



Message from the Principal

Dear parents, carers and children

Over the Easter Break we invited year sixes to Easter School to participate in some additional group sessions focusing on reading, writing and maths skills. The children showed a commitment and positive attitude to their learning over the three days and I would like to congratulate them on their achievements and thank the teaching team for taking the extra time to support them. The children demonstrated **determination** throughout the day, including during their lunch time dodge ball game, keen to beat the opposing team and catch Mr Turner.



Also over Easter, some of our teaching team went to visit schools in Gran Canaria to support and share our expertise in outdoor learning. They had the privilege to spend time in schools working with teachers, children and parents during outdoor learning sessions. The team have returned back to school feeling enriched and inspired, proud of the facilities and passion Darlinghurst provides for outdoor learning. They are keen to continue to support the schools in Gran Canaria and maintaining links.



It has been lovely returning to school for the summer term, with the sun shining for us too. I always enjoy welcoming the children back and this term it was lovely to see the 'sea of blue' flow through the gates as our children entered **confidently** wearing the summer uniform. Please can I remind you to send in a hat, sun cream and a water bottle in anticipation for the sunshine to continue this term.

During assembly I shared this half terms value of **determination**, through the story of *the little engine who could*, by Watty Piper. The children and staff reflected on how the small engine showed **determination** and courage, leading him to success. We decided to follow his mantra of, 'I think I can, I think I can, think I can.'





Continuing in the theme of trains and their journey's it is time to say goodbye to a member of staff that has been a part of Darlinghurst for a long time and is now travelling along new tracks into secondary education.

Samantha Walton, our Admissions and Attendance Manager is a familiar face and has welcomed and supported families during her time here. In 2000, she welcomed and supported me when I first joined Darlinghurst as a class teacher. I have very fond memories of our time as teacher and LSA, in addition to the memories over the last five years. I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the very best.

Finally, with trains in mind it feels appropriate to share a poem that remains an inspiration to many of us, once shared by Mr Knight;

"So, stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, climb more mountains, eat more ice cream, go barefoot often, swim more rivers, watch more sunsets, laugh more and cry less. Life must be lived as we go along. The station will come soon enough."

Why not share your favourite inspirational poem or story with your family this weekend.

As always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls

Promoting a love of reading

Reading is a skill and, as with every skill, it requires not just instruction but practice. Reading practice serves a number of purposes. It enables children to apply the skills and strategies that are taught. It gives teachers opportunities to check children's learning. In addition it draws children into the world of "real" reading - a world in which people learn from and enjoy books.

To help our children become better readers, children read books at their appropriate level and experience success. Furthermore, teachers work with children to set appropriate targets based on each child's reading level. Together, let's encourage our children to read regularly.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

- Make time for them to read at home. Children need to read for at least 20 minutes every day to improve their reading ability.
- Encourage your child to read; discuss books, asking questions about what they have read; and visit your local library.
- Year six should pick a book from Accelerated reader to read and enjoy, taking the short online quiz to measure their understanding



News

EYFS

This week in **Nursery** our topic has been 'Theme Parks'. We asked the children if any of them had been to Adventure Island over the holidays and what they liked about going, which rides they like and why. Our roleplay area became a booking office and treat shop where the children were able to buy candyfloss, ice-creams and doughnuts, and book themselves onto rides. We painted some boxes while outside in the sunshine and made a rollercoaster, and in outdoor learning we spoke about the theme park photos that the children had bought in from home, of their rollercoaster rides. We have also welcomed some new children into our class and the existing children are enjoying getting to know them. Can we please remind you that all children in this beautiful, sunny weather **MUST** have sunscreen applied before school, have a hat to be left in class and that in Nursery, water bottles are not necessary as we have a constant supply of water for the children. What a loop the loopy week, we've had lots of ups and downs! **Team Nursery**

What a lovely sunny week for our return to school after the holidays. We are all thoroughly enjoying our new learning about minibeasts this week. On Thursday we welcomed the arrival of some caterpillars in **Reception class**. We are looking forward to seeing part of their lifecycle. Please remember to send your child into school with a hat, sun cream and a water bottle. **Mrs Dennis and Miss Slade, Starfish class**

KS1

In **Albatross class** we have started our new topic on why is water precious? We have discussed different places where water is found or used, for example, how water is used to help plants grow healthily. We are getting very excited about our trip to Hyde Hall in a couple of months to find out more about growing plants. **Miss Fenwick, Albatross class**

KS2

Pebble class have been enjoying the gorgeous weather this week and took our reading lessons outside! We're keeping our fingers crossed for more of the same next week! **Miss Andrews, Pebble class**

*In maths, we have been enjoying learning about area of composite shapes. We have explored the playground. As a challenge, we had a word problem and Mr Clark needed a new carpet for **White Shark class**, the Year 4 hallway, Nursery and Dune class. Moving on to English, we have been focusing on setting (Norwegian Fjords) making sure we use powerful adjectives. Lastly, in topic we are learning about Europe. With Mr Cauchi we tasted some Maltese food. Mr Hatton taught us about Italy, Ms White Sweden and Mrs Powell Ireland. Also, Great White is enjoying the lovely sun, hope you are to. **Emily W, White Shark class***

Reminders

Please ensure your contact details are up to date for your child. This should include mobile number, email address, emergency contact number and additional emergency contact numbers.

