

STARTING NURSERY



**Darlinghurst**  
ACADEMY

# WELCOME TO NURSERY

I am delighted that your child is joining us in Nursery. Thank you for entrusting your little one into our care.

Starting nursery is a significant milestone in your child's life. It is an exciting time for young children and their families. It can also be a little daunting, which is why, we spend time focused on those first steps to prepare and settle children and families for the big day and beyond.

I am looking forward to making happy memories with them, throughout their time here.



**Mrs Nicholls**  
Principal

**Achievement** ★ **Belonging** ★ **Confidence** ★ **Determination** ★ **Excellence**



# ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

Everyone at Darlingtonurst believes, promotes and celebrates our Academy values A to E

• **Achievement** • **Belonging** • **Confidence** • **Determination** • **Excellence**

Our actions and beliefs are deep rooted in our mission statement  
**'Achieving Excellence Together'**

We celebrate achievements, both big and small and love to share postcards home with you.



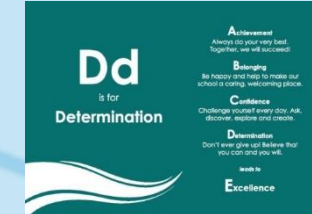
**Achievement**



**Belonging**



**Confidence**



**Determination**



**Excellence**



# MEET THE NURSERY TEAM

**Mrs Dodd**



We love climbing and exploring our school grounds.

I love singing and music!

**Mrs Elms**



**Mrs Elisha**



I love being creative doing arts & crafts!

**Mrs Fennell**



Our outside space is so much fun, I love being outside!



**Miss Gue  
Nursery  
Manager**

*We love having exciting adventures every day. Our team are dedicated to make the children's time with us the best possible experience.*

*Through our observations and engagement, we capture moments of their learning journey to share with you at home. My job is to make sure that learning is fun and they are happy and safe in our care.*

**Miss Elliot**



I love to be able to enjoy the fresh air and sharing stories together.

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# THE EARLY YEARS ENVIRONMENT

We believe in providing the best care, environments and learning experiences to enable our children to learn and develop to their full potential.

Our provision is a balance of adult-led and child-initiated learning. This ensures that our children are successful, confident and active learners with positive attitudes to learning and academy life.



The Rockpool environment is an exciting place to learn and play across all our zones. The EYFS team interact and observe our children in play, maximising every learning opportunity. We encourage our children to think critically and creatively, fostering a sense of curiosity and wonder.

The Early Years provide a broad balance of knowledge and skills to secure the right foundations for learning.



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# SCHOOL READINESS – SKILLS FOR SCHOOL

At Darlington Academy we recognise the importance of learning and life skills and as part of our curriculum provision. We also recognise that there are lots of skills that our younger children need in preparation for school, everyday.

With the help of Embers the Dragon and friends we can prepare for school skills together.

- Physical skills
- Social skills
- Emotional skills
- Home learning skills
- Sleep skills



Visit Embers the Dragon, an Early Years, digital emotional wellbeing programme to access the courses, resources and animations. [www.embersdragon.co.uk](http://www.embersdragon.co.uk)

We have access to the Emotional Wellbeing Programme and will provide an access code which will be shared with families in our correspondence.



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# SETTLING

When our children come to Darlinghurst for their first day in Early Years it is our aim that they are full of positive emotions – excitement, confidence and happiness. This happens if they know where they are going, who will be there and what they will be able to do.

We begin to build relationships and provide opportunities for our children to become familiar with their new environment and routine, teachers and friends.

We also recognise that this is important for adults too so they feel prepared and ready for the big day!

