



## Darlinghurst Academy Autumn Term Curriculum Highlights

Over the Autumn term we have provided our children with purposeful and engaging experiences and opportunities, developing skills, knowledge and attributes.

Our children have worked hard in core lessons (reading, writing and maths), engaging well in partner talk and learning, thinking about what they need to do next to be successful and achieve. They are demonstrating positive learning habits and developing growth mind sets, taking on challenges and taking risks.

Here at Darlinghurst we place value on exemplifying behaviours for learning and teaching learning and life skills so that children are well equipped for learning.

During the Autumn Term learning and life skills have focused on 'learning together' and 'It's up to me'.

Within our connected curriculum, lessons have been designed with purposeful starting and end points. There have been great, 'hooks' into learning, bringing learning alive. Creative and practical learning has encouraged children to explore, create and do, generating questions and moments of awe and wonder. Our children have shown that they are good thinkers, with enquiring minds. The connected curriculum has provided children to explore science, history and geography based topics through a variety of subjects. For example;

**Year 6** have had a fascinating half term, deciding whether there has ever been a better time to live. Living during wartime and the Victorian era has not appealed, as times were tough, but surprisingly Roman Britain was popular, especially to the boys.

They had a wonderful trip to the Imperial War museum where the children were excited to take part in a documentary challenge. They were tasked with instructions from the depths of a jungle, via a video call, from a very busy TV producer. The children were then given iPhones to produce a short documentary based upon their experiences of the WW1 exhibit. The children were a credit to the school proving themselves to be totally engaged, respectful and full of empathy. The children showed empathy and respect to residents of Admiral court during 'afternoon Tea' reading their emotive poetry to our guests.

**The nursery** had fun decorating biscuits too and making marshmallow snowmen with the Residents of Admiral court too, filling the room with smiles and laughter. I continue to feel proud of our children and staff, especially when they represent our community and demonstrate a sense of belonging.

**Our reception** children have generated their own ideas and play spaces, creating new role play areas inside and outside, linked to their topic, 'people who help us'. They included a construction site and a hospital, with operating facilities. The children have enjoyed the latest addition of a home corner, complete with interaction TV and an adjoining utility room. The outside writing shed is being well used and is inspiring the children to mark make and practise writing their letters.

**Year 1** have been explorers looking and designing maps to find our way around the school and local areas. We used atlases to find where Spain is located and looked at the similarities and differences between the two countries. The children have also enjoyed learning greetings in Spanish and have used ipads to film themselves performing and singing to 'Feliz Navidad'. The children have also been learning about seasonal changes and different types of plants, they used leaves they collected to make woodland creature collages.

In **Year 2** our children discovered a mysterious box containing items belonging to Samuel Pepys and ended the term immersed in creative learning by re-enacting the great fire of London with the Rainbow Theatre Company. The company commented on how knowledgeable the children were and how they could spot 'budding' actors in the making, so London West-end watch out!

**Year 3** pretended to be archaeologists by excavating artefacts and using these as clues for learning. They completed a science experiment to discover how things are preserved and learned about mummification with visiting Egyptian experts.



In **Year 4**, some of the pupils have been learning about our solar system as part of their science topic course. The children have learnt all about the planets, how they differ from our own and what conditions make Earth habitable and others not so welcoming! To bring the learning alive they have focused on one of our nearest neighbours, Mars. This has been especially topical due to the recent news events and the arrival of the space probe. The children discussed whether they thought there was life on Mars and gave their reasons. In addition, they discussed what the word 'alien' means and how many things are really aliens as they are not in their natural environment.

The theme of the 'Titanic' inspired our **Year 5** children to consider class system in Edwardian Britain and how it has changed forever since First World War. The children visited the Southend museum, listening to talks on WW1 and viewed the exhibits with interest, asking questions about historical events and artefacts. We consider the social, moral, spiritual and emotional needs of our children, through a holistic approach in our daily lives and teaching. During the Autumn term we have considered the needs of others, safety in school and well-being, friendship and anti-bullying and diversity, through our PHSE lessons, academy wide themes and topics.

Across the academy we have considered cultural and religious festivals, key dates in history, such as 'Bonfire night' and 'Hannukah'. Our academy values and British values are exemplified through all that we do. They are promoted and celebrated through our actions. The Autumn term has seen children demonstrating tolerance of others and mutual respect, within examples such as: shaping the future, diversity and music, differences we can't see and odd socks. Rule of law and academy expectations and conduct have been shared, with recognition given to children who help others with their behaviour, through our house point system. Children have considered the liberty of others through topic based learning in history and english, along with academy-wide themed learning within black history month and the centenary of WW1. We follow a democratic process, with elections for our active citizens, casting democratic votes. Our children have taken responsibility for their posts and have shown commitment and pride. Our caring fundraisers, have raised money for charities, such as; children in need, Harp; considering those who are homeless and the Indee Trust, providing treasure boxes for children.

