

**STARTING SCHOOL
WELCOME TO RECEPTION**



Darlinghurst
ACADEMY

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.

After National offer day, your child receives their first virtual 'B for belonging' postcard and a special welcome message from Mrs Nicholls.



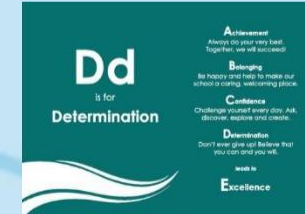
Achievement



Belonging



Confidence



Determination



Excellence



MEET THE RECEPTION TEAM

It's wonderful to see our children embark on their voyage of discovery, learning and having lots of fun along the way! It reminds me of our logo, 'Little boat'. I love to see how far they have come from their starting points.



I love teaching at Darlington Academy and I have been part of the Darlington community for a long time. In Reception, we build imaginations and create new memories. I love watching our children's confidence grow, as they achieve.



I enjoy sharing books with children. I am so thrilled when I see the joy on children's faces as they enter the world of books, developing their story language and ideas to become little writers.



I enjoy observing and engaging in purposeful play, in our indoor and outdoor zones. Its great to see them explore and make discoveries, sharing their curiosity and wonder. I love to ask them questions and think about the world around them.



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 Reception environment is an exciting place to learn and play across all our zones. The Reception 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.



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

STARTING SCHOOL – DESIGNATED AREA OF THE WEBSITE



- Early years – Nursery and Reception
- Prospectus
- Testimonials
- Starting school booklet
- Academy at work Early Years
- Induction
- Postcard home
- Welcome book (video)
- Link to Embers Dragon - a friendly character to support school skills
- Induction activities – linked to values

Learn

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



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 know that there are lots of skills that our younger children need in preparation for school.

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

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



SETTLING



When our children come to Darlington for their first day in Reception 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:

- Communication with home
- Come and play sessions
- Summer Fest
- Settling sessions
- September start
- Settling report – ‘starting points’

Achievement ★ Belonging ★ Confidence ★ Determination ★ Excellence



WORKING TOGETHER & COMMUNICATION

- **Communication is important and we share information with new families**
- You will receive documentation for completion and return to our Admissions officer mrslowe@Darlinghurst.co.uk
- Tapestry is an online learning tool used across the Early Years to record your child's learning journey. New joiners will receive a Tapestry account ahead of their start date in order to establish early communication. *(A letter will be sent outlining this process).*
- Parents will receive a starting point and end point report
- School Ping is our communication platform which is used to share daily messages, celebrations, event reminders and sharing our news letter – Keeping in Touch
- Our Instagram @DarlinghurstAcademy covers academy life, sharing events, children's work and special moments
- An Early Years Agreement is shared with parents, teachers and children. At the start of the year the children are actively involved in their section of the agreement.
- Ongoing communication and celebrations of learning takes place, with postcards home and opportunities to 'celebrate together'.



UNIFORM AND MEALS

EARLY YEARS UNIFORM AND ESSENTIALS

- Our Darlingtonhurst Uniform can be purchased via www.schooluniformdirect.org.uk (the supplier stocks uniform, PE Kit, bags, hats and plimsolls)
- A Book Bag for their phonics book/sharing book
- Draw string labelled bag (PE kit, plimsolls, spare underwear)
- 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 coat (labelled)
- Water bottle (labelled)



MEALS AND SNACK

- Rolling snack is provided throughout the day for children - fruit/veg/milk/water
- All children in the Early Years are entitled to universal free school meals.
- All meals are cooked in our kitchen with fresh ingredients by ASPENS catering.
- We encourage healthy lunchboxes and are a nut free school.



EXTENDED CHILDCARE

LITTLE MARINERS

'Little Mariners' provides breakfast and after school provision.

Children from Reception to Year 6 can attend the club.

Should families require wraparound care, parents will need to complete a booking form
(for more information contact general office)

LITTLE MARINERS – BREAKFAST CLUB

Our breakfast club opens at 7:30am and costs £4.00 per child, per session.

LITTLE MARINERS – AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Our after school club runs from the end of the school day until 6.00pm (term time).

The club costs £4.50 for sessions up to 4.15pm. After 4.15pm the cost is £9.00



Achievement ★ Belonging ★ Confidence ★ Determination ★ Excellence

WHAT OUR RECEPTION CHILDREN SAY

I love exploring outside. I enjoy making potions in the outdoor kitchen.

I watch the bubbles in the sensory room and think about swimming in the sea. It is nice and calm in there.

I like phonics and learning new sounds. I can even use secret sound talk. It is so much fun!

I love story time, especially when my teachers dress up as characters. I like to pretend to be the teacher and read stories, use the clipboard and phonics cards. I want to be a teacher when I grow up because my teachers are so kind.

WHAT OUR YEAR SIX CHILDREN REMEMBER

I loved Reception. My mind was full of wonder and I was excited about what I could do next. It was the year that I learned to learn, the start of everything. It was like the first building blocks ahead of my upcoming years and I continued to build from there.

I had such a warm welcome at the start of my school experience and I have made many great friends, for life.

My Teacher demonstrated the importance of welcoming and including others.

Since then, I have made sure that I do the same for anyone new.

At Darlington, belonging is important.

Achievement ★ Belonging ★ Confidence ★ Determination ★ Excellence

