



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

Over the last few weeks, we have been empowering children to express themselves. This has been through a series of events and linked to National days and awareness campaigns such as LGBTQ+ History Month, International Women's Day and the 'Let Girls Play Campaign'. There has been a hive of activity including children sharing their homework projects and collectively focusing on celebrating uniqueness. We have been singing our song in assembly with enthusiasm and I know many children recorded themselves singing the song at home as part of the homework project.

'You are you, I am me, celebrate variety. Let love shine through. You are you, I am me, rich in our diversity, together we make harmony...uniqueness gives us power!'

This open-ended task led to an array of work in multiple mediums: from posters and poems, collages, biographies, videos of songs, raps and performance. Not only did the children embrace the opportunity to express themselves to share with each other, but it provided a platform to express their beliefs and hopes for the future; for a world of tolerance and mutual respect of difference and celebrating diversity. It was a powerful project with a personalised approach. Thank you for encouraging your children to participate.



At Darlinghurst, we learn from the example of successful people and during recent events our children have looked at examples such as Sir Elton John and Tom Daley during variety week and influential women on International Women's Day. We talked about the important women in our lives and those that have made their mark in history. The children learned about gender equality for a fairer world with some staff and children standing together in solidarity striking the pose **#breakthebias**. We received words of encouragement from parents celebrating parents and teachers for the role they play and thanks for promoting the

importance of equality and opportunity for all. These words of encouragement are always gratefully received. Thank you for taking the time to share.

During KS1 assembly I shared the story, 'My Shadow is Pink' by Scott Stuart, challenging gender stereotypes. Children in KS1 shared their own interests and shadows. In Upper key stage 2 they learned about International Women's Day and how it addresses issues of inequality. According to UNICEF 2020 only 66% of countries worldwide provide equal education opportunities to both girls and boys.



Following International Women's Day, our girls were encouraged to engage in the girl's biggest football tournament ever; part of the 'Let Girls Play Campaign' by the FA. The PE department encouraged girls across the academy from Reception to year 6 to take part. The take up was overwhelming with 170 girls taking part. They were empowered by messages sent to them from Professional footballers such as: Sophie Harris, Amber Stobbs, Rosella Ayane, Kyah Simon, Jemma Purefield, Esmee DeGraaf and Kerys Harrop from Leicester City, Tottenham Hotspur and Crystal Palace. The children were so pleased to receive the messages.

Children played within their teams, named after the current teams in the Women's Super League. Fun was had by all across the academy day with children encouraging and celebrating each other's success. It was a momentous moment in our sports provision. Mr Felton, Mr Blewett and Miss Morris were extremely proud of the amount of children who signed up and their comradery. 'The smiles on their faces and the cheers from the side-lines were magic.' Thank you to the PE team for this great event. It was a fun packed day and their energy and passion shone throughout. A great team!]



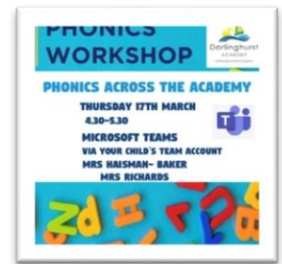


In Reception, our children even went to SPACE this week. Planning and preparing their trip, including their sandwiches. Miss Wise led the launch and together they went to the moon in their imaginative journey. They even put the Darlinghurst flag on the moon too!

Some year two children also enjoyed exploring the grounds building habitats for creatures using natural resources. They made bird nests and other habitats and enjoyed getting a little muddy too! It was lovely to see.

It is our intention to empower our children to believe in the power of possibility and to possess the emotional resilience and character to succeed. This has certainly been the case in these events. Year six have also demonstrated determination and resilience in their mock Sats this week. The staff team have been impressed with their confidence and application. Mr Turner said that the children have worked really hard and we are looking forward to celebrating their achievements and working together to prepare for the real thing, in May. Ahead of the Sats we will share some resources and ideas to support learning at home.

Coming soon is another parent workshop to support children at home with Phonics. This workshop will show how phonics is taught across the academy to increase children's fluency and accuracy in reading. Log in on 17th March at 4:30pm to MS TEAMS and join Mrs Haisman-Baker and Mrs Richards. Thank you to parents who attended the Times table rockstar workshop last week. If anyone missed it and would like to find out more please contact the academy and Mr Turner will be in touch. Thank you for your participation and support.



