



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 the sun has been shining and children have enjoyed learning inside and outside the classroom, engaging in cross curricular learning and enrichment opportunities. The staff and children have shown creativity to develop enrichment opportunities, including 'Virtual trips'. This week, year 2, went to the zoo! They had so much fun, boarding the mini bus and engaging in virtual tours at Chester Zoo. They even had a picnic and fun and games. It was a pleasure to see. This week we saw the return of some of our PE clubs and this was celebrated with cheers and smiles. Over the coming weeks and months we will continue to roll out our schedule of PE enrichment to year groups.



As an Eco-School, we participated in the annual event – Earth Day, engaging in lessons and activities linked to this year's theme, 'Restore our Earth'. The Eco Team in year 6, shared performance poetry and carried out a litter pick in the surrounding area.

Today, in celebration of St Georges Day, combined with National Picnic Day, our children and staff enjoyed the open air, having lunch in designated zones around the school grounds. A huge thank you to the catering staff, MDAs and teachers for their engagement. It was a lovely lunchtime.

Take a look at our Instagram for pictures and videos of today's event.



Last Friday was National Offer Day for Reception intake 2021-2022 and I am so excited. We have begun early communication with families. I am delighted that our nursery children will be joining us in Reception along with new children from pre-schools and local nurseries. Over the coming weeks and months we will continue our induction process in preparation for a happy and positive start.



It was wonderful to hear back from some of our parents, sharing their child's joy at receiving their first special message and postcard. We ask parents to look out for the next message, with meet the Early Year's Team shortly.



As always, enjoy your family time together.  
Mrs Nicholls



## Parental and Pupil voice

At the end of last term, a survey was shared with parents and children to gather parental and pupil voice in relation to our blended learning provision, during lockdown. I would like to thank the children across the academy for sharing their views and also the 67 families for their time and responses. The results were overwhelmingly positive and over this half term I would like to share snapshots of the survey with you. The results are presented in a 'wordle' – a creative cloud of words that show a visual depiction of the words shared in the survey answers. The larger the word, the more times it was used.

### Question 1 – What did you/your child enjoy most about live lessons?

### Question 2 - Why was it helpful/nice to see your class friends and teachers each day in the virtual classroom?

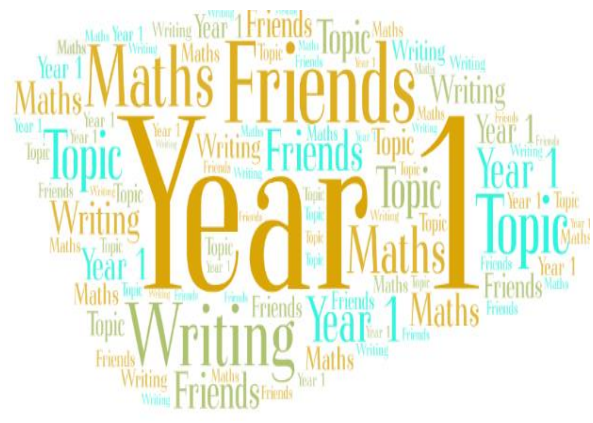
Our children and parents both shared in their responses how much they valued staying connected and what that meant to them and the family, during lockdown. The live lessons allowed for daily contact and school routine, with children seeing the familiar faces of their class friends and teachers. It gave a sense of normality and belonging. I know the staff felt the same. This helped the transition back to school too as everyone had been together (virtually) at a time where we had to stay apart. Upon return, the children shared that seeing friends (face to face) learning and playing together, was one of the top five things about being back at school!

### Question 1 – What did you/your child enjoy most about live lessons?

Our parents said:



Our children said:





Interesting Quieter Work at own pace





## Question 2 - Why was it helpful/nice to see your class friends and teachers each day in the virtual classroom?

Our parents said:



Our children said:





## Around the Academy

There has been great excitement in **Reception** this week as ten little caterpillars have come to visit us. We have given them all a name. What names would you choose? Colin maybe? The children and teachers are looking forward to watching part of the caterpillars lifecycle building upon last weeks learning of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. Our Learning and Life skills focus this term is Think, Think, Think! This is very appropriate to our learning as we are certainly always asking questions, finding new ways to get answers and we challenge our learning. In fact, we are determined learners! On Thursday we celebrated World Earth Day and thought of various ways that we can help look after our planet. We all agreed that a brilliant way to start is to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Ask your child to help you do this at home. We ended the week joining in with a picnic lunch outside to celebrate National Picnic Day. Tremendous fun was had by all and it was a wonderful way to finish the week. Have a marvellous weekend.

