



Welcome Back!

Welcome back. It has been lovely to see the children, staff and parents back at Darlinghurst this week.

We are looking forward to 2019!

- Living and learning - every day
- Doing things we love and trying new things
- Celebrating achievements - big and small
- Challenging ourselves every day
- Building confidence and taking risks
- Pushing forward, determined to succeed
- Learning from our mistakes
- Making a difference to ourselves and others
- Showing we care and remembering that we all matter

Belonging - I cannot think of a better value to focus upon at the start of a new calendar year, working with our Darlinghurst family, showing our sense of belonging;

- Within school*
- Within the community*
- Within the wider world*



Already the children have focused on belonging, during our values assembly. Together we have looked at the importance of community and how to ensure that everyone feels that they belong. We used the analogy of a 'bunch of bananas' to help us focus on belonging together.

Bananas belong together



Belonging – a great bunch

It's good to be in the company of others



Be happy and make our school a caring, welcoming place.



Belonging – a bunch of bananas



Since the assembly children have been talking about being 'bright and cheerful', 'positive' and a 'friendly bunch'. They have even thrown in the odd banana joke. In KS1 the children participated in some 'fun and games' to explore this theme further – being active and full of energy and creativity with our specialist team.

Bananas are full of energy

Active learners



Energy to learn





After feeling inspired, Freddie Meek, came to share with me a story that she had written. Here is her story...



Remembering to belong, by Freddie Meek

Once there was a banana called Lily and her bunch her friends didn't want to play with her anymore because she didn't listen to their ideas and was a little mean. One day she decided that being on her own was lonely, because bananas like to be in a bunch and stick together. She bought some cupcakes to say sorry and to start afresh. She gave them to all of her friends. They gave her a banana smile. She smiled back and showed she was grateful for being in a group. Finally, she swore an oath to not be mean anymore and listen better to others and their ideas. Lily and her friends were now a full of happiness and positivity. Lily is now a cheerful, bright, yellow banana.

In year 5 and 6 we discussed tolerance of others and mutual respect, understanding that a community is built through an acceptance of each other, regardless of background.

We used 'life stories' to help us explore this theme, recognising the importance of inclusion. Here at Darlinghurst we want everyone to be happy and know that our school is a caring and welcoming place.



Alice and the great emptiness



We continue to support our local community, in particular spending time with our friends at 'Admiral Court', keeping our connections with our elderly neighbours - supporting the national campaign to end loneliness.

Each one of us is a 'unique individual'.

I look forward to seeing the difference we make and the strength in our community that we build - together, this year and in the years to come.

In year 5, Poseidon class have shown their sense of belonging to the wider world, through receiving a Christmas gift of the adoption of an orang-utan.





“ In the new year, never forget to thank your past years because they enabled you to reach today! Without the stairs of the past, you cannot arrive at the future”.

- Mehmet Murat Ildan.

With a sense of belonging in mind, please could you complete Parent View so we can begin the year knowing your views, keeping communication open.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>

As always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls

Do you sometimes feel lonely?

Everyone feels lonely sometimes. Maybe we have to go somewhere different or come home to an empty house. Maybe your best friend is sick or on holiday, or you find yourself in a group who all know each other well and they leave you out.

Whatever the reason, everyone can understand what it feels like to be lonely sometimes, but what would it be like to be lonely most of the time?

What can you do if you're feeling lonely?

Have a go at something new, like exercising, walking the dog, learning a new skill or craft, or joining a group like scouts, drama, art or a school club.

Write letters to relatives or pen friends.

Ask someone over to play or play with the play squad

Think about others and their feelings

Talk about your feelings to adults at school or at home

Remember, don't worry, speak to us.

Advice from Mrs Grant

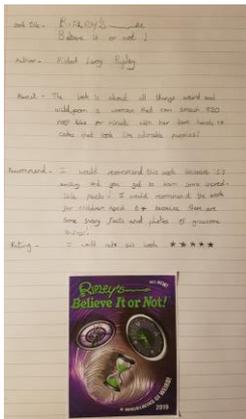
"Everyone is special and unique. Get to know a new person and let people know you. Sharing your thoughts and your time with others makes life more interesting, and you don't have time to be lonely. Look around and see if there are lonely people around you and try to be kind to them so they will feel less lonely. One day you may be feeling lonely too."





Book Reviews

We love to hear about the books that you particularly enjoy reading. Below are two book reviews from Darlinghurst children.



Title: Ripley's Believe It or Not!
Author : Robert Leroy Ripley

The book is about all things weird and wild, from a woman that can smash 920 roof tiles per minute with her bare hands to cakes that look like adorable puppies!

I would recommend this book because it's exciting and you get to learn some incredible facts! I would recommend the book for children aged 6+ because there are some scary facts and photos of gruesome things!

I would rate this book ★★★★★

Willow G
Year 4, Sand Tiger class



Title: Mirror Magic (Star Friends)
Author : Linda Chapman

I enjoyed this book because it involved two of my favourite things, friendship and magic! It was about four girls that believe in magic. When the Star Animals come over from the Star World the girls become Star Friends to them.

The main animals are a loyal fox, called Bracken, with indigo eyes (all of the Star Animals have indigo eyes), a feisty wildcat called Sorrel, an energetic squirrel called Juniper and a shy and sensitive deer called Willow.

My favourite character is Maia because she can see in to the future, see in to the past and see through illusions.

I think other children will like this book because it brings people together and some parts of the book are very unexpected.

Alix B
Year 3, Dune class

Please send in a brief review of what you have read and tell us why you enjoyed it and why you think other children at Darlinghurst will love your book. As well as having your review published, Mr Sykes will be offering 10 house points for every review submitted.

Please email your comments to mrsmith@darlinghurst.co.uk or hand your paper copies to Mr Sykes in White Shark class.

Mr Sykes, Reading Lead