



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 & carers,

This week I have been popping in and out of our virtual classrooms to say hello to our children and to see them in action. It has been wonderful to see an array of friendly faces on screen and to engage in the sessions with them. I have also enjoyed seeing parents working alongside, providing support to our younger children too. Thank you for everyone's engagement.

This week, I joined Jellyfish class as we went on a magic carpet ride together and embarked on an adventure looking for a bear. I wore my teddy bear ears and lots of the children had accessories and teddies too.

Together, we went on a bear hunt, through different settings until we found the bear. Miss Wise, dressed as an explorer with her binoculars at the ready, led the way. The children used their sound talk and strategies to help write the words to the story, developing their early literacy skills. Thank you Miss Wise for your creative lesson.

I have also enjoyed visiting Mrs Cooke during a reading lesson. They are studying the text, 'Giant', by Kate Scott. It is a book that celebrates friendship and the power of being true to yourself. It addresses the question, Have you ever felt like you don't measure up?

Mrs Cooke had me hooked straight away with her recap of the story and her story telling. She posed some very poignant questions too. I am not the tallest of people and Mr Nicholls is and we both come with experiences of being tall or small. We have both learned that it isn't your height that makes you who you are and I hope the character in the story finds that out too. Keep reading Stingray class! Here are two motivators for you:

- 1) remember that 'small things make big things happen'
- 2) enjoy this extract from the lyrics 'Little People' from the West End musical, 'Les Miserable', and believe in yourselves.

"They laugh at me, these fellas, Just because I am small

They laugh at me because I'm not hundred feet tall!

I tell 'em there's alot to learn down here on the ground

The world is big, but little people turn it around!"

I also attended a couple of history lessons. One lesson focused on the key question, 'Was it a good idea to ration food during the war?' children contributed to discussions demonstrating an understanding of the time but also considering their own personal responses. Discussions included reflections on family meal times, food choices and what it would be like for someone who was a little fussy with food. Thank you for the invite Mrs Berman and it was lovely to see Endeavour class and have a chat with them too.

This week's visits also included some math lessons with children practicing and applying their number skills, balancing equations and measures. I would like to say a huge well done to all the classes for their hard work and application during the lessons. Keep it up!

Please take a look at our top tips and protocols for LIVE lessons further in news and views and via our school ping.

During assembly this week, I was joined by Mrs Grant. The assembly was focused on the NSPCC message – speak out stay safe, reminding children that we are here to listen and to always speak to a trusted adult if they are worried about something. Mrs Grant had the help of a famous duo – not me and Mrs Hahn, but a pair that may be recognised from the TV, alongside Sally from the NSPCC.



**\*speak out and \*be heard be safe \*get help when they need it.**



This week some new challenges have been shared on Instagram, keeping us physically active and sparking some creativity. We also have our second week of celebrating excellence too.

Stay well and stay safe.

Enjoy your family time together.

**Mrs Nicholls**

### Around the Academy and at home

Our topic this week in Nursery has been set around the book 'We're going on a bear hunt' and what a week it's been! The children have been so busy with so many bear related activities, like making bear pictures using shapes, making a video of the story, finding the teddies, making maps and taking part in Mr Felton's P.E challenge. All of the children (and grownups of course) have been so busy, we are amazed at how well everybody in Nursery is getting on! Mrs Fennel and myself even turned into bears this week, it was bearillant! Keep uploading your lovely activities onto Tapestry, we love seeing everything you are doing! **Team Nursery**



Wow! So far, we have completed three weeks of live online learning together in **Reception**. Thank you for the continued support from all of the families and carers of our Reception children. I think that you will all agree that the children have risen to this new way of learning very well. This week, we focused our learning based on the story of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', by Michael Rosen. On Wednesday, we went on a magic carpet ride that was tremendous fun! We are impressed with the children's increasing phonic knowledge and their handwriting is getting smaller and neater every day. Well done, children! Remember to nip, grip and flick to have good control of the pencil. In Maths we have been thinking about one more and one less. It is lovely to see that the children are becoming increasingly confident with their number work. The teachers enjoy seeing all of the work and videos that you are uploading to Tapestry, so thank you.

Have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to seeing you online Monday morning. **The Reception Team**

This week **Year 1** have been working very hard both at home and in school. We have enjoyed going on an adventure with The Snail and the Whale and writing our own creative sentences and exploring our imagination to make them exciting and interesting. In maths, we have explored time and movement, learning how to add hours and half hours to a time and exploring different kinds of turns. Finally, we learnt all about climate change in our topic lessons and enjoyed listening to the story 'The Lonely Polar Bear' by Khoi Le. Well done to all our Year 1 students and to their families at home who are supporting them. You are all working so hard and we are so proud of you!

This week in **Year 2**, we have been considering whether there was anyone to blame for the Great Fire of London. This led to discussions about responsibilities and whether there should still be consequences when accidents happen. Year 2 shared lots of thought-provoking ideas and points of view! In our writing, we imagined we were in the centre of London as the Great Fire of London unfolded and considered what we might experience (see, hear, smell and feel). We have also been able to do some junk modelling of houses. We questioned what materials may make a house suitable for shelter and explored whether the tallest house is the strongest!

