



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 our children have been engaging in a variety of experiences inside and outside the academy. There has been so much creativity shown with some of year 2 attending the KS1 Music Festival with Miss Salter, their teacher and our Music Subject Leader. They had an excellent time and enjoyed singing along and playing musical instruments with other children. A lovely collaborative, community event. Parents were able to attend and enjoy seeing their children in action. Thank you to everyone for making this a memorable moment. The children and staff also loved the coach as it showcased our academy value with the words written on the side, 'Excellence on the move' - it certainly was! The children were excellent! The rest of KS1 also sung with enthusiasm in assembly as they sang our diversity song together. Every time they sing 'uniqueness gives us power' and take on their super hero pose, it makes me smile.



Throughout assemblies this week we have learned about the impact that charities and fundraising can have on the lives of others in the UK and around the world. We focused on Comic Relief ahead of today's event, learning about some of the ways the raised money can help others. The children learned about charity groups that could enable people to come together and support each other. Their reflections and discussions showed a great sense of belonging and understanding of inclusion. Today, they have worn their red noses and red accessories in support of Comic Relief, donating through ParentPay. There is still time to make donations. Thank you.

Other great moments this week has included workshops for our children and our parents.

Some children are engaging in a 'Heroes Journey' workshop, meeting professionals who work in the theatre industry. Steven Hevey, an ex-Darlinghurst pupil from The Caedmon Theatre Company, has been working with children in Key Stage 2 to help learn about the theatre – developing creative writing and performance skills, building their confidence and passion for the arts.

In year 5, children engaged in a science workshop with Westcliff High students. They loved conducting the experiments and working alongside secondary students. Others went to the first of a series of maths lessons linked to the environment at Belfairs Academy. They studied data to produce graphs to show the level of pollution in different countries around the world, identified trends and created a huge 3D pie chart of different forms of plastic waste using bottles, plastic bags, straws and even their shoes! They cannot wait to go again in a couple of weeks.

In the Rockpool, the children had a visit from T-Rex and went on an imaginative journey with Miss Wise and Miss Gue to a volcano. They cheered when the volcano erupted and watched the lava ooze over the side. They loved seeing T Rex too!



In sporting news, children have participated in matches and competitions this week, demonstrating all our academy values. Today, we are in the Dodgeball national finals. Their recent achievements got them to top position throughout their matches, winning locally and onto Nationals! We are very proud of them and our PE Team for their training and continued encouragement. Their determination and skill definitely paid off with the team playing the top 16 schools and through to the Super 8's! Wow! The Darlinghurst dodgeball team finished an amazing 6th position out of 404 schools nationwide. Well done for this truly excellent achievement!



Our varied curriculum also made the paper this week. Celebrating our recent Variety week and homework project alongside our Let Girl's Play event. It's great to know that the news is spreading and we can share and celebrate the wonderful things that are happening. This week I stood in the playground and felt so fortunate to be there. I love our school and am so lucky to have such great children, fantastic staff and friendly and supportive parents. Thank you for being what makes Darlinghurst special.

As always enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls



From the Rockpool

The Rockpool have thoroughly enjoyed their first week learning about dinosaurs and it has been very eventful. We have experienced our own volcano, explored dinosaur habitats and shared dinosaur facts. The children have been discussing which is their favourite dinosaur, and with encouragement, are giving a reason for choosing it. The EYFS teachers are super impressed with the children's ever growing confidence to speak and explain their thoughts and ideas. Well done, Nursery and Reception!

Please remember to name all personal items that your child brings into school. Many thanks for your continued assistance in this as it certainly helps to return items to the correct child with ease. Have a marvellous weekend and we look forward to seeing all of the children next week. The Rockpool Team

Around the Academy

Year 1 have really enjoyed being scientists this week! To celebrate Science Week we have learnt how to classify different types of animals into groups and set up experiments with seeds, using our skills of prediction as to which seeds will germinate first. Using our observational skills, each morning we have come into class anticipating how our sunflower seeds that we planted last week will have changed and we have walked around our school grounds to see what changes plants are undergoing now that it is spring. We have used the story of The very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle to write our own stories about a very hungry grub who munched and crunched their way around a garden! Maths has also been exciting because we have been learning about fractions as equal halves of shapes and numbers, even cutting slices of bread into halves and quarters to see this visually. Well done Year 1 for achieving so much this week!