Because of allergies, Darlinghurst is a free Academy. Please ensure that no nuts are in the children's lunchboxes and that all items do not contain nuts. For example, Nutella chocolate spread does contain nuts.

Thank you for your co-operation in keeping all children and staff safe in school.



Celebrating Excellence

Jamie E, Dune Class was filmed doing a solo routine on the trapeze, alongside other children from her Circus School. This was to show what skills they have learnt and why they like Circus School.
Thomas W, Pebble class and his cousins won first prize against stiff competition in the fancy dress contest on their holiday in Great Yarmouth.



In the school holidays Miss Arnold and 5 staff from Darlinghurst travelled to Gran Canarias to share Outdoor Learning with teachers, staff and the Education authority. They visited the University for Teacher Training, a Secondary School and 2 x Primary Schools in Las Palmas. They shared how we use Outdoor Learning at Darlinghurst school and how it is an important part of our curriculum. The teachers were really enthusiastic and inspired by our ideas and our practice. They visited Las Canteras beach where Miss Arnold and the Outdoor Team shared how we practice beach schools at Darlinghurst and how we link in with what the children are learning. The Spanish children were really excited about their new experience especially as they were learning about Volcanos and were able to model these in the sand, they had never had an Art or maths lesson on the beach.. This experience has really inspired us; at Darlinghurst we are really fortunate to have fantastic learning spaces and experienced staff to enroll Outdoor Learning for the children. **Miss Arnold**



The summer sports calendar got underway with a trip to Garons Golf Complex for a Tri-Golf tournament on Wednesday. Four of our talented golfers participated in a number of golf events throughout the sunny afternoon. They started with a chance to practice their swing in the driving range with a golf pro giving them some fantastic guidance, moving onto the putting green before making their way to the golf course for the main action. Waiting for them were six different games using all of the skills learnt earlier. Our budding golfers gave it their all and managed to score a respectable 67 points. Not quite enough to win the tournament, however a great experience for them and what a lovely way to spend a sunny afternoon. Each child received a voucher for a free session on the course with the golf pro coach so watch this space...we might have the next Justin Rose or Lexi Thompson in our midst! Well done all involved.





In September 2000 Miss Walton joined Darlinghurst School as a young, fresh-faced LSA before she moved on to admissions and attendance. Now, 18 years on, and thousands of new admissions later, she is moving on to pastures new and is leaving Darlinghurst Academy on 26th April. I am sure that you will want to join me in wishing her every success in her new venture and thank her for all her hard work over the years. Mrs Grant



Mrs Hume has joined us this term from a secondary background to be our Performing Arts Lead. She is very enthusiastic and looking forward to enriching the childrens experiences within this subject area. Mrs Hume has already immersed herself in the Darlinghurst community joining the children, Miss Riley, Miss Andrews and Ms White in the Alice production. Mrs Hume is looking forward to introducing many more performance in the future.



This week Mrs Hahn and Miss Roxburgh took a group of Year 4 girls to experience a morning at Westcliff High School for Girls. The girls all showed great **confidence** participating in the grammar school environment.



Best of luck to Mrs Smith, who is running Gung-Ho this weekend for Children in Need along with a group of Year 6 parents.

Group	% Attend
TIDDLERS	97.1
JELLYFISH	97.7
SEAHORSE	93.6
STARFISH	95.0
ALBATROSS	94.3
PELICAN	96.1
PUFFIN	96.8
SEAGULL	92.6
CRAB	96.2
LOBSTER	93.5
OYSTER	98.4
SHRIMP	96.3
DUNE	96.8
PEBBLE	96.5
ROCK POOL	95.6
SEASHELL	98.3
PORT JACKSON	95.4
REEF SHARK	89.6
SAND TIGER	96.1
WHITE SHARK	100.0
NEPTUNE	96.6
POSEIDON	93.8
SUSANOO	95.1
TRITON	96.1
BEMBRIDGE	97.1
MAYFLOWER	94.5
WILTON	96.1

Well done White Shark, excellent attendance. What a great start to the new term. Tiddlers this is your greatest week for attendance. Can you keep it up till the end of the year?

Parent View - Share your feedback

Please visit <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> to share your views on the school