



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 – Phonics in Nursery – Tuesday 21st March 8.45am
- Tea & Talk – KS1 Phonics & Reading – Tuesday 29th March 8.45am
- Pre-loved uniform, toy and book sale – Thursday 30th March 3.10pm

Message from the Principal

Dear parents/ carers,

Thank you for cooperation this week as I recognise that the industrial action meant changes to our weeks. Today, everyone was back at the academy for Red Nose Day. Some children even shared their limericks with me combining St Patricks Day and Red Nose Day.

During assembly and in class, children have engaged in activities and learned about the support that Comic Relief gives to others, showing empathy to others.

As you know, we love our Little Boat logo and this week Dino shared some creative writing describing Little Boat on a journey at sea.

'There was a sea, that brought me glee, I felt free. I explore as there is a lot more than I would have thought. I can chase a fish, I can swish and sway in the ocean as I play. I will watch the sun and have lots of fun. I calmly breath as I sail the sea'.

Children in year 6 also adapted their artwork of 'The Great Wave', by Hokusai to incorporate our Little Boat. Fantastic! Mansoor, really enjoyed creating the picture and sharing his art with me.



It was lovely to welcome back children from the 'Infant Music Festival' today. It is clear that they thoroughly enjoyed their musical experience. Also, some children attendance a 'Speed Stacks' festival and were amazed at the champions speed and skill.

Finally, wishing you a lovely weekend and wishing all those who are special to us a wonderful Mothering Sunday.

As always, enjoy your family time together.
Mrs Nicholls



EYFS in the Spotlight

Spring is here! Yes, the weather has been rather temperamental – raining, sleet, snow, wind, cloud, sun...! However, Nursery, Reception and our Rockpool garden are beginning to develop and grow in many varying ways.

In the Rockpool garden itself, the trees are showing new signs of life as they continue to bud, including our new saplings planted last year. How exciting! The Fairy Garden is bloom with colour, mainly with our hyacinths that have sprouted up from their bulbs that we planted in the ground last year. The flowers look colourful and smell rather nice too! The bug hotel is showing signs of many visitors and this week, bees have visited the garden seeking sustenance and will no doubt re-visit regularly during the coming months. Perhaps they will tell their bee friends to visit too.



Nursery have welcomed new children recently and they have all settled well into our daily routines and expectations so well. The Reception children and staff thoroughly enjoy welcoming new Nursery children and always try to help settle them as well, especially as many of them will join Reception later on this year. How lovely to realise that the children and staff across Nursery and Reception have such close relationships during their Early Years journey and experiences.

It is wonderful watching the children blossom in all areas of their learning. This term their reading has taken off which fits in well with our 'Read to Grow' theme. The children show a keen interest in reading and sharing their own books as well as listening to the teachers and KS2 Reading Ambassadors read them individually, in small groups and as a whole class. World Book Day was great fun and many families donated books to the school - Thank you for your donations, all are enjoying these. This has inspired a few of our Reception children to want to read to their own class at the end of the day. Sometimes the children know many of the words but often they are sharing the pages of the book with their friends re-telling the story in their own words. It is a joy to see the story language used throughout, the intonation and expression used is amazing and certainly captures its audience. In turn, the children listening to their friend read has been very attentive, so well done all!



Snack-time in Reception is a time for the children to sit, relax and have a chat with others at the kitchen table during 'freeflow'. The children enjoy eating their healthy snack and even more so now on banana days! We write sounds and words onto the skins of the bananas, which the children love, reading and sharing with each other. There are conversations such as 'I've got the same word as you!' Perhaps we will write words or even equations onto the oranges next.



