



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

This week has been Eco Week and children have been making links across the curriculum to deepen their understanding of Environmental Science. They have demonstrated a sound knowledge and awareness in this area through their discussions and explanations using a high level of subject specific vocabulary. This was evident within lessons and during my assembly focusing on climate change. The children provided me with a wealth of knowledge in relation to what impacts on climate change and their suggestions on raising awareness to influence change. We used the story Greta and the Giants as a stimulus and talked about the strength of 'pupil voice' and the 'collective voice' to be heard and make a difference. Our children are an inspiration and as active citizens at Darlinghurst, know that their actions and voice is heard. They are passionate in their actions and beliefs. At Darlinghurst, we have been an Eco School since 2017 with receipt of the Green Flag last year. We also teach climate change as a unit of learning and are in our second year within this programme of learning. The DFE are drafting a proposal that a strategy for schools to teach climate change as part of the future curriculum and in support of sustainability.

In year six, the children have also been applying their knowledge and skills in spelling, punctuation and grammar, reading, arithmetic and maths reasoning across the year six curriculum. They demonstrated positive learning attitudes alongside this half terms learning and life skill – becoming better learners looking at their next steps. During discussions in the year six assembly we talked about the importance of finding time for mindfulness and relaxation, especially at times where they are studying. They reflected on their own special places to relax at home and how places in nature could support their emotional health and physical health. We all took a minute to pause and be mindful together.

Mrs Cooke has shared some suggestions within this week's news and views on ways to focus and develop this half terms learning and life skill at home. Maybe the family could choose a target or goal together. If you decide to take a mindful walk or take on a learning and life skills goal we would love to see a photograph. Please send photographs to general enquiries email titled LLS or Mindfulness.

As always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls

From the Rockpool

This week Nursery and Reception have discussed how we can help look after the planet. We shared the story of 'Greta and the Giants', which led to the children wanting to know how we can recycle waste. We enjoyed sorting rubbish into various piles such as food, textiles, plastic bottles and crisp packets. It is amazing how many items can be recycled and put to good use. Lots of the children delighted in creating musical instruments out of cardboard boxes and are now being used in our outdoor Music Den. Perhaps you could upcycle something at home this weekend?

Please ensure all items that come into school with your child (Nursery and Reception) are labelled at all times. This includes, scarves, gloves and hats. Also, please ensure that your **Reception** child has a labelled water bottle in school every day. We return these home at the end of each school day, in order for them to be cleaned and returned with fresh water in. The children are able to refill their bottle throughout the day when necessary. Have a wonderful weekend. The Rockpool Team



Around the Academy

Year 1 have really enjoyed Eco Week! We have read and then used the story 'Someone Swallowed Stanley' by Sarah Roberts to support our writing. This story is about what happened to a plastic bag when it fell into the ocean and the creatures that it could have affected before a child finds it and upcycles it into a kite to play with. From this story we have discussed the serious implications of litter affecting the natural world as a whole. We were also lucky to have Mrs Powell popping in to tell us about her litter picking group near her home and how we can join in with litter picking in our own school at lunchtimes. The children were all interested in using the grabber tool! Linking to our homework we also had a great lesson helping Miss Krise and Mrs Dutton to sort out their household recycling into the correct bags and containers that are provided for our local area homes.

Year 2 have had an enjoyable week finding out about sources of renewable energy, particularly wind turbines as part of our eco week learning. We found out some amazing facts. Did you know that a wind turbine is 55 elephants tall? That the ends of the blades move twice as fast as a cheetah? That one wind turbine can produce enough electricity to power 1000 houses? We have also had a go at making our own wind turbines, it was a fiddly but rewarding process and all of the children showed the determination to keep on trying when things got a bit tricky. This also gave them the opportunity to use one of their Learning and Life Skills 'I can identify what I need to do to finish a task', as they had to ensure that they had correctly assembled all of the component parts in order to assemble the final product. We now have some lovely mini wind farms in our classrooms, it is just a shame that they cannot actually produce electricity!

In **Year 3** this week we have been discussing what it means to be environmentally friendly. We talked about litter picking and reusing, recycling or repairing things rather than throwing them away. The children came up with some great ideas; wellie boot plant pots, cardboard box puppet theatres and blankets made from old clothes. We also had a fantastic talk from Mrs Denyer about her eco-friendly company 'Organically Epic'. The children were amazed at how many products contained plastics and how by swapping some basic materials, we could help the plastic pollution issue so much. In our curriculum work we have learnt about Guatemala and how plastic pollution became such a problem for them, they actually banned the use of single use plastic bags and bottles in 2019. We have also used our persuasive skills in a letter to the environment minister detailing steps that could be taken to help with the UN Global Goals initiative. We have also begun learning some basic greetings in French – ask your child how they would say hello to their friends and their teacher! We would like to say thank you for all the lovely comments during parents evening this week. If anyone missed their appointment or was unable to book one and would like to speak to the class teacher, please email general enquires and they will pass the message on.

