



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

Join us today at 4pm for our virtual event! Take a look at our Academy at work video looking at footage, past and present. Engage in a virtual tour with Mrs Nicholls as she walks and talks around our Academy. This virtual tour package has been produced to promote our school amongst the community for prospective families however, we wanted to share this experience with you. The link is available for you to view via our website at 4pm.

Message from the Principal

Dear parents & carers,

Here we are at the end of the first half term, having seen our children all fully return back to school and reintegrate back into learning and academy life. We have been extremely proud of their resilience and their ability to adapt to change. They have been truly remarkable! This half term, we have focused on identified areas within the curriculum to support our children emotionally and socially. Our teachers have been highly focused on addressing gaps in learning and building essential skills within core learning, with children showing determination and focus on their personal progress and success. Reading has remained a priority with communications sent home placing emphasis on the importance of reading every day in support of phonics, Bug club, Accelerated reader and sharing books. Please do continue to encourage your child to read every day and use their sound mats.

We adapted the wider curriculum to build knowledge and skills so that key concepts were taught to ensure progression, continuing our focus on our topics. Children in year one have been focusing on different journeys such as space. Within year two children enjoyed learning about a healthy diet. Year three continued to learn about animal habitats, classification and lifestyle and made links to Charles Darwin. Year 4 impressed me with their work on littering and pollution and were really passionate about how to protect our natural environment. Year 5 were wowed by a demonstration of how the digestive system works using tights and food. Year 6 revised and deepened their knowledge of plants and insects, including some experiments involving coloured water. This week I particularly enjoyed visiting Hagrid's hut for chats with year 5 around the camp fire, watching year 5 cricket and joining reception and nursery during their free flow sessions, exploring inside and outside the classroom.

I enjoyed dancing with reception, learning a dance routine, to a fun song about being a puppet, 'Pinocchio'.





Across the academy children and staff have been engaging in cross curricular learning during Black History Month. Mrs Powell (curriculum raising standards leader) and Mr Dunne (humanities leader) have been extremely proud of their engagement and work. This year we have extended our time devoted to Black History Month and it really shows through the quality of work that the children have created this year. Across the academy, the children have embraced the rich and vibrant legacy of many influential black figures and cultures within and beyond living memory and truly demonstrated their understanding of the positive impact the black community have had on our country. What a great success. The children have shown a clear understanding about the importance of diversity and celebrating achievements of all, including how Black History has played a critical part in shaping modern day Britain.



I would like to thank you for your commitment to attendance for this half term, knowing that every day counts but also having to consider health and safety. Despite influential factors our attendance is currently at 96% our hand hygiene and safety measures is making a difference.

After an eight week term our children are now ready for a well-deserved rest and some family time and I wish them a happy and safe break and look forward to their safe return. Have a safe Halloween and also let us not forget, taking a minute to remember those who gave their lives for us on remembrance Sunday.

Mrs Nicholls



Around the Academy

This week in **Reception** we have been learning about Autumn. The weather has truly been autumnal, setting the tone beautifully for our walk, as we enjoyed splashing in puddles and crunching through leaves, whilst remarking on the wonderful colour changes the season brings to our surroundings. We discussed the changing colours of the leaves on the trees and the many we found on the floor! With this we further explored the starting sounds that we have been looking at this half term with a top favourite being 'm' for mulching the leaves with our 'f' feet. We wonder how many you can spot during an autumn week when we are off school? Add your photos to tapestry or even a video that capture these learning moments.

Exploring autumn further we had some pumpkins out in the garden for the children to explore and we had a little visitor to the garden- a squirrel! The children watched with fascination as the squirrel stopped for a snack and had a nibble from one of the pumpkins. This gave way to a brilliant discussion about creatures that live in the trees and that some of them will soon be hibernating with some children adding to the discussion that they knew of bears and some tortoises hibernating away until next year.

The children have got to find the most unusual place to read a story and capture this in a photo and send it to Tapestry. This could be in the smallest space, the largest space, the highest space with teachers getting involved and Mrs Dutton will be casting the final vote- good luck!

