



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 marks, National Teacher Appreciation Week and I would like to say a huge, heartfelt thank you to all our amazing staff at Darlinghurst Academy, who every day make a real and vital difference to the lives of our children. I am sure you agree that even when faced with unprecedented situations over the last year, our teachers and support staff have made sure our children are happy, safe and that they can keep on learning. I am extremely proud and grateful and wanted to pay tribute to their hard work and dedication. 2020-21, will be remembered as the time we all learned how to live life at a distance from each other but still keeping our sense of belonging. Nothing makes me prouder than the way our teachers, children and families, have adapted to the changing situation. It is important, to thank everyone who is part of our school community as, if this experience has taught us anything, it's that we are one team. Well done Team Darlinghurst!

This year has been a challenge but yet, I couldn't feel prouder. The children adapted to change so quickly, placing enormous trust into the adults in their lives. You placed the same level of trust upon us and your overwhelming compliments and support over the past year has moved me deeply. With short notice, teachers transitioned from physical classrooms to virtual, with others stepping into supporting children of key workers. Our staff have supported our children each day, providing positivity and reassurance. Our teachers were delighted to return to school, having children back in class, together and have embraced learning and supported their transition and social skills. They have been truly exceptional, going the extra mile to make sure our children smile.

Thank you for your commitment and providing the best possible education for our children, helping them to stay connected and to continue learning.
Thank you for doing such a brilliant job, providing blended learning and forward facing provision, whilst juggling your own families.
Thank you for contacting children and families to ensure their wellbeing and supporting and caring for each other.
Thank you for being an inspiration, not only to our children but to others.
Thank you for your investment, passion and continued drive. You make a difference!

In the words of Michael Morpurgo, celebrated author:

"So often and for so many of us, it is a teacher who changed our lives, was at our side through hard and difficult times, who lifted us up when we were down, helped us find our voice, give us confidence when we needed it most, set us on a path that we have followed ever since."

I know this is why we do, what we do and that is why I say "thank you" to you all.

This week, a few special events have taken place, to show our gratitude, including some extra special goodies for tea-break. Our children shared their appreciation through chants, songs, and special compliments – filling buckets of kindness. The teachers loved secret, special assembly, returning to class to be showered with personal thanks from their class. Take a look at some of the things our children shared below and coming soon on our instagram.

As always, enjoy your family time together
Mrs Nicholls



This week is **Teacher Appreciation week**.



At Darlinghurst, one way in which we showed our appreciation this week was to create time for our teachers to put their feet and take a quick breather. Secrecy was key...our support staff and senior leadership team surprised our teachers by 'taking charge' for a little while. Whilst teachers got to sit down and have a refreshing 'cuppa', the team and children busily prepared some compliment slips and chants to say 'Thank You!' On return to class, our teachers were surprised to be greeted with huge smiles, cheers and our Buckets of Kindness filled to the brim with: 'Thank you teacher...' 'You are amazing...' 'We love the ...lessons that you prepare' 'We love you!' The list goes on and on.



We know how hard our teachers work every day: preparing amazing lessons, teaching and taking care of our young growing minds. Thank you so much to all of them. Here are some of the compliments shared by our Junior Governors from each year group.

Nursery:

Meg, Ivy, Lamin, Cooper, Sophia, Tiddlers Class – **Miss Gue**, Meg: I like to see all my friends, I like Miss Gue because I love work. Ivy: She teaches us lots of things. Lamin: I like nursery because there's a rain track, Miss G teaches us the days of the week and months of the year. Cooper: I like Miss G because she teaches everything, I like her singing. Sophia: I like her music, maybe Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. She's funny.



Reception:

Hector and Leena, Starfish Class – **Mrs Dennis**, Hector: I like her writing. Leena: Mrs Dennis teaches good things. Alfie and Inaaya, Jellyfish Class – **Miss Wise**, Alfie: She is my favourite teacher. Inaaya: Because she always has a smile on her face.

Year 1:

Dexter and William, Seagull Class – **Miss Handley** is a superhero for teaching us how to write words and to sit nicely.

