

July 2024

Dear Parent / carers,

I am writing to thank you for your partnerships through this year and to share a few reflections of the year. This academic year 2023 – 2024 there has been much to celebrate and as always, I am extremely proud of Darlinghurst.

### **Academic Achievement**

We are delighted that the children have shown great progress and outcomes, with Darlinghurst's performance above national average in all national assessments. This includes the phonics and multiplication screening checks! Our SATS results have continued to rise despite impact of the pandemic and change this year we have our best results! The results reflect the high quality of teaching and learning across the academy. We will proudly publish results on the website next academic year. Well done to the staff, our children leave ready and well equipped for their next stage. I wish year six all the very best in their future education and pathways.

### **National outcomes:**

In reading, 74% of pupils nationally reached the expected standard in 2024.

Darlinghurst results are higher than pre-pandemic and national!

In writing, 72% of pupil reached the expected standard nationally in 2024.

Darlinghurst results are higher than pre-pandemic and national!

In maths, 73% of pupils nationally reached the expected standard.

Darlinghurst results are higher than pre-pandemic and national!

Combined results show that children are working across all subject areas extremely well with the highest combined result on Darlinghurst record!

We await our validated figures to share our final results in the 80's and 90's!

A huge thank you to the staff! They are a great team, and they work hard to provide our children with a great education and experiences. Everyone across the workforce gets involved and that team spirit is always there. I am forever grateful and love working alongside them.

### **Wider experiences**

Wider opportunities and achievements have been enjoyed and celebrated across the academy with children showcasing their interests and talents. We have seen so many of our children recognised for their achievements with winners across sports and the arts. This includes phenomenal outcomes in sporting events, including borough sports and super sports. The trophy cabinet is 'bursting' at the seams!

We have renewed our sports games award for the 4<sup>th</sup> year and next year are going for Platinum. We continue to hold green flag status as an Eco school with distinction and are committed to our focus on environmental science and outdoor learning.

Our staff have continued to be experts within their fields but also shared their expertise with other schools. This has included sharing best practice through network groups, presenting in conferences and being a part of projects or continued professional development. This has led to schools working with Darlinghurst, alongside community groups. Whoever visits, comments on our sense of belonging and the praise for our children.

Our children have enjoyed trips and visits across the year enriching their learning and experiences. Thank you to parents and carers that have helped on these events too. We are planning future trips for next year including keeping some of our favourites, linked to our learning and some new ones too.

### **Community**

I am proud of our community. This year the academy has grown with more children in Nursery and additional classes in year two and three. Families have settled in and have felt extremely welcome. Parent surveys have also shown a positive parental voice. Thank you for your support. Communication and interactions are essential in the making of a happy school and I will continue to endeavour to make sure that we do our very best.

Thank you for attending our Tea and Talks and celebrating together sessions. Tea and Talks have been mapped ready for the next academic year and will be shared in advance.

This year, Tiny Tiddlers was established for families and toddlers and is a well-loved time of the week. Continuing the success of the weekly group and out Tiddler Fests and we have launched the Tiny Tiddler Tribe.

There have been numerous community events and projects, including raising awareness. This has included parents, carers and the community supporting developments with the grounds, tree planting, beach cleans and litter picks.

### **Raising awareness and donations**

This year we have supported a number of charities and local projects, as part of national campaigns but also local support and need. Thank you for your generosity. This has included Children in Need, Save the Children and Comic Relief, Havens Hospice and St Vincent's. Fundraising and awareness days have supported our children in recognising the needs of others and how to make a difference.

I would like to thank you for continuing to donate uniform for our pre-loved sales. This has been successful all year round and a help to others. Should you have any uniform to donate we are always grateful as these are welcomed. Please bring them into the office and thank you for your continued support.

### **Initiatives**

We have continued to develop Reading for Pleasure and engaged with the Literacy Trust Programme - World of Stories with 400 new books added to our renovated library with the support of Juniper librarian services. We have also replenished our story time texts to share recommended stories with children. Reading is the key to the curriculum, and we encourage reading, every day.

We also engaged in a project called, My future my Southend, exposing children to different careers locally with the aim to: Raise aspirations, challenge stereotypes and broaden horizons. Each half term there was a theme and two virtual sessions with accompanying activities, such as: Happy and healthy, The arts, Buildings and structures, STEM-azing, World of fashion and, Animals and our planet. They met local people with careers showing a diverse range of opportunities.

We have also had parents attend sessions with children to share their careers, interests and talents. This has included art, poetry, religion and finance.

The PTA has grown over the year with changes to the team and a new generation PTA formed. I would like to thank all members of the PTA, old and new for their commitment, support and time. They have supported the academy at events and raised funds for developments. The summer fete was a great success finalising the end of a great year.

I would like to give praise to our children. They are my every day and what I come to school for. They engage in learning and academy life with joy and energy. They are extremely kind and caring and I wish them a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing them in September, ready for the year ahead. We will be making some summer renovations and look forward to sharing these with them upon their return.

I wish you all a wonderful summer break and look forward to sharing summer developments with you upon your return and to start a new academic year, together.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Nicholls - Principal