



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 and Carers,

As you will be aware, Southend has moved from National lockdown restrictions to the new Tier 2 restrictions, as of Wednesday. I would like to thank you all again for the support you have provided during the past month. Whilst national restrictions have eased a little, we will continue to maintain our protective measures for the coming weeks to protect our children, staff and families with hope of a happy and safe Christmas.

Our health and safety procedures will continue into the New Year, ensuring a safe return and keeping abreast with guidance. During the Autumn Term, the staff team have shown dedication in ensuring that the current situation has had little impact on our children's education, as well as providing them with the support to develop their emotional resilience and well-being. The curriculum has been adapted to meet the needs of our children and to deliver the best education opportunities whilst managing risks or constraints, in line with guidance. The children have engaged in a broad and balanced curriculum, demonstrating achievements and personal success across the curriculum.

Many of our year six children have been celebrating their academic achievements, sharing their results from their 11 plus examination. Every child who sat the exam showed determination and courage, gaining from the experience – each with their own personal success. It was a pleasure to witness some of them hearing or sharing their news – with beaming smiles and jumps for joy!

Our year two staff and leaders have been working with children to increase their competency in decoding words using a range of strategies, e.g. blending lengthy nonsense words, spotting special friends and covering half the word and blending each section at a time. They have shown resilience and continued determination to their learning, displaying increased confidence and this was evident during their phonic screening check.

The Phonics Screening Check is a compulsory assessment that all children must take. It is used to assess a pupils phonic decoding skills. To pass a student must correctly read around 32/40 words correctly.

The 40 words in the check are split into sections progressing from simple word structures to trickier words with five or six letters. The often confusing thing about the screening check is that 20/40 of the words that children are expected to read are 'nonsense words', alien words that have no meaning. This really tests a child's phonic decoding skills to check they have the appropriate standard.

baim	🐛	rain
thrayd	🌱	pray
strabe	👤	cane
vaink	🦋	waiting
chayp	🏠	delay
whape	🍰	cupcake
braig	❄️	portrait
envay	🌻	spray
splake	🐛	graze

It is a 'one to one' check with each child. The words are the same all across the country. Each child is scored against the national average. Our year two teachers will discuss phonics and the screening check during parent consultations in January. Further information regarding KS1 & 2 consultations will be shared after the festive break. Letters have been sent to Nursery and Reception parents outlining our virtual conferencing system, dates and times, this term. Please check your school ping for correspondence.

School Ping is a primary source of communication. Should you not have 'school Ping' and would like some support on setting this up, please contact [ictsupport@darlignhurst.co.uk](mailto:ictsupport@darlignhurst.co.uk)



Communication using virtual platforms has been an important way to reach out to families and the community. Social media and our school systems allowed us to stay connected throughout the pandemic. It has also helped us to communicate with a wider audience, including prospective parents for our new entrants for September 2021. I recognise the importance of choosing the right school and this year parents have unfortunately not been able to view schools in the usual way. We have produced virtual tours and online information to provide a glimpse of Darlinghurst. Our website has a dedicated section to help parents, <http://www.darlinghurst.uk/virtual-tour>. Should you know anyone with a child of pre-school age, please share our website link or promotions on Instagram.

The children and staff are looking forward to the final couple of weeks, with festive plans in place and spreading Darlinghurst Christmas cheer. Filming has continued this week in KS1 and KS2. Our children have been 'signing' carols and festive songs, ready to share with you virtually. Remember to keep taking regular views of our Darlinghurst Instagram as we are sharing some sneaky previews and festive messages.

As always, enjoy your family time together

**Mrs Nicholls, Principal**

## Around the Academy

This week in **Reception** we have continued focusing on 'The Jolly Postman' stories and his adventures as he travels around delivering post to different well known story characters. The children enjoyed creating their own story map by adapting the stories and drawing their own choice of characters such as 'Rapunzel'. As usual the teachers have been really impressed with the wonderful work produced. Well done, Reception! Perhaps you can draw a story map at home of one of your favourite stories and then upload it to Tapestry? Have a lovely weekend. The Reception Team

In **Year 1**, we have been learning all about Christingles. We have created our very own Christingle for our Christmas performance at the end of the week and enjoyed learning about why each part is so special. We have been practicing the sign language for Silent Night, a song we discovered was over 200 years old! We are all so excited to share our virtual Christmas with you on DBPrimary.

This week, **Year 2** have adapted the story of The Gingerbread Man. In our new, creative stories our gingerbread men are dressed in something waterproof allowing them to escape across the river at the end of the story. Some gingerbread men still do not survive! We have also been busy designing and making our own party hats for our end of term party. As party planners, we have considered a design criterion for our party hats. We focused on making them bright, colourful and most importantly eye catching!

