



Communication is a priority for us and once again this year we will communicate to parents and carers using the **SIMS Parent App**. SIMS Parent App is a convenient way to communicate with you, share key dates, timetabled events, messages and School term dates. Please let the office know if you have not yet registered. In addition, we use **Twitter** to share what's going on within the Academy daily.

Please make sure you are following us **@Darlinghurstsch**

### Message from the Principal

I would like to start the first edition of news and views for this academic year with a thank you to all within the community for their collaboration this week. The start of an academic year is always busy and exciting, paired with a sense of anticipation too.

Everyone is establishing routines, getting to know teachers, friends and new learning. From the outset of this year, new academy routines are being established, meaning that parents, children and staff all have dealt with a little more change. Staff have spent this week, supporting children, parents and each other during this time. Over the first few days we have continuously monitored and reviewed our actions, responding to feedback so that we can ensure our routines are working well.

Our KS2 children have demonstrated independence as they have come into school via the side gate. They have enjoyed socialising with their friends ahead of the academy day and have made the playground come alive with a positive energy. Our specialist team, LSAs and some of our teaching staff have enjoyed talking with the children and supporting them during this time. Mr Blewett has even started the Daily Mile, with some children "up and active" - walking, running, skipping or jumping around the circuit!

I would like to remind parents that the blue hatched area between the playgrounds is to be kept free at all times during drop off and pick up. Both children and parents have been informed that this is a boundary for the KS2 playground, which is children only in the mornings but remains a walk way for the afternoons. I would like to thank parents who access this area at the end of the day for their cooperation, as we acknowledge that this is a busy area. For your information, the children from upstairs classrooms are still collected from the main playground. By the end of the week, I am sure that all are rehearsed in where they stand for a happy handover.

There has been a buzz around the academy, with children pleased to see their friends again, getting back into academy life. We have welcomed new faces across several year groups, including some of our reception children this week. There has been lots of smiles and very few tears. We hope the reception parents enjoyed their goodie bags and didn't need to use too many of the tissues themselves. Starting school is an emotional milestone.

The children have been showing a sense of belonging, in learning and play. We have been particularly impressed with children's kindness and manners during lunchtimes. As they have been seated for service, they have poured drinks for each other, passed cutlery and set their trays. Staff have commented on the calmness of the hall and how well children have walked sensibly to the service counter for their hot meals or pick and mix. It has been wonderful to hear the table conversations amongst the children whilst they eat their meals or lunches. I would like to thank the midday assistants and the catering team for working together and supporting this process.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed playing on the new playground markings and taking a look at our Buddy Bus too! We are excited to see this take shape. Thank you to the PTA for our friendship bench and sign. The peer mentors are excited to get on board! Our active groups have already got together or plan to next week. Our gardening club have already been out and into the allotment and we have a bountiful amount of blackberries too - nice healthy snacks!



As always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls



The teachers have had a great week with the children and we are all looking forward to a great year, achieving excellence together.

Mrs Hahn would like to say a very warm welcome to all our children and parents. It is wonderful to see all the children again after the fabulous summer holiday. I am looking forward to being part of the next chapter of their learning and know with hard work and dedication, they will achieve great things this year.

Mrs Grant would like to say that she is really looking forward to working with you and your children in developing their emotional and educational wellbeing and how great it is to see so many of you looking so smart.

Mr Turner is excited for the forthcoming house competition, which kicks off with Shaping the Future.

Wendy, the kitchen Manager is loving being back and seeing the children. The kitchen are looking forward to launching the new menu after half term with lots of new dishes. The new lunchtime routine is beginning to take shape and we are seeing the children enjoying lunch more.

Miss Scott has been looking forward to coming back to school all summer and has found it wonderful to see all of our amazing children and wonderful staff.

The year 6 teachers would like to praise the year 6 children who have settled in incredibly well. They have adapted to the new routines and have come in looking so smart in their shirts and ties. They have shown a commitment to their learning and new responsibilities as prefects.

