



Communication is a priority for us once again this year, we will communicate to parents and carers using **School Ping** In addition, we use **Instagram** to share what's going on within the Academy daily. Please make sure you are following us and **@DarlinghurstAcademy** on Instagram.

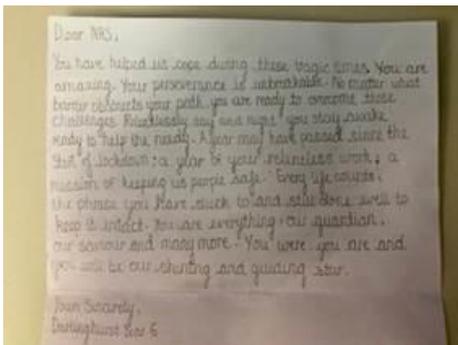
## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge well done to everyone over the last three weeks on our return to school. It has been wonderful having everyone back under one roof, seeing and hearing learning in action. The teachers and children have been working hard at consolidating learning and securing their knowledge and skills over the last three weeks. We are pleased with their efforts during this time, including their 'lockdown learning.'

We have asked children, staff and parents to reflect on their learning experiences during lockdown and the return to school. The responses have given us great insight into how well our 'blended learning approach' was delivered and received. I will be sharing the overall headlines in due course, but wanted to say thank you to those who responded, they were overwhelmingly positive and supportive.

We also spent time this week reflecting. On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, our children and staff reflected on the last year as the nation marked one year since the first lockdown. At noon, we joined the nation to take a minutes silence to consider those who supported us and how we remained connected, even at times when we were physically apart. We thought about what that meant for us, as a school, for families and the wider community.



We spent our time of reflection in class, in the calmness of nature and special places of reflection within our academy grounds. One of our year 6 children, Avni, wrote a thank you and reflective letter to the NHS.

'A year may have passed since the start of lockdown; a year of your relentless hard work; a mission of keeping people safe. Every life counts. You are our guardians, our saviour and more'.

Over the past year we have seen our children gain experience and growth during this time. We will continue to work on their personal targets to support their progress over the summer term and will celebrate their achievements (academically and personally) with you in the last half term.

I am proud to share that we continue to hold the **Enhanced Healthy Schools Status** and have had our work and impact of this re-validated, through an independent 'Healthy Schools assessment'.

We celebrated our achievements by writing our school story and providing this, along with evidence to the Healthy Schools quality assurance group. This showed our continued provision and self-evaluation to improve school life through health and wellbeing work. We have achieved this through PSHE, Healthy Eating, Physical Activity and Emotional Health and Wellbeing.

We are looking forward to the award ceremony, when we will receive our certificate and award on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021. Feedback from the Healthy schools team:

**'We really loved your story it was a really thorough look at the Emotional Health and Wellbeing project and beyond'.**



I am also proud of our Eco Team and Mrs Powell who have received accolade for being a leading example amongst the community. We are extremely proud of our award because it has been our aim to teach children to care for the environment.

We want our children to be active citizens and prepared for the environmental changes in this ever-changing world. Our aim is to make our children confident individuals and effective contributors, not just within the academy but the world around them.

I am sure that you will agree that Mrs Powell is an exemplary role model who demonstrates the impact you can have as an active citizen. Her passion and commitment drives change in the next generation. I am thankful for the difference that she makes to our children and the environment. We fly our green flag with pride.



I would like to wish you all a happy Easter Break. We will be sharing some of our Easter antics on **Instagram** over the break, including our 'Easter Hunt' posts again. This year we are sharing some more riddles and clues. We hope you like them. I look forward to welcoming you back, after the break.



As always, enjoy your family time (and an Easter egg or two) together.

**Mrs Nicholls, Principal**

## Attendance – Every Day Counts!

Whole school attendance has taken a dip this week. We understand that children are re-establishing and adjusting to being back at school – building their resilience and being around others again, headaches and fatigue maybe showing. However, we know that attendance, more than ever, is important. Please be reassured that we continue our stringent hand hygiene routines to prevent the spread of the virus and other germs – following the advice of 'Handy Andy' and 'The catch it, bin it, kill it' campaign. Should your child catch a common cold or have a sore throat and you have any concerns in relation to their health and attendance, please give us a call or take a look at our attendance policy on our website. This outlines information on responses to illness, as well as categories for authorised and unauthorised absences.

Stay safe and well and we look forward to a healthy return after Easter.



## Around the Academy

### Nursery

This week our topic has been Easter. We looked at the true meaning of Easter at the beginning of the week and looked at things people liked to do over the Easter period. There was lots of talk about chocolate and Easter egg hunts, and we ended the week with an Easter egg hunt of our own. The children made beautiful Easter cards using different vegetables to print with paint, and wrote their names inside. We had an egg and spoon race on the field, spent time in our Fairy Garden and had a disco on the field on Friday, what an end to this term. As always thank you all so much for your continued support, Team Nursery.

