



Communication is a priority for us once again this year, we will communicate to parents and carers using **School Ping and My Child At School.**

In addition, we use **@DarlinghurstAcademy Instagram** to share what's going on within the Academy

### March dates

- Tea & Talk - Outdoor Learning & Art – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 8.45am
- 'Thank you for the love' event – during the school day Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March
- Red Nose Day – Comic Relief – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March
- Tea & Talk – Phonics in Nursery – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 8.45am
- Pre-loved uniform, toy and book sale – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 3.10pm

## Message from the Principal

Dear parents/ carers,

Starting with some polite reminders;

Children are to wear school uniform/PE kit and plain black footwear and ask that alternatives that are not in line with our uniform guidance are not worn. Should children need to add layers for warmth, this should be a jersey or joggers for PE and not sporting items. This also applies to wearing layers beneath the polo shirt and ask that children wear the recommended jumper or cardigan. Please continue to label items to aid their safe return should they be misplaced. In addition, please ensure water bottles are not metal and clearly labelled.



The start of day routines are working well, with parents and children arriving ahead of the gate times. Please continue to drop and go, keeping the flow of pedestrian traffic. Punctuality is important and at times, this can be influenced by situations beyond our control, but those that are regularly late miss the start of the day and impacts in several ways and we are keen to minimise this. We will continue to communicate with parents/carers to improve arrival times. Can I also remind parents that late pick up also impacts on children and staff. Again, some situations are unavoidable and please know that your children are safe in our care and we appreciate the communication in regard to this. Children who are collected late, are not part of our After School Club Care and staff ratios are assigned to those with paid places. Should late pick up's occur children are supervised by our attendance officer. Should regular late pick up's occur communication will take place in offering a paid place in little Mariners to support families.



Our breakfast club is open to all children who attend the school from Reception through to Year 6. It opens at 7.30am and costs £3.50 per child per morning. A range of breakfast cereals are available along with toast and fruit juice. Our Little Mariners afterschool club is open as many times a week as required to children from Reception to Year 6. The club runs from the end of the school day until 6.00pm during term time and aims to provide fun activities including drama, art, cooking, computers and iPads and numerous sporting activities. The club costs £8 per day (reduced to £4 if pupils are collected by 4:15pm). Due to demand for bookable spaces and ratios, we cannot provide adhoc provision. Bookable spaces are allocated when applications are made and bookings are subject to availability.

I recognise the importance of wrap around care for some families. This is something that I have needed for my own children, from a young age. It is influential in our choices for Nurseries and Schools and impacts on work and



commitments. For some, they need care from the age of 2 and stay in a setting until school age, for others the length of day means that it is beyond school hours. During parental tours for prospective parents, a regular question relates to the extended care and clubs available and a factor in school selection. In addition, parents of young children at Nursery age need flexible arrangements and our Nursery provision provides a combination of hours and lunch provision to support families during the school day. Questions regarding extended care for Nursery age children has increased over time and I am interested in gauging parental voice on the need or interest in before/after school care for pre-school age children and a survey was sent today in relation to wrap around care and would be grateful that as many parents/carers complete the survey to gain a picture of need and preferences.

The survey also includes a question related to 2 year old provision. Currently, children join us from age 3 and 4 in our Nursery, or in the Reception year. Our Nursery children head across the Rockpool to their reception classes and children from local pre-schools or day nurseries join too. Our Nursery provision is in high demand with allocated spaces given and waiting lists in place. Early bookings are taking place for those below the age of 3 and look forward to them starting with us. It has been lovely to get to know some of the children, with a couple attending our Tiny Tiddler sessions. We currently have a group of parents attending our weekly session for under 3's and are enjoying getting to know our children early. It is lovely having Tiny Tiddlers here. After the success of Winterfest, I can share that Springfest is not too long away on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March. There are 20 spaces remaining for children of Nursery age or other local settings. You can book your child a place via their ParentPay account or email [mrsalexander@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk](mailto:mrsalexander@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk).



