



## Message from the Principal

Dear parents and carers

Firstly a thank you to children, staff and parents for **participating and supporting community events**. This time of year is a wonderful time to celebrate and share together and here at Darlinghurst, we have certainly shared our sense of belonging, through our performances so far, decoration making with families, Christmas jumper day and Christmas dinner. There has most certainly been 'festive cheer' throughout the school.

I have enjoyed participating in the fun and festivities with children and staff, along with **unexpected challenges**; such as a power cut at the start of today in parts of the school. In true Darlinghurst style we didn't give up and showed determination to have the academy fully functioning. I was given a challenge by a group of children to build a tent with them. There was great team work and we enjoyed decorating our finished Christmas tent.



This week, I enjoyed teaching a maths lesson, exploring 'area' and **playing a strategic game** to cover a surface in as many rectangles as possible. The children played competitively and strategically. I also watched a few children playing chess this week, applying strategy within the game. Great thinking skills! I think the children are getting ready to win the Christmas games – watch out! I know one child wants the game, 'Operation' and is determined to carefully lift the body parts, without setting off the buzzer! I remember playing that game as a child.

During the **start of day activities (SODA)**, I have been reading with a group of children and discussing the text, 'The Hodgeheg' by Dick-King Smith.

**We enjoyed learning about spoonerism. A spoonerism is when the initial letter or letters are swapped around e.g. "You have hissed all my mistory lessons." This was a famous saying of W.A. Spooner, a clergyman who gave his name to these funny sayings. Why not have a go at working the following sayings out with your children.**

1. I hound where the fumans cross over.
2. I'm a bet bitter, thanks.
3. I feel quite wake awide.
4. I'll be KO.
5. Hip, hip, roohay!
6. I peg your bardon.
7. I thought you were a different hodgeheg.
8. Something bot me on the hittom!



Can you think of some more funny sayings?

How do hedgehogs cross the road safely?

With **road safety** in mind, could I reiterate our request to consider 'road safety' during our busy times at the start and end of the day. Please consider the safety of pedestrians and other road users, along with consideration for our neighbours. Thank you.



During the Christmas lunch, children enjoyed sharing **Christmas jokes and their Christmas wishes** with me. The children loved the Christmas dinner and I would like to thank the catering team and staff for making this happen and enjoyed by all. Florian in Reef Shark class told me "it was the best lunch ever!" He told me that he loves his family's spaetzle (a German noodle) but now likes the schools Christmas turkey too.

**Here are some Christmas cracker jokes for you to try out with your children:**

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck? A Christmas quacker!

What do you get if you cross a bell with a skunk? Jingle Smells!

Why did the turkey cross the road? Because he wasn't chicken

What's orange and sounds like a parrot? A carrot.

Who delivers presents to baby sharks at Christmas? Santa Jaws

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school? The elfabet.

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? A mince spy!

What's furry and minty? A polo bear.

What do you call a penguin in the Sahara desert? Lost.

It was lovely to hear their wish lists for Christmas. Many children said that they didn't mind what they received at Christmas and were happy for surprises. Others had an idea of their favourite toy.

**Here is the Christmas list for your pleasure or last minute suggestions.**

Operation game

A flower garden

Teddy bear

No presents – just time with my family

Board game

DS

Toys for my rabbits

TV

Bike

Family party – and everyone to come and have fun

LOL confetti ball

Godzilla toys

Remote control car

Cat



Puppy  
Spend time with my cousin  
Nintendo switch  
Our generation doll  
Harry Potter toys  
Robot  
For the school to raise money and give charity  
Diary  
Champion football  
Slime

### The most popular requests were:

In 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Squishes  
In second place: anything, a surprise  
In top place and the most popular toy ever made is LEGO!

*If you grew up thinking Lego was the best, better than any other toy in your collection, turns out you're not alone: A broad ranging survey revealed it's the most popular toy ever manufactured! Lego is the biggest toy company in the world! Since it's debut in 1958, lego has redefined the potential of playing with things, allowing children to build permanent structures from scratch, in all kinds of shapes and sizes and 'take them anywhere they want'. Minecraft was born from its creator, experiencing 'playing with lego'. It has been said that people who play with lego have become architects and engineers because of their love of building with lego. What do your children want to be when they grow up? What career choices have you made and has it stemmed from the games and activities you played as a child?*



Here are a few of the most **influential toys over time**:

Lego  
Barbie  
Star wars  
Rubik's cube

Funnily enough, I have bought three of the four above this year! I feel bad now that I didn't buy a Barbie!

As always, enjoy your family time together and any last minute shopping.

Mrs Nicholls

Do you tweet?   
Follow us @DarlinghurstSch



### EYFS

This week in **Nursery** we have been practising for our upcoming Christmas performance. The children have all worked so hard learning the songs and the dances. We have had our dress rehearsal and are excited to perform for our family and friends next Wednesday. **Team Nursery**

Reception have had a very busy week and thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. At the start of the week we performed our Nativity, 'Born in a Barn', to our families and it was very successful. Wednesday afternoon, we welcomed families into our classrooms to help make Christmas decorations. Thank you to the adults that were able to attend and for the marvellous support you gave to all of the children in Reception. Christmas jumper day was fun on Thursday. It interlinked with the Santa run as well as our Christmas dinner. To finish the week, we have enjoyed an Outdoor Learning day today. We looked for shapes in the environment and used our school grounds to investigate routes and maps. Wow! That was a busy week. Have a lovely weekend.