This week in **Year 1**, we have been using our understanding of making a puppet to help us in writing to create our own set of instructions for others to use and of course, we got to make our very own puppet to make sure the instructions were in order! In Maths, we have been looking at ten more and ten less of any number, as well as greater than and less than, placing these numbers on a number line and looking at the amount of tens and ones the numbers have to describe which one is greater. We have also had great fun starting our new topic - Why is water precious? Thinking about plants and what they need to grow. From this, we all really enjoyed planting our own sunflower seed and we cannot wait to see them grow!

This week, **Year 2** had the most amazing virtual zoo trip to Chester Zoo. We all got onto the minibus (and off again!), had a wonderful picnic lunch together and played games. We then explored the zoo. We watched videos made by the animal keepers and spotted as many animals as we could. We have also been learning about how to collect and represent data. We have been producing bar charts and learning how to interpret the data on them.

**Year 3** were very excited for World Earth Day. We planted some sunflower seeds outside our classrooms and went on a hunt for micro habitats in the school grounds. We are hoping to find lots of insects to look at! We have just finished looking at time in maths and are now moving onto exploring different shapes and their properties. The children have enjoyed writing about the day that they shrunk and imagining, what it would be like to be tiny in a world where everyday objects look humungous!

This week in **Year 4** we have been continuing our quest to improve the lives of the unhealthy pirates. It seems the lazy pirate from our writing task last week was given to much knowledge from the children and this week we have been writing a story showing what a 'healthy' pirate he is now. The children are much more aware of how chores can help increase fitness so please feel free to get them 'scrubbing the decks', 'climbing the rigging' and 'raising the flags' at home to increase their heart rates! The science we've completed this week has also let us practice one of our Learning and Life Skills of 'undertaking simple research from a range of sources' with our learning about the heart, how it works and how we can use exercise to keep it healthy. Earth Day on Thursday was fantastic! The children were fascinated to find out where our food comes from by looking at packaging and realising how the earth can be impacted by how it is transported to our supermarkets from as far away as New Zealand, Senegal and the US. Some lovely pledges were made by the children to try and help our beautiful planet in the future.

**Year 5** have had a lovely week learning the scientific names of the parts of a flower – we even got to dissect a flower ourselves! We have celebrated Earth Day by thinking about the positives and negatives of our changing environments and how they impact the wildlife around us. This week, our Think, Think, Think LLS statement has been to discuss what information is needed and where we can find it.



We have been showing this important skill in Maths when we have been solving word problems, working out what we already know, what we need to find out and how we can work out the missing information. We have also started our new music unit this week, which has seen us turning into rap stars learning the lyrics to 'The Fresh Prince of Bel Air'.

The **Year 6** children have been working really hard this week and have enjoyed starting their new Science topic – Let's Go Round Again in which they will revisit electricity and the human body. The week started with attempting to use a potato to light a bulb. Unfortunately, this wasn't very successful but the children were really persistent in trying and were able to give reasons why they thought the bulb hadn't lit. Wilton class were treated to seeing a clock powered by a lemon brought in by George so we could see that the science does work!

The children marked Earth Day by looking at electrical waste and how they could pledge to make a difference. They had lots of positive ideas which will really help look after our planet in the future!



The 22<sup>nd</sup> April is World Earth Day every year. Across the school on Thursday, we celebrated World Earth Day because we believe it is so important to show just how much we care for our planet at Darlinghurst. The school was a hive of activity, with children learning about pollution, wildlife, litter waste and recycling. Year 1 learned how to save water. Year 2 and 3 focused on wildlife and their habitats. Year 4 learned about where their food comes from, looking at how far some food we have in our cupboard travels and the pollution and greenhouse gases this creates. Year 5 created posters with ideas on what we could do to help the planet. Year 6 learned about electrical waste and made pledges on what they will do at home to combat the problem.

The Eco team went on a litter pick on the streets around the school and collected 1 bag of rubbish and 1 bag of recycling. Change doesn't just start at home but also within your local community.



TTRS Top Rockers - April Week 3			
	% of class that used TTRS last week	Average daily minutes	Average correct answers
1st	Swordfish 87%	Victoria (8)	Victoria (2438)
2nd	Dune	Mayflower	Mayflower
3rd	Stingray	Dune, Stingray, Bell Wharf, Lobster, Endeavour, Wilton	Wilton

What have you missed on Instagram this week?