As always enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls

From the Rockpool

This week, the Rockpool have ended our learning about space with a trip to the moon. See instagram for our amazing photographs of the fantastic event which included eating our picnic on the moon after our eventful journey! The Early Years team have been impressed with how enthusiastic each child has been with their new learning and it is a joy for us to see them progressing in their development as well as their friendships. Next week we will begin another exciting topic. What do you think it may be? As always, we hope that you have a wonderful fun packed weekend. The Rockpool Team

Around the Academy

This week in **Year 1**, we have been looking at addition and subtraction equations in maths. The children have worked really hard to work out the missing parts in the equations and continued to use their counting skills. They have used resources such as cubes to work out the answers. In writing, we have written our own set of instructions on 'How to plant a sunflower seed'. We have remembered all the key elements to write our instructions and included headings, sub headings and fronted adverbials of time to make our writing even better. During topic, the children have become scientists and were able to plant a sunflower seed. They used the instructions from writing to help them remember how to plant the seeds and know what order to do the tasks in. Over the next few weeks we will be monitoring and observing what happens to our plants.

This week, **Year 2** have been making use of our outdoor learning resources by building birds nest using natural material and mud. We have been writing a story about how the elephant got its trunk and thinking about other animals with unusual features in preparation for writing our own stories next week. In PSHE we have explored the similarities and differences between people and thought about how we are all really just the same.



Year 3 have had a great week being scientists and setting up different investigations. We are investigating what plants need to survive and observing what happens to them if they don't have water, warmth or light. We have also learnt how water travels through plants by placing celery sticks in different coloured water – it was strange to see red celery! In our SPACE lessons, we have been discovering the impact of climate change on our planet and discussing how much energy is used in food production. The children were shocked to realise how much food is wasted in the UK each year and how much energy was wasted as a result! Also, in writing, we have been exploring rhyming patterns in different mini-beast poems. Ask your child to tell you the three different patterns we have learnt. Please continue to collect resources for your child's bug hotel, we are really looking forward to making them in the last week of the term.

Mr Turner is now holding a weekly TTRS assembly where he shares the children's progress and celebrates those that have made the most improvement. Please help your child by ensuring they play TTRS every night.

In **Year 4** this week we have been writing to inform our audience all about the amazing complex organs inside our body. We have been really impressed at how the children have transferred their knowledge, learnt in Science, into their writing lessons. In maths, we have enjoyed exploring decimals and spotting patterns when we multiply and divide numbers by 10 and 100. In Religious Education we are learning about festivals that are celebrated by Muslims, this week we have looked at Eid al Fitr and considered the similarities of this festival to other religions. In science, using mirrors to look inside their mouths, the children enjoyed counting how many teeth they have and learning about the jobs of different teeth. Keep up the amazing work on TTRS. We wish you all a lovely weekend with your families.

This week has been a busy one in **Year 5!** We have been writing newspaper reports about the Hansel and Gretel story. In maths we have been discovering the world of fractions, decimals and percentages and in music, we have been exploring Will Smith's Fresh Prince of Bel Air song. We have learnt which Hindu gods and goddesses are best for different situations in RE. In science we have been understanding the life-cycle of a flowering plant. To finish this off this exciting week, we have been celebrating International Women's Day with many of the girls taking part in a fantastic football tournament run by the PE department.

During our science revision topic **Year 6** have been having great fun experimenting with conductors and insulators. We have also celebrated 'International Women's day' addressing issues of representation and equality of pay in the workplace. In PSHE, our new topic is called 'Knowing me, knowing you' and we addressed actions and their consequences. The particular dilemma they discussed was finding money in the cloak room and how they would react. We had some very interesting discussions! Year 6 have also been sitting assessments this week, these will inform the teachers of children's errors, which the teachers will address in time for their SAT's week in May. The children have taken them in their stride and are making good progress. Thank you to all the parents that have sent in contributions for the Key Stage 2 cake sale.



'Let Girls Play' football tournament

On Wednesday, the PE team ran a girls football tournament in line with an FA campaign to give all girls equal access to football by 2024. To motivate the girls for this big event, video messages of encouragement were sent from current professional footballers. This included players from Leicester City, Tottenham Hotspur & Crystal Palace. The children were delighted to receive the messages and were truly inspired.



There was such a great uptake with 165 girls signed up! We knew we had a brilliant day lined up and couldn't wait to kick off. The tournament started with our youngest players, the reception girls, coming out to the field to participate. With great determination and excellence the girls battled through a series of games scoring an amazing amount of goals. As the goals kept coming so did the smiles on their faces. Watford FC were crowned champions of the morning session and held the trophy, high in the air, with plenty of cheers from their Reception friends. A great team spirit.



