



Message from the Principal

With the autumn term coming to a close, we truly have added sparkle and festive joy to our week at Darlinghurst Academy. I have thoroughly enjoyed this week. The children wrapped all of our values up into one amazing gift, sharing their productions with us. What an **achievement!** Christmas always gives us that sense of **belonging** and this year it was evident before our very eyes, through their friendship, **confidence** and enjoyment. Thank you to the staff for their **determination** and commitment in producing and supporting our productions during this busy time of year, adding to our community spirit. I am sure that you will join me in agreeing that they were all **excellent**. With the seasonal changes in weather please ensure that the children return to school with suitable external clothing for their journey to and from school and for break times. As always we look forward to seeing the children proudly wearing our school uniform. Please see the uniform guidance on the website should you need any information.

During the Christmas break I would like to encourage children and families to complete a few of these tasks:

Watch a Christmas movie Spend time with your family & friend* Eat food that you love (and a brussel sprout)* Make somebody laugh or smile* Do something for somebody else* Play a board game* And finally, come back to school in 2018 ready to learn.

As always, enjoy your family time this weekend.

Mrs Nicholls

News

Last week the **PE department** took our Boccia squad to the last sports festival of 2017. Boccia is a Paralympic sport which is similar to French boules with each child taking it in turns to try and throw their ball nearest to the jack (white ball). Each game consists of three ends and can be a very tactical game. This was the very first time representing the school for some of the children and they did so with a proud look on their faces. After some nail biting games and fantastic shots from our squad our team managed to win as many games as they lost. Great team play, respect and fair play was shown by all of our children. As always, we are incredibly proud of the children at Darlinghurst who always represent our school at these events impeccably. Well done to all those involved.

Outdoor PE will continue throughout January and February. With this in mind, children will be bringing their PE kits home over the Christmas break. Please ensure that they have suitable kit for these colder months ahead. Hats, gloves and a spare pair of socks are always a good idea as well as the usual winter kit. **Mr Felton**

18th December
Christmas Jumper Day

20th December
Last day of term

20th December
Nursery Nativity (School Hall)

Contact with class teachers should take place face to face where possible, however should you need to email your child's class teacher please note they will endeavor to respond within 48 hours. In addition our office staff are happy to assist you where possible.



News

EYFS

We have thoroughly enjoyed immersing ourselves in the Christmas spirit this week, alongside our phonics, reading, writing and maths. Lots of us had a scrumptious Christmas lunch on Thursday and it was brilliant as lots of staff joined us. Lots of the adults wore festive hats or tinsel. We also enjoyed exploring and discussing the snow and ice. We saw objects, such as leaves stuck under the thick ice. One large piece of ice shattered whilst we investigated it, showing various shapes. **Mrs Dennis and Miss Slade, Starfish class**

KS1

The **year 1** staff would like to say a huge well done to all the children for their fantastic performances in our KS1 production of The Nativity. The children worked hard during our rehearsals on their singing, dancing, speaking and acting skills. It was great to see them show so much confidence on stage and have a sense of pride in their achievements. We would also like to thank parents and carers for their support with providing costumes for the performances. We hope you all enjoyed seeing it!

KS2

Year 3 would like to say a massive thank you to all those that sang at the Christmas Concert. It was so positively supported by parents and carers. The children sang all of their songs with great determination and confidence. The fabulous Christmas dinner which was eaten by nearly everyone in the year group showed a sense of belonging and is beautifully reflected by one child saying "Eating altogether has made this the best day every".

Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed their Viking Day this week. The children were so excited to take part in activities such as: translating ancient runes to find treasure, making brooches, cooking and eating bread and playing board games like geese and fox. At the end of the day, the children received a certificate to show they are now fully fledged Vikings!

This week in **year 5** we have been really busy each afternoon learning our songs for the carol concert and we are proud of our performance and how we worked together as a team. We have also been learning about the 1914 Christmas Truce of World War 1. In addition we have been writing poetry inspired by the Christmas Truce and Carol Ann Duffy's famous poem. In maths we have been focussing on area and perimeter and have made some great progress.

Year 6 have had a hugely busy last full week of term – undergoing their final round of mock-sats of 2017 and singing their hearts out at the carol concerts. They enjoyed a number of rehearsals in the hall and in class during the week and were so excited to perform for you. We hope you enjoyed yourselves! In English we have been writing our own version of 'The Girl and the Fox' an animated story, ahead of writing our own 'overcoming the monster stories' either side of Christmas. Mr Turner and Mrs Clarke and Mrs Rosso recommend Eva Ibbotson's classic novel 'Journey to the River Sea' as a stocking filler for anyone in their English sets: the children were devastated when they learned they had to swap books! Mrs Dunne's group have similarly enjoyed Louis Sachar's 'Holes'. Merry Christmas!