Sebastian and Jessica Albatross class – Sebastian: **Miss Salter** makes our lessons fun. Jessica: I like Miss Salter because she is kind and helpful.

Liyana and Ted, Puffin class – Liyana: **Mrs Dutton** is very nice and helps us. Ted: Mrs Dutton is an amazing teacher!

Year 2:

Briony & Harley, Lobster Class – **Miss Sankey** is really lovely, kind and calm. She always helps us.

Lucas & Kelsey, Shrimp Class – **Mrs Haisman-Baker** is really nice. She lets us do fun stuff and she's fun. Kelsey: We do nice stuff in class and it's fun to learn.

Year 3:

Dune Class – **Mr Dunne** is really nice, he helps everyone. He is a really nice teacher.

Coral Class – **Miss Carey** is caring and helpful to me. She is funny and good at explaining our steps to success.

Seashell Class – **Miss Parry**, I like her writing lessons. I like Miss Parry's maths lessons.

Year 4:

Swordfish Class – **Mrs Bush**, because she is sweet, she is kind and generous.

Great White Shark Class – **Mrs Rosso** let's us do fun lessons and **Mrs Levy** makes us laugh.

Stingray Class – **Mrs Clarke**, she is really helpful and kind and **Mrs Cooke** is really positive.

Year 5:

Victoria Class – **Miss Ludford**, Alix: you are the best, most amazing teacher and I think that everyone in Victoria class can agree. Thank you. Toby: I wish that I could come and hug you, thanks for the incredible teaching.

Sam: Thanks for teaching me, you're the best teacher ever.

Olivia & Kaitly, Billet Class – **Mrs Richards**. Kaitlyn: Thank you for being there for us every day and teaching us amazing lessons. Olivia: Thank you for being kind and caring and helpful.

Ava & Archie, Strand Class – **Miss McCrory**. Ava: thank you for being such an amazing teacher, you are my most favourite teacher so far. I have learnt so much thank you. Archie: Thank you being the best teacher in the world.

Bell Wharf Class – **Mrs Lee** – Alice: You are awesome and you are the best teacher ever. Don't change. Thank you for being kind and caring

Year 6:

Alfie, Alexia and Charlotte Bembridge Class – **Mrs Dunne**, Alfie: you are the best teacher in Year 6 and the entire school. I personally think you are my favourite teacher in the whole 6 years I've been at this school. I think your teaching style is off the hook, that's why you are my favourite teacher. Alexia: Mrs Dunne is one of the best teachers ever! She encourages me and helps me be the best I can possibly be. This incredible teacher is really kind and thoughtful. Mrs Dunne lets us know whenever we do good or do bad. I am very appreciative I have Mrs Dunne as my Year 6 teacher. Charlotte: Mrs Dunne helps me.. Some days Mrs Dunne is really funny too. I wish she can come to secondary school with us.

Ismail and Annabell, Wilton Class – **Mrs Stevens** is kind and fun. I enjoy my lessons with her, she makes boring lessons fun. Annabell: I think Mrs Stevens always finds a way to make lessons fun and enjoyable. She helps when you are stuck. She makes sure we get the full understanding.



Thomas, Lilly and Maisey Endeavour Class – **Mrs Berman** is nice because she finds nice things for us to do and she makes funny jokes. She make learning fun. Lilly: Mrs Berman is kind caring and always puts a smile on our faces. Maisey: I like Mrs Berman because she is very nice and she reads us stories. Mrs Berman is the best teacher ever.
 Mayflower Class – **Mrs Powell**, you are great because you are kind, caring and funny by your best student Kai. Sadie: You are the best teacher and you always make people smile.



Parental and Pupil voice

Here are some more results from our Blended Learning survey. Parents and children were asked the following questions: **What new skills have you/your child gained? What are you most proud of?** Parents and children identified organisational and time management skills, independence, listening and technical skills, including e-safety as a skill set that they used. Parents, children and teachers all were proud of the way they adapted to change and the learning and life skills they developed, throughout this time. Parents were proud of their children's enthusiasm, engagement and sheer determination! We are too.

