



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 **@DarlinghurstAcademy** on Instagram.

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

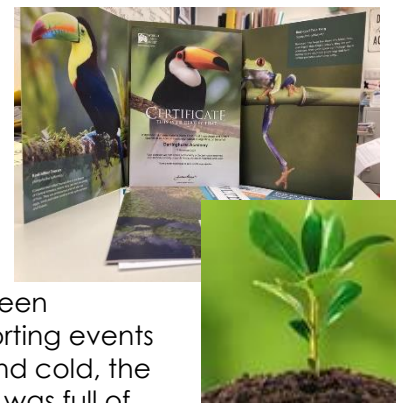
This week children and staff have been preparing for the Christmas festivities, learning Christmas songs and lines for the forthcoming productions. The tree is up and the countdown has begun with preparations for events and excitement for Christmas Day. Our EYFS children have already posted their letters and our KS1 children will be learning about Christingle in readiness for their joyful celebration. I am aware that this time of year, is a time for sharing and that our children and families want to engage in celebrations together. In light of this, decisions and careful planning has been made to provide face to face performances. This has included preventive steps in response to Covid-19. Please look at the letter sent on December 2nd for full details regarding this and follow the safety guidance that is outlined. We ask that you also refer back to the Q&A document for our procedures and communication for Covid related illness. We recognise that Covid remains a concern in the community, however the academy and other local schools are following guidance and procedures for educational settings. We appreciate that this is different to last year's communication, however should any advice or alternative actions need to be taken, we will communicate this with parents. We hope this elevates any worries that you may have. I know that we are all hopeful of a healthy and happy Christmas with our loved ones.

I would like to congratulate the children on their sense of belonging throughout the year and particularly at this time. They consistently demonstrate warmth and friendliness. This academy value is rightly given high esteem. I am so proud of our community spirit. We have recently received some wonderful gifts and acts of kindness from parents, companies and even members of the wider community in Kent. A huge thank you for our saplings for our school grounds and our acre of land in Argentina! We are touched by your generosity and support.

I would also like to reference the academy value of confidence that has recently been recognised by families, staff and other members of the community. This includes sporting events and the recent Choir performance last weekend. Whilst the weather was blustery and cold, the singing warmed the hearts and spirits of all that heard them sing. Their performance was full of confidence and cheer. Well done to the children, staff and families involved. This week, some of our children attended a swimming gala at the London Aquatic Centre. I was delighted to see their celebratory faces as they shared that they had won the gala! What a confidence boost!

As always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls





Faith and wellbeing special

During weekly sessions of R.E. children are encouraged to explore and understand differences between us. Considering everyone's culture, backgrounds and beliefs. Children learn to be critical thinkers when learning about Faith and Wellbeing, developing religious literacy so that they can hold balanced and well informed conversations about different faiths and world views. At Darlinghurst, we believe these conversations are essential and play a core role as a natural part of human life.

This is what our children say about their R.E. lessons -

'I like finding out about different cultures and how people live.' *Alix, Year 6*

'I like learning about my friend's different religions.' *Keyann, Year 6*

Charlie Y5 feels proud when he learns something about a different religion and can pick out the moral.

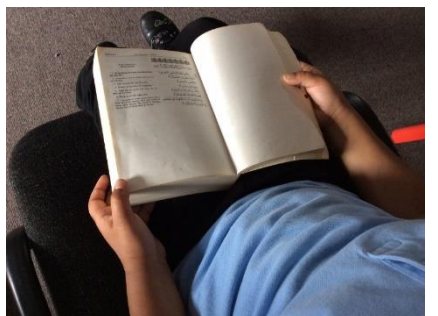
Nina Y4 is proud that she learns about other people's lives and compares them with her own.

Tara Y3 is proud that she remembers what she learns about other's lives.

