



Communication is a priority for us once again this year, we will communicate to parents and carers using **School Ping**. In addition, we use **Twitter and Instagram** to share what's going on within the Academy daily. Please make sure you are following us **@Darlinghurstsch** on Twitter and **@DarlinghurstAcademy** on Instagram


Message from the Principal

Dear parents & carers,

This week I must begin the Principals message by acknowledging the efforts of everyone in our community over the past couple of weeks, the adjustments made and the collective approach of our blended learning provision. There has been an extremely high volume of engagement in our blended learning, communication and feedback. This has been an important ingredient in the success of the past couple of weeks and the foundations for the weeks to come. I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers. Also I must thank those who sent messages to let us know how it has been going at home and thanking the staff for their hard work. The staff are providing daily teaching to our children and providing them with the consistency and continuity that they need.

It is a requirement for schools to provide a sound curriculum offer and the teachers are planning and delivering the curriculum, remotely, as we do in school wherever possible. We recognise the importance of live teaching and feedback and have given priority within our provision to live teaching sessions to each class but also in group sessions, such as running our phonics groups. Delivering our lessons, live also means that our children enjoy being together in the virtual classroom, maintaining social contact with their friends. I have enjoyed joining several of our virtual classrooms this week, keeping in touch with the children and seeing them live, in action – as mathematicians, historians and readers. It was also lovely to see and hear some parents too. We will continue to provide our gold package for Blended learning, alongside some independent learning opportunities to develop our children's skills and talents. Please encourage your children to take part in our PE and creative challenges. Our Instagram challenges, stories and celebrations are back again too. Please do share your home learning experiences with us.

This week, I also continued the theme within our virtual assembly, staying motivated at the start of the new year. Children and staff have been sharing contributions, with promises of more to come. Mrs Powell has linked the eco-challenge and learning and life skills to our motivators too – see the articles later in N & V



During the virtual assembly last week, Mrs Nicholls shared new year motivators with the children.

Here are our top ten

- 10 enjoy nature and fresh air
- 9 discover a fascinating story
- 8 learn a new song
- 7 accomplish an amazing feat
- 6 conquer a fear
- 5 follow your dream
- 4 have fun
- 3 keep in touch with friends
- 2 spend quality time with family
- 1 believe in the power of possibility

Stay safe and take time for yourselves

Please remember to inform us if your child has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19. This is an important part of our information sharing. We also ask that if your child is unwell with non-COVID related illness that you let our attendance officer know, who will in turn, let the class teacher know that your child is too unwell to attend learning that day. Should your child not be able to attend a live lesson, due to appointments or sharing a device, please do not worry. All lessons are recorded and stored for 21 days and can be accessed at an alternative time. We kindly ask that you let the class teacher know if you have viewed a recorded lesson.



The teachers or a member of the pastoral team will continue to conduct calls to assist families and also to simply check in and see how things are going. Thank you for talking to us and we are here to continue to support you, including any ICT needs. With communication in mind, this week we continued with our planned virtual parent consultation evenings, valuing the importance of sharing information and progress about our children. The platform worked well and engagement was positive.

Stay well and stay safe.

Finally, and number 2 of our motivators – enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls

Around the Academy

Wow what a week it's been for **Tiddlers!** Our story this week was Giraffes Can't Dance. All of the activities on tapestry and at the academy have been linked to this book. I have to say a massive thank you and a heartfelt well done to all parents! Having children at home myself, and working from home, I really do understand the difficulties you all face, but wow! You are all doing such an amazing job. We have had problems with tapestry this week, which is unfortunately out of our control, but they are doing everything in their powers to rectify this. Keep up the absolutely amazing work, parents and children, we are very proud of all that you have achieved!

Team Nursery

This week **Reception** have linked their learning to the story of 'Noah's Ark' and have had a wonderful time whether learning at school or online at home. We wrote sentences about different animals and were careful to use capital letters, finger spaces and a full stop. In maths the children used their own number line to help their counting skills. On Wednesday we all enjoyed singing the song 'The Animals Came in 2 by 2' which helped us think about doubling. We ended the week with a 'Jungle Adventure' bringing out the David Attenborough in ourselves! With our binoculars and dressed in camouflage gear we set off into the deep dark jungle to explore! To our delight we spotted many creatures such as slithering snakes and lurking lions! The Reception Team would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the families and carers for their support as we continue to navigate this new blended learning together.

Have a fantastic weekend! **The Reception Team**

Year 1 have been very busy learning at home and in school. We have read and learnt about the story 'How to catch a star'. The children have created sentences and written their own version of this story using their own ideas. In maths this week, we have continued looking at time. We have enjoyed recognising o'clock and half past times on a clock and had a go at drawing the times as well. In school, we even played 'What's the time Mr Wolf?' We have had lots of fun this week and well done to all the year 1 children, you are working extremely hard, keep it up!

Year 2 have got off to a flying start with our online learning. Pupil engagement has been amazing. Thank you so much to all of the children and grown-ups that have shown such enthusiasm. We have been writing the story of 'Toby and the Great Fire of London' adding our own adjectives, verbs and adverbs to make it more exciting. We have also been finding out about the fire triangle, how the Great Fire of London started and how it was eventually put out.

The children in **Year 3** have shown a lot of enthusiasm in our topic lessons this week where we have been exploring the cause and impact of climate change. We have been imagining that we are different animals and there has been a sudden change in climate... how do we feel? What are we worried about? Will we survive?

**BEING A FAMILY
MEANS YOU ARE PART OF
SOMETHING VERY WONDERFUL
IT MEANS YOU WILL LOVE AND BE LOVED
FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE
NO MATTER WHAT**



In maths, we have begun exploring our 'fractions' unit, looking at how we can divide different objects into various parts. Some parts have been equal whilst others are unequal. We have also been deciding what fraction of different objects people will receive.

