



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,

This week the academy has continued to be a hive of activity within the curriculum, with final stages of filming for our virtual Christmas performances and projects coming to a close. Children have been conducting tests and designs in science and technology for insulated lunchboxes, old fashioned toys and party hats. Our media team are putting together their final cuts and I would like to thank them, along with the staff and children for their contributions and creativity. We will be able to share our Christmas celebrations with you from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December via Instagram (@DarlinghurstAcademy).

Take a look at our Christmas collage –



I would like to thank the kitchen staff for cooking Christmas dinner over the duration of this week so our children enjoyed their Christmas dinner with their bubble friends and teaching staff. It was a lovely experience for the children and staff. There were so many comments made in reference to how lovely it was to be eating and celebrating together. So many of our children also shared that the one thing they were looking forward to the most this Christmas time was spending time with their families – displaying the true value of Christmas and a sense of belonging.





As we approach the last week of term we cannot help but reflect on the Autumn Term and plan ahead for a hopeful new year. I would like to thank everyone within our community for their continued support this term and praise our children for their resilience and positivity. We are proud of their personal achievements and look forward to sharing these with you in the forthcoming parent consultations. As ever, our staff have shown commitment and dedication to all the children at Darlinghurst – making every day count! With the autumn term complete we look forward to leaping into the Spring Term.

As mentioned in our communication via school ping, the academy will be closed at the end of the school day, on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, with provision for Friday morning being shared via DB Primary for remote learning. This approach has been undertaken to support as the last two days of term are hugely significant, as tracing will still have to happen in the 48 hour infectious window used for contact tracing. By shortening the window this will mean that it does not go further into the festive period. I hope that we all have a healthy and happy Christmas.

As always, enjoy your family time together.

**Mrs Nicholls, Principal**

**Following guidance from the Department for Education and Local Authority, our last day of term will now be Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Our children will leave at their normal designated departure time and gate.**

**On the morning of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, the children will be provided with remote learning via DB Primary (Tapestry for Early Years), in line with expectations of the Department for Education.**

**After school closes on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December, I ask that you notify the academy should your child develop symptoms within 48 hours (resulting in a positive test result) of being in school. This notification should be via [generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk), FAO Mrs Emma Nicholls.**

**Should your child develop symptoms more than 48 hours of being in school, contact NHS test and trace for contact tracing instructions.**

## **Around the Academy**

This week in **Nursery** we have changed the role play area into a Christmas post office. The children have been writing cards, putting them into envelopes to post to their friends and wrapping presents (opening them too!). Instead of our yearly walk to the letterbox to post our letters to Santa in Glenberrie Drive, we took a walk in the school grounds and set up a post box of our own. We continued with our usual routine of sending our wishes, sprinkling glitter (magic) and sending our thanks to The North Pole, in the hope that Santa makes all of the children's wishes come true at Christmas. Please take a look on Tapestry if you haven't already, as the children's faces say it all! **Team Nursery**



This week **Reception** have thoroughly enjoyed discussing different events that families celebrate throughout the year and have learnt about the Christmas Story. On Thursday we learnt about Hanukkah, a Jewish festival, that finishes on December 18<sup>th</sup>. The children created their own Menorah demonstrating their cutting and sticking skills with adding the candles to celebrate the special Jewish Festival. The weather has been a little changeable and for most of the time a little chilly! This doesn't stop Reception though, as we enjoy exploring and learning in our spacious outdoor areas. Fortunately, most children arrive at school wearing gloves, scarves and hats ready for whatever the weather challenges us with! Noah in Starfish said, "I'm geared up! Please ensure that your child's personal items are clearly named at all times, including hats, scarves and gloves. Have a lovely weekend. **The Reception Team**

This week in **Year 1**, we have been looking at the story of The Gingerbread Man and using this within different lessons. We have thought about the characters and questions we could ask them to help support our writing. We also used our senses to explore a gingerbread man, we had great discussions about what it smells like? what it feels like? and the best one was what it tastes like? In class we carried out a science experiment to investigate which material would be best to keep a gingerbread man dry. It has been another fantastic week in Year 1!

**Year 3** started off the week with some Christmas activities which were thoroughly enjoyed by all the children. Seashell class were busy designing their Christmas trees, Dune class were beavering away on their stars and Coral class were creating their fantastic angels.

In maths, we have been focusing on what we should measure in metres, centimetres and millimetres. We have also started to look at measuring the perimeter of different shapes.