Discrete teaching has been given to topic, including the introduction of focused topic time, allowing children and staff develop practical skills in ICT, become scientific enquirers, consider culture and diversity and how to stay healthy.

Throughout the year we focus on developing healthy relationships, feelings and respect as part of our RSE provision. Additional lessons have touched upon keeping our bodies active and healthy, drugs and alcohol, gender stereotypes and e-safety.

Darlinghurst has participated in community events and competitions, within the wider community, visiting and hosting events. The Autumn Term has seen representatives in sporting events and the arts, with our children competing to a high standard and demonstrating 'sportsmanship' and 'comradery'. Our children sang with enthusiasm and passion at the Southend hospital, light switch on and to the residents of Admiral court.

We encourage children to develop their artistic flair, interests and talents in school and through our extended provision. Staff and visiting providers have given opportunity for children to participate in numerous clubs, developing their interests and skills in sports, arts, languages, music and much more!

The Autumn term has certainly been busy, including opportunities to share and celebrate with parents and carers. Shared learning and homework has supported the children's developments, including the parental engagement in events, such as; workshops, learning together 'reading' session and parent consultations. Celebratory events and community events has helped in strengthening relationships and building that sense of community and belonging. Curriculum overviews and community events are mapped for the Spring term and can be found on our website [www.darlinghurst.uk](http://www.darlinghurst.uk)



Wow!! What a fantastic time Mr Cauchi had at the **Maths workshops** last week. It was great to share each other's experiences and talk about how mathematics has changed since everyone was youngsters. Mr Cauchi was able to explain what it looks like today. He was really impressed by the behaviour for learning from all our parents! He reported there were no red cards! After crunching all the numbers everyone enjoyed a cuppa and a tasty biscuit which Mr Cauchi made using his measuring skill (Always a bit of maths around him!) Thanks to all the parents who attended, Mr Cauchi really enjoyed himself. If you missed the workshop and you would like another one to take place please email [mrsmith@darlinghurst.co.uk](mailto:mrsmith@darlinghurst.co.uk). Copies of Mr Cauchi's powerpoint, the pamphlet and a vocabulary list to further support working with your children will be available on the website. Together we can build confidence in our children to be good at mathematics.



During the holidays, we want you all to continue to **read** regularly and enjoy the pleasure that comes from a great book. As such we will be running a competition in years 5 and 6 for the most number of words read. We really want as many of you to join the Millionaires Club as possible and there will be more prizes on offer for joining this exclusive club soon, so watch this space...

We would love to hear about a book that you particularly enjoyed during the holidays and we will be publishing your reviews in News and Views during January. Please send in a brief review of what you have read and tell us why you enjoyed it and why you think other children at Darlinghurst will love your book. As well as having your review published, Mr Sykes will be offering 10 house points for every review submitted. Please email your comments to [mrsmith@darlinghurst.co.uk](mailto:mrsmith@darlinghurst.co.uk) or hand your paper copies to Mr Sykes in White Shark class.

**Mr Sykes, Reading Lead**

### **Battle of the Classes**

Over Christmas there will be another battle of the classes but this time it will be within year groups. The following battles will take place. The battles begin from 4pm on the 20/12/18 till 2/01/19 5pm. So come on everyone, let's learn our Times Table and ROCK ON!!!!!!

#### **Year 3**

Rockpool and Seashell  
Pebble and Dunne

#### **Year 4**

White Shark and Port Jackson  
Reef Shark and Sand Tiger

**Year 5** – As year 5 have 3 classes we will do it for a week then change over

20/12/18 till 27/12/18 Poseidon and Triton

28/12/18 till 2/01/19 Triton and Neptune

#### **Year 6**

Bembridge and Mayflower  
Wilton and Endeavour

**Mr Cauchi, Maths Lead**



Over the holidays to practise the children's **writing** skills I suggest the following:

- Practise writing your child's name (if in Nursery or reception)
- Labelling items around the house
- Writing thank you cards or letters to family and friends
- Writing the shopping list (even if your child writes the first few items)
- Writing a favourite recipe
- Researching an animal and writing about it, perhaps a penguin or polar bear!
- Write a book review of a book they love

Please make sure the children are putting punctuation in the correct places, especially capital letters. Remember never make it a chore! Merry Christmas to everyone.