**The Reception Team**

### KS1

**Year 1** are enjoying the busy and exciting lead up to the holidays. They have shown determination and confidence this week, working hard in their nativity rehearsals and then performing absolutely brilliantly in yesterday's show. They enjoyed the challenge of the fun run too, and proudly shared how many laps they completed back in class. We are looking forward to our second nativity performance and more festivities next week! **Miss Riley, Pelican class**



This week all the teachers are extremely proud of their children for performing with confidence in the Christmas nativity. **Miss Lynch, Lobster class**

### KS2

This week in **Year 4** we found out about the Vikings, the reasons for their invasion and what made them fierce warriors. Keeping with our theme of health, we examined how active we are, both in school and at home. An experiment to see how clean our hands are required strong team work. Surprisingly, the mould on the bread didn't grow as we expected it to. Some very clean hands Reef Shark! Many thanks to the parents who kindly helped us make lanterns and weave Christmas mats for our classroom decorations.

**Mrs Lee, Reef Shark**

This week in **Year 5** we have been building up to Christmas and practising our songs for the Carol Concert. We are particularly proud of ourselves for learning a new Spanish song 'Mi Burrito Sabanero'. On Wednesday, lots of parents joined us to make decorations, which was great fun. It also reminded the children that one of the best things about the Christmas break is spending time with family and friends. Yesterday, after opening Christmas crackers in class, we ate our school Christmas dinner (which was delicious) dressed in festive jumpers and hats. Year 5 certainly agree that 'It's a wonderful time of the year'. **Mrs Bermon, Triton class**





Mon 17 Dec

Years 3 & 4 Christmas Concert 9:15am-10:00am

Mon 17 Dec

Years 5 & 6 Christmas Concert 10:00am-10:45am

Tue 18 Dec

KS1 Nativity 2:15pm-3:15pm

Wed 19 Dec

Nursery Christmas Concert 10:00am-11:30am

Thu 20 Dec

ACADEMY Closes for Christmas Holidays 1:45pm

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

## Request for Leave

Request for leave during term time requires a form (which can be found at the office) and a corresponding letter to be given to the office with ample time before the first day of requested absence. This is to ensure that a discussion can be had and school policy followed. A meeting will be held with the parent or carer and Mrs Nicholls where the request will be discussed and a decision on authorisation made. Any requests handed in without ample time will be unauthorised.

## Celebrating Excellence



Congratulations to Gracie-Lee, Poseidon class for winning the endeavour and determination award at the gifted and talented running club she attends. To win this award she had to complete a number of challenges beating off some very strong competitors. Well done Gracie-Lee we are all very proud of you.

**Mr Felton, PE Subject Lead**

Simeon, Sand Tiger class competed in his first Gymnastics Club competition and got a bronze in achieving third place.

George, White Shark class earned his red belt and Thomas Puffin class earned his white/red belt in Karate.

Group	% Attend
JELLYFISH	97.0
STARFISH	94.1
PELICAN	95.1
PUFFIN	93.6
SEAGULL	92.9
LOBSTER	93.8
OYSTER	94.5
SHRIMP	95.6
DUNE	96.0
PEBBLE	94.4
ROCK POOL	96.3
SEASHELL	98.7
PORT JACKSON	97.3
REEF SHARK	98.3
SAND TIGER	100.0
WHITE SHARK	95.4
NEPTUNE	91.9
POSEIDON	98.9
TRITON	95.4
BEMBRIDGE	93.5
WILTON	96.9
MAYFLOWER	91.4
ENDEAVOUR	96.3
Totals	95.5

Academy Attendance is 95.5%

Remember – Every Day Counts



## Lates – A new year's resolution!

As a school we have a soft start to the day opening the gates at 08:20am and closing them at 08:50am. Each time a child is late to school they miss joining their peers in registration and vital morning work, information and news for the day. Their late arrival also disturbs the other pupils with their learning, and can be embarrassing for the pupil arriving late.

We will be introducing a way to monitor lateness in the New Year, the attendance officer, will meet you at the front of the office and will require a reason for the lateness that will be noted down.

Please feel free to contact Miss Davis in the office if you have any morning challenges that you wish to discuss and together we can improve punctuality and attendance.

## Does being late really matter?

Minutes late per day during the school year	Equals days' worth of teaching lost in a year
5 Minutes	3.4 Days
10 Minutes	6.9 Days
15 Minutes	10.3 Days
20 Minutes	13.8 Days
30 Minutes	20.7 Days

If you want your child to succeed at school then **YES**, being **LATE** does matter!

## Every day counts

# Did you know your child's best learning time is the start of the school day?



## Parent Teacher Association News



### Santa Visit

We are very excited to tell you that Santa will be visiting the Nursery on Wednesday and KS1 & KS2 on Thursday next week! Each child will receive a small gift to take home with them courtesy of the PTA.

## Fundraising Events

The Christmas Fayre and the Christmas cards raised a fantastic **£1,500**, so a huge thank you to everyone who supported the events. These funds will be used to create playground markings ensuring break times and educational activities more engaging and fun for all the children.

## New Projects



We will be supporting new projects in 2019 including the installation of new bike and scooter sheds and are looking forward to planning some exciting events and activities to raise funds. If you would like to get involved, please do contact us as we would love to hear from you. The PTA email is [DarlinghurstPTA@hotmail.com](mailto:DarlinghurstPTA@hotmail.com) or, alternatively, you can leave contact details at the school office.