We wish you all a very happy, relaxing and enjoyable family time together. **The Reception Team**

This week in **Year 1**, we have started our new topic about toys, old and new. We have enjoyed talking about all the different toys we play with, including transformers and dolls houses and are looking forward to learning all about old toys and discovering how they were made and who played with them. In writing, the children have enjoyed reading about the three little pigs and creating their own versions of the story. We hope you all have a great half term!



This week in **Year 2**, we have been exploring what we can see, hear, feel, smell and taste in autumn. As a result, we have each created our own autumnal poem of the senses. Throughout this term, we have been watching the seeds we planted in week 1 grow (although, some seeds were a little stubborn!). This week we got to repot some of the shoots in the hope that they will grow into the big, strong plant they are meant to be and produce vegetables (maybe one will be the enormous turnip?). Lobsters and Shrimp were also lucky enough to spend their outdoor learning lesson in Hagrid's hut. They had a bonfire whilst listening to Winnie the Witch.



The **Year 3** team are very proud of all the hard work the children in Year 3 have done over the last half term. The children have coped so well with all the changes that have been happening in school over recent weeks and have been following rules and routines impeccably. Have a fantastic holiday everybody and we look forward to seeing you all in November.

Year 4 have been working hard this week, in maths we have been revising our subtraction skills by looking at regrouping and we've enjoyed playing the game 'deconstruct a block' with our partner. In writing we have been learning skills such as how to edit our work effectively, just like an author, this will help make our writing even better! We've learnt about the origins of Halloween and enjoyed swapping stories about customs and traditions. Also, it was great fun learning about why we have a Guy on Bonfire Night!!!

This week, **Year 5** have been exploring the incredible achievements and 'firsts' by black Britons throughout history, including the Slavery Abolition Act and becoming MP's in parliament. We have also discussed the positive impact that the Windrush generation has made on the country since arriving after WW2, leading right up to the present day as well as the hardships they faced when they arrived. In writing, Year 5 have been using their knowledge of the body from our topic 'What Happens Inside of Us?' to write a report about the digestive system and how it works. Well done Year 5 for showing resilience, positivity and maturity over the first half term back at school! Make sure that during the half term, you are continuing to read for at least 20 minutes a day, you are practicing your times tables on Rockstars and you keep up with your spellings on Sir Linkalot. But don't forget to make sure you take a well-deserved break and relax! See you in the next half term!

Miss McCrory and the Year 5 team

This week **Mayflower** have been learning about different animal lifecycles and comparing them in Science. In Writing, they have been writing memoirs about the HMV Empire Windrush, which we learnt about as part of Black History Month. The children have really enjoyed this piece of writing and seeing things from the perspective of the new arrivals in Britain including the problems they had to face. Linked to this, they have also learnt about the countries in the Caribbean and the different musical and artistic influences, as well as its history. **Mrs Powell**

Black History Month

This month we have been celebrating **Black History Month** – looking at the here and now and the future possibilities, as well as reflecting on the past. We wish to offer the children a chance to explore and reflect on aspects of our past and in order to gain a deeper understanding of modern day Britain. This week we'd like to showcase the amazing work that has been happening across the school.

In **art**, children studied the African American painter, Alma Woodsey Thomas and were inspired to recreate her work using water colours. A portrait of an African lady was also recreated using oil pastels and focusing on blending.



Reception read the story *Handa's Surprise* and tasted some different fruit like in the book.

Year 1 learnt about Rosa Parks and created some 'Top Trumps' cards with key facts about her.

Black History Month is all about celebrating diversity. **Year 2** looked at what this meant and studied different British individuals, creating profiles about them.

Year 3 reflected on the meaning of Black History Month, studying a timeline of key events through the years. Many of the children were able to identify Black History figures such as Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jnr and in addition they added to a class list of significant figures such as Misty Copeland, Ella Fitzgerald and Dr Mae Jemison.