In **Year 4** this week we have been working hard taking our assessments. However, we remembered that we should work hard and play hard so we have had lots of fun too. In science we investigated how sound is made, we were wowed by the seeds bouncing off a drum as the sound got louder and the sound wave increased in size. Then in groups we created a play, for children, explaining how sound is made. We used lots of scientific vocabulary. In writing we have imagined what it is like to be a blind girl and how she would describe the forest by using her other senses. Look out on social media for the fun we had signing the twelve days of Christmas.





**Year 6** have really enjoyed writing their stories where they are trapped somewhere, whether it be in a cell, on a boat or even in the museum. We have been really impressed by the high quality of their writing and their use of vocabulary to create atmosphere and tension. In Maths this week, the children really enjoyed playing a countdown style game to help them understand the order of operations in different equations. It really challenged their mental arithmetic skills to see who could get the answer the quickest! In Science, we have been learning about the Earth, moon and the Sun and how their orbits affect the length of our seasons, daylight hours and months. There were lots of key facts to learn and remember!

## Proud to be me

Over the course of a couple of days I have raised almost £1,000 for Lymphoma Action. I have organised a colouring competition for the children around my area and the people in my street. A lot of my parents' friends wanted to enter their children too. I have decided to do this because my dad has this type of blood cancer. People have been donating money and I'm very grateful for all of this positivity.  
Rebecca Wilton Class





## What have you missed on Instagram this week...

**Darlinghurst ACADEMY**  
Is your child due to start school in September 2021 or do you know someone who is looking to choose a school?  
Why Darlinghurst?  
Swipe to see our Nursery and Reception children enjoying being at school  
Visit [www.darlinghurst.uk](http://www.darlinghurst.uk)  
Pass it on!  
Achieving Excellence Together

**Darlinghurst ACADEMY**  
Is your child due to start school in September 2021 or do you know someone who is looking to choose a school?  
Why Darlinghurst?  
Swipe to view some testimonials  
Visit [www.darlinghurst.uk](http://www.darlinghurst.uk)  
Pass it on!  
Achieving Excellence Together



**Darlinghurst ACADEMY Nursery**  
**Limited afternoon spaces available**  
At Darlinghurst Nursery, we provide a nurturing and caring environment for 3 and 4 year olds which supports and encourages all children to develop holistically.  
• Our nursery is not just on the Darlinghurst site; it is an integral part of the academy.  
• We recognise the importance of Early Years development, providing purposeful play to build children's confidence as they learn to wonder, discover, explore and create.  
Both 15 hours and Extended 15 hour code accepted  
Morning, afternoon and all day sessions, with the option of lunch provision.  
Contact us:  
Telephone 01702 829205 Email [admissions@darlinghurst.co.uk](mailto:admissions@darlinghurst.co.uk)  
Find us:  
Darlinghurst Academy, Pavilion Drive, Leigh-On-Sea, SS9 3JS





The end of term is approaching and traditionally the Academy has an early finish. This year children will be leaving for the Christmas break after their lunch. Their exit gate will remain the same, please see below the timetable to see your child's designated collection time. Please note, there will be no After School Club on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Class	Depart PM	Exit via
Nursery am	11.50	Brook gate
R Jellyfish	12.55	Brook gate
R Starfish	12.55	Brook gate
Year 1 Albatross	13.00	Brook gate
Year 1 Puffin	13.00	Side gate
Year 1 Seagull	13.00	Side gate
Year 2 Lobster	13.00	Main gate
Year 2 Shrimp	13.00	Main gate
Year 3 Coral	13.10	Main gate
Year 3 Dune	13.10	Main gate
Year 3 Seashell	13.10	Side gate
Year 4 Stingray	13.10	Brook gate
Year 4 Swordfish	13.10	Brook gate 2
Year 4 White shark	13.10	Side gate
Year 5 Bell Wharf	13.05	Side gate
Year 5 Billet	13.05	Side gate
Year 5 Strand	13.05	Brook gate
Year 5 Victoria	13.05	Brook gate 2
Year 6 Bembridge	13.15	Main gate
Year 6 Endeavour	13.15	Main gate
Year 6 Mayflower	13.15	Main gate
Year 6 Wilton	13.15	Main gate

### Christmas at Darlinghurst

**Years 5 & 6:** Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December

**Years 3 & 4:** Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December

**Early Years & Years 1 & 2:** Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December

All Christmas events will be on Instagram (@darlinghurstacademy), please take a look and don't miss all the wonderful activities the children have been doing

**Nursery** – Christmas Nativity

**Reception** – Nutcracker ballet

**Years 1 & 2** – Christingle

**KS2** -12 days of Christmas

There will be early closure on our last day of term – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, there will be staggered departure times which will be between 12.50pm and 1.15pm. Further communication will be shared