'I like making things in R.E. I remember when I made a Jewish dreidel.' *Lucas, Year 2*

'I like learning different parables. These are stories that we learn from.' *Ellis, Year 1*

Mrs Dutton RE Lead





From the Rockpool

This week, our Traditional story that we have focused on is, 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. It was agreed, in Nursery and Reception, that this is a firm favourite story with all of the children, as well as the adults. We have had tremendous fun building bridges, discovering that some building materials are more successful than others, once you put pressure on them. We have discussed and learnt about positional language, road safety and the features that we may see in the environment such as a bridge, a post box or even a zebra crossing. What features do you see as you travel to school?

The children in Nursery and Reception are thoroughly enjoying practicing for their Christmas performances and the teachers are very impressed with how well they are doing learning their songs.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Around the Academy

In **Year 1**, we have been getting excited and ready for our upcoming Winter celebrations with our first rehearsals of the nativity in the hall! We are all proud of ourselves for learning our lines and songs so well and can't wait to perform for our families. We have also been looking at the different oceans around the world and created our very own maps making sure that we knew where all the continents and oceans are! Finally, we have been Little Red Riding Hood in our writing lessons and enjoying thinking about different adjectives to use for the wolf in the story!

This week in **Year 2**, we have added detail to our Tudor houses by attaching wooden beams and window frames. We have talked about the materials that we use and how this contributed to the fire. We have spent some time learning about what architects do and have designed a bird's eye view of our classrooms. We have also started to practice for our Christmas performance and the children are very enthusiastic about it. The song lyrics will be put on to DB Primary early next week and we would really appreciate it if you could support your child in learning the words.

This week, **Year 3** have been focusing on the ancient civilisation of Egypt and the Egyptians. We have studied the structure of their homes, how they were built and the importance of the River Nile to these people. The children have been fascinated by all the interesting facts they have learnt!!

In **Year 4** this week we have been learning about the Anglo Saxons and what life was like in Britain after they invaded. Continuing with our writing along the same theme, the children have written their own versions of Beowulf and created their own monsters that were defeated by a heroic warrior. The descriptive language they have used has been incredible! With maths this week we have all been looking at patterns in the times tables to embed their knowledge of them even further. Thank you for supporting us with TT Rockstars this week. Engagement has increased but we are still not seeing all children logging on regularly. Please keep going with this as the children love getting their rewards and certificates for improving correct answers and speed increases. We are now in the full throws of Christmas singing and decorations and the children have a lovely happy buzz about them at the moment. We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

This week **Year 5** have been carefully looking at perimeter and area in maths which can be very useful when allocating different dinosaurs different style enclosures based upon their size or else there could be some escapees!

Continuing with our World War One diaries but this time we have made it to the front line and describing some of the horrendous conditions suffered by the soldiers. Learning about the Class system pre WW1 and the impact that the war had upon it.

We have been exploring the Jewish festival of Hanukkah in RE and the significance of different customs and traditions.

We have started rehearsing for our Christmas concert which is coming up pretty quick!



This week, **Year 6** have been thinking about what life was like for Victorian women and making comparisons to the lives of women of today. We have thought carefully about the women's suffrage movement by studying primary and secondary historical sources and thought about how we would have acted if we were faced with the same choices. For homework, children have been researching The Romans and we look forward to their presentations. Please send finished files via teacher emails or through DB Primary (due on Wednesday 8th December). If it is not possible to create a digital presentation then children can use A3 paper, which their teacher will supply.

We would also like to thank everyone for all their support in our recent cake sales, it is much appreciated.

8 Swans a-Swimming!

On Tuesday, 8 of our children had the amazing opportunity of taking part in a mini swimming gala at the Aquatic Centre in Stratford. After an excitable train journey into London the children found themselves up against 5 other schools in the gala. The races were well thought out, varied and inclusive and our children loved every one of them. Kodi told me it was the best day of his life! If I could bottle these type of moments, I would. At the end of the gala the children eagerly awaited the results and what a result it was! Darlinghurst was placed in 1st place. Not only did the children receive lovely gold medals, they each were given a beach towel too. What a day! Well done team, I'm so proud of you and what you achieved.