To celebrate Eco week, **Year 4** have been carefully thinking about their carbon footprints and different ways they can cut down their own carbon footprint. This then led them to consider how they can help their school peers and families do the same. It is amazing to see how caring they have been about helping to cut down their footprints. To continue on the focus of Eco week we were extremely privileged to have a guest speaker, Mrs Clark-Deyner, who passionately shared with the class about her eco-friendly company Organically Epic which has created a line of dental care made prominently from bamboo. The children were grateful for the chance to ask her questions about her inspirational company and how she has kept her company's carbon footprint low.

In maths, the children have been consolidating their understanding of adding and subtracting fractions before moving onto adding and subtracting fractions greater than one. The use of Multi-link cubes and bar models have really helped the children when subtracting from mixed fraction numbers.

In writing, the children have created a character description of Mr Willy Wonka exploring his appearance, personality and other facts surrounding him. It has been a pleasure to read descriptive paragraphs of writing which painted a clear picture of Wonka in our minds.

In topic lessons, the children have been exploring how chocolate is made. Looking at the 3 particular stages of production: harvesting, fermenting and drying. They then researched the Ivory Coast which is a major supplier of chocolate and created an Ivory Coast fact file. The children then considered the impact rain or bad weather would have on the people who help harvest Cocoa beans and the wider impact it would cause.



It has been another busy week in **Year 5** with a look at all things environmental during Eco-Week 2022. In Topic this week we have looked at the environmental impact of fairs and fairgrounds as well as having a guest speaker on zoom. Peter Littlewood at the Young Peoples Trust for the Environment explained to the children the impact climate change is having on the environment. Once Peter had given his talk he then allowed the children to ask some of their own questions with some very thoughtful ideas.

We have enjoyed talking to you during our parent consultations and if there are any parents and carers who did not manage to book an online appointment please let the office know so that we can book a future appointment to discuss your child's progress.

Year 6 have been working really hard on their assessments for our mock SAT'S. We are really pleased with the progress they are making and the mature attitude that the children have shown towards their work. The teachers will continue to work on children's errors in order to prepare them for secondary school. It is Eco week and Year 6 enjoyed a very informative talk about the psychology and benefits of playing and working in the great outdoors. It was based on a lecture that is normally given to University students! In science, we have been studying Adaptation and how animals evolve to survive on their habitats. Thank you to all of the parents that attended our consultation meetings. As requested, please look out for the Year 6 recommended reading list.

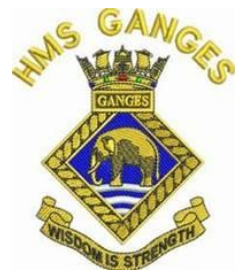
House Point Winners for Autumn 2 – HMS Ganges

Congratulations to HMS Ganges for winning the House Point Reward last half term. During the half term, each child works hard to earn house points. This could be through demonstrating effort in class, helping others, showing that they are ready to learn, making the right choices etc. These house points are collected in each week and weekly wins are announced in celebration assembly. At the end of the half term, the house that has the most wins across the half term celebrate together of their achievement. Each child in the winning house is invited to the side hall for hot chocolate and cookies and extra play and games outside.

The children were so excited and loved the session last Friday. Children said it was the best day ever and that they were so happy their house had won.

Well done HMS Ganges (Blue Team), keep earning those house points.

Mrs Hahn





Eco Week 2022



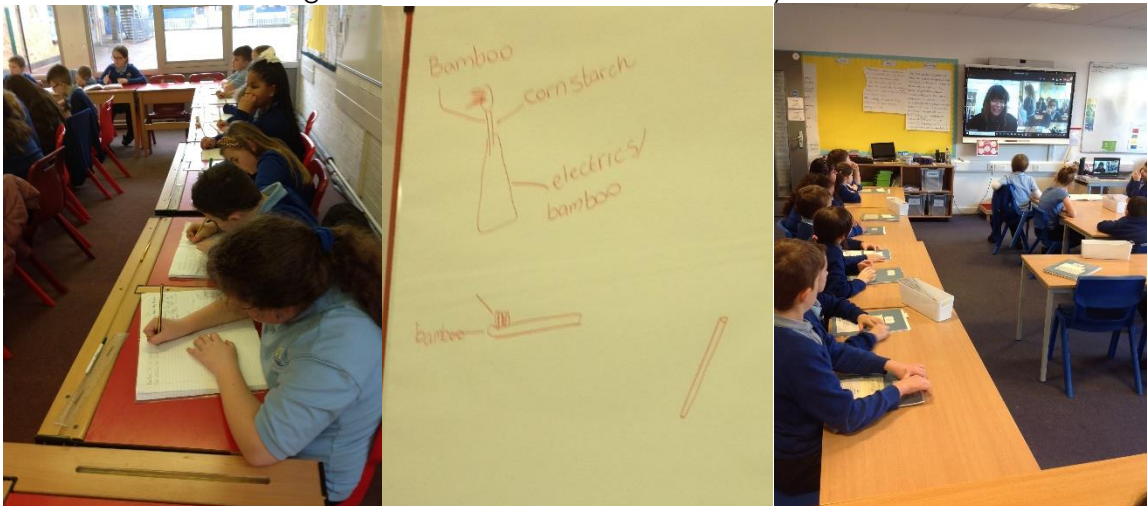
This week has been Eco week. Across the school, children have been learning about climate change and plastic waste, with some visitors talking to the children via Teams. In assembly, Mrs Nicholls read the story, 'Greta and the Giants' and talked about the importance of looking after our natural world.

