

## The pupil voice

Our children are encouraged to share their voice, knowing it will be heard. This is their school and they have a say. Having a voice and being heard are key areas of British Values which we at Darlinghurst Academy actively promote through our Junior Governor Team. The Junior Governors are a group of children from Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 who work together to make the school a better place. Much like Parliament, they are democratically elected by their peers and play a vital role in finding out the views and opinions of all children at the school. By completing tasks throughout the year, the Junior Governor Team fulfil their role as active citizens, listening to suggestions from other pupils about ways in which to improve the school. They then provide this vital feedback to the teaching staff and the Principal. Our children, make a difference!

## Achievements 2020-21

### Make friends with My Dear New Friend



At Darlinghurst, one of our academy values is 'belonging' and we actively promote kindness and inclusion. Everyone belongs here. Our children are active citizens, knowing that community action makes a difference to the community and the world around them. Show care and consideration towards others has been more important than ever this year and part of the Junior Leadership's vision and actions this year. The impact of lockdown has enabled our pupils to reflect on their time in lockdown and how best they can support each other. Through our 'Bounce Back to Class' survey, pupils were able to voice what was challenging and activities that could help ease worry. This led to considering ways in which pupils could connect with the local community and the wider world, one such project being our close relationship with Admiral Court Care Home. Pupils spoke about their own feelings of missing seeing their friends during lockdown and recognised how this may have been for many elderly residents who were unable to have any visitors.

To combat their loneliness, the My Dear Friend project was set up whereby our junior governors wrote letters to the residents to help raise a smile. These letters were received with such joy by both residents and pupils alike. To further sow a smile, our junior governors promoted the growing of sunflowers by every class in the school for the purpose of planting in Admiral Court gardens. A strong connection between

generations was made.

A beautiful sunflower art project has also been undertaken to include in Admiral Court.

This year we hope to consider how as active citizens we can explore Justice and Peace for all, finding out why pupils at Darlinghurst Academy feel their school is peaceful and safe and ways to further improve this.