



## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I think it's fair to say that we've had a good amount of snow. The snow was perfect for building snowballs and snowmen at the start of the week. We certainly had fun together outside playing with the powdery snow.



With the continued snowfall and conditions we were forced to close our Academy to children over the last few days. Closing the school is not a decision that I take lightly, but like most schools I had a number of issues to consider:

1. **Pupil safety** - Having spoken to Mrs Williams we both felt that the road and footpath conditions around the area were already treacherous and, as the week has continued, they were only likely to deteriorate. Our Darlinghurst children travel from both near and far. This was factored into our decision to close.
2. **Forecast** - The forecasters predicted more snow throughout Essex. To open, then have to close is a logistical challenge and very inconvenient for all.
3. **Staffing levels** - Some of our staff travel to the Academy from outside of the borough which due to road conditions could lead to delays getting here. To operate any school in adverse weather conditions, with a reduced staff team is difficult.
4. **"The child factor"** - I often listen to radio 'phone in' shows and there are always callers who criticise schools for closing due to snow. Children need constant supervision and we felt we could not 'risk it' or take chances with our many Darlinghurst children.



As a Principal it is difficult to make a decision that keeps everyone happy! I appreciate that closing the Academy has caused problems for parents; I assure you that if I felt we could have opened safely then we would have done so.

## **Snowy activities to share with your child**

### **Music and Movement**

**Here are some action rhymes to enjoy with your youngest -**

I'm a Friendly Snowman Finger play:

I'm a friendly snowman big and fat (stretch arms out at sides)  
Here is my tummy and here is my hat (point to tummy and then top of head)  
I'm a happy fellow, here's my nose (smile and then point to nose)  
I'm all snow from my head to my toes (point to head and then to toes)  
I have two bright eyes so I can see (point to eyes)  
All the snow falling down on me (flutter fingers downward)  
When the weather's cold I'm strong and tall (stand up tall)  
But when it's warm I get very small (crouch down low)

I Built a Snowman I built a snowman (pretend to build) pat, pat, pat (pat air three times)  
He turned out great! (form circle with thumb & forefinger)  
Now clap, clap, clap! (clap 3 times)  
I patted snow (pat air on sides of snowman)  
On his cheeks, cheeks, cheeks (pat air 3 times)  
I hope he lasts (fold hands in front of body)  
For weeks, weeks, weeks (shake finger 3 times)  
I put on a hat (pretend to place hat on head)  
On his head, head, head (touch head 3 times)  
I made his mouth (touch mouth)  
Gave him bread, bread, bread (touch mouth 3 times)  
His button eyes are (point to eyes) pink, pink, pink (touch eyes three times)  
I thought I saw him (tilt head to one side)  
Blink, blink, blink (blink 3 times) He looks so real! (nod head)



### **Science and Understanding of the World**

**Children of all ages might enjoy this snow science experiment -**

You will need a large tray with sides, some snow, some salt, some food colouring and a small spoon or dropper.

1. Collect some snow from outside and create separate mounds in the tray
2. Sprinkle the snow mounds with salt (a little at a time)
3. Once the snow starts to melt, add drops of the food colour
4. Have fun, experiment with different quantities of salt and different mixtures of food colours





**Or if you are still enjoying some time outside, you could try and build a snow fort -**

Use sand buckets, loaf tins, empty milk cartons and empty yoghurt pots to make a snow castle.



**Or how about creating some ice bubbles -**

Quite simply, all you will need is a pot of bubble mixture, if the temperature falls to zero degrees the bubbles may well freeze on the bubble wand.

## Literacy and Language



Don't forget to share your child's *Reach for the stars* reading challenge photos. Email them to [mrssmith@darlinghurst.co.uk](mailto:mrssmith@darlinghurst.co.uk) please visit [www.darlinghurst.uk/information/letters-home](http://www.darlinghurst.uk/information/letters-home) for a copy of the challenge

If you're planning on staying indoors, you could print off the snow is falling word search, or the sledging fun colouring at the end of News & Views. Please bring these in with you next week to share.