In Reception and Nursery, the children have been reading books about the environment and learning about recycling.

Year 1 used the book 'Someone swallowed Stanley', a book about a plastic bag that gets swallowed by different animals in the ocean, as a basis for their writing. They also learned about recycling and sorted different materials into recycling and non-recycling. Mrs Powell gave a talk about her litter picking group.

Year 2 learnt about renewable energy and made wind turbines using recycled materials. Mrs Powell gave a talk about sustainable travel to them and they thought about the environmental impact of different types of transport.

Year 3 and 4 had a talk from one of our parents who runs an eco-business, Organically Epic which produces ethically sourced toothpaste and bamboo toothbrushes. The children had lots of questions and were absorbed in the learning. Year 4 also talked about how they could reduce their carbon footprint.

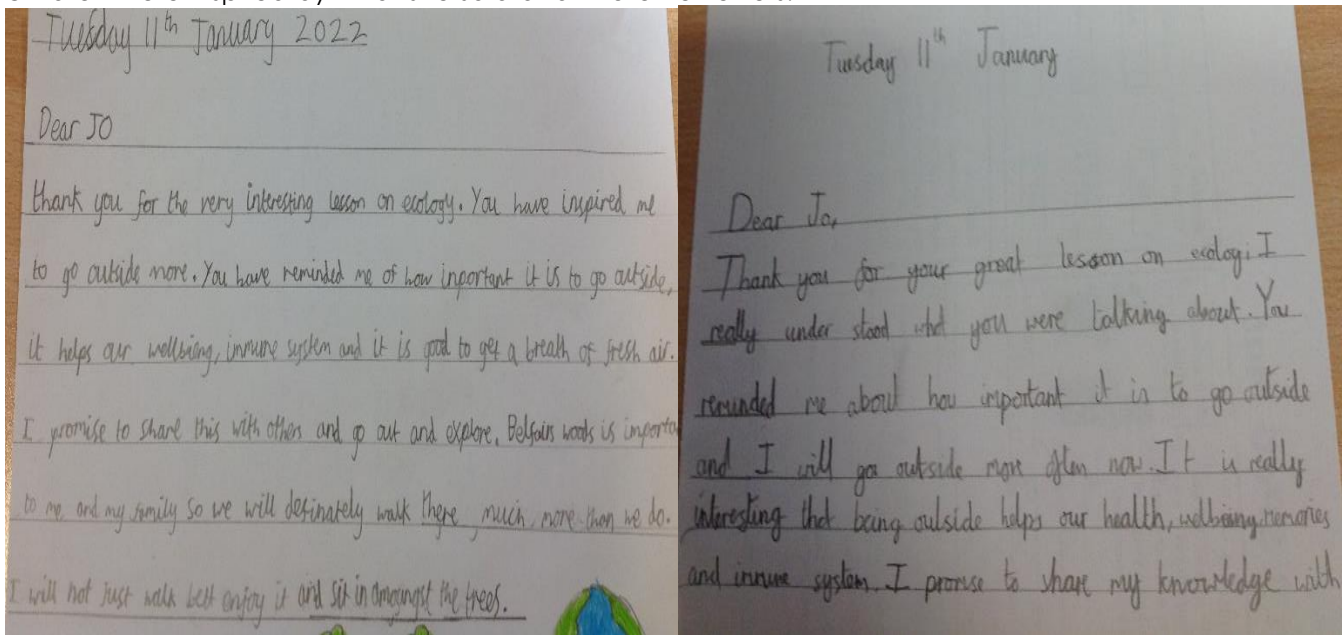




Year 5 had a talk from Peter Littlewood from YPTE about climate change via Teams. They loved asking him questions about what the future could look like and how they could solve the problems. In art, they have been making rollercoasters using recycled materials.



