



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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Across the academy we have continued to build inclusion and diversity practice, respecting and appreciating what makes us different including ethnicity and national origin. We teach our children that a diverse set of life experiences and cultural differences is important to build an understanding of one another. This has included raising awareness and understanding in the experiences and needs of refugees that have been provided safe passage and sanctuary by the Government. Assemblies have been held to further children's understanding of what a refugee is and the way countries and communities support each other, in crisis.

In support of this, our trust is working with Southend Borough Council, and we are preparing to welcome a small number of new children from refugee families at the start of December. This means that we are providing them a place to learn and feel safe, together – putting our value of belonging into action.

B for belonging, 'Be happy and make our school a caring and welcoming place.'

"Belonging is a sense of being somewhere where you can be confident that you will fit in and where you feel safe in your identity," NEU

We embrace and celebrate the rich dimensions of diversity within each individual and place positive value on diversity in the community. We look forward to welcoming our new families.

As always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls



From the Rockpool

We have had a tremendous time in Nursery and Reception this week and continued our traditional stories topic with 'The Ugly Duckling'. This story allowed us to reflect on how it is okay to be different, not only in appearance but in our thoughts and beliefs. Our children are always so kind and thoughtful and this story highlighted that even more. Well done, children! On Tuesday, they had an exciting adventure as they went on a local trip to post their special letters to Santa. With the teachers wearing their reindeer antlers, they all travelled to the nearby postbox, via our school brook, singing Christmas tunes along the way. Each child was given some magic dust to sprinkle on the envelope and made a secret wish. Fun was had by all! Have a wonderful weekend.

Around the Academy

In **Year 1**, we have been thinking carefully about sleep this week. The children have shown how mature they are by explaining their good bedtime routines and what we can all do to help us relax before going to bed. In our story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and we were worried about poor baby bear, who ended up with a broken bed to sleep in. One child suggested he could ask Father Christmas for a hammock instead! We have enjoyed learning a song to help remember the oceans and seven continents and looking through atlases and at globes to see where they are in the world, discussing which are hotter areas to live and which are colder. In maths we have been reminding ourselves of careful number formation, counting in ones', twos and tens, then doubling numbers in a doubling machine.



This week the children in **Year 2** have been really fortunate and whilst outdoor learning with Miss Arnold they have experienced a real log fire. They can now confidently talk about what fire feels and smells like and will be using this real life learning to help them when they are writing about their senses and what they may have experienced if they had lived in 1666. In history, we have explored the timeline of events during the Great Fire of London, we used acting and freeze frame to show each stage. We will also be thinking about our own timelines this week in PSHE when we record the things that we could do at different stages of our lives e.g. drinking from a bottle as a baby and walking as a toddler.

This week in **Year 4**, we have been completing our end of term assessments. This is often a challenging week but we are very proud of the children for taking these very much in their stride and celebrating all the skills and knowledge acquired this term. Continuing with our 'Why do we speak English in school' topic, we completed an epic science investigation into how the Roman's got here. We tested for the most effective shape of sail on boats and in between the fun of these being blown up and down the classroom, the children learnt much about forces and water resistance. In writing we have taken on a link with the Vikings and have been writing character descriptions of Grendel the monster from the story of Beowulf. The children's choice of vocabulary has been fantastic. I know it's only November but Christmas is creeping up on us fast! The children now have song words to practise and the songs are also loaded onto DB Primary ready for our Christmas concert. Also on that note, we are a leading Eco school and want to encourage alternative options for sending cards this year. Did you know that if every child sent each person in their class a Christmas card, our school would have given out 17,100 cards!! Please consider alternatives like a class card, homemade cards using recyclable paper or card, sending e-cards or donating the money you would have spent on cards to charity.

This week, **Year 5** have been amazing as they showed off all their knowledge and skills throughout assessment week. We started with a 'grueling' GPS paper followed by a 'sizzling' spelling test. On Tuesday the children crunched numbers in an arithmetic paper and read like the wind in the reading test. Wednesday and Thursday were a piece of fraction cake with just a maths reasoning paper on each day. In addition, the children have been writing a diary from the perspective of a World War One soldier getting ready to sail to France with some great emotional language and facts. This was supplemented in the afternoon by some History curriculum work on trench warfare and daily life. Please give your child a great big hug from all the Year 5 team for working so hard this week.