Lacey – *"Black people have been treated badly in the past so it's important that we now look back and celebrate their achievements."*

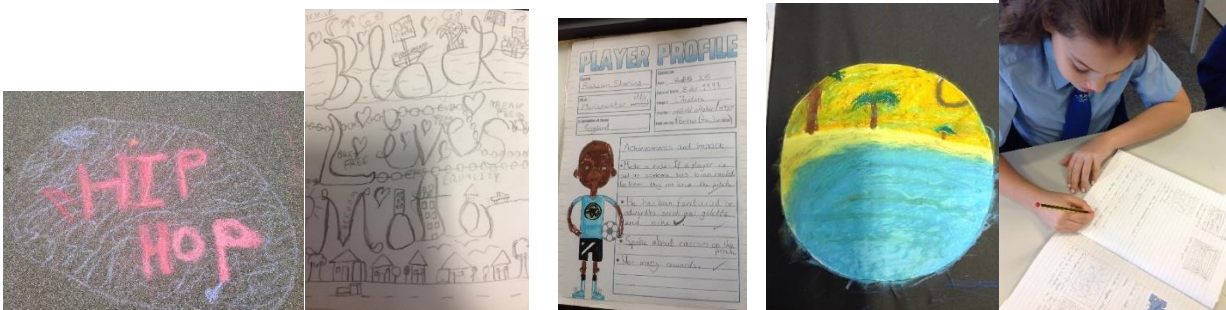
Slavery was discussed in **Year 4** by exploring different historical sources and the children created posters.

Florence – *"We celebrate Black History and that's really important"*



Year 5 have been focusing on influential figures in sport and music such as Stormzy. They have been reading poems by Majorie Blackman and Benjamin Zephaniah and have created their own poems about being British.

Year 6 learnt about the history of different music of Black Origin such as Reggae and Hip Hop especially its influence on graffiti. They also learnt about British artists, Rudi Patterson and Chris Ofili and created some artwork inspired by them. In Writing, they wrote about the HMV Empire Windrush.



Emily – *"We celebrate Black History so we can see the history of how Black people were treated in the past."*

Olivia – *"In the past black people weren't respected but now we do respect them."*



Half Term PE Challenge

To keep our amazing children active during the half term break, I am setting a 'Home Olympic' style challenge. I would like the children to either learn how to skip or improve their skipping skills. After half term my team and I will be setting various skipping challenges for each year group so practicing over the half term break is a great idea. For ideas and tuition please follow the following link <https://youtu.be/MnckThhTjXY> Upon the children's return to school in November, I would like to encourage them to bring in their skipping ropes (named of course) to use during break and lunchtime. Due to current restrictions, we are unable to provide equipment during these breaks in the school day so if your child can bring in a skipping rope it would be great. Skipping is a fantastic and inexpensive way to keep the children active and occupied. Good luck.

Mr Felton PE Subject Lead

The 16th-20th November is anti-bullying week. The theme this year is 'Unity against bullying'. To kick off our week we will be asking children to wear odd socks to school on the 16th November. This is to show that it is okay to be different and it should actually be celebrated. A reminder will be sent out closer to the time but this is a perfect opportunity to embrace the 'sock monster' and dig out those pesky odd socks!



Battle of the Classes

Over the next 2 weeks, there will be another Battle of the Bands between classes of the same year group. The following battles will take place. The battles begin from 10am 28/10/20 on the 09/11/20 till 5pm. Check the starting dates and times and let's have FUN learning our Times Tables - ROCK ON!!!!!! **Mr Cauchi. Maths Lead**



Year 2

Shrimp vs Lobster

Year 3

Dune vs Coral

Dune vs Seashell

Coral vs Seashell

Year 4

Great White Shark vs Stingray

Great White Shark vs Sword Fish

Stingray vs Sword Fish

Year 5

Billet v Strand

Victoria v Bell Wharf

Year 6

Bembridge v Mayflower

Mayflower v Wilton

Flu Spray

The Childhood Nasal Flu Programme is offered to all children from Reception to Year 6 pupils. The Immunisation Team will be in school on Monday 31st November and Tuesday 1st December. Consent forms will be sent home after half term.