**Mrs Dunn, Writing Lead**



## Pupil Voice

We have had a really successful term with the prefects and head children taking key roles in monitoring and modelling good behaviour around the school. They have ensured the children walk along the corridors in silence before and after assembly and make sure all children return to class sensibly after break and lunch.

Thank you also needs to go to the Junior Governors who have held their first fundraising event this term. Hayden and Ruby spearheaded the sponsored run and helped present the idea to Mrs Nicholls. All the governors helped promote the run within their classes and the KS2 governors helped Mr Felton and the Sports Committee at lunchtimes.

I'm really proud of all the children who have taken their responsibilities seriously and have been superb role models to their classmates. In the New Year, the Junior Governors will be teaming up with staff members and will become curriculum champions.



## Parent Teacher Association News

As we approach the Christmas festivities, we thought it would be a perfect opportunity to reflect on 2018, taking a look at the projects you and your children have all been involved with.

The following shows the events that have taken place and the money you raised:

Film Night	£245.00
Music Quiz	£120.00
Father's Day	£563.00
Inflatable Day	£1,077.00
Lego Land Raffle	£37.00
Christmas Cards	£340.00
Panto Tickets	£478.73
Christmas Fayre	£1,135.85

Here are some of the highlights of how these funds have been used to support the children's educational experience:

- Wet Play Boxes
- Co-funding of the Astroturf
- Santa visit with a gift for every child
- Zoning apparatus to facilitate break time and PE activities
- Playground markings
- Nursery play equipment

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support. If you wish to learn more about the PTA then please contact us on [DarlinghurstPTA@hotmail.com](mailto:DarlinghurstPTA@hotmail.com) or alternatively leave your contact details at the school office.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Junior Governors (2018-19)

Puffin	Eden-Rose & Charles
Seagull	Grace-Arabella & Alfie
Pelican	Raven & Kali
Oyster	Devon & Elise
Lobster	Brooke & Charlie
Shrimp	Rose & Sean
Rock pool	Alice & Josh
Dune	William & Lilli-Rose
Pebble	Olivia-Mae & Teddy
Seashell	Rosa & Riley
Reef Shark	Alexia & Wesley
Port Jackson	Lewis & Evie
White Shark	Ivy & Joseph
Sand Tiger	Lily & Ash
Triton	Troy & Ashe
Poseidon	Evie & Rocco
Neptune	Kara & Sammy
Mayflower	Billy & Amber
Bembridge	Jessica & Luca
Wilton	Ruby & Hayden
Endeavour	Adeiman & Mia

## Junior Leadership Team 2018-19

Head boy and girl	Logan & Eden
Deputy head boy and girl	Clara & Theo
Head Prefects	Mollie & Luke
Prefects	Joshua T.K. Dominic James Faith Aoife Honey Vine Freya Mia Lucy Isabella



## Wellies

Outdoor Learning are still looking for donations of your old welly boots. Donations can be brought to the school office at any time.



The Play Squad were involved in choosing equipment from a catalogue to use on the playground to keep our children active at lunchtime.



## A Box of Books

We are looking for donations of books for our Library, home reading collection and fundraising. Donations can be brought to the school office at any time.

Thu 03 Jan

Academy opens for Spring Term

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

## Thank You

### Santa Run

Thank you for your kind sponsorship for our Santa Run. We have raised a fantastic sum of **£1598.00** so far.

Payment will remain open until 11<sup>th</sup> January to allow for any late payments.

### Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you for your donations towards this years Christmas jumper day. As an ACADEMY we raised **£206.00** so far.

### Indee May Trust

Thank you for your donations collected at our Christmas events. As an ACADEMY we raised **£613.48** so far.



## Attendance 05/09/18 – 19/12/18

Whole school attendance – **96.1%**

Year groups:

1 – **95.2%**

2 – **96.2%**

3 – **96.7%**

4 – **97.2%**

5 – **96.2%**

6 – **95%**

Attendance is at the national expectation! Our attendance for the Autumn term is 96.1%, well done everyone. Let's continue this into the new year and **aim for 97%** by working together to achieve excellence.

Thank you to everyone for their efforts to encourage good attendance and punctuality, every day really does matter.

## Celebrating Excellence

George E, White Shark class and Thomas E, Puffin class both took part in the Mental Elf Run on Saturday, running 5k in 39 minutes