Nursery have started to learn their phonics with our Darlinghurst approach which starts with the sounds 's,a,t'. The children enjoy their lesson and this shows in their play as many of them have been practicing writing their new sounds outside with chalk. The Reception children are becoming keen readers and writers and this is due to their ever-increasing knowledge and confidence with phonics. They often use a sound mat and know where to source them to help with their sound recognition and letter formation. We have plentiful supplies of paper, pencils, chalk and various media, which the children have access to throughout the day. A few children this week even used large paper to draw their own 'live' football match! It was wonderful to watch the action and listen to the commentary. Our Early Years children are full of enthusiasm and it is their positive attitude that helps them be such amazing learners.



We hope that you have a wonderful weekend.
The Rockpool Team

Safeguarding

Cannabis Edibles

Within Southend there has recently been a small number of young people self-report the use and production of cannabis edibles within the city; this has also led to one known case of a child being admitted to hospital. Laced with a mood-altering ingredient derived from cannabis, cannabis edibles are an illegal and really strong 'sweet' aimed at young people and teenagers. They come in the form of cakes, brownies, cookies, baked goods, sweets, chocolate and drinks. Although cannabis edibles contain an element of cannabis, they do not have the smell or appearance of cannabis. They may look and smell home-baked or like a shop bought item. As a result of no immediate 'high', users, used to smoking cannabis, may overindulge expecting the same speed of 'hit'. Further information about cannabis edibles can be found on the Essex Police website.

World Book Day

Thank you to everyone who donated books for World Book Day. We have created a collection of sharing books for Early Years and Key Stage One, as well as collections of Accelerated Readers books for both Key Stage One and Two.

We will continue to take any donations of good quality books, comics or magazines.



Mrs Richards



Red Nose Day - £167 raised so far

Children wore their red accessories today in aid of comic relief. So far, we have raised £167, donations are still available to make via your child's Parent Pay. Thank you for your support and generosity for this charity.





Art Club

Art Club were lucky enough to have a workshop this afternoon with Bristol-based artist and illustrator, Naomi Clarke. She has designed and illustrated book covers, done pieces for the Financial Times as well as completed pieces for magazines and been in many gallery exhibitions. Naomi gave us an overview of her work and described how she approached her landscapes and scenes using digital or paper collaging. We were then lucky enough to have a tutorial of paper collaging techniques before we completed our own pieces of art.



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 th March 23	3.30pm – 4pm	Main Hall
Thursday 13 th 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 1st 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-vincents-southend> if your children would like to take part and require a sponsorship form, please email generalenquiries@darlinghurst.org.uk

PTA

Colouring competition announcement! From Monday 20th March 2023, children will be given an Easter colouring sheet. If children wish to take part in the colouring competition sheets will need to be return back to school by Friday 24th March 2023. There are 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes for every class!



Food Vouchers

Unlike in previous holidays Southend City Council **will not** be issuing food vouchers for the Easter holidays. Here are some contact details for organisations that may be able to help should you need additional support.
[Southend Food Bank](#) - at various locations in the city. This service is referral only but the academy can help with a referral or parents can contact the Southend Community Hub directly on 01702 356000.
[St. Vincent's Centre](#) - Short Street SS2 5BY - 01702 592980 or email southendsupport@svp.org.uk
[Storehouse Community Centre](#) - Coleman Street, SS2 5AW - 01702 617348

Attendance

EYFS

Jellyfish – 98%

KS2

Stingray – 99%

Seashell – 97.3%



Piano Exam Success

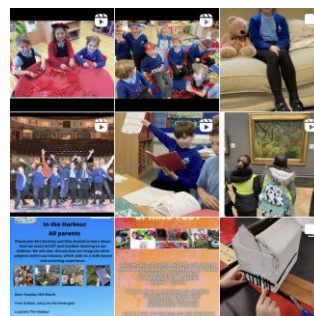
Congratulations to Oliver and Arjya in year 5 for their success in the Trinity College of London piano examinations they entered in February. Oliver passed his Initial Grade exam with Merit and Arjya achieved a distinction in his Grade 1 exam.

Proud to be me

This week children have enjoyed sharing their achievement within the academy and outside. Well done to everyone. We are proud of you too.



What have you missed on Instagram this week?



1,513 Posts

992 Followers