After lunch it was time for the KS1 & KS2 tournament. KS1 came out raring to go and were led to their pitches to start the matches. Mr Clarke took a fantastic video of all the children playing all at the same time, capturing this wonderful moment. With a great sense of belonging, the teams shared words and acts of encouragement not only to their own teams, but to others throughout the whole afternoon. All the teams played 7 games each. The girls were incredibly tired, yet were easily as determined to make sure their team collected as many points as possible. They eagerly awaited the announcement of the winning team. With all points tallied up, Watford FC, once again, came out on top with a whopping 16 points with Esther being the top goal scorer of the tournament!

Finally, but by no means least, the KS2 girls football tournament was left. The girls were allocated teams and their team names. Many of the girls recognised the team names from the video shown of the professionals beforehand. It was great to see so many of the teachers coming out to watch the girls participate and perform, showing yet again a fantastic sense of belonging. The teachers cheered and encouraged from the side lines. The PE team couldn't believe the amount of goals being scored in the tournament with one game ending 6-4! The day finished up with a presentation for the winning team in KS2 which was... Crystal Palace! With cheers and claps from the opposition they lifted the trophy and this brought an end to what was an incredible day! The day inspired children to sign up to outside clubs too, which is so pleasing to see. Well done to all involved and what a great day it was!



Mr Blewett



Attendance

EYFS

Jellyfish 98.8%

KS1

Shrimp 96.7%

KS2

Seashell 98.3%

Strand 96.5%



Please note, we have updated our guidance on infection control, please refer to the message sent via Ping where the guidance is attached.



Are you committed to an inclusive education?
Can you support the development of our EAL children?
Apply for this great role

EAL learning assistant
(term-time only)
FIXED TERM FOR ONE YEAR
Start March 2022

Please contact
lindsey.corben@legratrust.org.uk

EAL Learning Assistant (Term-time only)

FIXED TERM FOR ONE YEAR

Pay range: LGPS £18933 - £20092 (pro-rated)

Start March 2022

This is a great opportunity to join the Darlinghurst team in the role of an EAL Learning Assistant. In this role you will be assigned to children whom English is not their first language. The role will include supervising and supporting teaching activities to individuals and groups both in the classroom and interventions.

Applications and further details are available from our website or lindsey.corben@legratrust.org.uk

Red Nose Day is coming



This year we are supporting the important work that the Red Nose funding organisations do in supporting people in the UK and abroad, including those in Afghanistan and Ukraine.

On Friday 18th March children can come to school, in support, wearing: their red noses and/or red accessories with their school uniform.

Donations to this good cause can be made through Parent Pay.

Whatever we do, no matter how small, we can all help people live free from poverty, violence and discrimination.





Workshops

PHONICS WORKSHOP

PHONICS ACROSS THE ACADEMY

THURSDAY 17TH MARCH
4.30-5.30

MICROSOFT TEAMS
VIA YOUR CHILD'S TEAM ACCOUNT
MRS HAISMAN-BAKER
MRS RICHARDS

WORKSHOP

ACCELERATED READER

THURSDAY 24TH MARCH
4.30-5.30

MICROSOFT TEAMS
VIA YOUR CHILD'S TEAM ACCOUNT
MR DUNNE
MRS RICHARDS

WORKSHOP

KS2 MATHS

WEDNESDAY 30TH MARCH
4.30-5.30

MICROSOFT TEAMS
VIA YOUR CHILD'S TEAM ACCOUNT
MRS DUNNE

Keep Britain Tidy's Great Big School Clean

The 25th March to 10th April is Keep Britain Tidy's Great Big School Clean. As well as having our annual cleanest classroom competition and litter picking within the school grounds, our Eco Committee will be organising a Beach Clean at Chalkwell Beach with Southend Beach Care on Sunday 3rd April 10-11.30am. We will be meeting at the lifeguard station. The children have decided to make it a sponsored litter pick and the money raised will go to local homeless charity, St Vincent de Paul, Southend Branch. All sponsorship money can be paid to ParentPay from 21st March to 19th April. Attached is a poster outlining details for the litter pick and a sponsorship form should your child wish to take part. If your family would like to attend, please email generalenquires@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk as numbers will be limited based on equipment availability. You are, of course, welcome to bring your own equipment to the event if you have it.



Year 6 fundraising cake sales

Year 6 will be continuing with their cake sales to help them raise funds for their traditional end of year activities. Please bring some change to school and show them your support! Reception and Key Stage 1 will be able to buy cakes on Friday 25th March.

Pantomime – Cliffs Pavilion – 9th December



We have secured fantastic tickets in the stalls for £25 each, tickets are limited and on a first come first served basis. They will be available to buy via your child's ParentPay account on Monday, 14th March.



What
have you
missed on
Instagram
this week?