Year 6 had a talk from Jo Phillips about the benefits of outdoor learning and spending time outside. The children were inspired by what she said and wrote her letters.





During Eco Week children have been applying their knowledge and skills in Art and Outdoor learning and making cross curricular links to environmental science and learning units. They have considered recycling, the impact of plastics on wildlife and decomposition of litter. Children have demonstrated their learning and skills during sessions with great teamwork and problem solving together.





Learning and Life Skills

As mentioned by Mrs Nicholls last week this half term our LLS focus is 'Becoming Better Learners'.

Some of our targets in school for this half term are as follows:

EYFS: I can show what I think is good about some learning I have just done

Year 1: I can think of simple ways of improving the way I have done something

Year 2: I can identify what I need to do to finish a task

Year 3: I can set simple goals for myself

Year 4: I can complete homework assignments on time

Year 5: I can identify what I need to do in order to complete a task

Year 6: I can identify something that I need to practise and get better at



At home, you could try the following:

- Discuss with your child how they best like to learn – is it by writing things down, watching videos, reciting key facts, drawing diagrams?
- Discuss with your child what helps them to learn – is it playing relaxing music or being able to talk ideas through with someone else? You could relate this to their homework activities.
- Encourage your child to be 'ready to learn' by being on time in the morning with any homework or resources needed for the day.
- Learn a new skill together; it could be as simple as learning how to play a new game or learning a song/rhyme.
- Talk about your children's goals and how they could be achieved, what small steps could they take towards them?

We would love to hear how your children are getting on with these fundamental skills so please share any successes or pictures with us at generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk

Proud to be me

Sophia from Coral class came in first place and won a trophy in her dancing schools' choreographic competition where she made up her own dance. "It was really nerve-wracking making up and performing my own dance. I was really happy to win the competition and feel so proud of myself. "





EYFS

Starfish – 95.5%

Jellyfish – 94.4%

KS1

Lobster – 98.6%

Seagull – 97.4%

KS2

Wilton – 98.5%

Coral – 97.8%



Census Day– Thursday 20th January

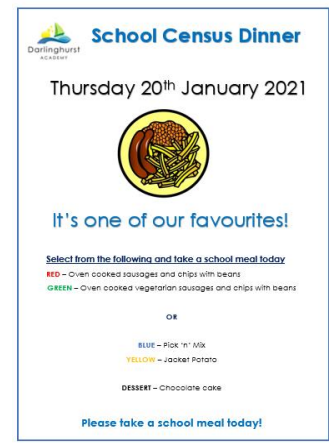
We will be offering a **sausage and chip lunch** (vegan or meat) on Thursday 20th January to coincide with the Spring term statutory school census which will take place on that day. **Jacket potatoes and pick n' mix** are also available and count as a school meal choice for the day too. **Chocolate cake will be served for dessert.**

Our sausages are one of our favourite lunch time meals and have been chosen for the day so that as many children as possible have a school meal on census day.

Why take a school meal on Census day?

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.

Children who are entitled to a free 'universal meal' in Reception, year one and two also count towards the figure. Please encourage your child in EYFS and KS1 to select a school food option so that we can maximise the funding that the school receives.



Free school meal choices also count towards our final total too. If eligible to receive a free school meal please order a meal on Thursday 20th January. If your circumstances have changed and you think you may be entitled to free school meals please e mail; mrslane@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk before census day.

Please note: There will be a slight menu change on Friday 21st January, whereby the main dishes of chicken goujons or salmon fishcakes will be served with potato wedges and vegetables instead of chips and baked beans.

Thank you for your continued support.



MID-DAY ASSISTANTS

Pay Range: £9.62 per hour

Hours of Work Monday to Friday – 8.5 hours per week (term-time only)

Why Legra Academy Trust? Why **Darlinghurst Academy**? We provide top quality, high impact early years, primary and secondary education in the county of Essex. We currently manage two academies in the Southend-on-Sea area: Darlinghurst Academy and Belfairs Academy. We are responsible for approximately 2000 young people from nursery to age 19 and employ around 250 staff. Each of our academies is fully committed to achieving excellence for the benefit of all our children, staff and the wider community. Our motto is 'Shaping the Future Together' and we really mean it - so why don't you come and help us achieve it? You can find out more about us at www.legraacademytrust.org.uk and www.darlinghurst.uk

An opportunity has arisen to join our team of Midday Assistants in supporting recreation activities ensuring high standards of safety. They will support play activities relevant to the ages of the children and lunch times, whilst maintaining high standards of discipline and behaviour. Desirable experience - NVQ 3 (level 3 childcare) as this role may require you to work with nursery children.

The Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The post will require an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service prior to commencement.

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

Closing date: 21st January 2022

Interview date: week commencing 31st January 2022

Start Date: February/March 2022

What have
you missed
on Instagram
this week?