As this is Science Week, **year 2** have been exploring the impact that the cutting down of trees across the world has on our environment. We discovered that trees absorb carbon dioxide and give out oxygen. We took a walk around our school grounds and used a tally chart to record how many mature trees we have on our site. There are over 60 mature trees and many saplings that have been planted recently. We used one of our Learning and Life Skills statements, 'I can say when I think something is right or wrong and give reasons', and this led to interesting discussions around why trees are chopped down and whether this was right or wrong and why. The children have also been sitting some tests this week and we are very proud of their achievement, confidence and determination.

Year 3 have been studying different types of seeds by looking at their shape, size and origins. The children have been learning about the cycle of plants and how seed dispersal is a vital part of this. The children drew diagrams to represent seed dispersal and explain how this allows the plant cycle to begin all over again.

Year 4 have begun a new area of maths this week by looking at the perimeter of rectangles. Simple you may think, but not when it has involved mixed units of measure, doubling numbers plus tapping in on the skills of column addition. And then some of the rectangles have had missing lengths! The children have really launched at a challenging week in maths with resilience. Makes the success feel better when it has been harder to achieve. Well done Year 4's! In science we have reviewed our investigation into 'How do different



drinks effect our teeth?' We've had eggs in different drinks for a week and today we took them out. The results shocked the children as they really saw how sugar in both orange juice and coke had such a massive impact on the shells. The coke even stained the glass jar it was in! The homework task this week has seen some great responses so thank you for your support at home with this. It was great to see the children eat a wide variety of fruit and vegetables to help their gut health. Make sure you keep up those healthier choices.

This week **year 5** have been real scientists enjoying a visit from Westcliff High for Boys and conducting amazing experiments. In our classrooms, the children explored the conditions seeds need for germination and set up controlled tests. We made our predictions and will be observing closely. Considering 'conditions' was also part of our computing lesson where the children used the Scratch programme to create an algorithm to make our sprite spin around the screen! Arithmetic scores are going up as we work really hard to master our times tables. Keep playing TT Rockstars as part of your daily homework. Today the children will be taking a closer look at Comic relief and the 'power of funny' and how our uniqueness adds to the diversity within our school.

Year 6 have moved on to learning about the human body this week. We are learning about the function of the internal organs and about the skeleton. Following assessment week, we are very pleased with the progress that the children are making. The children seem very motivated and all of them want to do well. We have been writing newspaper articles about the escape of Bellatrix Le strange from the Prison of Azkaban (a character from the Harry Potter books). Our Year 5/6 Netball team played some friendly matches with Our Lady of Lourdes this week in preparation for their tournament next week. The girls were pretty evenly matched. The children raised an incredible £221 selling their cakes last week. Well done, Year 6, the next one is the KS1 Cake sale on Friday 25th March. Can Year 6 parents please send your child in with cakes on that morning so that they can sell them in the afternoon.

Infant Music Festival

On Thursday, Seagull class (Year 2) had an amazing opportunity to attend the KS1 Music Festival. The theme this year was 'Our World'. The children had the chance to join other schools from the area to sing a selection of songs all linked to the world and how important it is, from singing about flowers to saving the water. The children showed huge amounts of confidence when performing, especially during their individual song 'A Circle of Life' from The Lion King, where they thoroughly enjoyed singing to an audience and playing their instruments. All the children had an excellent time, it was great to come together and to see them having so much fun, laughter and enthusiasm for music. Well done Seagull class!!







Attendance

EYFS

Jellyfish - 96.3%

KS1

Albatross – 97.1%

Seagull – 96.7%

KS2

Wilton - 97.7%

Seashell - 97.4%



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



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

Workshops

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?