Mrs Rosso would like to wish you all a fantastic year and cannot wait to come back after her maternity leave to hear and see all the achievements that have taken place, during her leave. We would like to take this opportunity to wish her all the very best.

## EYFS

In **Nursery** this week our children from last term have come back, remembering all of the things that they were taught in the last academic year. Our new intake had the most welcoming, helpful and caring peers who have supported their new friends, showing them around and taking their hand if they need a little support! We are so proud of our wonderful Nursery class and hope you all join us in welcoming our new children. Please also be aware that there is a child in Nursery with a peanut allergy. We are a 'nut free' school, but there are sometimes hidden nuts in things like chocolate spread and some musli bars, please take care when packing lunch boxes. As a side note, all grapes need to be cut in half to avoid choking.

### **Team Nursery**

The **Reception** Team have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming lots of new children into our classrooms this week. Many of the children have come from our Nursery, some have arrived from other nurseries and a few have siblings at our school. It has been an amazing four days with the staff and children all getting to know each other and establish new routines. It is lovely to see how well the children are getting on with the children in their own class, as well as with the children in other classes during free flow indoors and outdoors, and at lunchtime. We are all looking forward to meeting more children due to join our three classes on Monday.

Please send your child in with a named water bottle at the start of each week. We will send the bottles home for an extra thorough wash at the end of a school week. Also, please ensure that all of your children's items are labelled clearly showing their name.

The Reception team are looking forward to a wonderful year, teaching the children and getting to know them and their families well. Have a lovely weekend **The Reception Team**

## KS1

The children are settling wonderfully into **Year 1**. We have had lots of fun getting to know each other and the new routines of the year group. The children have been introduced to our topic, exploring toys from the past to the present day, and met Thomas, the 100-year-old teddy. The year 1 team are looking forward to the year ahead. **Miss Adams, Seagull class**



We are off to a flying start in **Year 2**. We have already made jam tarts to introduce the story of Alice in Wonderland and to link in with our learning and life skills objective of following instructions. We have also started to learn about the 7 continents of the world and we will be finding out about events that have happened in each of them over the half term. **Miss Scott, Oyster class**



## KS2

Smiling faces and sharing of holiday experiences have been the centre of our discussions in **Year 4**. It has been great to catch up with children and parents. We have begun our week by getting to know our classrooms and setting down into expectations of agreed classroom rules, how to deal with worries, how to deal with falling outs and developing a growth mind-set. During writing, we have been recording our holiday experiences and have been remembering the place value of numbers. Using our senses, we have been exploring what we can hear and see around us. This has given us a direction for our Topic - How do we hear and see. Revising our e-safety rules has allowed us to celebrate what we have been doing and reminding ourselves about the habits we need to change. Thank you to everyone for getting in school on time and bearing with us as we find our way with the new changes that have taken place this year. Together we can help to make your child successful. **Mr Cauchi, Great White Shark class**

Wow, what a week! All of the **Year 5** staff have been super impressed with how confidently the children have returned to school. During establishment week, we have talked about expectations and routines and we have focused on working and learning together. We've started to think about our new topic 'Mysterious Materials', including carrying out a variety of amazing science experiments. We're all excited about the year ahead and we look forward to sharing our success and progress with you. **Mrs Richards, Poseidon class**

### Book Bus!

We are extremely lucky to have 'The Book People Book Bus' visit our school on FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER.

Step aboard your book bus and help us earn FREE books!

Every book sold on the bus means FREE books for our school's classrooms and library.

**Fri 13 Sep  
Roald Dahl Day**

**Fri 20 Sep  
Shaping The Future**

**Fri 27 Sep  
Book Bus**

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

Welcome back to a new academic year.

Last academic year we achieved whole school attendance at 95.7%, an improvement on the previous academic year. We were broadly in line with the national average at 96% and this year we aim to be above National. Please remember that every day counts, attendance is crucial in ensuring children get the greatest benefit from their education. Please contact Miss Davis in the Office if your child is going to be absent before 09:00am. We look forward to continuing working with you to achieve our whole school attendance target, track how we progress every week in this section of N&Vs.