



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,

Can I please remind you to consider our local neighbours and access to driveways. Please do not park your cars preventing safe crossing of the road and be mindful that the lollypop lady is here to help others.

The local council are supporting us with monitoring the surrounding area and have recently tended to the brook. We remind parents to arrive promptly and leave swiftly and support others whilst using a public footway.

Individual year groups have been contacted by school Ping in regards to expectation and routines.

During our virtual assemblies this week we discussed the eight excellent expectations, recognising the importance of safe routines and habits.

This week has seen World Teacher Day and I would like to thank our staff for their continued commitment and care to our children. Since our return, together we have supported our children through our recovery curriculum, developing their academic, emotional and social resilience.

We recognise the importance of fundamental skills encouraging our children to build their accuracy in reading, writing and maths. Please continue to practice these skills at home using our platforms and provisions to support you.

But please don't forget the traditional methods; a chat in the car, a practice of spellings, chanting times tables. Be creative. Please refer to your school Ping for information on reading at home.

Today it was lovely to see children raising the importance of mental health and wellbeing. The brightness of yellow shining through.

As always, enjoy your family time together.

**Mrs Nicholls, Principal**

## Around the Academy

This week in **Nursery** our topic has been our bodies. The children really enjoyed making pictures using sticks, straws and cotton buds to depict the bones in their bodies. We spoke about our hearts, blood and muscles, including our brains. We found out that milk is good for bones, and exercise is good for our hearts and that most of all, learning is good for our brains. We also had a discussion about which foods are the best for our bodies and how you can eat anything in small amounts! What a busy week!





As part of Black History Month, in **Reception** we have been exploring the story of 'Handa's Surprise'; showing curiosity about the story structure, the character's journey, investigating where Africa is on the globe and a fruit tasting session carried out today in both classes of exotic fruits and tastes. We even enjoyed some yummy plantain fried by the kitchen staff for our children to enjoy 'that was different' one child commented. Yesterday both classes partook in a 'How did you get to school survey?' with the focus on looking at greener ways of coming into school. We are happy to inform you that over half of year group travels to school on foot or bike/scooter. We created tally charts and pictograms from this to introduce pictorial maths with the children. Please can you ensure that all items of uniform coming in are named. Your child will be coming home today with their new 'reading for pleasure' book. If you have any 'reading for pleasure' books at home, please can they be returned to school next week. Please email ICT if you are experiencing any technical issues with Tapestry at [ictsupport@darlinghurst.co.uk](mailto:ictsupport@darlinghurst.co.uk)

This week, to celebrate Black History month, **Year 1** have been finding out about Rosa Parks and how she stood up for something that she believed in. We have linked this to our learning about our own emotions and how they can affect the feelings of others. The children have responded positively to the question 'What can you do if it's not fair?' and they have come up with some thoughtful and caring ideas.

In **Year 2** we have been writing instructions on how to have fun in the rain. For our hook (wow moment) we went outside in our wellies and raincoats to see whether we could come up with the best ways to enjoy a rainy day. Unfortunately, Tuesday morning wasn't as wet as we had hoped but, we still managed to find some puddles and use our imagination!

In science we have been exploring how to stay healthy, creating our own healthy plate and lunchbox. Also, this week in art we have been getting into the festive spirit (yes, in October) creating Christmas cards to send off for printing.



**Year 3** have enjoyed the introduction of our celebration of Black History Month. The children have been listening to songs, raps, reading fact files about inspirational people and how world changing events that have occurred over the last two centuries have influenced our lives and world for the better.





On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, the academy watched with great interest and pride as the 13 **Head Boy and Head Girl candidates** from **Year 6** shared their nominee videos with us, explaining how they are suitable and worthy candidates for the roles. The videos were of an incredible quality with creativity, personality and flair. We were introduced to family pets, magic tricks, gymnastic skills and even cakes were baked with the children's passion and dedication ringing clear through every entry as well as mature thoughts and ambitions for the roles.

It is my pleasure to announce that Willow will be our next Head Girl with Simeon as our Head Boy. They will be supported by Emma and Hollie as the Vice Head Girls and George and Wes as our Vice Head Boys.

All of the nominees are now part of the academy Junior Leadership (prefect) Team and they will support a variety of projects, academy priorities and events.

We are very fortunate to have them all representing the academy and we are so proud of the effort, ambition and skill they all showed in putting themselves forward. We are very excited to see what the team develops and produces for the children at Darlinghurst this year.

It is with pride and joy that I introduce to you our new Junior Leadership Team:

Head Girl	Head Boy
Willow	Simeon
Deputy Head Girls	Deputy Head Boys
Emma	George
Hollie	Wes



Charlotte	Alessandro	Magdalena	Chelsea
Ibrahim	Lennon	Lily	Dennie-Ray
Scarlet	Avni	Grace	Max
Connie	Faith	Georgina	Joe
Callum F	Faye	Kyla	Meadow
Evie	Tobias	Sydney	Ella
Martha	Dylan		Fleur
Aimee	Ella S		Lily



They will be working in three teams: Media Development, Academy Environment and Visual Guide.

Media development team	Academy environment team	Visual guide team
<b>Senior: Emma and Wes</b>	<b>Senior: Simeon and Hollie</b>	<b>Senior: George and Willow</b>
Dylan	Kyla	Meadow
Ella S	Sydney	Ella
Chelsea	Avni	Grace
Dennie-Ray	Faith	Georgina
Callum F	Faye	Alessandro
Evie	Tobias	Lennon
Martha	Max	Scarlet
Aimee	Joe	Connie
Magdalena	Charlotte	Fleur
Lily	Ibrahim	Lily

The Media Development will be working on creating and promoting the working life, events and academy values through our social media platforms. They will be responsible for creating, producing and editing videos and resources that promote everything that makes Darlinghurst, Darlinghurst.

