



## Message from the Principal

Dear parents and carers,

Last week we celebrated our Junior Leadership Team. Continuing with the theme of leadership, let's hear from some of the team.

*I have thoroughly enjoyed joining the team here at Year 6. We have a committed team of LSAs and teachers who strive to ensure the children make maximum progress from their individual starting points, whilst providing nurturing relationships, so that the children feel confident and cared for. It is wonderful to be part of this final year of Primary with the children. In this journey we encourage children to be responsible learners, mentors and prefects. They are proving to be a mature and sensible, hardworking group.*

*Our new writing approach has brought consistency and rigour to the Writing curriculum at Darlinghurst. We are providing exciting stimulus through the use of film clips (visual literacy) and books for children to adapt and innovate. Children strive to write at greater length with an increased use of challenging vocabulary. Their workbooks show their personal progress journeys and we celebrate and share these in classes. **Mrs Dunne, Year 6 Lead teacher and Writing lead***

*It has been incredible to see how children across the school have responded to our new phonics and reading programme. It has been amazing to witness the progress children are making and the commitment shown by staff to rapidly improve the reading skills of the children at Darlinghurst. It has been lovely welcoming Mrs Cooke back and working closely with her to ensure the best for our KS1 children. **Miss Lynch, Assistant Principal, Raising Standards Leader KS1***

*Since being back from Maternity leave I have received such a warm welcome from staff and children. It has been fantastic to meet key stage one children. I have been really impressed with how fantastically they have responded to our 'silent signals', along with showing maturity and pride in our school environment. It has also been wonderful to observe and teach phonics across key stage one, with the children enjoying their new books this week too.*

**Mrs Cooke, Assistant Principal, Raising Standards Leader KS1**

*I lived in Spain for twelve years and in that time developed my skills in speaking Spanish. It makes me very happy to know that I am able to share my love of the language with both the staff and the pupil's at Darlinghurst Academy. The children are enjoying learning a new language and I'm sure many of them have shared their knowledge with their families too. Keep up the hard work everyone! **Mrs Levy, Modern Foreign Language lead***

*Since joining Darlinghurst in September as the Senior Vice Principal I have felt so welcome. The feeling of community shared by the staff, children and parents is infectious. I don't think I have ever worked in a school before with such confident, polite and friendly children. Although my passion is literacy I have fully immersed myself in life here at Darlinghurst. Most recently your children may have told you I enjoyed a guest appearance in the KS1 and UKS2 singing assemblies! Every day brings a new adventure! **Miss Faddy, Senior Vice Principal***

*I have been delighted to welcome and work alongside members of the upper key stage 2 teaching team this year. All have been working extremely hard to inspire and challenge your children. Your children are working well, and each week, more are developing a true growth mindset and becoming self-motivated, independent learners. They are producing more extensive pieces of writing - invaluable practice of a key life skill. We have also embraced a new whole-class approach to reading. The children have really enjoyed getting stuck into some terrific novels, with many buying their own copies to finish at home. They are a pleasure to work with.*

**Mr Turner, Assistant Principal, Raising Standards Leader KS2**



Mathematics is FUN! This is the biggest hurdle that we face as teachers and parents as we have all had our own experiences with maths. It is very important that we recognise that our experience shouldn't hide the fact that Math is fun. There are many ways we can make it fun through our everyday lives. As we know maths is in everything we do and will be in any job that we encounter. Therefore, it is imperative that we set routines for children to remember number facts in fun and memorable ways.

Building confidence in all our maths ability is all about starting where we feel confident. This starting point of success will give us the drive to build on what we know and strive to increase our knowledge further. Together we can make maths fun, memorable and a part of our everyday lives, ready to take on any challenge that we find ourselves in. **Mr Cauchi Mathematics & Year 4 Lead**

In my role as Raising Standards Leader for Early Years Foundation Stage, I have the privilege of being part of the Early Years team of staff, welcoming children and their families into the Academy. By teaching in the Nursery and Reception Classes I get to know the children as individuals and the knowledge and skills they are learning within the Foundation Stage Curriculum, while settling into good routines of learning that they enjoy. This enables me to discuss all children as individuals with their teachers and track the development of their learning, suggesting and monitoring ways we will support and enhance their future development as independent young people. This ensures that all children achieves their best in the Early Years Classes and have mastered the skills necessary and are ready for the next stage of learning in Year 1. **Mrs Dutton, Assistant Principal, Raising Standards Leader EYFS**

I have really enjoyed my role of Humanities Subject Lead and Eco-schools Co-ordinator this year, especially as it's something I am so passionate about. Having a degree in Archaeology, there's nothing I like more than teaching children about what I already know about the past. In addition, it's great to see what learning is taking place across the school in History and Geography and to see the children engaging in the Edison Curriculum in different ways. In terms of Eco-schools, I am looking forward to helping Darlinghurst achieve the big prize of a Green Flag by becoming more eco-friendly. We are nearly there with our first step of achieving the Bronze Award! **Mrs Powell, Humanities Lead**

