



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 and **@DarlinghurstAcademy** on Instagram.

## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been a wonderful end to the first half term. I am so proud of everyone for their enthusiasm and efforts, along with their engagement. We continue to celebrate the achievements of our children and staff, with nominations and certificates recognising kindness within our wider community. For example, thank you to everyone who donated to the One Tree appeal and Young Minds. Your donations, make a difference. Also, Mrs Powell has received nomination within the local community for a super hero award, acknowledging her commitment to the environment. We wish her every success. I have enjoyed regular celebration of children's work this week and witnessing their sense of pride. Take a look at the 'proud to be' me section.

This week has been creative and thought provoking as we continue learning within 'black history month' and engagement in the pumpkin challenge. Thank you to a local friend, 'Mike' for donating the most enormous pumpkin, which featured in my assembly this week. I shared an alternative version to the story, 'The enormous Turnip' and also delivered a pumpkin quiz with children finding out a variety of facts about pumpkins. Across the academy, our cross curricular pumpkin challenge led to art lessons, mindful pumpkins and more. In art the children engaged in a creative challenge which was in celebration of diversity and inclusion, as the pumpkin changed from the colour orange to an array of rainbow colours. Finally, the pumpkin was used to celebrate our academy logo and beach theme and was placed near the beach huts as a 'beach ball' – from autumn to summer!

This week we have been celebrating art across the academy. Please take a look at the art special. Mrs Buckley has been supporting children in their development and progression of their art skills each week. They love to attend the art sessions and I have enjoyed seeing their work and art in action.

With the weather, feeling more autumnal and the excitement of forthcoming events during half term, I wish you all a healthy and happy break. Stay safe during the festive events remembering the firework code and other safety measures if trick or treating. We have some planned Instagram posts over the coming special days.

Upon our return, we continue to encourage good attendance and remind families to be punctual. Please continue to consider our neighbours. Please refrain from parking across driveways and use the surrounding area to walk into school. I am sure that the second half of the autumn term will be a success!

Finally, I would like to thank parents and carers for their fantastic support and kindness. It is great to work in partnership with you.

Mrs Nicholls



## Art Special

This half term Year 1 made Forky models in DT after designing their own Forky in their sketchbooks. In Year 2 we looked at Arcimboldo and how he made his portraits out of fruit and vegetables and many other items. In year 3 this half term we studied electricity and looked at emotions and colours linked to storms. We used our sketchbooks and used a grid to blend our colours. We then moved on to create light bulb heads expressing our thoughts and ideas. In Year 4 we linked Art and DT to their How do we Hear? How Do We See? We looked at surrealist artist Dali and Grace made her own surreal collage and drawing. Isabel did an amazing sketch of eyes. Year 5 studied Pop art and we looked at artists such as Andy Warhol and created Ice Lolly Wrapper designs. We practiced our pop art lettering and attention to detail. Year 6 have been looking at variation of values in terms of light, shade and tone and linked this to their Space theme. We used geometric shapes to practice then created a space landscape using these skills.



## From the Rockpool

As Autumn well and truly settles in, in EYFS we have focused our learning on the changes that we are noticing in the environment. In The Rockpool the children have explored the insides of a pumpkin describing how it feels, using words such as 'squidgy' and 'sticky'. They enjoyed counting the pumpkin seeds as well as sharing them out into even groups. On Friday the children and the adults all had a jolly good tidy and clean of the different zones in preparation for our return to the Academy after the holiday. We have all thoroughly enjoyed our first half-term in EYFS and our Rockpool area, that was redesigned during the summer, has proved to be a great success.

Enjoy your holiday and we look forward to seeing you on our return, feeling refreshed and raring to go in order to explore new activities and learning. Upload your holiday adventures to Tapestry for us to see. For example, Halloween, Autumn walks, watching fireworks... Have fun!



## Around the Academy

To finish our topic of Old and New Toys, **Year 1** have thought about our favourite thing we have learnt about toys; making our own spinners and learning about clockwork toys were popular. We have enjoyed the story 'Lost in the Toy Museum' by David Lucas because we loved the idea of the toys coming to life when visitors leave the museum at the end of the day. We have used the ideas in this story to write our own sentences about toys playing hide and seek at night! In maths we have been thinking carefully about counting accurately as well as learning the mathematical language of position and half and quarter turns through practical activities. We wish you all a happy and relaxing half term holiday.

This week **Year 2** have celebrated the end of our topic 'Can Party Food Be Healthy?' by having an amazing healthy food party. We all really enjoyed tasting healthy foods and trying some things that we have never tried before. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our healthy food party, rice cakes were definitely a firm favourite! We have also had fun and some time for reflection when we created a whole year group montage of tiny pumpkins made into one large pumpkin. We loved decorating our pumpkins in seasonal styles and then thinking carefully about something we are grateful for as we attached them together. In maths, we have been looking at measuring in centimetres and using tape measures and rulers accurately. Did you know that the measurement from the top of your head to the tip of your toes is about the same as your arm span?



