



Communication is a priority for us and once again this year we will communicate to parents and carers using the **SIMS Parent App**. SIMS Parent App is a convenient way to communicate with you, share key dates, timetabled events, messages and School term dates. Please let the office know if you have not yet registered. In addition, we use **Twitter and Instagram** to share what's going on within the Academy daily. Please make sure you are following us **@Darlinghurstsch** on Twitter and **@DarlinghurstAcademy** on Instagram

Message from the Principal

Dear parents and carers

It has been a creative and engaging week, with children participating in art, drama, workshops and trips linked to learning within the curriculum and the festive season. We have been fortunate to have a visiting artist to the Academy for the last few weeks working with some of our year 5 children, creating artwork linked to our house crests. Yvonne Jack, shared her rainbow art, skills and techniques to develop images. The children worked hard at developing their artistic skills to produce their own rainbow representations of the house crests. We are looking forward to Yvonne returning in the new year to build four designs continuing this exciting project. In the new year we are also engaging in some local art projects; being involved in a VE exhibition with other southend schools and also a community fundraising event, called Hare's about town. Our children enjoy their weekly sessions with Mrs Buckley in our art room, developing their skills and knowledge of art and design.



They also participate in weekly activities and lessons within our PE curriculum. The PE department encourage children to be active and healthy, participate in team games and healthy competition. This is enriched through an array of opportunities, clubs and competitions. This week I welcomed our Boccia team back to school after attending a competition. They walked into school beaming with pride and excitement, holding their medals. It was a special moment for them and the staff. Their sense of achievement and confidence bought a smile to everyone's faces.

Another special moment took place on Thursday after school when the performance club and staff came together to recreate the 'Sainsbury Christmas advert of 2018'. The sense of community was heightened when parents came along to collect the children and formed the 'real parent audience' at the end, giving their children a huge round of applause. Take a look at our Instagram to see the Darlinghurst version of 'the big night'.



Our year 6 children enjoyed their trip to London this week to the Imperial War museum, whilst our year 5 children had a visiting soldier from WW1 immersing our children in role play. Today our reception children walked to the post office to send their letters to Santa. It has been great to hear about the trips from our children. They have thoroughly enjoyed the experiences. Thank you to staff and parents for making memories with them.



As always, enjoy your family time together this weekend.

Mrs Nicholls



What have you missed out on **Twitter and Instagram** this week?



Darlinghurst Academy @Darlinghur... · 1d ✓
CHANGE STARTS WITH US.
In response to this years theme for #antibullyingweek our children and Mrs Nicholls supported the campaign by continuing to share the message.
@antibullyingalliance #changestartswithus #antibullying #learningandlifeskills #itsuptome @bucketsofkindness



You Retweeted

Mind @MindCharity · 5d
Replying to @DarlinghurstSch

@DarlinghurstSch looks like everyone is enjoying themselves! Thanks so much for your support for better mental health. Take care, Ellie at Mind

EYFS

This week has been very exciting in Nursery, we have been very busy with our Christmas crafts, we have been practising our play and we walked to the letterbox to post our letters to Santa. It is so lovely to take time out of the busy school day to sing songs, sprinkle glitter and wish for gifts from Santa and the children thoroughly enjoyed their walk. Please make sure that your child's costume is in school by Tuesday at the latest as we are going to have a couple of dress rehearsals. Also the programmes that were sent home on Thursday (3 per family) are also your tickets. If you don't need all 3 please return any you don't need to Nursery so that we can hand them out to families that require more than 3. There will be a list in Nursery on Monday for you to put your name on if you require extra tickets and these will be given in order of the list. **The Nursery Team**

Reception have had a very busy week practising for our forthcoming Nativity as well as all our usual learning, such as phonics and Number Crunch. We have finished the week with a trip to our local post office this morning in order to post our letters to Father Christmas. The children walked along the brook using their senses to discuss the things that they could see on our route. We also listened for different sounds we could hear such as the dripping rain from the trees and the singing of the birds. Upon arriving at the Post Office the children purchased their own stamp from the counter, stuck it on and then posted it into the post box outside. We were lucky with the weather as it only drizzled with rain instead of the heavy down pour that we expected. Soggy letters would not have been good!

The children were very polite and sensible as usual. Well done Reception! Thank you to our parent helpers for coming with us. We are wondering when Father Christmas will receive our letters as we know he will be impressed with our super writing. Have a lovely weekend. **The Reception Team**

KS1

We have been very excited in Year 1 this week as we have been writing our letters to Father Christmas. We had a visit from one of his elves on Monday who had a special request from Father Christmas. He had asked the children to nominate someone special to receive a present. The children have come up with lots of lovely requests, ranging from fluffy slippers to an Aston Martin car! Fingers crossed, you may also have a super surprise waiting for you on Christmas morning!

In **Year 1**, in Geography we have been learning all about the world. The children have made world balloons showing the seven continents and have also learnt the names of the five oceans which they were able to label on maps. In Science we have also been learning about plants and how they grow. Our beans have grown



into beanstalks, some measuring up to 55cm tall! We also became scientists for the day to see how we could find out if flowers need water. Using white flowers, we put them in vases of different coloured water to see what would happen. The children made their predictions and were excited to see that they were all correct – the white petals had changed colours.

