



Message from the Principal

Dear Parents / Carers

The final weeks of the summer term are always full of events and celebrations as we begin to move to the end of the school academic year and start to plan and prepare for the next.

Staff and children are fully immersed in preparing special events such as 'bring a loved one to school', productions such as 'Joseph' and 'the year 6 leavers assembly' as well as the many sporting events.

In addition to this, the teachers are looking forward to meeting their new classes on the 10th July on 'transition day'. Transition will only take place during the school day so 'pick up and drop off' will be at your child's current classroom. At 3:30pm you can collect your child who will happily escort you to meet their new teacher for September.

Mrs Nicholls

Upcoming Events

- 26.06.17** – Jaguar Class Outdoor Learning
- 26.06.17** – Bring a loved one to school
- 27.06.17** – Year 5 Enrichment Day (*Chase High*)
- 27.06.17** – Orangutan Class Outdoor Learning
- 28.06.17** – Year 6 Enterprise Day
- 28.06.17** – Komodo Dragon Class Outdoor Learning
- 29.06.17** – Panda Class Outdoor Learning
- 30.06.17** – Teacher Training Day – School Closed
- 01.07.17** – Uniform Sale
- 04.07.17** – Leopard Class Outdoor Learning
- 04.07.17** – Year 2 Colchester Zoo Elephant & Giraffe
- 06.07.17** – Year 2 Colchester Zoo Lion & Chimpanzee
- 10.07.17** – Transition Day – Meet your child's teacher
- 11.07.17** – EYFS Sports Day
- 13.07.17** – Coffee and cake with the Principal (*Training Room*)
- 13.07.17** – KS1 Sports Day
- 14.07.17** – KS2 Sports Day
- 14.07.17** – Uniform Sale
- 14.07.17** – Year 6 Leavers Disco
- 15.07.17** – Uniform Sale

Achievements

Riley N, Wolf Class – achieved his red/white belt in Karate

Sean O, Wolf Class – achieved his 10 m swimming badge

Eddie N, Albatross Class – achieved his red/white belt in Karate

Mr Bird

After threatening to leave us for the last two years, our very own Superhero Mr Bird has taken the decision to retire after working at Darlinghurst for fourteen years.

We owe him a massive thank you for always being there to look after us all.

We are sure that you would like to join us in wishing him a very happy and restful retirement.



News

More sporting success! On Wednesday 21st the PE team took some KS2 children to the Southend School Sports Athletics Championship (Borough Sports). After the success of last year and getting promoted to Division Two, the team knew they had a hard task ahead of them. Mr Felton set the team the target of finishing mid-table, and so put in extra training before school, at lunchtimes and after school to ensure the team was ready for the day. As always the team did not disappoint and all performed to their best ability on the day taking lots of firsts, seconds and third places in individual disciplines. At the end of what was a very hot but enjoyable day the team eagerly awaited the results. Amazingly, Darlinghurst took first place in the field events beating off some very tough competition and fourth in the track events which meant placing third overall! Two years ago Darlinghurst were in Division Four and on Wednesday finished third in Division Two. What an amazing achievement for all concerned. Well done everyone involved, staff and children alike, you are truly amazing. Congratulations to Mr Felton and Mr Blewett whose expertise, professionalism and commitment are having such a great impact, not just in athletics and team sport but in our children's enthusiasm for and understanding of healthy living.

Enrichment excitement! Last Wednesday, thirty-nine of our **Year 6** children headed to Minehead – home to Butlins and one of their new education learning centres. With the children split into four groups, ably led by Mr Turner, Miss Niemann, Mr Felton, Miss Arnold and Mr Holmwood, they attacked the high ropes, aimed for gold in archery, dived into Splashworld and made new friendships.

Mr Holmwood has reported that each and every child was a pleasure to take away, and the staff at Butlins commented upon this throughout the three days.



During the time of the visit to Butlins those who remained were also involved in some challenging activities. On Thursday the 15th, after copious amounts of sun cream Mr Bird, Mrs Hopkirk, Mrs Carr and Year 6 walked from school along the entire sea front to the RNLI lifeboat station in Southend for an organised visit. On the way the children produced a film highlighting the potential dangers that can occur on the beach and in the sea. Once at the lifeboat station, the children were able to examine items of rescue equipment, board the rescue hovercraft, see the inshore rescue boat, meet the hovercraft Commander and see how the organisation keeps people safe at sea in Southend. As part of the challenge the children were able to earn 50p for every mile walked without complaint, Mr Bird is pleased to say that they all achieved the full amount and we were able to donate £60.00 to the RNLI Southend.

