrs Richards into Year 2. Joining us in Year 3 is Miss Zaher and Mr Hatton in Year 4. Finally we welcome Mrs Bermon in Year 5 and Mrs Dunne in Year 6.

Mrs Nicholls

### Upcoming Events

- 15.07.17** – Uniform Sale 10.00am – 3.00pm
- 17.07.17** – PTA Bounce Day 3.30pm
- 18.07.17** – Orangutan Class Outdoor Learning
- 18.07.17** – Joseph Performance 6.30pm
- 19.07.17** – Joseph Performance 6.30pm
- 20.07.17** – Year 4 to Chalkwell Park
- 20.07.17** – Year 6 Bonchurch Park picnic
- 21.07.17** – Year 6 Leavers Assembly
- 21.07.17** – Last Day of Term

### Achievements

- George W & Thomas W, Giraffe class – Collect rubbish as they walk home from school every Thursday
- Skye J, Jaguar Class – Achieved her 200m swimming badge
- Dexter H, Owl class – Achieved his white belt in Wing Chun Kung Fu



## Transition

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July children transitioned to their new classes to meet their new teachers from 9.00am to 2.30pm, children took part in various class activities including filling in an information sheet for their parents.

Logan H: "It was well organised and everything ran smoothly."

Miles A: "You made me think Year 5 is fun."

Nathan G: "It made a nice change to mix up the classes."

Faith F: "I like that the classes are mixed up so I can meet new people."

Mrs Hahn is looking forward to joining us from Leigh North Street in September as Vice Principal. She explained "Day 1 has helped me feel prepared and ready to start the new academic year with enthusiasm and renewed energy. Knowing that the future is carefully mapped out and that each step of the way will be accompanied by a team of inspirational individuals. Day 2 has brought with it excitement and a buzz as I moved from class to class and introduced myself. Getting to know the children and team around them has been my first priority. I'm looking forward to day 3 at Darlinghurst."

Sarinya: "I think Mr Hatton is a really nice teacher and I really liked getting to know him. He wrote letters about himself. Also he is really into history and reading different books. I mostly liked that he is really into sharks and my class is Sand Tiger Shark."

Kennedy: "First we had to write all about ourselves and made little sharks to represent the Great White Shark class. We also did a teamwork game stacking cups to practise our teamwork skills. It was really good fun and I'm pleased I had a chance to meet him."

Mr Turner will be teaching in Year 6. "The children were excited to finally meet their new teachers on Monday. Our new staff joined us and many children were heard to be delighted on the playground at lunch time. We were pleased that so many parents took the opportunity to meet the new teachers at the end of the day."

Giraffe class were all very excited to meet their new teacher Miss Zaher and had a fantastic day! They will be missed by Miss Chaplin and Mrs Ricks but it was very exciting to meet Penguin class ready for a year of fun learning!

Elephant class all enjoyed transition. "I really liked transition because I loved making the beach and flip-flops. I also like my new classroom"- Hollie

"I really liked the classroom because it had lots of room in it"- Dillon

"I enjoyed meeting our new teacher because I enjoyed the activities we did"- Sophia

"I was really amazed with the new teacher Mrs Levy"- Mariam

## Attendance

Group	% Attend
LADYBIRD	95.5
BUTTERFLY	86.7
RABBIT	98.7
OWL	99.6
HEDGEHOG	95.6
<b>WOLF</b>	<b>100.0</b>
PENGUIN	97.3
ORCA	95.3
ALBATROSS	95.7
<b>SQUID</b>	<b>98.7</b>
GIRAFFE	96.4
LION	98.3
ELEPHANT	97.0
CHIMPANZEE	92.8
MANATEE	96.8
<b>JAGUAR</b>	<b>98.6</b>
HUMMINGBIRD	97.2
ALPACA	98.1
PANDA	95.4
KOMODO DRAGON	98.3
LEOPARD	97.0
ORANGUTAN	97.2
MOOSE	97.1
COYOTE	98.5
FLAMINGO	98.6
KANGAROO	98.6
PUFFER FISH	95.3