In **Year 3**, we have been working hard either at school or by remote learning at home and studying changing climates in our topic lessons. Across six recent live lessons, the children have been learning about the effects of our changing climate around the world due to the use of fossil fuels. The children have been engaged in



discussion on how to improve the problems we are facing, by creating poster, videos and songs on how we can make changes to the climates for the better.

Well done **Year 4** you have shown true determination in adapting to remote learning. We are proud of the way you have applied yourself in using the technology (even when feeling a bit nervous) and thank you parents for your support as it would be an impossible task without you. In maths we have been learning how to add and subtract fractions, with the help of a bar model. We applied these mathematical skills to solve word problems with some children creating their own maths stories – chocolate, sweets and pizza seemed to be a common theme! In English we have enjoyed writing a diary entry about the day we met our goblin and I know that the year 4 teachers have loved reading about the goblins you have created. In our topic lessons we have been looking at the history of the Roman invasion and how the Latin words spoken then are still used today. TTRS battles are very close as I type this Swordfish are in the lead! Remember year 4 to upload all your amazing work.

This week in **Year 5** we have been learning about the life of a soldier in the trenches. We explored how the trenches were designed and the important roles each soldier had to keep the trenches running. The children were great at putting themselves into the place of a soldier during this time and expressed how they would be feeling in the form of a diary entry. In maths, we have been learning about different types of measurement- length, capacity and mass. The children have been converting different units of measurement and applying these to real-life scenario word problems. All of the year 5 team would like to say a massive well done to all of you for being on time for your online lessons, always being equipped and ready for them and participating in the lessons with maturity and enthusiasm. We are very proud of you! Don't forget to keep logging into TimesTable Rockstars, Sir Linkalot and Accelerated reader in between your lessons. Enjoy your weekend (away from a screen if you can!) **Miss McCrory**

**Year 6** have been really enjoying their History topic. This week we have looked at the role of women in World War 2 and the children created posters advertising for women to apply for different jobs. We also learn about life in Victorian times and the children were shocked that children had to get jobs and work in those times! In English, we wrote a story about life as an evacuee during World War 2. Who knew life was so different in the past for children!?! Our Climate Change topic has been really interesting and the children were shocked by some of the statistics this week:

- about 1.3 billion tonnes or one third of the food produced in the world ends up being wasted
- 40% of the demand for plastic is for single-use plastic and 40% of this ends up in landfill

Next week we will be looking at solutions to these problems as part of Eco week.

## Remote learning

Thank you and well done to everyone who is showing confidence and determination to make remote learning as effective as it can be.

Keep a look out for fresh protocols whilst we are learning from home – these will be with you soon – but in the meantime, here are some top tips to make our live lessons as productive for everybody as possible: make sure you

- 1) are properly dressed before every lesson – get out of those pyjamas!
- 2) eat your breakfast or a snack before lessons, not during
- 3) sit up straight and as still as you can, just as you would in class
- 4) leave the chat function clear unless asked to by your teacher so we are not distracting each other

Keep up the great work!

Mr Turner



## Winter Home Olympics

Our Winter Home Olympics is now up and running. Every Monday and Thursday the PE team are setting fun challenges for the children to complete. These challenges will be posted on DB Primary and our school Instagram account. The challenges can be completed at any time, there is no time limit. The top five children with the most points will receive a trophy, delivered to their door by our PE team. All children involved will win points for their house team and receive individual rewards too.

Please encourage your children to join in, but whatever they are doing to keep active during this lockdown please get them to let us know via DB Primary. We love seeing what they have been up to.

Thank you and stay safe.

**Mr Felton PE Subject Lead.**

## Weekly Eco Challenge

This week, our focus is on energy. I would like your child to be an energy inspector at home. Look at ways in which you can save electricity and do a survey. Are lights on in rooms that no one is using? Is the TV on and no one is watching? Are you leaving a device on standby instead of turning it off? Are any switches left on? Write a checklist of things you could change and then talk about how you could change as a family. Record how much electricity you use each week or month normally and see if it changes when you start switching off. Good luck and I'd love to hear about how well you have done or changes you have made as a family.



# ECO WEEK

## Eco Week 2021

Following on from previous years successes, next week is Eco Week and we will be learning about environmental issues and what we can do to be more eco-friendly as part of our blended learning. Check our instagram each day for facts, tips, eco-learning and challenges for you to do at home.

## Times Tables

Please encourage your child to practise their times tables using the Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS) app or website for 10 minutes every day. This is proven to make a huge difference to children's recall, which in turn makes everything in maths so much quicker and easier. TTRS' auto training mode uses algorithms based on billions of games played by children around the world over the years, so they get the right balance of practising tables they know and introducing new ones in order.

Here are last week's winners:

TTRS Top Rockers - January Week 2			
	% of class that used TTRS last week	Average daily minutes	Average correct answers
1st	Strand	Endeavour	Endeavour
2nd	Wilton	Swordfish	Billet
3rd	Swordfish	Great White Shark	Wilton



What have you missed on Instagram this week?

