



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 we have seen the return of one of our year four bubbles after a period of blended learning. Their bubble, supported by members of the year four team showed very good engagement and uploaded some wonderful pieces of work. Thank you to our year four team for supporting Great White Shark during this time. We were pleased to welcome the bubble back on Tuesday. They have settled straight back into their routines and have picked up their readiness to learn. 'I am very proud of the home learning completed and it was lovely to see Great White Shark bubble back at school', Mrs Clark. Nancy from GWS, 'I found home learning hard but I continued to try my best and made myself do it.' Well done Great White Shark!

One of our year five bubbles is currently undertaking blended learning, alongside their class teacher. Together they are engaging in a blend of home learning tasks on DB Primary and live sessions, via TEAMS, allowing them to share their work and receive feedback. They have shown dedication to learning during this period of change, with strong engagement throughout. Miss Ludford has been extremely impressed by their resilience and wishes to applaud the children and their families for being ready every day and eager to learn. 'Keep this momentum up as we come to the close of the week, it has been an absolute pleasure to embark on this journey of live learning with you all. Keep safe and smiling,' Miss Ludford.

I would like to thank the children, staff and parents for their rapid response, engagement and support during these times. I can appreciate that this is not easy but our systems are in place, to keep each other safe. We continue to use our online learning platforms for homework, blended learning and communication. Please check with your child that they know their logins and remain familiar with the systems - DB Primary and MS teams.

We continue to follow safety guidelines within the academy, which includes good ventilation. With the winter months upon us, we have been guided to keep rooms ventilated in order to keep the air circulated and to adjust heating in accordance to need. This is outlined in our risk assessment. Children and staff are able to wear extra layers, should they feel the need.

Today in year 2 the children were exploring natural and manmade materials, linked to the story of the Gingerbread Man. They were building outdoor shelters to keep the Gingerbread Man warm and safe from the weather. They were happy to see that the Gingerbread Man stayed dry.




We have started to prepare for our Christmas Celebrations and whilst we cannot approach Christmas in the usual way, with a touch of creativity we are making sure that Christmas comes to Darlinghurst. We have made careful considerations on how we celebrate together, keeping as virtual as possible but allowing our children to participate in traditions, within their bubbles. We will be using our online platforms to share their nativities, concerts and crafts. However, we understand that some parents like to receive their child's handmade craft. The academy will be following quarantine rules and sending these home on the final day. Take a look at Instagram for a sneaky peak of the Reception environment and activities enjoyed this week.





Our KS1 and 2 children have begun learning sign language for their special virtual concert and Christingle with plans afoot for learning opportunities and filming in bubbles. The Nursery nativity is coming along a treat!

Christmas at Darlinghurst

	X	✓
Card exchange	To minimise the high quantity of passing cards between children and as an Eco-school, we are using online tools this year, i.e email on DB primary to share cards with friends and family.	
Present giving from/to teachers/PTA		Gifts that are exchanged will need to follow the quarantine guidance of 72 hours. The PTA are keen to give a small gift to each child and will be following safety guidelines to ensure that these are delivered under quarantine rules and distributed by bubble staff after 72 hours.
Celebrating Christmas together – Christmas crafts	This year our annual celebrating Christmas together – crafternoon will be for children and staff in bubbles only this year. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we are unable to invite parents and carers onto the site. Crafts will be used to decorate the classrooms and shared on our online platforms or within N & V.	Your child's handmade Christmas card/craft will be quarantined for 72 hours and sent home on the final day.
Christmas Dinner		Christmas dinner has been organised over three days this year. Wednesday 9 th December – year 5 and 6 Thursday 10 th December – year 3 and 4 Friday 11 th December – year 1 and 2 This will be served following our lunchtime socially distanced timetabling.
Christmas Jumper		Christmas charity 'Jumper day' for your child falls on the same day as their Christmas dinner. As an Eco-school, this year we are going green and reusing or upcycling jumpers.
Christmas nativities and concerts	This year our annual Christmas productions will be shared virtually and filmed safely within bubbles adhering to guidance for music and drama. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we are unable to invite family and friends onto the site. We will be sharing this virtually via our online platforms and social media communications. All permissions will be adhered to.	We look forward to sharing our Christmas productions with you virtually in the final week. Please ensure you are following us on Instagram – www.instagram.com/darlinghurstacademy

As always, enjoy your family time together.

Mrs Nicholls



Around the Academy

Our topic this week in **Nursery** has been winter, and we have been looking at the seasons. What happens in the winter to trees and temperatures for example, and animals that hibernate? In outdoor learning we made nests for hedgehogs to use to hibernate and looked for bugs under logs. Just before half term, we ordered lots of new books which we bought with the Nursery fund, so thank you, as the children are loving them! **Team Nursery**

This week in **Reception** we have been looking at the story 'The Jolly Postman' and learning about the role of a postal worker at this busy time of year. Children have been writing their own letters and really impressing us with their writing skills and phonic knowledge. This year we have started preparing for our end of year extravaganza with the children dressing in festive outfits for their Nutcracker dance performance. Next week we are continuing our theme of 'The Jolly Postman' and will be looking at story language in depth. We hope that you have a wonderful weekend. **The Reception Team**

This week in **Year 1**, we have been continuing our topic of old and new toys by looking at toys from the Victorian times and comparing them to the toys we play with now. We have discussed the similarities and differences and seen what materials the toys have been made out of. The children drew their own Victorian toy and completed an old and new toys sorting activity. They have really enjoyed looking and seeing how toys have changed throughout the years. Another great week in Year 1.

We have been exploring the properties of materials this week in **Year 2**. We have experimented to find out which man-made materials that we have in our classrooms are transparent and/or bendy. Leading on from our Gingerbread Man story writing, we built shelters from natural materials to see if we could protect an actual gingerbread man from the rain. We have already discovered that gingerbread is not waterproof!

