

February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

On behalf of all the Staff at Darlinghurst Academy I would like to thank everyone for the huge effort and hard work throughout the pandemic and within the last lockdown. The safety and wellbeing of our community has, and remains, a priority as we move forward into the next phase. On February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm, the Prime Minister announced the next phase of the Government response to coronavirus, including the restriction on attending school being lifted.

All schools will be *fully* open from the 8<sup>th</sup> March, resuming usual expectations for attendance, including following up where attendance falls below expected levels. This is an essential element of safeguarding procedures. However, all those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or have someone in their household who does, must not attend school. Absence should be reported to [Miss Davis 01702 509205](mailto:Miss.Davis@darlinghurst.co.uk). Medication is to be kept in the classroom with the class teacher, unless it needs refrigerating and will need to be given to general office. In line with school policy all medication must be accompanied with a relevant medication permission form.

From the 8<sup>th</sup> March, our wrap around care at 'Little Mariners' our before and after school club will also be open. Our booking procedures still apply and enquiries can be sent to [generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk) for the attention of Mrs Cannell.

We look forward to welcoming all our children back to Darlinghurst Academy, continuing their learning back at school. We know that whilst our children and staff have enjoyed seeing each other in our virtual classrooms, they have anticipated the day that they can return, together.

Academy leaders and staff have reviewed our provision and procedures alongside the most recent government guidance to ensure that our children and staff can return to face-to-face learning as smoothly as possible. Our risk assessment and contingency planning is securely in place, following effective health and safety controls for prevention and response.

The academy will continue to function within self-sufficient zones across the site with each year group returning to designated spaces for learning and play. Across KS1 and KS2 children have designated seating arrangements and tables remain as facing forward. Each bubble will follow their daily timetable that incorporates learning, hand hygiene and designated break times. Our catering team will provide hot and cold meal choices each day or alternatively bring in a packed lunch. Payment continues via Parentpay and we ask that balances are kept up to date.

Parents and staff are required to wear face coverings at the school gates. Whilst we are adhering to social distancing, interactions and conversation (regardless of face coverings) will not be possible at this time. Should parents wish to talk to staff members or share a message, they should do so via the general office. Parents are unable to access the office area in person and will need to use the intercom or telephone/email staff on [01702 478379](tel:01702478379)/[generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@darlinghurst.co.uk) Within the Academy, staff continue to adhere to the 2m distancing rule.

Arrival and collection times will remain staggered at each gate entrance to support social distancing. Children will continue to use the same gates and timings with a slight adjustment to Y6 departure time (changing to 3:10pm). Parents are requested to arrive swiftly and leave promptly from their gate and the surrounding area to avoid gatherings.

Class	Entrance via	Arrival am	Depart pm	Exit via
Nursery am	Brook gate	08:50	11:50	Brook gate
Nursery pm	Brook gate	12:35	15:35	Brook gate
Reception Jellyfish	Brook gate	08:30	14:45	Brook gate
Reception Starfish	Brook gate	08:30	14:45	Brook gate
Year 1 Albatross	Side gate	08:30	14:50	Brook gate
Year 1 Puffin	Side gate	08:30	14:50	Side gate
Year 1 Seagull	Side gate	08:30	14:50	Side gate
Year 2 Lobster	Main gate	08:35	14:50	Main gate
Year 2 Shrimp	Main gate	08:35	14:50	Main gate
Year 3 Coral	Main gate	08:40	15:05	Main gate
Year 3 Dune	Main gate	08:40	15:05	Main gate
Year 3 Seashell	Main gate	08:40	15:05	Side gate
Year 4 Stingray	Brook gate	08:40	15:05	Brook gate
Year 4 Swordfish	Brook gate 2	08:40	15:05	Brook gate 2
Year 4 White shark	Side gate	08:40	15:05	Side gate
Year 5 Bell Wharf	Side gate	08:35	15:00	Side gate
Year 5 Billet	Side gate	08:35	15:00	Side gate
Year 5 Strand	Side gate	08:35	15:00	Brook gate
Year 5 Victoria	Side gate	08:35	15:00	Brook gate 2
Year 6 Bembridge	Main gate	08:30	<b>15:10</b>	Main gate
Year 6 Endeavour	Main gate	08:30	<b>15:10</b>	Main gate
Year 6 Mayflower	Main gate	08:30	<b>15:10</b>	Main gate
Year 6 Wilton	Main gate	08:30	<b>15:10</b>	Main gate

Government guidance documentation recommends limiting the amount of equipment children can bring into school each day. They can bring a small bag. We ask that on the first day back, all children return their purple homework book/s. Reading books will be taken to and from school to support reading at home and we will implement our quarantine process. We ask that children should *only* bring mobile phones if absolutely necessary for communication and safety before and after school.

As the weather becomes warmer we will naturally see a reduction in the need for additional clothing and children are to wear full uniform. Children will continue to wear their PE kits on their PE day. Please follow the link to our uniform policy and contact our uniform supplier, should you wish to order uniform items. [www.schooluniformdirect.org.uk](http://www.schooluniformdirect.org.uk)

Class	PE Day of the week
Nursery	Monday
Reception	Wednesday
Year 1	Thursday
Year 2	Monday
Year 3	Tuesday
Year 4	Wednesday
Year 5	Tuesday
Year 6	Thursday

We continue to recognise the importance of good hand and respiratory hygiene, promoting 'clean hands' and the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' approach, alongside our enhanced cleaning regime.

Over the coming fortnight, we will continue to work together to prepare our children, in readiness, for their reintegration back to school. Within our blended learning provision, class teachers and the pastoral team will dedicate time to support and prepare children's transition back to the Academy. Upon return, we will continue to support our children's wellbeing, responding to the needs of the 'whole child.' Adjustments to the curriculum content in accordance to support their development and progress. Until then, we will continue to provide our 'Gold package' for all learners.

Yours sincerely



Emma Nicholls  
Principal