The Academy Environment team will be responsible for developing, maintaining and helping to create child-focused displays around the whole academy. They will be working together to help make our academy as child-focused as possible in all capacities.

The Visual Guide team will be responsible for creating and developing visual guides in the form of posters and videos that will be seen around the academy. These will be supportive presentations for all of our children, and staff, to refer to during the course of their day at Darlinghurst.

## Learning and Life Skills – Learning Together

This half term, we have been focusing on the strand – 'Learning Together'. The purpose of this strand is to intentionally and explicitly develop the essential skills that pupils need in order to work collaboratively; both inside & outside the classroom, and in the future. Key themes are:

- team work
- collaboration
- supporting others
- getting on with others
- sharing responsibility
- compromise and negotiation.



Pupils develop the understanding of the qualities needed to be a good member of a social group and learn as part of a group. Many pupils believe that what helps them to learn best is learning with other pupils. Therefore, it is important to explicitly and intentionally teach and provide opportunities for pupils to explore the skills necessary to collaborate and learn with others. Furthermore, it is through developing a common language and vocabulary that pupils and adults are enabled to have meaningful conversations about learning.

As part of our Learning and Life Skills, class teachers set 'I can' statements which are targets for the children to meet. Perhaps you'd like to set some targets at home. Here are some suggestions from the 'Being a good member of a social group' strand:

- Early Years: I can put objects and materials away when I finish an activity.
- Years 1 and 2: I can ask permission of others to borrow or use things which are not my own.
- Years 3 and 4: I can carry out a responsibility or task given to me by an adult.
- Years 5 and 6: I can select materials I need to carry out a task.



We'd love to hear how your children are getting on with these fundamental skills so please share photos and comments by contacting us at [generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk)

**Mrs Powell**



## Proud to be Me

Kane has overcome huge obstacles to tackle the balance beam in his PE lesson. With some incredible bravery and great encouragement from the class, Kane was able to achieve his balancing, jumping and landing skills with a smile on his face. Well done Kane. **Mr Blewett and Miss Roxburgh**

## World Mental Health Day

At a time when it's needed most, here at Darlinghurst we have come together for #HelloYellow to support young people's mental health on World Mental Health Day. It was great to see so many children decked out in yellow for #HelloYellow – thanks to everyone for their contributions towards this worthy cause.



#HelloYellow  
**YOUNG MINDS**



Southend Local Authority has recently commissioned a Children and Young People specialist counselling service – three voluntary sector organisations are commissioned to deliver this – Open Door, Kids Inspire & South and Central Essex Mind. The service is commissioned for 5-18 year olds, or up to 25 if they have an Education, Health and Care Plan. Referrals can come from any professional that has contact with the child or young person, or they can refer themselves to the service. Should you require any additional information please contact Mrs Grant our Inclusion Leader on [generalenquiries@darlinghurst.gov.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@darlinghurst.gov.uk)

## SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

### What support is out there during these uncertain times for parents and carers?

There are many places that information and help can be found including on the school website. The web addresses below are websites that parents and carers can access to find support groups and help lines for further advice when supporting a child with SEMH needs.

- **LIVEWELL** – Southend's central point for information and services that can give you the support you need locally. <https://livewellsouthend.com/kb5/southendonseadirectory/home.page>
- **SENDIASS Southend** - (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service) is a confidential and impartial information, advice and support service on issues related to Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). <http://www.sendiassouthend.co.uk/>
- **Family Lives** – building better family lives together

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

- **Every Mind Matters** - Top tips to support children and young people  
<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/childrens-mental-health/>
- **Young Minds** – Worried about a child or young person's behaviour or mental health? You're not alone  
<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/>
- **The Expert Parent's Guide to Childhood Anxiety** – step by step guide online  
<https://tutorful.co.uk/guides/the-expert-guide-to-help-your-child-with-anxiety>
- **Ruby's Worry** – a story book about worries for parents/ carers to listen to with their child.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lhhCq44ar8&feature=youtu.be>

### Coronavirus related links – resources for parents and carers and their children:

- **COVID 19** – Social Story to support understanding around Coronavirus  
<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/waynflete-infants-school/UploadedDocument/3d20317a84d74242b9791068008c21a0/coronavirus-social-story.pdf>
- **Everybody Worries** – a picture book for worries around Coronavirus.  
<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/chuter-edu/UploadedDocument/e3039c2015324b8f941b77dc5cffa0a4/its-ok-to-worry-about-coronavirus-storypdf.pdf>
- **COVIBOOK** – an interactive resource designed to support and reassure children under 7  
[https://660919d3-b85b-43c3-a3ad-3de6a9d37099.filesusr.com/ugd/64c685\\_0a595408de2e4bfcfbf1539dcf6ba4b89.pdf](https://660919d3-b85b-43c3-a3ad-3de6a9d37099.filesusr.com/ugd/64c685_0a595408de2e4bfcfbf1539dcf6ba4b89.pdf)



## Hot Meal Options – Tuesdays and Thursdays

We will be offering hot meal options on Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting from next week. The hot meal options will be available alongside the existing choices of ham, egg, cheese or tuna packed lunches. The hot meal options will be as follows:-

- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October                      Macaroni cheese
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October                     Fish fingers or vegan nuggets
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October                     Pasta bolognese or Mediterranean pasta
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October                    Sausages or Quorn sausages



**Darlinghurst**  
ACADEMY

### Virtual Tour with the Principal

Friday 23rd October

- Enjoy a virtual tour with the Principal
- Take a 360 tour of the academy
- View our prospectus
- Look at the academy at work

This is a virtual event and will be live on our academy website from 4pm. The link will be accessible on our homepage.

Achieving Excellence Together