An amazing two weeks in Dodgeball!

Over the last two weeks, some of our KS2 children have been participating in various dodgeball competitions against local schools. The year 3 and 4 team were the first to compete, travelling to Thorpe Hall school where they came up against some very strong opposition. In total they played 7 local schools, winning 4 matches and losing 3. They had a great morning and all of the children came away beaming with pride at having represented their academy. Next to play were our year 5 and 6 B team. Their games were played at Garons Leisure centre and what a morning they had! In total they played various schools in 24 games winning a staggering 20 of them! They demonstrated great tactical awareness and team play which ultimately was the difference between them and their opponents. To end the week of dodgeball, our year 6 team competed in the main competition also at Garons. They started amazingly and won their first two matches which gave them enough points to qualify for the 'Super 8's' second round. A further 3 wins against Our Lady of Lourdes, Chalkwell and St Michaels put our team into the semi-final against Earls Hall.





Yet another amazing performance saw Darlinghurst through to the grand final. The final started quick and within a few moments the match was tied 1 game each which meant a deciding game was needed. With control of their nerves, excellent tactical play and amazing team work our team managed to knock out all of the opposition and seal the win! **Champions 2021/22.** Well done to all children involved, including those who were not fortunate enough to be picked. It is because of all the children in the academy and their enthusiasm for dodgeball that means I have so many amazing players to choose from. Go Darlinghurst!

Mr Felton PE Subject Lead

Y5-6 Football

Two weeks ago I had the privilege of taking our Y5-6 boys football team to the emerging team competition. This competition is for newly formed teams that have not had a lot of time to play together. Football is very popular in our local area with many schools having multiple children playing for the same weekend club so an emerging competition is perfect for those schools that do not have that advantage. The boys performed with confidence and determination, winning an amazing 7 of their 8 games which made them the overall winners of the competition.

Emerging team champions 2021/22.

I am so proud of the boys, their behaviour, team play and respect for the opposition was second to none. Well done team.

Mr Blewett Specialist PE teacher



Christmas Cards

As an Eco-school, we feel that it is important to consider how we can reduce waste and our carbon footprint as a school. Giving cards is a Christmas tradition but if in a class of 30, each child receives 30 cards, that's 900 cards per class. With 19 classes, that's 17,100 cards for just our school alone. That equates to around 6 trees being chopped down.

We work very closely with Eco Essex who have suggested some alternatives to sending out individual cards this year or in preparation for next year:

- Write one class card instead of one per child.
- Use cards made from recycled paper/card
- Upcycle last year's Christmas cards to make Christmas postcards
- E-cards using DB Primary
- Just wish each other Merry Christmas
- Make your own cards using recycled materials
- Avoid glittered cards – we are a glitter-free school
- Draw a Christmas picture on some scrap paper to give to your friends instead
- Donate to charity or a local foodbank instead of buying cards

You may wish to share the following alternatives with friends and family





Christmas Cards what's the problem?

If every child in a class of 30 wrote a card for all their class mates, there would be 870 cards written in just ONE class! What would be the total in your entire school?

So what are the Alternatives?

-  Write one class card instead of individual cards
-  Use Recycled Cards
-  Upcycle last years Christmas Cards to make Christmas Postcards and write on the back
-  Secret Santa for Cards: pull out a name and that's who you make a card for!
-  No cards, just wish each other a Merry Christmas
-  Make a large class display and each child can create/draw Christmas pictures and write a Christmas message on them
-  Make them at home with Recycled Materials
-  Avoid glittered cards
-  Draw a Christmas picture to their friends on some scrap paper instead
-  Make a cardboard tree and children decorate a paper bauble addressed to their classmates
-  Donate to charity instead of buying cards
-  Donate food to your local Food Bank instead of cards

Thank you for all your support for **Children in Need**.
We have raised **£232.50**.

If you have any more donations, could you please donate via your ParentPay account by Tuesday 30th November.





Congratulations to this week's attendance winners.

EYFS

Jellyfish – 97.1%

KS1

Puffin – 97.2%

Albatross – 95.6%

KS2

Dune – 98.9%

Stingray – 96.3%



What have you missed on Instagram this week?