**Year 3** have continued to celebrate Black History Month and studying our British timeline to learn more about the people that have influenced our lives or have held important roles throughout the past. This journey travelled back from as early as the Domesday Book to scientist working in space today. They have been looking at poetry and performing their own versions of this poem 'Talking Turkeys' by Benjamin Zephaniah, which they really enjoyed. Well done for all your hard work and have a great half-term Year 3!

This week in **Year 4** the children have continued their diary entries from a WW1 soldier. The range of language used has been fantastic and the sensitive discussions which have arisen from the topic have been really useful and informative to their writing. As we come to the end of our 'How do I see? How do I hear?' topic the children have completed a final experiment, making their own telephones with plastic cups and string to explore how sound travels. In Learning and Life skills the children have worked on how to be a good 'encourager' in order to be able to learn together successfully. There will be a TTRS battle set for half term so please play as much as you can. Enjoy a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing all of the children when we return.

A big well done to all the **Year 5** children for completing their first half term! We have completed our Science topic on Mysterious Materials with some amazing lunch boxes that focused on the properties of thermal insulation. We have written some very thought provoking letters about challenging racism, anonymity and the importance of freedom of speech. In maths we have tackled some of the key concepts and methods in multiplication and division. But overall we have had great responses from the children and they have really



made that transition from Year 4 to Year 5 with fun being threaded throughout. They all deserve a good rest to prepare themselves for Mission: Christmas! Have a safe holiday. Year 5 Team

**Year 6** have been studying the amazingly humble Marcus Rashford and writing his biography this week. We have also looked at the artwork, 'No woman, no cry' by Turner prize winner, Chris Ofili. Our music lesson was about the history of black music. We have really enjoyed appraising all the different styles of music. Each class also had a talk about Nigeria from one of our brave parents. The children have also been finishing their Space topic and evaluated what they have learnt. As part of their half term homework, we would like the children to research an influential British Black figure of their choice. We wish a Happy half term to you all!

**Thank you to Val Smith and Tony Self for the kind donation of an electric piano.**

**Thank you to our prefects who have been selling poppies on the gates leading up to Remembrance Day.**

**Thank you for your kind donations, we have donated £90.00 to Young Minds and planted 90 trees for Just One Tree.**



### Proud to be me



*'Hello, my name is Muttaqin. I am proud to be an English-Bengali Muslim. I am also very proud of my culture because of all the festivals. The first festival of the year is called Ramadan. In Ramadan you cannot eat or drink from sunrise to sunset. I love my religion dearly. Did you know: Muslim's used to pray 500 times a day! But fortunately, now it is only 5 times a day. Phew!'* **Muttaqin, Year 6.**

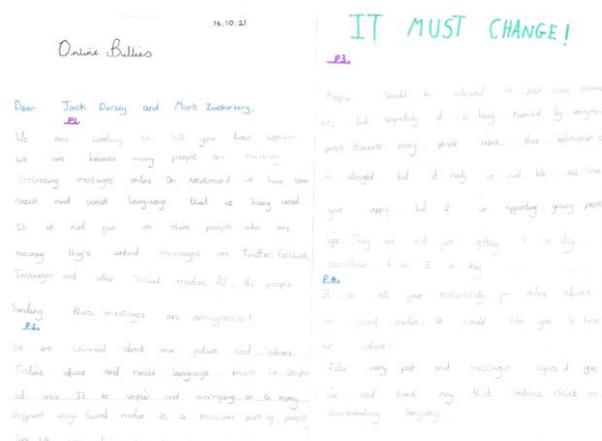
*'Hello, I am Musa. I am proud of being a Muslim and Bangladeshi because of our country's achievements in football, cricket and badminton. I am proud to be a Muslim because I get to celebrate Eid so I can be together with family and friends and I like to celebrate Ramadan because I can emphasise how the poor people cannot eat so I can give to charity.'* **Musa, Year 6.**



Shontae and Elsie from Bembridge class wrote an open letter to the CEO's of Facebook and Twitter about their concerns over online abuse.

*'We are worried about our future and others. Online abuse and racist language must be stopped at once. It is unfair and worrying in so many different ways. Social media is a massive part of people's lives. We are disappointed in this behaviour. It is your responsibility for online abuse on social media, we would like you to hear our ideas: Filter every post and message before it goes live and block any that contains racist or discriminatory language. Ask all their users to prove their identity so online abuse can be traced to the perpetrator. Now it is time for real change. Are you committed to talk online abuse out of the internet?'*

**Shontae, Bembridge**



*'We are worried about our future online and on your platforms. It is unacceptable that people are not being held accountable for their rude comments, because you are not stopping people from making these comments, they're starting to think it is acceptable when it is not. People should be allowed freedom of speech but people are using it to cyberbully other users without being discovered. None of this behaviour is acceptable, IT NEEDS TO STOP!' Elsie, Bembridge*

Anti-Bullying Week is coordinated In England by the Anti-Bullying Alliance and takes place from **15 to 19 November 2021** and this year it has the theme One Kind Word. The week will begin with Odd Socks Day on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November. All you need to do is wear odd socks! It's a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique in Anti-Bullying Week!