We have been practising our songs and dances for the forthcoming Nativity. The singing is fabulous and the children are very excited to perform for you in a couple of weeks time. **Miss Adams, Seagull class**

This week **Year 2** took our learning outside into the crisp autumn air. We have been learning about division in maths and we collected natural objects to help us to answer a variety of division equations. The children worked brilliantly together to solve the problems and were very excited to share what we discovered when we got back into class. We have also been starting to make our own Tudor houses to burn before the end of term to replicate the Great Fire of London. **Miss Scott, Oyster class**



KS2

Coral class are now preparing for the build up to Christmas and have been enthusiastically practising their songs for our Lower Key Stage 2 Carol Concert. The children love doing the actions and singing the songs. In one of our songs, the children absolutely love singing through their noses which has given them lots of enjoyment and caused laughter to erupt all around! **Miss Carey, Coral class**

This week, **Year 6** have continued their learning about the Victorians. We have found out that Victorian prisons were extremely tough and had horrible punishments including the treadwheel, shot drill and turning a hand-crank 10,000 times per day in order to earn meals. We have written letters from a child in prison describing the conditions and how they were caught by the 'bobbies'. We have also learnt about the suffragettes and the struggle of women to be given the vote. **Mrs Stevens, Wilton class**

PE News

On Wednesday, four of our amazing children represented the school at a Boccia tournament. Boccia is a Paralympic sport similar to French Boules, it is a tactical based game that requires accuracy and skill. The tournament, which had 20 schools represented, was held at Thorpe Hall. Our children started strongly, winning their first game against Temple Sutton. With nerves under control the team played brilliantly and qualified into the Super Tens group games for the second part of the tournament. Another two wins and a draw saw them reach the semi-finals and make it into the last four schools. After a very close game against Bournemouth Park and with some amazing skills from both schools the Darlinghurst team unfortunately lost by just one point. Not letting the defeat in the semifinal bother them, and with great determination, our team managed to beat Heycroft in the third and fourth play-off to secure third place overall. To see our children show great maturity, resilience and joy during the day put an enormous smile on my face. Upon return to school the children received the welcome they deserved from our SLT who were all waiting for them in the office. Well done team. What a great day! **Mr Felton – PE Subject Lead**



It is with regret that we are banning moon balls from the playground. Unfortunately, there are just too many of them being used. Please remind your child that **sponge** balls are still permitted at lunchtimes.

Yvonne Jack Visiting Artist

Yvonne Jack is a renowned local artist with real expertise in animal paintings and we were lucky enough to have her visiting our school and giving the children water colour workshops on three separate occasions in our Art Lessons.





Some children were chosen to develop our animal mottos for our house teams and will be given further opportunities to work with Yvonne in the new year.

Simeon really enjoyed working with Yvonne especially when she lent him her own watercolour paints to use. Willow enjoyed developing her skills and many children loved using the hairdryer to dry off the paint quickly.

Mrs Buckley – Art Lead

Thu 12 Dec Christmas Lunch
Fri 13 Dec Christmas Jumper Day Wear a Christmas jumper with your school uniform
Fri 13 Dec Years 3&4 Carol Concert - 1:45pm-2:15pm (School Hall) Tickets will be available via ParentPay
Fri 13 Dec Years 5&6 Carol Concert - 2:30pm-3:30pm (School Hall) Tickets will be available via ParentPay
Mon 16 Dec Reception Nativity 2:00pm-3:00pm (School Hall) Tickets will be available via ParentPay
Tue 17 Dec Nursery Nativity 9:00am-10:00am (School Hall) Tickets will be available via ParentPay
Tue 17 Dec Year 1 and 2 Nativity (Performance 1) 2:00pm-3:00pm (School Hall) Tickets will be available via ParentPay
Wed 18 Dec Year 1 and 2 Nativity (Performance 2) 9:45am-10:45am (School Hall) Tickets will be available via ParentPay
Wed 18 Dec Years 3,4,5 and 6 Christmas Together - Decorations 8:45am-9:45am (School Hall) Tickets will be available via ParentPay
Wed 18 Dec Reception, Year 1 and 2 Christmas Together - Decorations - 2:10pm-3:10pm (School Hall) Tickets will be available via ParentPay
Thu 19 Dec Academy closes at 1:45pm

Group	% Attend
JELLYFISH	94.1
STARFISH	95.8
SEAHORSE	95.7
PUFFIN	95.7
SEAGULL	95.1
LOBSTER	95.7
OYSTER	95.7
SHRIMP	96.8
DUNE	96.9
SEASHELL	95.3
CORAL	94.9
ORCA	97.8
GREAT WHITE SHARK	95.9
STINGRAY	94.4
SWORD FISH	96.7
NEPTUNE	96.6
POSEIDON	94.4
TRITON	93.9
GALENE	97.2
BEMBRIDGE	95.1
WILTON	95.9
MAYFLOWER	96.1
Totals	95.7

Congratulation to this week's Energy Challenges Winners

For EYFS and Key Stage 1: Oyster – 29 points

For Key Stage 2: Mayflower – 26 points