For writing, we have been looking at creating our own instructions for how to make a jam sandwich. Next week, we will be writing about how to build a snowman. In **art** this week we have been making Christmas decorations. We made some paper reindeers to hang on our trees at home and had great fun, learning a new skill.



Do you hear what I hear? Do you see what I see? Completing this topic, the children in **Year 4** have shared their knowledge of the ear and eyes. Patterns during this time of year are all around us. During maths, we have been exploring the patterns of the times tables which will help the children to remember them. Bang, Bang, we have been listening to the story of a drum who has been left up high because he is too noisy. A new music teacher arrives and brings the drum back to life and everyone enjoys music. Music can be so good for our mental health in difficult times so take the time to listen and chill. We look forward to writing our own story next week. As we move to the last week, we take the time to enjoy the festive season by continuing to link our learning to Christmas. I would like to say thank you for all your support as it moves to the last week of my teaching. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

This week in **Year 5** we have continued to explore fractions. Beginning with experimenting with unifix cubes to solidify the relationship between whole and equal parts. Next we moved onto shading fractions and finding fractions of a shape, before solving abstractly quantities of amounts.

During Writing we have written a Christmas adventure, based on our writing hook - watching the ALDI Christmas advert. This gave the children an opportunity to showcase the success criteria we have focused on this half term including prepositions, speech and parenthesis.

Continuing with our connected curriculum topic of mysterious materials we have investigated states of matter. Ask your child to explain what happens to transform a solid into a liquid and if they can name a reversible change. We have also made our material lunchboxes using materials from home ready to test next week to see if we have chosen the best insulator. Building our RE focus on faith and beliefs, we explored the key beliefs of Christianity and the story behind our Christmas celebration. Challenging the children to review the essential beliefs and compare the beliefs to the 3 other religions we have investigated this half term.



After enjoying the Christmas jumper day and Christmas meal on Wednesday, to end our week we have come together to create 4 Christmas wreath chandeliers. Across the school, hula hoops have been brought to each class to create a Christmas wreath to hang from the ceiling in the hall, to celebrate Christmas in our final week. Each class in year 5 chose a Christmas theme to represent on their Christmas hula hoop wreaths and we spent a fun Friday morning designing and creating Santa, stockings, snowflakes and more to hang down from the hoop. Merry Christmas one and all.

This week in **Year 6**, we have been writing newspaper reports about the Australian bushfires. We have watched videos showing the devastation and have practised putting quotes into our writing. In Science, we went outside to learn about the relative distances of planets in the solar system. We used a scale to show how many steps away from the sun each planet is—we were surprised at how far away Neptune is! The highlight of the week was sharing school Christmas dinner with our classes; all the Year 6 teachers enjoyed the opportunity to have lunch together and chat to our children whilst eating delicious food.

## Gymnastics Success

This term, and for the first time ever, Miss Morris put together two gymnastics squads and entered them into the Southend School Sports Partnerships annual competition. She chose Year 2 and 6 to compete as these children are in a year group bubble and meant that they could train together. After hours of practice, in and out of school, the time came for us to video the children performing their routines and submit them to the virtual event. After what seemed like weeks we finally received the results. I am proud to tell you that our amazing Year 2 squad finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and our equally amazing Year 6 squad finished in second place meaning that they will now represent us in the **Essex finals**. Not bad for our first attempt! The children will all be receiving medals and certificates in due course. I'd like to thank the children for their determination in perfecting their routines and working so hard, as well as a massive thank you to Miss Morris for teaching them and encouraging them to reach their potential. Well done to all involved. **Mr Felton PE Subject Lead**

Please encourage your child to **ROCK ON** with the Times Tables Rockstars app/website for at least 5 minutes **every single day**. It is a daily homework expectation for all children from Years 2 – 6 because we recognise that knowing your times tables makes a huge difference to children's confidence in maths overall. Our aim is for all our children to know all their tables up to 12x12 before they leave Year 4, in line with national expectations.

If you need a reminder of your child's login details, please contact your child's teacher through DB Primary or email [ictsupport@darlinghurst.co.uk](mailto:ictsupport@darlinghurst.co.uk).

Congratulations to the following classes that had the highest engagement with the TTRS app/website last week!

TTRS Top Rockers - December Week 2			
	% of class that used TTRS last week	Average daily minutes	Average correct answers
1st	Dune	Bell Wharf	Bell Wharf
2nd	Coral	Stingray, Swordfish, Strand, Victoria	Victoria



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

