



From the Rockpool

This has been a super exciting week during our lifecycle topic as we had some visitors arrive on Monday morning. Jellyfish Class, Starfish Class and Nursery have welcomed their own small caterpillars to experience observing part of the caterpillars life cycle into a butterfly. How exciting! The caterpillars were tiny and about 1cm long when they arrived and are growing rapidly. Our story this week was 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson which led us to explore story maps to retell the story in our own words. The teachers were impressed with the children's understanding of the story and their developing story language. Perhaps you could all make up a family story together this weekend? Have fun!

Around the Academy

In writing this week, the children in **year 1** have enjoyed learning lots of new and interesting facts about owls. They were able to write a non-fiction piece of writing including all the facts they have found out this week. During our topic lessons they have looked and discussed the artist Wassily Kandinsky and discussed natural and man-made sources of light. The children created a picture using Kandinsky's techniques and really enjoyed becoming artists for the afternoon. We have had a great week in year 1!

In **year 2** this week we have read the story of Captain Plank. He is a pirate who is really struggling to be good at it and he has to overcome lots of hurdles to be a success. Next week the children will be writing their own version of the story with its very own set of unfortunate happenings. Our Global dimensions unit has had us exploring the concept of Fair Trade. The children have found out where many of the foods that they eat every day actually come from and they have discovered that not everyone is paid fairly for producing our food. We have been able to make the most of the marvellous weather (mostly) this week as the children used charcoal to make observational sketches of some of the trees that we are lucky enough to have on our school grounds. We are all very excited about the tie dying that we will be doing next week. Thank you for all of the pale coloured t-shirts that have come into school already. If you have any issues with locating one please let one of the team know and we will see what we can do to help.

In **year 3** this week it has been all about board games. We have been writing instructions on how to play our favourite board games and then designing and making our own board games. We have had games set in a city, the jungle, under the sea, in a volcano and even in an alternate universe. Our preparations for our Jubilee celebrations have begun as we learn to sing the national anthem and think about how the Queen works in the community. We have also been learning about colours and how to count to 5 in French.

Year 4 have worked so hard this week! In our topic work, we have been designing trains of the future and we've had solar powered, underwater and ones that float in the air! We've been really impressed with how the children have used current technologies, including eco ones and taken them into futuristic designs. In writing we have been making links to how trains are used for different reasons with a short story extract about two very different passengers on a train with one annoying the other. In maths we have been learning about angles. See if your children can spot a right, acute or obtuse angle at home or outside. We hope you are getting on well with your 2 week homework project and completing an act of kindness in the local community. We can't wait to see what you have all been up to when it is due next week. Don't forget to keep going with that 10mins per day engagement at home with TT Rockstars too!

This week **year 5** have enjoyed monitoring their bread experiment, checking every day for change. They have been referring back to their predictions and explaining the science behind what has happened and why this is the case. In writing, the children have created a poem inspired by Kit Wright's The Magic Box. From a vicious volcano erupting bubbling lava to a brick from the Great Wall of China, the children's boxes contained the most imaginative, brilliant, weird and wonderful things which they enjoyed performing to the class. In history, Year 5



explored men and women's fashion from the Georgian period, identifying the dangers of makeup of that time and how this has evolved into the style of today.

In **year 6** we have been sitting our SATs this week. We have enjoyed breakfast together each morning in preparation. The children were well prepared took on the tests with confidence. In our lessons we have doing pieces of art work in the style of Lowry and Andy Warhol. Year 6 are also studying music, events and art of the 1950's. The children will be researching an area of choice in groups and presenting their projects to Year 6. We enjoyed our barbecue and play this afternoon.

PGL 2022 (current year 6)

Mr Turner will be holding a parent information session about the residential trip in the school hall at 6.15pm on Thursday, 9th June. Your child is welcome to join you.

PGL 2023 (current year 5)

Further to Mr Turner's information session for year 5 parents about next years residential, if you would like your child to attend, please transfer £30 to your child's ParentPay account by the 20th May. The full charge will be £330. Mr Turner will run another information session in the coming weeks.

Eco Update

Terracycle sadly stopped the crisp packet scheme last month. As a result, we no longer recycle crisp packets and cannot accept any donation. You can take your crisp packets to most supermarkets: The Co-op, Tesco's, Sainsburys and Morrisons to recycle instead.

However, we have been able to sign up to two new schemes instead. Your child will be able to recycle these items using the box in the dining room. We will also have a box in the office for anyone wishing to drop off the below items. Please note, anything you do recycle with Darlinghurst Academy through the scheme will be converted into points that we can use for funds for the school.

Please see the below for more information on the new schemes and what waste is accepted.





Census Day– Thursday 19th May

We will be offering a **fish and chip lunch** on Thursday 19th May to coincide with the summer term statutory school census which will take place on that day. **Vegan sausage rolls** will also be available as well as jacket potatoes and pick n' mix. Chocolate brownies will be served for dessert.

It's one of our favourites and we would love as many children as possible to participate!

The school receives funding from the government based on the number of children entitled to free school meals who order a school meal on census day.

To maximise the funding that the school receives, we would ask that all pupils who are eligible to receive a free school meal please order a meal on Thursday 19th May.

This includes all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (who are entitled to a free school meal, irrespective of family income) and children in Years 3 – 6 who are entitled to a free school meal due to family circumstances.

There will be a menu change on Friday 20th May, when the main dishes will be Smokey Joe chicken and vegetable & bean loaf in place of fish and chips.



Attendance

EYFS

Jellyfish 97%

KS1

Albatross & Seagull 98%

Puffin 97%

KS2

Strand 99%

Billet, Victoria, Bembridge and Mayflower 98%