Attendance

Group	% Attend
LADYBIRD	87.0
BUTTERFLY	86.7
RABBIT	98.3
OWL	94.4
HEDGEHOG	94.2
WOLF	95.7
PENGUIN	95.3
ORCA	99.3
ALBATROSS	96.3
SQUID	96.7
GIRAFFE	98.6
LION	95.7
ELEPHANT	99.0
CHIMPANZEE	96.3
MANATEE	94.3
JAGUAR	89.7
HUMMINGBIRD	99.6
ALPACA	94.6
PANDA	93.9
KOMODO DRAGON	98.3
LEOPARD	94.0
ORANGUTAN	97.9
MOOSE	95.4
COYOTE	100.0
FLAMINGO	96.6
KANGAROO	93.4
PUFFER FISH	97.1

Well done Coyote class for 100% attendance this week.

With 4 weeks to go in Foundation Rabbit class have the highest attendance for the year.

In Key Stage 1 Elephant class are in the lead with Orangutan leading in Key Stage 2.

In each Key Stage the runners up are close behind, could your class take the title instead?



News

This week, **Reception** have continued to link their exciting learning to 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. Wolf and Owl Classes received a letter from the bear apologising for the mess he made in their classrooms when he rummaged around in them looking for food. He said that he enjoyed the banana. What a cheeky bear!

Next week will be brilliant fun as we are learning about pirates. Hedgehog, Owl, Rabbit and Wolf Classes will all have their Outdoor Learning Day on Wednesday 28th June. It will be a special day as the children are being asked to come to school dressed as a pirate. Please do not send your child in with swords or guns. I wonder what the teachers will be dressed like?

It has been very hot this week so we are very glad to have most children coming into **Reception** with sun cream applied already and having a named bottle to apply more later in the day. Also, most children have their own named water bottle which is fantastic, as we all know the importance of having easy access to drinking water in this weather.

Nursery are learning about the lifecycle of a butterfly and are enjoying watching the developing life of their own classroom caterpillars, which are now in their cocoon stage. They have also spent lots of time outside exploring, playing and learning, much of it in the shade, taking part in caterpillar hunts, sizing and counting and general enjoyment of the outside area.

In **Year 2** we are making our own Animal Fact File; we have been researching animals from across the world, looking at appearance, habitat and diet etc. We have explored how and why we categorise different animals. Identifying many similarities and differences between some common and endangered animals that we hope to see when we go on our trip to Colchester Zoo.

Children already studying instrument(s) with our **specialist team** have been sent home with a letter today (Friday 23rd), which needs to be returned no later than 7th July if they wish to continue with lessons. Additional letters will be going out to the remainder of the school to sign up for lessons from September 2017 during the week of 10th July and **MUST** be returned by the end of this term.

Mobile phones may be brought to school if your child journeys too or from school by themselves. However, once in school they must hand their phone to their teacher who will securely store the device until the end of the school day. Children are not permitted to take any photos whilst on the school grounds.

Reminder: PE kits must be in school at all times as we are still seeing children without their PE kits.

Reminder: Children need to have a named water bottle at school which they can carry with them at all times including break and lunch. They also need a sun hat and sun cream applied.

Reminder: Please do not send any products into school that contain nuts including



Congratulations to our Outdoor Learning Team

Thanks to all the hard work we are proud to announce that Darlinghurst School has been awarded the Gold Accreditation Award for Learning Outside The Classroom, making us one of just three schools in Essex to achieve this accolade.

The inspector visited us for a day and was greatly impressed with the school's approach to outdoor learning.

Some of the inspector's feedback is below;

- Darlinghurst School has a very committed Learning Outside the Classroom team with a whole school approach to Learning Outside the Classroom. The school site and local area offers a fantastic provision for whole school curriculum Learning Outside the Classroom
- Darlinghurst school is leading the way in Learning Outside the Classroom and is a fantastic beacon to other schools through support and guidance
- Darlinghurst school has a fantastic diverse learning space for EYFS and nursery
- Miss Arnold's dedication and passion to Learning Outside the Classroom is reflected throughout the school. The Learning Outside the Classroom areas provide different learning opportunities from the pond to the animals at the allotment. It is quite clear that a lot of dedication has been made to make Learning Outside the Classroom at Darlinghurst School part of their everyday values

In addition we are excited to announce that we have secured significant funding for our staff to excel at outdoor learning.

Amazing work