Mr Felton PE subject lead



Save the date:

Christmas Productions - Bookings can be made via Parent Pay and will be available from Friday 3rd December, from 6pm, to allow parents and carers to purchase their seat. Sales will close on Friday 10th December at 3pm.

Thursday 9 th December		Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 13 th December	Year 3 & 4 Carol Concert	9:30am – 10:30am
Monday 13 th December	Year 6 Carol Concert	2:30pm - 3:15pm (entry 2:25pm)
Monday 13 th December	Year 5 Carol Concert	1:30pm – 2:15pm (entry 1:20pm)
Tuesday 14 th December	Early Years Production	1:45pm – 2:45pm
Wednesday 15 th December	Nursery Nativity	9.30am – 10.30am
Wednesday 15 th December	Year 2 Nativity through song	1:45pm – 2:45pm
Thursday 16 th December	Year 1 Nativity through song	9:30am – 10:30am

Reminder

As the weather continues to be cold, can you please ensure your child comes to school with a jumper, coat, hats, gloves and scarfs and that all items are named. Thank you.



Proud to be Me

I love dancing and this week I have been taking part in dance competitions. I came 1st in Hotshots and was in the top 10 for dancing. I had to stand on a podium to collect a medal and trophy. It made me feel very proud.

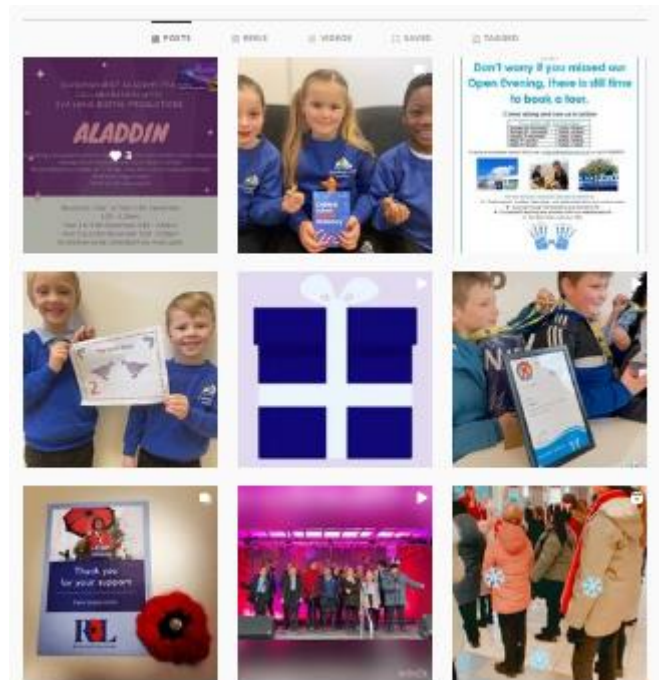


of



Oliver Collins in year 6 Strand class achieved his black belt in karate at the weekend after 5 years training with Westwood Karate Academy.

What have you missed on Instagram this week?



A photograph of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a light pink shirt, sitting and reading a book to a young child. The child is also wearing a light pink shirt and is holding a teddy bear. The background is dark and out of focus.

the national
sleep
helpline

**Does your child
suffer with
sleep issues?**

Do you struggle
with your child's
bedtime?

Will your child
not sleep in
their own bed?

WE CAN HELP

03303 530 541
Available Sunday - Thursday 7pm - 9pm



the national sleep helpline



Around 50% of children will have a sleep issue at some point*

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE?

In partnership with Furniture Village, The Sleep Charity has launched a brand new National Sleep Helpline to ensure that everyone has access to high quality, evidence-based advice.

HOW CAN THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE HELP YOU?

- Run by a team of specialist trained sleep advisors
- Offer you some practical strategies and recommend services that could help
- Ensuring you understand how sleep plays an important part in your child's mental health and wellbeing
- Listen without judgement and help you decide what next steps are right for you
- Empower you with sleep knowledge so you can understand why your child might not be sleeping well and how that can change

03303 530 541

Available Sunday - Thursday
7pm - 9pm