Complete a Word-Search

## Snow is Falling!

How many times can you find the word "snowflake" in the puzzle below? It could be backwards, forwards, up, down or diagonal!



r	s	n	o	w	f	l	a	k	e	w	a	i	g	f	l	c	b	l	p	q	c	u	b
j	c	u	l	e	j	x	e	e	d	w	p	c	i	v	j	p	h	o	r	t	i	e	s
z	w	x	j	b	e	x	k	k	d	a	a	s	n	o	w	f	l	a	k	e	k	n	c
b	p	o	e	e	z	f	a	a	k	x	s	i	w	d	k	g	y	n	k	a	o	x	t
o	d	m	z	z	h	r	l	l	w	r	q	w	k	t	u	f	j	p	l	w	j	f	z
f	b	t	g	c	c	j	f	f	w	l	b	e	s	x	j	y	g	f	f	f	q	u	m
r	z	q	v	f	t	y	w	w	n	s	p	l	o	j	t	o	w	l	c	n	l	q	p
j	m	r	p	s	n	q	o	o	b	l	z	i	e	o	e	o	a	x	z	r	e	c	v
r	v	s	q	c	w	n	n	n	e	v	a	w	k	c	n	k	f	u	z	k	f	v	c
s	n	b	y	n	i	l	s	s	k	y	j	r	a	s	e	x	n	m	a	x	t	f	y
c	n	p	v	w	h	s	b	e	a	o	x	v	l	e	h	u	r	l	d	m	w	j	z
j	z	o	c	c	q	c	n	z	l	q	t	c	f	e	s	p	f	l	k	n	a	k	b
e	f	x	w	e	e	f	v	o	f	j	n	y	w	z	k	w	v	a	b	t	g	i	e
f	d	a	s	f	m	e	j	s	w	g	b	c	o	q	o	a	w	o	h	n	v	f	k
p	e	p	n	f	l	k	h	n	o	f	d	s	n	n	g	b	l	q	k	h	p	m	a
c	s	p	o	b	r	a	e	y	n	a	l	g	s	v	u	t	r	f	p	d	e	m	l
q	n	i	w	z	p	l	k	k	s	n	x	a	o	t	k	w	i	k	w	k	x	o	f
f	o	h	f	u	k	f	j	e	t	p	a	s	k	w	z	t	v	y	a	o	o	j	w
b	w	u	l	h	p	w	d	x	q	l	j	y	v	e	m	n	j	l	j	e	n	e	o
t	f	w	a	r	r	o	n	l	t	z	q	l	y	u	k	p	f	b	i	y	y	s	n
a	l	k	n	y	n	d	a	b	l	f	b	c	d	q	w	j	i	t	k	y	o	s	
v	a	u	e	g	z	s	a	u	t	t	f	x	y	w	o	w	w	m	f	o	o	l	b
v	k	b	d	w	i	z	n	s	o	r	g	j	k	n	f	c	i	j	m	u	z	l	j
c	e	n	x	o	c	g	m	t	d	a	e	i	s	n	c	a	p	k	l	n	q	b	q





We would love to see images of your snow related activities, please email any photos to [mrsmith@darlinghurst.co.uk](mailto:mrsmith@darlinghurst.co.uk), why not combine this with the reading challenge, maybe build a snowy fort then read your favourite book in there. That certainly would be somewhere unusual to read.

## Talk and Question

**What would happen if it always/never snowed?**

## World Thinking Day

Following on from world thinking day I spent some time with my family and friends discussing some of the questions featured in last week's News & Views. Here are the responses:

What is something that makes your family special?

*My family always help each other and show they care, I like how many people are in our extended family, I have step parents and step grandparents.*

If you could give one gift to every child in the world what would you give?

*I would give every child good health. Being a medical scientist I think good health care and finding cures for illness would make the world a better place.*

If you were invisible for the day, what would you do?

*I would help people who need help, with them never knowing they were helped.*

What five words do you think most describe you?

*Resourceful, Co-operative, Responsive, Pro-Active, Approachable.*

Keep warm, keep safe and as always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls

Mon 05 Mar NSPCC Assemblies & Workshops
Wed 07 Mar World Book Day Dress as your favourite character from a book
Thu 08 Mar Year 2 Duxford Trip
Fri 09 Mar NSPCC Workshops
Fri 09 Mar The Great Big School Clean
Mon 12 Mar Infant Music Festival
Tue 13 Mar Year 5 Highway Man Visit
Fri 16 Mar Year 4 trip to Southend Pier and Lifeboat Station
Fri 30 Mar Easter Holidays start

Please visit [www.darlinghurst.uk/calendar](http://www.darlinghurst.uk/calendar) for more important dates



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