Kindness is more important today than it has ever been. The isolation of the last year has underlined how little acts of consideration can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us. This is one of the reasons, that **'One Kind Word'** has been chosen as the theme of Anti-Bullying Week this year. All you have to do is come to school that day wearing your uniform but also odd socks.



## Black History Month

For Black History Month Reception made traffic lights, using collage materials and we looked at Garrett Morgan the inventor.

Year 1 made buses after we studied Rosa Parks and talked about how she stood up for her rights.

Year 2 and 3 looked at the work of artist Alma Woodsey Thomas and we used watercolours to emulate her colourful style.

Year 4 made African masks based on the work of Artist and textile designer Lois Mailou Jones using oil pastels to create texture.

Years 5 and 6 made some amazing collages after we studied the contemporary artist Reggie Laurent and his abstract artwork.



## Back in time with a bang!

Remember, remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November  
Gunpowder treason and plot.

I see of no reason, why gunpowder treason  
Should ever be forgot.

Every year, on the 5<sup>th</sup> November bonfires are lit in back gardens and fireworks light up the sky. Perhaps you will be celebrating bonfire night this year but do you know what happened many years ago that has led to this tradition?

Several hundred years ago in **1605**, a man named Guy Fawkes had a plan. He and his friends hid 36 barrels of gunpowder beneath the Houses of Parliament ready to cause an explosion which would destroy the King and his government.

Do you think Guy Fawkes was successful? What was his reason for trying to do this? Why is parliament such an important part of British history? If you could ask the prime minister a question, what would it be?

How Parliament works today is very different from how it worked when it began over 700 years ago. It has evolved so that everyone can have a say in how the UK is run and who runs it.

You can find out more about

Guy Fawkes on the [bbc bitesize website](https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/z9nqy4)

[Guy Fawkes - Gunpowder plotter - BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/z9nqy4)

Stay safe!





Once again this year, we will be raising money for **The Royal British Legion** by selling poppies and poppy-related merchandise such as bracelets and keyrings. If your child would like to purchase any items, they may do so by bringing in at least a 50p donation to the office at break time or lunch time or alternatively, we will have prefects selling poppies on the school gates at the start and end of the day.



## Children in Need

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November is Children in Need. We will be raising money for this charity by asking children to come into school wearing spotty accessories on this day. Please make your donations via ParentPay.



## Attendance

### EYFS

Jellyfish – 96.6%

Starfish 96.6%

### KS1

Puffin – 98.3%

Albatross – 98.3%

### KS2

Strand – 98.7%

Dune – 96.6%



Well done to those who achieved 97%+ this half term and were entered into the prize draw for a Sealife Adventure voucher and Adventure Island wristband voucher. We hope that the two winners enjoy their prizes and we look forward to striving to achieve our whole school targets next half term from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November, together.



What have you missed on Instagram this week?





# October Half Term

W/C 25th October 2021

|                     | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday                                       | Thursday                                    | Friday   |
|---------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| <b>10am to 11am</b> | Stay & Play<br>Prince Avenue<br>Family Centre  | Stay & Play<br>Blenheim<br>Family Centre         | Stay & Play<br>Eastwood<br>Family Centre        | Mini Explorers<br>Eastwood<br>Family Centre | Stay & Play<br>St Luke's<br>Community Church<br>Hall |
|                     | Stay & Play<br>Summercourt<br>Family Centre    | Stay & Play<br>Hamstel<br>Family Centre          | Mini Explorer<br>Prince Avenue<br>Family Centre | Messy Play<br>Centre Place<br>Family Centre |  |
| <b>1pm to 2pm</b>   | Messy Play<br>Blenheim<br>Family Centre        | Stay & Play<br>Cambridge Road<br>Family Centre   | Stay & Play<br>Friars Family Centre             | Messy Play<br>Summercourt<br>Family Centre  | Messy Play<br>Prince Avenue<br>Family Centre         |
|                     | Mini Explorers<br>Summercourt<br>Family Centre | Stay & Play<br>Centre Place<br>Family Centre     | Messy Play<br>Friars Family Centre              | Messy Play<br>Friars Family Centre          |  |
|                     |  | Multiple Birth Group<br>Hamstel<br>Family Centre | Messy Play<br>Hamstel<br>Family Centre          |   |  |

## Free Halloween Themed Play Sessions

Stay & Play, Messy Play and the Multiple Birth Group sessions are aimed 0 - 5 year olds.  
 Mini Explorers sessions are aimed at 0 - 12 months (older siblings cannot attend).  
 These sessions are first come first served.

Entry will be stopped when rooms reach capacity due to Health & Safety.