They also shared **what made them happy, when returning to school and what they enjoyed most on our Instagram, during the lockdown.** Across the results, PE was a popular answer. The children loved to be engaging in PE, outside again and also enjoyed the PE challenges during Lockdown, shared on social media and DB Primary. The PE team were delighted and have been pleased to be back outside, with the children each day. Knowing how much the children love PE, they launched clubs again today this term and worked alongside the 'Sports committee', making plans for the future.

Our parents said:

What new skills do you feel your child has gained during the pandemic?



What were you most proud of during blended learning (child/school)?



On your return to school, what made your child happiest?



Which of your Instagram posts did you enjoy the most?





Around the Academy

This week **Reception** have shared the story 'Superworm', written by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Axel Scheffler. This book has built upon the children's learning about rhyme and patterns within poems and stories. Superworm is such a kind and helpful friend and the story really helps develop imaginative storytelling and language. The children are immersing themselves into lots of independent writing which includes making their own non-fiction books and friendship letters to each other. In maths we have focused on doubling numbers 1-5 and have used ladybird pictures as a stimulus to support this. The children realise that the numbers need to be the same in two different groups in order to double. We are also focusing on our recognition of numbers 0-20 and seeing how quickly we can place them in the correct number order. Why don't you challenge your child to do this at home, maybe starting with numbers to 10 first? Have fun! The caterpillars in Reception have now turned into their chrysalis stage which has been fascinating for us all to watch their daily changes. There have been lots of discussions about what will happen next as well as lots of drawing and writing about our visitors. Now we are wondering how long it will be before they turn into butterflies. What do you think?

Please remember to send your child into school every day with a named water bottle that is separate to their lunchbox drink. Also, it would be helpful if your child can have a named sun hat in school each day. As the weather gets warmer please apply sun cream on your child before school. If they need a top-up of sun-cream applied during the day please teach them how to apply this themselves. Have a lovely weekend! The Reception Team

This week **Year 2** have been researching the animal of their choice. They have had to use books and the internet to find out what their animal's diet, habitat, how it entertains itself and then they had to find out an interesting fact about their animal. We also learned how to do a traditional maypole dance to music and the children experimented with keeping a beat using percussion instruments. We have been working on our learning and life skill 'I can express my opinion and give reasons for them' by talking about the animals that we like and dislike and why.

This week **Year 6** have really enjoyed writing their newspaper reports based on the Harry Potter novel, The Order of the Phoenix. They have been really creative with their ideas and vocabulary. In Science, we have been learning about the circulatory system and how it works. The children had lots of questions about the immune system and enjoyed discussing this. Last Friday, Year 6 were treated to a special live lesson via MS Teams about Passover from Mr Bermon. The children were hooked when they heard about his first hand experiences and were impressed by how knowledgeable he has.

PE News

This week, throughout the school, the children have been focusing on team games in PE. Team games are a great way for the children to demonstrate working together towards an end result. I have witnessed co-operation, patience, support and a fantastic attitude towards fair play throughout all year groups. Well done to all of our amazing children.

Whilst on the subject of team games, I would like to say a huge well done to four of our girls in year four. At the weekend they played a fantastic game of football which ended in a 5 – 5 draw. The girls needed lots of energy and determination to get the result against a very difficult opposition. Well done girls, I always love to hear about anything sport related, keep up the great work.

We have recently made links with a local football club who are on the hunt for some new players, please see the note below.

Mr Felton PE Subject lead





Players Wanted

Leigh Rockets U8 Lions (current Year 3s) are looking for children who love playing football to join our squad as we move to U9s and 7-a-side football in the 2021-22 season. Training on Saturday mornings with an FA Level 1 qualified coach at Blenheim Park, with a focus on fun, games and player development, and matches on Sundays. Contact Ben on [07944 494530](tel:07944494530)

TTRS Top Rockers - April Week 4			
	% of class that used TTRS last week	Average daily minutes	Average correct answers
1st	Dune, Seashell (96%)	Victoria (5)	Victoria (1358)
2nd	Coral	Coral, Seashell	Endeavour
3rd	Strand, Bell Wharf	Endeavour, Mayflower	Mayflower

What have you missed on Instagram this week?

