



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.

Welcome to our Early Years Phase, New Starters





Welcome back to the Academy



Message from the Principal

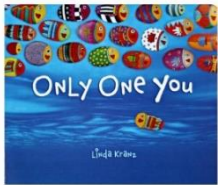
Dear parents and carers,

What a brilliant week! The children returned to school looking extremely smart in their uniforms and in great spirits. I have loved seeing everyone back again and welcoming new starters to the Early Years too. They entered the academy grounds with independence, enjoying meeting friends and staff on the playgrounds. Please continue to arrive at the time the gates open, to avoid waiting and to support the 'drop and go' system, maintaining the flow of pedestrian traffic. The KS2 gate opens first at 8:30 – 8:40, providing a ten minute window to walk into the grounds and allowing year 3 – 6 to socialise with their friends. The KS1 gate opens at 8:35, with staff ready to meet and greet their classes on the Ks1 playground. Our youngest children are met at the brook gate at 8:40, when all children are walked to class for a prompt start to their morning routines and learning. All teachers and leaders have been very impressed with the speed and independence, during morning registration. Well done to all our children!

Children and staff have been happily catching up with each other, sharing news of their summer experiences. We have also enjoyed some visits from our recent year six leavers, who have returned to share their first day experiences of secondary school. They looked very smart in their uniforms too. It is always a joy to see them and hear how they are getting on. Our new year six are excited to be at the top of the school and have been happily telling me all about their first few days. In particular, they have been sharing how proud they are to wear a shirt and tie. They look very smart and have positive attitudes toward the year ahead.

This week, children and staff, have been settling back into academy life, establishing routines and building relationships. This half term, we are focused on the learning and life skill, 'Learning Together' and during this week children have engaged in some great team challenges. We value the importance of collaboration and team work and are looking forward to our 'Shaping the Future' event, later this month, when our children will engage in a range of house team activities within their phases at the end of the month.





This year's theme is called, 'Only One You', linked to a story that celebrates life and is full of positive affirmation. We were delighted to see that some of our children returned to school, with their 'rock fish'. There is still plenty of time for your child, or even your own, to paint and send in your Rock Fish.



Across each phase of the academy, we have seen children enjoying learning and play. They have been reminded of expectations for behaviour and safety, including the importance of hand and respiratory hygiene. We continue to use 'Handy Andy' and 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' within school. Our risk assessment and Q&A document is on our website, outlining the continued preventive measures that are in place.



Thank you for your cooperation at the start of this year and I look forward to working with you throughout the year. I know that all the staff are excited for the year ahead. See below messages from members of the Senior leadership team.

As always, enjoy your family time together.
Mrs Nicholls

From the Rockpool

It has been wonderful to see all of our existing children returning to nursery this week with their beautiful smiling faces. All of the children have thoroughly enjoyed all of the new additions to the shared EYFS outside area, and to Nursery itself and have spent all week exploring! They also welcomed seeing their friends from last year who are now in their new reception classes in the shared garden. Please make sure the children come to school with coats, even if the weather seems warm in the mornings, as now, more than ever we are spending lots of time outside, and the weather is very changeable at the moment. Again, welcome back everyone!! **Team Nursery**

Around the Academy

We have had a fantastic start to the year. The children have returned with a positive attitude and smiles on their faces and we have a few new friends joining us too. We have enjoyed fun activities to settle back into school life and familiarise ourselves in our new classrooms and outdoor spaces. We have started our interesting topic of Old and New Toys by reading and writing about the cheeky mice in the story of 'Kipper's Toybox' by Mick Inkpen. We loved how they made Sock Thing come to life and understood how puzzled Kipper was when Sock Thing started to wriggle along the floor! We have also been scientists investigating how quickly and easily sneeze and cough germs can spread by touch and have proved how important soap is in washing germs off our hands. We reminded ourselves of the important phrase 'catch it, bin it, kill it' using glitter as pretend germs which we could see spreading easily when we touched things and each other's hands. We are going to have a great time together! **Year 1**

Wow! What a fantastic start to our new academic year. The children have settled back into school routines beautifully and we are all really proud of them and the ready to learn attitude that they have returned to school with. We have had fun this week, settling back into school routine and catching up with friends that we haven't seen for a while. Thank you to all of the parents and carers who have ensured that our children have come back into school excited, prepared and ready for this year. I would like to also thank the year 2 team who have come back into school with such enthusiasm and energy.