As the Inclusion Leader at Darlinghurst Academy I have responsibility for the Safeguarding and Well-being of all children in the school as well as children with special educational needs and disabilities, supported by Mrs Johnson, Miss Walton, Mrs Hydes and Mrs Wheeler, as well as Jenson the Pets as Therapy dog, when he is here. This can be both challenging and rewarding in so many ways, with no two days ever being the same. In addition I also support children who do not have English as their first language, as well as any number of other things that might also fall under the umbrella of inclusion for all, which I feel very passionately about and look for different ways to support the children, and enable every child to achieve their own level of excellence, because every child matters.

On a day to day basis I spend time facing any number of challenges as well as supporting children in the classroom to enable them to become immersed in their learning assisting them to break down any barriers that they may be experiencing. I believe that every child has a right to feel valued and have a great experience in school and I strive to do my best to achieve this in order for them to accomplish their own level of excellence.

I wake every morning knowing that each day is going to bring a new challenge and our children certainly never fail to amaze me with some of the incredible things that they achieve! **Mrs Grant, Inclusion Leader**



*Being the Vice Principal at Darlinghurst Academy is one of the most exciting phases in my career so far. I am privileged to teach some of the most determined and enthusiastic children and deliver regular key stage one and two assemblies. These sessions are precious to me as I can work with young minds to help support and nurture their learning. On a daily basis I immerse myself in the day-to-day runnings of the school: working alongside other school leaders, teachers, support staff and children within classrooms and around the school; checking systems in and around the school, reviewing their effectiveness; meeting with and supporting parents in relation to their child's learning and progress and analysing children's performance across the curriculum. I thoroughly enjoy coming to work each day and am looking forward to the rest of my journey here at the Darlinghurst. **Mrs Hahn, Vice Principal***

Thank you to all for their commitment and ambition towards achieving excellence together. Coming soon, we will hear from our teachers.

## Darlinghurst Advert

This week I had the pleasure of visiting Year 4 during their writing lessons as they enthusiastically engaged in producing adverts for the everlasting gob stopper, as part of their topic, inspired reading the text Charlie & the Chocolate Factory. During a lunchtime children continued to share their eagerness towards this, leading to an impromptu creation of an advert for Darlinghurst Academy. The children generated an array of questions, slogans and quotes becoming so enthused we grabbed a pen and paper and created a joint advert, over lunch. I was simply secretary and recorded their collaborative ideas. Thank you children for the following ideas for an advert;



Why wouldn't you choose Darlinghurst Academy?  
Are your children bored at their school?  
Do you children complain about lessons?  
'Not here!'

Everyone should try Darlinghurst because everyone belongs here.

Everyone is welcome because everyone has a place.  
It is the best school because we stand strong together  
At Darlinghurst everything is fine and dandy.  
Fun trips for everyone.  
Terrific Teachers Teach.  
Confident Children Learn.  
No One Gives Up.

The ABCDE brings out the best in me.  
Oh Darlinghurst School, sweet Darlinghurst School, dreamy,  
determined Darlinghurst.

"This school is the best because everyone has a place.  
Everyone is a star" - Evie M  
"My time at this school has changed my life" - Ruby F  
"I love this school because children and adults are hard  
working. The adults work 24/7" - Leah  
"I like this school the teachers are lovely" - Thomas S  
"Everyone is welcome we are like a family" - Jake

I am sure you will agree that the children are a great advert for our Academy.  
As always, enjoy your family time this weekend.

Mrs Nicholls



## News

### EYFS

This week we have been looking at the story of the Lion King in **Nursery**. We have been looking at African animals and how their terrain differs from the Jungle animals we looked at a couple of weeks ago and how this terrain affects the animals camouflage. We discussed different animals and how they survived with little water in hot and dry conditions and took the opportunity to listen to some of the songs from the Lion King film. We had a hunt for Simba on the school field for ODL and as it had rained the previous day and that morning, the children enjoyed getting muddy and jumping in puddles. We welcomed parents of the 'Girls' into Nursery this week who joined us in Hagrid's Hut for Show and Tell and Story Time and then for a look through Learning Journeys back in Nursery. Once again thank you for your cooperation and for joining us, enjoying the session with your children. **Miss Gue, Tiddlers**

This week **Reception** have been thinking about creatures that sleep during the day and learnt that they are called nocturnal. Whilst reading 'Oliver's Wood' we identified lots of animals that are classified as nocturnal and wrote a list. During our maths learning we're thinking about sorting animals into a venn diagram. Please remember to return any slips for the upcoming Sealife Centre trip and indicate if you need a school lunch, have a Sealife Centre pass and most importantly if you are able to help on the day. Only one week to go! **Miss wise, Miss Whitehouse and Miss Graham, Jellyfish class**

### KS1

**Seagull class** have been writing riddles about nocturnal animals. Can you guess what animal we have been learning about this week? What am I? I have over 7,000 spikey spines all over my back. I love to eat juicy slugs and wiggly worms. I hibernate all winter long. I roll into a ball to protect myself when I get scared. I am a... **Miss Adams, Seagull class**

In **Year 2** this week we have been designing a vehicle for Mrs Armitage. She loves crazy ideas when making her inventions.