We have also been focusing on finding and exploring our love of reading. We have discussed some of our favourite authors and favourite books in order to try and inspire one another to investigate the world of reading even further.

Happy new year and welcome back to all of **year 4!** It has been lovely to see and speak to so many of the year 4 children over teams the last two weeks. Well done to those of you logging on for every live lesson and sending us your work on DB Primary too. We have been focussing on 'Goblins' for our writing and have loved reading about your different ones! In maths we have been exploring fractions including how to compare fractions easily. Our TTRS battle has been fun this week too, with Great White Shark this week's winners. It was very close though so who knows who might win next week! Keep up the good work year 4 and remember to upload your work to DB Primary so we can see all of your efforts. **Mrs Cooke**

All of the **Year 5** team would like to say how proud they are of each and every one of you and how you have responded to remote learning. We know it is really different but you are all working so hard at home. We have begun our new unit of work which is all about World War One and will develop onto castles. The children have engaged well and have even been watching some of the Horrible Histories programmes that are based on that era. We have started a new number group and they are working really well, participating in lessons and eagerly showing their work through the screens. The rest of the year group have been learning about the link between percentages, fractions and decimals. In writing, we are writing a non-chronological report about the World Cup and have carried out some independent research. If you have any questions regarding the work, the live lessons or uploading work, please email the school and they will pass them on to us. Thanks to all the adults at home that are supporting their children so well too – it really does help us.

We have made an excellent start to remote learning in **Year 6**. They have coped very well with technical difficulties and are engaging really well with their teachers during live teaching lessons. As well as the live teaching sessions, the children are set independent work: 15 minutes of Times table Rockstars each day; reading for 20-30 minutes a day followed by an Accelerated Reader quiz and learning their spellings each week. In addition, we will set a Research project every two weeks. The children are currently working on aspects of World War Two, some examples are 'Role of Women', 'Hitler Youth', 'Land Army' and 'Weapons in World War 2'. They are presenting their Research projects on Friday afternoon. The next History focus is the Victorians so the children can start thinking about that. Please encourage your children to open emails well ahead of the live sessions and familiarise themselves with the resources. Thank you for all of the support you parents are providing and we all wish you the very best during these difficult times. Stay safe.

Time Tunnel

Are you feeling artistic? We know that we have many creative and talented children, parents, grandparents and family members amongst us and would love to have your art work displayed in our time tunnel. This invitation is open to family members, past and present, across all generations. After all, it is a time tunnel! Could you produce some artwork for one of the following time periods:

- Iron Age and Celts
- Ancient Greece
- Anglo-Saxons and Vikings
- Tudors
- The Georgians
- World War 2

Entries to be A1 or mounted. Let's get creative!





Times Table Rockstars

Have you seen how quick Dylan in year 5 can complete TTRS? https://www.instagram.com/tv/CJ-KzcJ7e2/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

TTRS Top Rockers - January Week 1			
	% of class that used TTRS last week	Average daily minutes	Average correct answers
1st	Wilton	Victoria	Victoria
2nd	Bell Wharf	Billet	Strand
3rd	Swordfish	Stingray, GWS, Swordfish, Strand, Endeavour, Wilton	Billet

NEW YEAR MOTIVATORS

No 7: Accomplish an amazing feat
Combined with no 1: Enjoy nature.



Take part in the Weekly Eco Challenge

As an Eco-school, each week I will be setting a different Eco challenge that you can complete at home with your children. We would love for you to share your photos and results via generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk or for your child to email me on DB Primary.

This week, the challenge will focus on biodiversity.

Biodiversity is the variety of life that can be found on our planet including plants, insects, animals and even micro-organisms. It is important to protect our planet's biodiversity because biodiversity protects us.

When you go out on your walk for your daily exercise and fresh air with your family, we'd like you to count how many invertebrates you see. This could be slugs, snails, worms, spiders, beetles – all types of creatures. You might need to look under logs or stones to find them. Perhaps you could draw a picture of what you find or find out some fascinating facts using this online encyclopedia. I look forward to seeing what you find!

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/animals-and-nature/>





Learning and Life Skills

Becoming a better learner

We are continuing our focus on the strand 'Becoming Better Learners' which involves children taking ownership of their learning and setting their own goals.

During this time, it is an ideal opportunity for you to explore with your child how best they learn and plan and prepare for ideal learning conditions such as how to manage distractions and establishing a routine at home. Perhaps you'd like to set some targets at home.

Here are some suggestions from the 'Learning Strategies' strand:

- **Early Years:** I can identify when I have succeeded in doing something for the first time.
- **Years 1 and 2:** I can identify simple strategies that have helped me learn something new.
- **Years 3 and 4:** I can comment on things that have helped me to learn "something new".
- **Years 5 and 6:** I can use a range of learning strategies and find reasons why I feel they are helpful.

Free school meals

Your child may be eligible to receive free school meals if you are claiming one of the following benefits:- • Income Support • Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance • Income-related Employment and Support Allowance • Support from NASS under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 • The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit • Child Tax Credit (as long as you are not also receiving Working Tax Credit) and have an annual gross income that does not exceed £16,190 • Working Tax Credit run-on • Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400) It is very easy to apply, simply email mrslane@darlinghurst.co.uk giving details of your National Insurance number and date of birth and we will then carry out the checks to confirm whether or not you are eligible. For families entitled to free school meals, supermarket vouchers will continue to be issued weekly, via WONDE. For those families whose children are currently attending school, vouchers will not be issued as a meal can be booked and provided in the normal way. If you have any questions or queries regarding the issue of supermarket vouchers, please email Miss Churchman at finance@darlinghurst.co.uk

What have
you missed
on Instagram
this week?