Year 3 are very excited about the arrival of Christmas in a month's time. In preparation for this, the children in Year 3 have started to practise miming the actions for the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. Please feel free to help your child practise their actions, as the song, video and mimes are available on the DB Primary Year 3 homepage. It has been lots of fun so far and we look forward to a virtual presentation of our song to you at a later date. Then just tap on the KS2 Christmas Song 2020 to join in. Enjoy!

Year 4 have been working really hard this week! Writing has been linked to our topic on how we see, with the children completing a narrative about a little girl who is blind and how she sees the ocean through her imagination. The classes had to close their eyes and listen to the sound of the sea and use their other senses instead of their eyes to describe the scene. In maths we are learning about formal methods of division – keep practicing your child's times tables at home as this really supports our work on division too. Our connected curriculum lessons have all been about shadows; how they are formed and how they change size. We've had some great fun using torches and different materials in class to investigate this. It also seems Christmas has crept in too with some children learning songs. We are sure they will do a fab job and earn that place on the 'good list' this year!

In **Year 5** this week, we have been continuing our learning about materials, plastic in particular. We have learnt about the history of plastic and its impact on our planet. We have designed a lunchbox using our scientific knowledge of thermal insulators. We investigated how good different materials were at insulating an ice cube and have chosen a suitable material to line our homemade lunchbox. A message will be sent with this week's homework to let you know which materials your child has chosen. We have also been writing a newspaper report about an amazing scientific discovery that could enable us to fully recycle plastic bottles within the next year or two. In maths, we have been learning about long multiplication and division with remainders whilst also continuing with our daily counting stick activities.

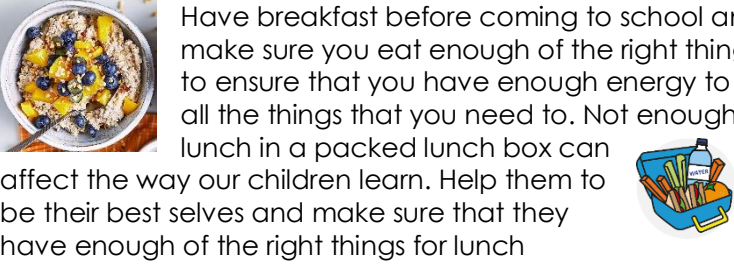
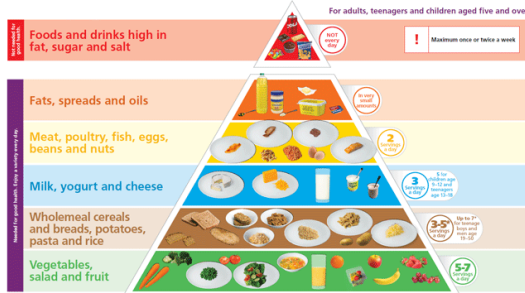






There have been a few Times Table Rock Stars battles set and we are really proud of those children that have competed and improved their average time spent playing. Please encourage your child to log on daily and play for a minimum of 10 minutes, it really does make a difference!

Finally, a huge well done and thank you to all those children, and staff, that have been working from home this week. We are all incredibly proud of how enthusiastic you have been with your learning. Miss Ludford, we think you have done a fabulous job!

In **Year 6** this week, we have enjoyed watching how astronauts manage to do everyday tasks like eating, sleeping and brushing their teeth in space. We have compiled our own survival kits for an astronaut and explored the effect of working without gravity on the International Space Station. We have also started our unplugged IT (Information Technology) curriculum this week, looking specifically at how emails work. In PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) we have discussed peer pressure and provided strategies to say no in certain situations. Year 6 have also started to learn their Christmas song through sign language. Please encourage your children to learn the signs for their parts of the song. We look forward to sharing this with you in the last week of term.

Healthy Lunches

 <p>Have breakfast before coming to school and make sure you eat enough of the right things to ensure that you have enough energy to do all the things that you need to. Not enough lunch in a packed lunch box can affect the way our children learn. Help them to be their best selves and make sure that they have enough of the right things for lunch</p>	
<p>Potential problems</p> <p>We are all eating too much sugar. National data shows that one fifth of Reception children and one third of those in year 6 are overweight or obese. To calculate how many teaspoons of sugar are in a product: Check the nutrition label where sugars are listed in grams under total carbohydrates. Divide that number by 4 to convert to teaspoons (because each teaspoon of sugar is equal to 4 grams).</p>	<p>How much sugar</p>  <p>How much is too much?</p> 
<p>Healthy Lunches</p> <p>We encourage children to bring healthy packed lunches into school. Packed lunches should not contain glass bottles, cans or fizzy drinks or sweets. Grapes should be cut in half to prevent choking.</p> 	<p>Top tips for a healthy Lunchbox</p> <p>Aim for at least 1 of your child's five a day – any fruit or veg about the size of their hand – dry fruit counts as well but try not to include too often as can stick to teeth. Carrots, peppers, sliced grapes, apples, pears etc.</p> 



Eco Christmas workshop

Darlinghurst have been chosen to be the first school to collaborate with Eco Essex to raise money for our school!

Eco Essex is a community supporting individuals, businesses & schools to find ways to be more environmentally friendly.

They have launched the Eco Christmas online workshop & to support learning about how to make your Christmas more eco-friendly whilst raising funds for school, they are giving a double bonus if you sign up.

Firstly, 10% off for Darlinghurst school parents / staff.

Secondly, 10% of profit going to Darlinghurst school.

To sign up click the link here and enter the code 'DARL10'
<https://ecoexsex.vipmembervault.com/products/courses/view/1049828>

Any questions, please email ecoexsex@gmail.com