### Reception

So here we are at the end of the Spring Term! Where did the time go? Importantly, we know that initially the time was spent full of blended learning linking home and school and then three weeks ago we all returned to our classrooms to continue our learning altogether. It has been an absolute joy! The children have settled back into our routines and are growing daily in their confidence within all of our different areas of learning. This is down to their determination to be the best learners they can be. Well done children! This week the weather has joined us to celebrate our learning about new beginnings and the start of spring. We are sad to see Miss White depart from the EYFS Team but know that she will take her kind heart and thoughtfulness into her new role as a SENCO. We are sure that you join us in wishing her good luck within this role. We hope that you all have a marvellous Easter holiday! The Reception Team

### Year 1

This week in year 1 we have enjoyed reading Oliver's Vegetables and learning and writing all about the different vegetables we can grow in our gardens! We wrote our own stories, to include all of our own favourite vegetables we'd like to grow in our imaginary garden. In maths, we learnt how to measure in centimetres using a ruler and explored our classrooms and outside practicing lining up our object at 0cm correctly and getting an accurate measurement. We also discussed the Easter story and learned about the true meaning of Easter. We were all surprised to learn it isn't just all about chocolate eggs and the Easter Bunny! Happy Easter, everyone!

### Year 2

In Year 2 this week, we have had great fun making our own moon buggies. This has involved paint, glue, axles and wheels and a lot of imagination. We have also evaluated our original designs and finished pieces. In writing, the children have been adapting a story that we have read 'How to catch a star'. They have shown enormous amounts of creativity and have produced some lovely, original pieces of work. The Year 2 team hope that you all have a restful Easter break and look forward to seeing you all again afterwards.

### Year 3

Year 3 have been studying different world religions this week. They have been focussing on celebrations that take place during different festivals throughout the religious year. The children recorded the comparisons between these festivals in writing and pictures.



## Year 4

We can't believe we've been back to face to face teaching with year 4 for 3 weeks already! So our last week of this half term has all been about concluding our topic on 'Should we stop eating chocolate?' In writing we have been completing an exciting character description of the infamous Mr Willy Wonka. Such a fantastic character to write about and some lovely descriptive work completed. Then to conclude our main topic the children have been designing a healthy chocolate bar that also contains ingredients that don't add to deforestation and making sure it comes from countries that support fair trade. The name and wrapper designs have been really creative too. So as long as we think carefully about what our chocolate contains and where it comes from, I think the conclusion is that we really don't need to give up chocolate at all – luckily just in time for Easter! All that's left for us to say is have a very happy Easter break and we look forward to seeing you all again safe and well for the summer term. The year 4 teachers.

## Year 5

This week in year 5 we have investigated mechanisms which make jobs like lifting and pulling easier as we brought our focus on forces and mechanisms to a conclusion. Ask your child if they can explain the difference between a lever and a pulley. We have also explored maps and atlas' as we discovered the different cities across the United Kingdom and the 4 countries that come together to form the UK.

Before coming together to review our Edison topic of fairgrounds and all of the WOW moments the children experienced during investigations and experiments. Like the bottle of rice we could levitate with a pencil just because of friction or the bucket of water which never spilt when we swung it around because of centrifugal force as the bucket and water want to follow the curved path. Connecting our Topic with writing the children have produced some thrilling stories about a child finally being old enough to experience a fun fair and go on their dream fairground ride. What a ride the stories have been as the children focussed on including all of the senses and refining their skill of show don't tell.

Meanwhile in maths the children have been building connections between multiplication and fractions as they discovered how to multiply a fraction by a whole number and the fraction of a quantity. So that if one child eats half a box of doughnuts and there were 12 in the box just how many doughnuts they have eaten.

We in year 5 are very proud of the hard work and determination your children have been showing every day and how easily they have adapted back to coming into school. We wish you the best Easter holiday and look forward to seeing you soon!

## Year 6

This week we have been learning about inherited characteristics and the dominant gene in Science. The children enjoyed exploring fossils and learning about how they are formed. We have also written biographies on female scientists and naturalists: Mary Anning, Marie Curie or Jane Goodall. The children that researched their scientist/naturalist for homework used their information in their biographies. Year 6 have also been discussing events they are looking forward to like PGL. We are still planning for PGL to go ahead and we are also hoping to arrange and book some exciting events for those children who are not attending PGL. We will send out this information as soon as we are able to. We hope the children and yourselves stay safe and have a wonderful Easter break.



## Charity and community action

### Little-boat Leveret

It isn't just the Easter Bunny getting ready to hop about the town!

Our little leveret is ready for collection and can't wait to hop over to the other leverets and hares around town. Our leveret will be on show around Southend during the summer. More news to follow.

Darlinghurst - helping to raise funds for **Hares about town – Havens Hospice**



## Easter photographs





What have you missed on Instagram this week?



TTRS Top Rockers - March Week 4			
	% of class that used TTRS last week	Average daily minutes	Average correct answers
1st	Swordfish (90%)	Endeavour	Endeavour (1062)
2nd	Stingray	Coral, Billet	Coral, Mayflower
3rd	Bembridge	Dune, Swordfish, Strand, Victoria, Shrimp, Lobster	Billet