PTA Christmas Card Project 2020

Your child's design for this year's Christmas card project has now been returned, so please check their bags. This year we have opted for the online project, each design has its own log in where you can view it, make any changes to the text on the back of the card and place your orders. Please take a moment to ensure your child's name and class is spelt correctly, whilst we have done our best to make sure they are correct, mistakes can happen. The deadline for placing your order is Saturday, 14th November. The cards should then be delivered within 2 weeks. Please contact the PTA should you have any questions. Thank you for your support. The PTA

Hot Meals

We will be introducing daily a choice of hot meal options (including a vegetarian option) after half term, alongside the existing cold meal choices. The menu will be shared with parents. All meals must be paid for in advance via ParentPay.

Thank you

Thank you for your donations to Young Minds, raising **£158.65** and awareness for emotional well-being.





10 TOP TIPS

REMOTE LEARNING FOR PARENTS

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in difficult circumstances. For parents and carers, the idea of remote learning isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote learning experience.

1) Take an active interest in your child's learning

As a parent or carer, remote learning will be a new concept for your child and there are bound to be a few teething problems to start with. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.



2) Monitor your child's communication and online activity

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.



3) Establish a daily schedule and routine

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.



4) Encourage screen breaks away from devices

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teachers will invariably advise on screen breaks however it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.



5) Ensure your learning device is in a public space in the home

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.



6) Implement safety controls and privacy restrictions on apps and software

Dependant on how your school implements remote learning, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.



7) Ensure your child only uses official school communication channels

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.



8) Familiarise yourself with relevant school policies

Schools should have a policy on remote learning and direction that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.



9) Maintain feedback with teachers

Engage in communication with teachers where possible and try to feed back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.



10) Monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health

Remote learning will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as you can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends everyday might take its toll.





10 TOP TIPS

REMOTE LEARNING FOR CHILDREN

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in difficult circumstances. For students, it's the perfect way to ensure they still get the education they need, despite not being at school. However it also requires a level of discipline and careful planning. That's why we've created this guide to help pupils understand different aspects of remote learning and to support them in ensuring their experience is as safe and secure as it can be.

1) Treat remote learning the same as classroom learning

Despite being at home, it's important to remember the same rules apply as being in the classroom, particularly in respect of behavior and conduct. Focus on learning and don't get distracted by your surroundings.



2) Use classroom language

If you are encouraged to communicate through emails and online messages, don't use shorthand text speak and write as though you would speak in class. Remember to be respectful and polite and avoid posting negative comments or spamming the chat.



3) Take regular screen breaks

Whilst remote learning might be an exciting experience to begin with, having prolonged periods of time in front of a screen isn't always healthy. Remember to have regular screen breaks where possible and in your spare time, try to get some fresh air and enjoy other activities away from electronic devices.



4) Always conduct video learning in an open space at home

To get the best experience from remote learning, it's important to create the right environment around you. Try to set up a mock 'classroom desk' at home in an open space so parents can supervise if necessary. Avoid bedrooms as this could be considered inappropriate.



5) Only communicate through approved school portals and platforms

It's important that you send messages and any pictures or images required for class through approved school channels, such as internal learning portals or approved platforms. This will help to keep your personal information safe and secure.



6) Stick to teacher rules and guidelines around online learning

Your school should issue you with guidance around remote learning and the rules to follow. Always maintain classroom behaviour and try to remember that you are in a learning environment and not a social setting.



7) Dress in school uniform

As part of your learning environment, try to maintain school uniform/dress. This will help as part of replicating classroom learning in the home. Try to avoid wearing anything too casual as this could be deemed inappropriate for school.



8) Don't share passwords or other sensitive information

In order to begin your online lessons or to gain access to learning materials, you may be provided with login details and passwords. In the same way you keep your personal details private, always keep these safe and never share them with others.



9) Don't use school platforms to discuss personal matters

It's important to keep your school communication channels separate from your own personal communication with friends and family. Don't be tempted to engage in casual discussions or send images, videos or links via official school apps or platforms that aren't associated with your learning.



10) Look after your mental health and wellbeing

Remote learning ultimately means working alone and missing out on daily social interaction with your friends. If you ever feel frustrated, low or sad, it's important to discuss how you feel with your parents or your teacher. Keeping in touch with friends over the phone or on social media can also help to keep your spirits up.