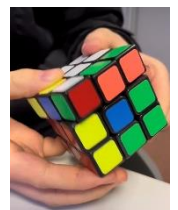
As you know, we value learning outside the classroom and the arts. Next week, we have a Tea and Talk planned with the lovely Miss Arnold and Mrs Buckley. Come along and find out how we teach outdoor learning and art and give your support on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 8.45am.

We continue to engage and support charitable events and on Red Nose Day will be raising awareness with staff and children wearing their red noses or red accessories. Assemblies will be focused on Red Nose Day and a challenge has been set across the academy, in line with Lego. Take a look at your ping messages as I know we have some Lego lovers who will want to undertake the challenge. Please send in your pictures to us.



This week, was International women's day, with reflections made on inspirational women of the past and those who inspire us now. Children shared some special messages on our Instagram page. Take a look. Many shared how their mums or other important motherly figures inspire them. Mother's Day is around the corner and the PTA will be on the school grounds next Friday for Sales. Thank you PTA and parents/carers for your engagement.

Finally, I love children sharing their achievements with me and celebration assembly is always packed with news. This week, I discovered that we have a Rubix Cube whizz and some children taking on the Rubix Cube. When I was young, the only way that I could complete the cube was to rearrange the stickers! This is not the case for some of our children who showed skill and speed. Our current whizz, can complete the cube in 16 seconds and applies a series of algorithms to be successful. My Preference was the game 'Jacks' and my sister could play 'Five Stones' fairly well. What did you play? Can you do the Rubix Cube?



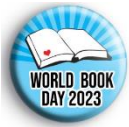
As always, enjoy your family together.

Mrs Nicholls



## Upper KS2 in the Spotlight

This term, Year 5 have answered the question... Who are we? Why do I live here? As geographers, the children started their journey of learning by looking closely at Ordnance Survey maps and identifying places that they recognise in the local area. They used a key to identify map symbols and then plotted these onto a map of the local area. Pupils discussed how having Hadleigh country park near them enabled them to ride their bikes and take long walks. Being so close to the beach meant pupils could build sandcastles and swim in the water. We discussed what there is in our local environment and its impact on the activities we do.



During World Book Day the children enjoyed dressing up as their favourite character or simply coming in to school in their cosy pyjamas just as they would before their bedtime read. Children spoke about their recommended reads and inspiring authors.

In RE, pupils have been finding out about Hinduism and the various celebrations within this faith. Pupils were intrigued to find out that children threw coloured chalk on adults during the festival of Holi. They asked if we could do this in school!



In writing, pupils are considering how to write a newspaper report. The Fairytale Times began with an article based on Hansel and Gretel. Pupils learnt how to report the shocking events and include quotes from eyewitnesses. Next week's issue includes what happened to a young girl who was rather fond of porridge!

Year 5 have worked hard on their assessments showing confidence, resilience and determination. Continue with TTRS and accelerated reader!

Year 6 have been working hard in our build up to SATs. We are now putting into practise some of the learning and life skills that we learnt in Spring 1 where we have thought about our personal learning journeys. It has been wonderful to see the children take responsibility for their own progress and identify where they need to improve. Our connected curriculum for this half term focuses on geography and is entitled 'The great UK geographical challenge'. We will focus on the UK by using atlases and knowing the differences between towns and cities as well as counties and countries. In RE we have enjoyed studying Hinduism. As part of our British values, we understand that we must be tolerant of all faiths and beliefs and have had challenging conversations about all aspects of religion and are learning that it is acceptable to respectfully disagree. In writing we have focused on building atmosphere and tension through writing about Tom Daly and Usain Bolt. We are now moving onto writing a newspaper report based on the



escaped convict, Sirius Black. It is a piece that allows children to draw on their literary language from books that they have read.



We thoroughly enjoyed world book day and the fantastic costumes and pyjamas that everyone came to school in. It was wonderful to share our favourite books with parents who came in to read with children. We even had a visit from two bananas in pyjamas!

A big thank you must be given for our last cake sale. We had an enormous number of delicious cakes brought in and very generous customers who enabled us to make a grand total of £390. Thank you all again!