For the first few days back, year 2 have been concentrating on establishing routines and settling in to a new academic year. We introduced the children to Alice in Wonderland which will be one of our core reading and writing texts and made jam tarts for the Queen of Hearts. Our new topic is "Can party food be healthy?", we started to explore what we already know about healthy eating and came up with lots of questions that we would like to find out the answers to such as, "How many fruits have seeds?" and "Why are vegetables called



vegetables?". We are looking forward to exploring the subject and hopefully coming up with some answers to those tricky questions! **Year 2**

The new **Year 4** have had a super start to the new school year. All have settled into their new routines with ease and shown a true sense of Darlinghurst belonging, working together as a team in many new activities this week. As we have all just been on school holidays, we've been writing about what would be our dream holiday location. The children were so good at thinking outside the box as we had ideas like space hotels, games rooms, Marvel World and private water park islands! Our new connected curriculum topic this half term is 'How do we hear? How do we see?' The classes enjoyed exploring what they know about these questions already and creating their 'I wonder...' questions. By the end of the topic, they should be able to answer all their own questions! Our 'getting to know you' session had the children being set a challenge to find out something new about their classmates that they didn't know before and realising how special and unique we all are. The year 4 teachers have been so impressed with the children's hard work and commitment this week, we really cannot wait to work with them and alongside you all this year. **Year 4**



Welcome back to all the new Year 5 who have started the term off really well. The children this week have thrived being back at school and undertaken the challenges we have set them. This week has been all about setting out expectations and routines for the coming year so that everyone feels settled, focused and ready to learn. We have included lots of PHSE games and fun activities to encourage the children to share their ideas and keep them motivated. A big thank you to all the parents and carers this week for sending all the children in with the correct uniform and good attitude to learning. We look forward to helping them make progress and grow as children throughout the year. **Year 5**

Welcome back to all our wonderful families and I hope you have all had a relaxing summer break. It has been an absolute pleasure seeing you down at the gates, in and around school and your patience is much appreciated as we have been settling in to new routines. This past week, I have been in and out of classrooms, supporting in the dining hall, and observing children play in our amazing playgrounds. I can't tell you how proud I am of how well the children have embraced the start of the new year – it is wonderful to be part of such a happy and vibrant community. The staff are truly committed to ensuring that your children receive the very best that we can offer and they are thrilled to be back in the classrooms, working alongside your children. I am looking forward to seeing the year take shape and your children continue to develop into confident learners, achieving their very best.

Well done to the families in the Early Years - our youngest children have come in to school with confidence and determination this week. Parents and teachers have worked in partnership, ensuring that transition carried out last term was a huge success. Children have arrived ready to learn, each morning – thank you, I know this is no mean feat. Looking ahead, I am excited at the prospect of working within the Early Years team; watching our youngest minds explore and learn, within our well-equipped Rockpool. It is a privilege to help children grow and develop into confident individuals, prepared for change. **Mrs Hahn**

It has been so lovely meeting and seeing all the Key Stage 1 children this week and watching how hard they are already working and trying their best. I am really proud of how well they have settled into their new classes and remembered our routines and structures. Year 1 have enjoyed learning about toys and playing with a variety of these in the afternoon. Year 2 have loved making jam tarts linked to their reading text of Alice in Wonderland. I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support in enabling us to keep drop off and pick up times calm, prompt and organised. This has greatly helped the transition at the end of the day so year 3 children can exit on time also. Please can I remind you that the area by the Year 3 classrooms is a quiet zone as the children are still completing their lessons at the end of day. We appreciate your cooperation with ensuring these transitions run smoothly. **Mrs Powell**



It has been a joy to have the children back and I have been so impressed by the independence of Key Stage 2 children in our new morning routine and they have been enjoying the extra time to socialise on the playground, supervised by our staff. Thank you for your support too with the drop and go system which is helping to relieve congestion at the gates and allows parents with siblings in Key Stage 1 reach the other gate a few minutes later. I appreciate your patience at the end of the day whilst staff get to know your faces – I am confident handovers will speed up quickly. The children have settled in extremely well, being calm, enthusiastic and friendly whilst settling back into our routines quickly and taking pride in their books. Please support us by ensuring your child reads every day and practices their times tables on Times Table Rock Stars every day for at least 7 minutes until they are on level 420 – it makes a huge difference to their confidence in maths lessons.

Mr Turner

Celebrating Attendance

What a great start to the new term. With a fantastic 96.2% attendance on the first day.



Little Mariners

I am delighted to be joining the breakfast and after school club team and have really enjoyed meeting many of the children who attend this week. They have certainly been very welcoming to me as a new member of the team too. I have loved hearing the activity ideas from the children this week, from movie nights, cupcake decorating and even a 'Wonderful Wednesday' suggestion full of arts and crafts.

We offer a warm, welcoming environment where the children can enjoy their time together with lots of fun with engaging and interactive activities. Should your child wish to join us please contact me via email at mrsroberts@darlinghurst.co.uk and I will be happy to help. **Mrs Roberts**

What have
you missed
on Instagram
this week?