*I am going to add a hot tub to my car so Mrs Armitage can relax wherever she is* **James M**

*I am going to make a comfy dog bed for her loyal dog Breakspear so he can be cosy and warm* **Braigan**

*I am going to add a flower garden to the roof of the car so Mrs Armitage can lay down and sunbathe in it* **Amelia**

We have also been learning about the history of transport and what people travelled in many years ago. Year 2 were very surprised to see the Penny Farthing and curious about how people actually managed to ride it. Maybe you can ask Year 2 all about our topic, they may even have some tips about staying safe near roads. **Miss Plummer, Crab class**

### KS2

**Year 3** have really enjoyed bringing in and sharing some of their favourite books as part of their homework on 'Special Books'. **Mr Dunne, Dune class**

*In topic I have compared the 'Creation' story from the Bible and the Mayan sacred text the Vuh Popol.* **George K, Dune class**



## KS2

*This week in maths, we have been learning about terrific time. We are all confident about reading digital and analogue times. We have enjoyed converting 12 hour to 24 hour and vice versa, converting minutes to hours, days to months and months to years.*

**Do you like chocolate?** *We are preparing for our big day next Friday where we will be making our own chocolate, promoting it and creating an advert. We have invited our parents along to taste it and of course buy some for their children.*

*In science we have been looking at how chocolate is reversible. We know that we can melt chocolate and then let it cool and it will be in the same state as the beginning.*

*Remember as Mr Cauchi says, smile for a while. **Troy M, White Shark class***

**Year 6** have been busy sitting practice assessment papers this week. Many children are making great progress. Please ask them about their results and congratulate them. It is also E-Safety day next Tuesday, please quiz your children in ways they can keep themselves safe online. **Mrs Dunne, Bembridge class**

*This week, we have been doing our mock SATs and we have done one to two each day. In English, we have written a non-fiction text about Pandora based on the planet in Avatar and the life on it. In maths, we have been learning about reflections. Next week we are writing in the voice of David Attenborough. **Grace Barren, Bembridge class***

## Darlinghurst KS2 Choir at The O2

On Wednesday the KS2 choir attended the Young Voices Concert at the O2, this was an amazing experience for them to perform in the world's largest Children's Choir.

Our songs included a medley of Pop Songs and also a medley of well-known songs that each have their musical roots in a piece of music composed by some of our greatest composers through history - such as Bach, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky.

We also got the chance to perform some original work alongside its writer Natalie Williams, and an incredibly uplifting song written especially for the choir by Young Voices Musical Director - Craig McLiesh titled "Singing Together".

All the children sang their hearts out and from their faces I know they enjoyed every minute of it, we even managed to create a tropical rainstorm with 7800 children.

*Why We Sing* - taken from lyrics by Greg Gilpin (Sung at the YV2018 Concert) "Music builds a bridge, it can tear down a wall, Music is a language that can speak to one and all. This is why we sing, why we lift our voice Why we stand as one in harmony.

*This is why we sing, why we lift our voice Take my hand and sing with me"*

**Mrs Havis, Specialist Music Teacher**



## Darlinghurst KS2 Choir at The O2



Group	% Attend
TIDDLERS	96.1
JELLYFISH	91.5
SEAHORSE	90.0
STARFISH	99.3
ALBATROSS	96.2
PELICAN	94.2
PUFFIN	99.1
SEAGULL	90.9
CRAB	97.3
LOBSTER	94.8
OYSTER	93.2
SHRIMP	97.8
DUNE	99.2
PEBBLE	95.6
ROCK POOL	92.7
SEASHELL	94.1
PORT JACKSON	98.7
REEF SHARK	91.7
SAND TIGER	99.1
WHITE SHARK	95.2
NEPTUNE	94.1
POSEIDON	95.7
SUSANOO	94.0
TRITON	93.9
BEMBRIDGE	97.9
MAYFLOWER	95.4
WILTON	96.8

Mon 05 Feb  
Year 1 Owl Visit

Tue 06 Feb  
E-Safety Day

Mon 12 Feb - Fri 16 Feb  
February Half Term