



Message from the Principal

Dear parents and carers,

Enrichment

We place high value on enrichment opportunities here at Darlinghurst and plan and provide for experiences, trips and visits that enhance the curriculum and bring learning to life. This week we have even had 'owls' as visitors to our school. Our specialist team enables our children to develop their talents and skills in the arts and sports each week, including providing extra enrichment opportunities through clubs, competitions and experiences. I am extremely passionate about the broader curriculum and have played an active role in the pursuit to provide and develop specialist subjects. Within further developments we are adding 'performing arts and drama' to our list.

With music as a personal passion, I happily appointed Mr Moore, followed by Mrs Havis to bring music alive for our children. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Havis for her commitment and encouragement to developing singing and musical performances for our children. They have participated in shared experiences, singing with adult choirs and bands, participating in Young voices at the O2 and entertaining us in our wonderful productions. Her hard work is recognised by all and we will continue with these events for years to come. However, it is time for us to say goodbye as she pursues her dreams in teaching singing at a performing arts college. We wish her all the very best as she starts a new chapter. What an **Excellent** opportunity! Thank you from all the staff and children here at Darlinghurst Academy. We know you will continue to sing and shine and we are **determined** to keep the music alive through the talents of our children and current staff. Our current staff have embraced the opportunity to apply their musical and performing talents, with **confidence**;

Miss Andrews and Mrs Rott will be leading the singing assemblies each week, promoting the songs for the Junior Music Festival and our forthcoming production of, 'Alice'. This is supported by Miss Hodges who will be leading the KS2 choir and rehearsing the songs during lunchtimes on Friday, after the half term break.

Miss Bernard is returning to lead KS1 choir with Miss Riley Wednesday lunchtimes. We will also be participating in the Infant music Festival again this year.

Our community spirit towards performing arts has meant that a great team are working together to bring us 'Alice' later in the year. Thank you to Mrs Havis for sharing and shaping the 'play' and I know that Miss Andrews, Miss Riley and the team will do a fabulous job to bring it to the stage. We also have a wonderful opportunity for our KS2 'boys' to participate in the BBC boys choir. We look forward to these great events.

British Values

What an **achievement** ! This week has celebrated 100 years since women had the chance to vote. In school we promote the British Values and one of them is 'Democracy'.

The word 'suffrage' means having the right to vote in political elections. The Suffragettes campaigned for women to have this right. In Britain the organisation was led by Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters Christabel and Sylvia at the beginning of the twentieth century. Women householders over the age of thirty finally gained the vote in 1918. Julia from Bembridge class explained, *The suffragettes stood up for women's rights, the country would be a different place without them. Emmeline Parkhurst made a big impact.*



Message from the Principal continued

Valentines – a sense of belonging

As Valentine's Day is fast approaching, I thought I would take this opportunity to consider our value of '**belonging**' and how we communicate kindness.

Here at Darlinghurst, we recognise the 'goodness' in others, every day. Our children are amazing at showing this through their actions and words, demonstrating their inclusive nature. So join me in encouraging all within our community to make every day 'Valentine's Day' by being kind to others and ourselves. Let's show love towards our school with a commitment to come each day, on time so our children are ready to learn and join in. Let's continue to encourage our children to take on things, make safe choices and develop their love of learning. We only need chat to our children and staff, witness their supportive acts towards each other, participate in a PTA or special event, share special moments with you too, to know that huge hearts are alive and well here at Darlinghurst. May our hearts continue to shine and everyday be like Valentine's Day.

Gate Closure

Thank you for your cooperation during our side gate closure. We have decided that the side gate will permanently be closed. Please use the Main Gate or Brook Gate to enter and exit the grounds.

As always, enjoy your family time this half term break.

Mrs Nicholls

EYFS

This week in **Reception** we are learning about Chinese New Year, which will be during half term on 16th February. Continuing with our animals topic, we noticed that along with all of the real animal in the Chinese New Year story, there is also a dragon! We have thought about which other mythical creatures we know and read Maurice Sendaks's *Where the Wild Things Are*. We hope you all have a restfull and enjoyable break. **Miss Riley and Miss Farness, Seahorse class**

*We read Where the Wild Things Are. A little boy goes out of his bedroom, his bedroom grows into a forest! **Evie, Seahorse class***

KS2

This week **Year 3** have been exploring the Mayan number system. We found it interesting how they decided to use dots and lines to represent their numbers. We found that their zero looked more like a rugby ball than a zero. **Mr Porter, Rockpool class**

This week, **Year 4** have been designing choocolate which has been great fun in preparation for making our own chocolate which we will be selling this afternoon. **Mrs Rott, Reef Shark class**

*This week we have been making adverts and learning how to design our own chocolate bars. We have been making a leaflet version of the advert. **Faith, Reef Shark class***

*This week in **Year 6** we have done experiments on Charles Darwins finches, planned and wrote about a newly discovered species and learnt about enlargement ratio and proportion in maths. We wrote a text, tweet, email or letter about E-Safety. In topic we also drew pictures of our newly discovered animals. **Dylanne, Wilton class***



Congratulations Year 6!

Year six have been using *Rockstar Timetables* to improve the speed of their multiplication and division fact recall. We are currently the top school within a 30 mile radius for the time it takes us to answer these questions! What a fantastic achievement Year 6!

Nearby schools within a 30 mile radius

Record Label	Mean Speed (s/q)
Darlinghurst Academy	2.73
Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Benfleet	2.97
Eastwood Academy	3.22
Milton Hall Primary School	3.99
Heycroft Primary School	4.61
The Westborough School	4.68
Edwards Hall Primary School, Leigh-On-Sea	6.21
Fairways Primary School	6.75
West Leigh Junior School	7.74
Prince Avenue Academy And Nursery	10.36

PTA News

It's been very quiet on the PTA western front this term but we have been busying ourselves "back stage"! Next term we will be presenting the children in KS1 and KS2 with a selection of games and activities for when they have wet breaktimes. Over £600 of your fundraising money has gone towards this project. As reception and Nursery already have lots of playthings we are going to give the equivalent budget to them to spend as they see fit. Thank you for making this possible by supporting and participating in our events.

Speaking of events! We will be running a music quiz on Friday 2nd March from 7- 10.00pm. Teams of six maximum, £5 per person, bring your own bottle & eats. Raffle £1 a strip. Monies can be posted in the PTA box located at the office from 20th Feb.

We all hope you have a lovely half term.

Lisa, Jen, Mike, Sarah and Sally

Group	% Attend
TIDDLERS	89.9
JELLYFISH	89.9
SEAHORSE	92.0
STARFISH	92.9
ALBATROSS	98.8
PELICAN	97.9
PUFFIN	98.9
SEAGULL	97.8
CRAB	97.1
LOBSTER	98.0
OYSTER	95.0
SHRIMP	98.1
DUNE	96.4
PEBBLE	97.2
ROCK POOL	97.1
SEASHELL	98.7
PORT JACKSON	97.8
REEF SHARK	97.9
SAND TIGER	100.0
WHITE SHARK	95.8
NEPTUNE	96.4
POSEIDON	96.4
SUSANOO	96.3
TRITON	94.6
BEMBRIDGE	95.5
MAYFLOWER	91.5
WILTON	95.5

Congratulations Sand Tiger class

BBC boy's young voices coaching scheme.

KS2 boys were asked to register their interest this week and letters will be going out week commencing 19th February with a reply slip that will determine their place on this project on a first come first served basis. If your son would like to register their interest please let Miss Andrews know by Monday 19th February.
missandrews@darlinghurst.co.uk