An exciting time was had by all on our recent trip to Southend High School for Boys. Their sixth form put on a magnificent production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.' The acting was brilliant and year six came away excited about Shakespeare and keen to know more. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't great but we showed resilience in the face of adversity.



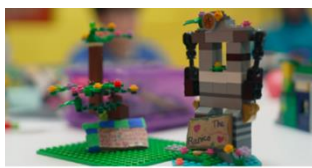
## Red Nose Day – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March

Comic relief and Lego have teamed up to set all children a challenge this year. As a school, we are going to take part!



### The Challenge

Comic relief and The Lego Group are calling on children up and down the country to get involved in a creative building challenge. Children need to use their imagination to build or make something that will **make someone smile and have a positive impact on the world.**



It could be something that supports nature and the environment, helps reduce loneliness or improves accessibility for those with mobility issues.

Over the weekend and next week, we are challenging children to build their idea (with Lego or recycled materials) ready for them to bring in and share on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March, children can come to school wearing red noses and red accessories, you can pay your child's £1 donation via their ParentPay account.

## Padel – Garons

Mr Blewett and Mr Turner have recently taken up Padel Tennis, a really fun sport which can be enjoyed by all! They are offering free lessons this March for anyone interested in starting a new sport. All details are on the poster, please let Mr Blewett or Mr Turner know if you go, it will be great to hear how you get on.



## Easter holiday HAF vouchers

Families eligible for free school meals will receive their 'Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) vouchers' on 13 March 2023. Should you have any questions please e mail: [finance@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk](mailto:finance@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk)



## Pre Loved Sale

Our aim is for pre-loved uniform to be available to everyone. The pre-loved uniform can be purchased, for a small donation, in the main school hall on the following dates:

Date	Time	Area
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 23	3.30pm – 4pm	Main Hall
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July 23	3.30pm – 4pm	Side Hall

We welcome donations of your used logo or non-logo school uniform, shoes or PE kit that are in good condition to the school office. By donating or using pre-loved uniform, you:

- support the school
- help others
- save good clothes from landfill
- help the environment

*\*Please note that stock may be limited*

We will also be including a pre loved toys, books and games stand. We would be grateful of any donations of these items and will gladly accept them at the Office.

## Great British Spring Clean Litter Pick

This year again, we will be hosting a community litter pick as part of the Great British Spring Clean 2023. It will be taking place from Leigh-on-Sea train station on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 10am-12noon. The Eco Committee would love for it to be a sponsored litter pick again, raising money for SVP St Vincent's Centre, Southend. You can find out more about this wonderful charity here: <https://www.svp.org.uk/st-vincent-southend> if your children would like to take part and require a sponsorship form, please email [generalenquiries@darlinghurst.org.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@darlinghurst.org.uk)

## PTA events coming soon

'Thank you for the love' Mother's Day event will take place in school on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Your child can chose from a selection of gifts for £2 and can be paid via their ParentPay account.

Easter colouring competition with prizes



## Attendance

### EYFS

Jellyfish 99.3%  
Starfish 95.5%

### KS1

Shrimp 97.5%

### KS2

Stingray 100%  
Dune 97.9%





## Proud to be me



Well done to Marlow from Lobster for her excellent writing in class this week!

Nika and Jack from year 3 were proud to show their medal and trophies to Mrs Nicholls after taking part in a gymnastics display and football tournament.



Well done to Hector in Lobster class. He has received Student of the week at his Kung Fu session. Hector strives to achieve this every session and has been the most successful student in achieving this award 4 times.

Our kitchen staff were grateful to have extra help from Max in year 3 this week!



Emily from year 6 was inspired by the text 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' and did some writing at home about a camp and escape. Mrs Nicholls shared the story written by her grandad, 'Hole in the Wall' about one of the escapes he made as a prisoner of war. He escaped several camps ahead of being sent to Colditz Castle - the highest security!

Bethany in year 5 enjoys some down time and produces little drawings. Mrs Nicholls loves Stitch!



What have you missed on Instagram this week?