## Settling in:

- Settling Session
- Staggered start dates
- Settling report – 'starting points'



# WORKING TOGETHER & COMMUNICATION

- **Communication is important and we share information with new families from the Nursery Admissions officer and the Early Years Team.**
- Regular communication is important and staff are available via email or telephone. Teachers also place calls home to allow for a chance to catch up and share news.
- Tapestry is an online learning tool used across the Early Years. New joiners will receive a Tapestry account. Tapestry is used to record your child's learning journey.
- We record and share your child's development using Tapestry and through reporting. Parents will receive a starting point and end point report, alongside regular tapestry updates and observations.
- School Ping is our communication platform which is used to share daily messages, celebrations, event reminders and news and views. At the start of the year, instructions are shared to set accounts.
- Our Instagram @DarlinghurstAcademy covers academy life, sharing events, children's work and special moments
- Ongoing communication and celebrations of learning takes place, with postcards home and opportunities to 'celebrate together'.



General Enquiries

[generalenquiries@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@darlinghurstacademy.org.uk)



# ESSENTIALS AND MEALS

## EARLY YEARS ESSENTIALS

- Labelled bag (spare underwear/clothes)
- Early Years provision is across our indoor and outdoor zones.
- Children will need outdoor clothing for all weathers.
- Summer cap or winter hat (labelled)
- Welly boots and rainproof all-in-one (labelled – these will be kept in Nursery)



DAY	MAIN EVENT	RAINBOW MAGIC	RAINBOW ALLEY	BIG PUFFS	DESSERT TROUBLE
MONDAY	Beef Burger + Hand Cut Potato Fries + Veggie + Drink	Homemade Veggie Burger & Hand Cut Potatoes + Drink	Quadrant + Drink	Jack-o'-Lantern + Cheese or Chicken or Fish + Drink	Fresh Mince & Pineapple + Drink
TUESDAY	Vegetarian Pasta + Drink	Veggie Pasta & Cheese + Drink	Salad & Bread	Jack-o'-Lantern + Cheese or Chicken or Fish + Drink	Homemade Pasta + Drink
WEDNESDAY	Beef Burger + Hand Cut Potato Fries + Veggie + Drink	Quadrant & Bread + Drink	Salad & Bread	Jack-o'-Lantern + Cheese or Chicken or Fish + Drink	Tapioca + Drink
THURSDAY	Spaghetti + Meatballs + Drink	Homemade Spaghetti + Drink	Green Salad + Drink	Jack-o'-Lantern + Cheese or Chicken or Fish + Drink	Carrot + Drink
FRIDAY	Chicken + Potatoes + Drink	Homemade Chicken + Drink	Salad + Drink	Jack-o'-Lantern + Cheese or Chicken or Fish + Drink	Milk + Drink

## MEALS AND SNACK

- Rolling snack is provided throughout the day for children - fruit/veg/milk/water
- All meals are cooked in our kitchen with fresh ingredients. Menus follow a three week cycle.
- We encourage healthy lunchboxes and we are a nut free school.

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# WHAT OUR PARENTS SAY

A warm and loving nursery where my eldest attended and currently my youngest is enjoying his time, before moving up to reception in September.

The nursery setting is wonderful with lots to do and I love they have a large outdoor space.

His teachers went above and beyond. There was constantly posts on tapestry for the children to get involved in. His teachers also showed an interest in other activities that we chose to do as a family such as baking, scavenger hunts and work books.

My son joined the nursery in September 2019, his experience has was a very positive one.

My son started at Darlinghurst Nursery as soon as he turned 3 in September 2020. Due to the lockdown we were unable to make a visit in person, so understandably when it came to him joining I was apprehensive to let him start. I needn't have been. The staff there are absolutely brilliant & have gone above and beyond, online and in person, to ensure the children felt included and welcomed. The regular updates, activities & information on Tapestry were brilliant form of communication which really helped.

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# WHAT OUR CHILDREN SAY

I like going  
on the  
caterpillar.

I like Miss G  
cuddles.

I like playing in  
the big garden  
with the cars.

I like playing  
superheroes  
with my  
friends.

I like  
lunch...tuna  
wrap.

I like playing with  
dinosaurs.

I like  
everything.

I like playing with  
the water and  
making potions.

Achievement



Belonging



Confidence



Determination



Excellence

