

Dear families,

## **Welcome**

We hope you enjoyed another great summer and feel ready to start another academic year. I enjoyed family time, the sunshine and am looking forward to seeing you all again.

On behalf of all staff, I offer you a very warm welcome back to Darlinghurst Academy. We cannot wait to see you on Wednesday morning, welcoming back familiar family faces and starting new relationships with our new comers. We are excited to be a part of your child's educational journey.

## **Preparations at Darlinghurst**

There has been many developments over the holidays, particularly in some of our classrooms due to some of our teachers relocating classrooms. Our site team have been busy supporting class movements, in addition to preparing our facilities and grounds. They work hard over the summer and I would like to thank them for their hard work.

We have our youngest and oldest in the central block and teachers have been in during the summer break, creating their spaces. We know our year six will be supportive of our new reception intake, showing our sense of belonging. In addition to this, I am looking forward to our upcoming 'shaping the future' event in September, during which we welcome new comers to the school. All children, of mixed ages, will participate in activities within their house teams.

Our dedicated teaching staff have also been in school over the summer, preparing lesson plans and classroom environments for a motivating start to the term.

## **Routines and relationships**

Transitions days at the end of last term went well and the teaching staff are keen to reunite with their children again and establish routines and relationships with them. Teachers are keen to develop partnerships with all families engaging in a two-way dialogue so that together we can help your children grow. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to 'Darlinghurst'.

Our office staff are ready to welcome you back and help you with your needs. They have been busy preparing for September too, registering new children, ordering and organising resources and updating files. We have such a great team!

## **Shared vision**

All of the staff are coming together on Wednesday and Thursday evening for; safeguarding and health and safety updates, ensuring we have the welfare of our children at the heart of what we do. In addition to this, I will be sharing the vision and direction for the academic year for a collegiate approach to academy developments. All signs point to another incredible and productive year. I am excited to see this year take shape and would like to thank everyone again for their contributions and commitment over the last year.

## **Shared culture**

With a continued commitment to building an academy wide shared culture we are keen to plan key events - sharing learning experiences, providing learning together sessions and opportunities to celebrate together, throughout the year. Our fantastic PTA supported the academy last year through many events, which were enjoyed by many. We look forward to another 'fun' year. Why not come along to their coffee morning this month on the 27<sup>th</sup> September.

This year we are continuing with our parent focus group and applications have been made over the summer break. We will be making parental appointments on our return. Thank you to those who raised an interest.

## **Preparation at home**

As a parent, I know the feeling of getting September ready; organising uniform, lunch boxes and bags. Please refer to the uniform guide on our website for the correct uniform or contact the uniform suppliers at [www.schooluniformdirect.org](http://www.schooluniformdirect.org) for your uniform needs. We also have an upcoming healthy lunchbox workshop on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018. I enjoyed this session last year and cannot promote it enough. Come along for some new ideas and make a free healthy lunch for your children to have that day. Please continue to support your child with reading every day and learning their multiplication facts. With fluency and accuracy in these skills our children are well equipped for learning. Your children may have already started using accelerated reader and rockstar maths or will come home and discuss this with you.

Please encourage them to use these great, engaging resources. More information on 'home learning' will be shared via class teachers. Please look out for key dates for our 'learning together sessions', workshops and meetings.

## **Communication**

Our website is a really useful and informative tool. It holds a wealth of information and communication, including the school calendar and key events. Please take a look. We will always email and text key messages too, keeping you well informed. In addition to this, we will be tweeting all year so follow us on Twitter!

I am looking forward to writing our first news and views for 2018-19, sharing the news of our first week back. I know it will be fabulous!

Have a good weekend and see you next Wednesday.

Mrs Nicholls and all the staff at Darlinghurst Academy