

Dear families,

I hope you have had a lovely relaxing summer. On behalf of all staff, I offer you a very warm welcome back to Darlinghurst Academy.

Staff have been in school over the summer, preparing their classrooms and the curriculum for a motivating start to the term. Educational visits and enrichment opportunities are planned for all year groups linked to their topics, with some great hooks and end points planned. Curriculum overviews are found on our website and we will continue to regularly share curriculum news in twitter and news and views.

Transitions days at the end of last term went well and teachers are keen to meet their new classes again and begin their establishment routines and expectations with their children.

We hope our pop up shop over the summer was useful and look forward to seeing all children return to the academy proudly wearing our uniform. Uniform lists and guidance can be found on our website <http://darlinghurst.uk/information/school-uniform-at-darlinghurst>

Academy developments have taken place over the holiday period, particularly around the school grounds, with new playground markings and features in our playground. These developments couldn't have been done without the PTA fund raising and your support. Thank you. We cannot wait for the children to see the new playground games, our mini toadstools and tepee's. Children will enjoy visiting the library and reading books inside or outside on the new toadstools. They can also enjoy books in the reading village - our beach huts!

This year we are revamping our school bus – 'the Buddy Bus', with a friendship stop too. Our kind and helpful Peer Mentors will be on board to help other children. It will also be used as 'Head Quarters' for all our active groups. We are proud of the active roles that our children play. They make a difference!

The PE team are keen to get children active. They provide our children with numerous opportunities to be healthy and active and this year they are introducing opportunities at the very start of the day, in addition to the active zones at lunch times. Each morning from 8:30 they will be encouraging KS2 children to take part in the 'Daily Mile'. Running club is going to continue on a Friday morning, especially as this is the most attended club!

KS1 children will have the opportunity to take part in the 'Daily Mile' during their afternoon break.

Our newly appointed Head Boy and Head Girl are committed to helping others too. They are passionate about their roles.



Zaki wants to make everyone in the school feel equal and he wants to work with the play leaders and Sports Council to make play time and lunchtime fun for everyone.



Emily wants everyone in the school to feel happy and safe and she wants to encourage everyone to work towards achieving their dreams, no matter how big or small!

We are keen to further develop partnerships with families too. Thank you for your parental feedback, it is used to help us reflect and plan positive action steps. We recognise that clear communication and explained rationales will help to strengthen confidence and trust.

I am looking forward to our coming, 'Shaping the Future' event on Friday 20th September. This is our third year of hosting our special day on which we host a special ceremony and share our school values. This year I will be sharing a special message about believing in the power of possibility! *'Think, Believe, Dream and Dare.'* Our house teams enjoy engaging in special activities to earn house points and showing great team work. Who will be the winning house?

Finally, we look forward to welcoming families back to the academy on Tuesday 3rd September 2019. As previously communicated, staff will be available to guide you in our new morning routines. The side gate is open in the morning for KS2 children to access their playground, where staff will be ready to welcome them. This gate will only be open in the mornings and is not being used as an exit at the end of day.

Our end of day routine remains the same, allowing parents and carers to collect children from their classroom doors and exit the grounds together via the main gate.

Enjoy your last week of the summer break and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours sincerely



Emma Nicholls