Fabulous attendance this week  
Wolf class, well done





## News

This week **Nursery** have been looking at the effect of exercise on their bodies, with the role play area being turned into a Doctor's surgery. They have had 'Fred' the skeleton with them all week and are using stethoscopes to listen to their heart beats after P.E. Nursery had an amazing sports day on Tuesday, Miss Gue was very happy to see so much parent participation, even if it took a little coaxing to bring you all forward!!! The children had a fantastic day and enjoyed all of the activities but above all enjoyed watching their parents take part. On Wednesday after the rain the children had fun in the mud in ODL, giving all of the outside equipment a well-deserved clean...maybe this is something you could do over the holidays, the children love cleaning (although most things get dirtier so don't give them your best china!!!).

Reminder: Nursery party, 10.00am - 1.00pm on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July

Reminder: the area behind the old music demountable (Nursery Fairy Garden) is out of bounds to ALL children and parents unless accompanied by Nursery staff.

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July our **Young Carers** made a visit to the Cliffs Pavilion to see the play "Gangsta Granny" based on David Walliams' book. Here are some of their quotes from the day:

"I enjoyed going to Gangster Granny – before I went I felt nervous but it was really good so I didn't want to leave, but I had to go. That was the best day of my life!"

"It was the first ever time going to the theatre in my life – it was brilliant!"

"I liked the ride there, even though it was a bit bumpy at the back of the bus but it was ok. The show was the best! I rate it 5 stars! I have been to see different shows in the Cliffs Pavilion, but that was my favourite show ever!"

"I enjoyed the last part of Gangsta Granny because Ben called Mr Parker a 'Nosey Parker'. Before that I looked at the theatre and I was amazed because I have never seen a theatre before. My favourite part was when Ben started rapping and he had no clue how to rap!"

"My favourite part was when the Queen started rapping and got everyone to dance – Ben did a crab!"

"I enjoyed it when I saw them (Ben and Granny) rob the crown jewels and when the Queen came out of the TV and danced."

**Acorns** are looking for fresh resources for the children at breakfast and after school club to use. If you are having a clear out over the summer holidays, please think of us! If you have any pre-loved games or toys to pass on, please bring them to Owl Class (Seahorse Class after the summer holidays) or to the front office. Thank you.

Thank you to all the Parents and Staff who have volunteered to help out on Monday at our **Inflatable day**. We really appreciate your support.

There will be a BBQ stall with burgers at £3, Hot Dogs at £2 and Veggie Burgers at £2. The PTA will be selling refreshments ranging from 50p - £2.00. We also have face painting, glitter tattoos, a toy stall and the PTA Raffle. Wristbands will be on sale in the playground on Monday after school.



## Legra Academy Trust FAQ for Parents

### **1 How can we improve communications with parents?**

Some parents have asked about becoming a parent governor. In the short term we will continue with the Rapid Improvement Board (RIB), in the meantime however, we would like to set up a parental focus group to meet once every half term. This will consist of two parents from each year group to meet with the CEO, Principal and Chair of the RIB.

#### **The process for application:**

Any interested parent should email a short letter of application to [info@legratrust.org.uk](mailto:info@legratrust.org.uk). In the event that there are more than two applications from each year group there will be a vote to ensure proper representation. The deadline for applications will be 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The elected parents will be announced in September 2017.

### **2 Can we see the Rapid Improvement Plan?**

The Rapid Improvement Plan is a comprehensive working document that includes confidential matters; it is therefore not possible to share the entire plan with the parent community. However, as previously agreed, a summary of the Improvement Plan on work done so far will be sent out before the end of term.

### **3 Why are so many teaching staff leaving?**

It is not unusual for teaching staff to leave school for various reasons; to accept promotion, change of career or retirement. We have eight teachers that are leaving which is in line with the national average.

We are fully staffed for 2017/18 with very strong experienced teachers in place. The appointments we have made will continue our drive to excellence.

### **4 Will parent forum continue to run?**

Yes, it will, and topics will range from homework, marking, assessment and 11+ ready. Presentations will be delivered by various members of staff.

### **5 When will we appoint a permanent Principal?**

The decision as to when to appoint a permanent Principal will be taken by the RIB. In the meantime, Mrs Nicholls will remain the interim Principal with full support of the board.