



Communication is a priority for us once again this year, we will communicate to parents and carers using **School Ping** In addition, we use **Instagram** to share what's going on within the Academy daily. Please make sure you are following us and **@DarlinghurstAcademy** on Instagram.

Message from the Principal

Dear parents and carers

We are heading towards the end of a very different academy year, with next Wednesday being our final day. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the children and staff for their engagement and resilience throughout the year. You have modelled our academy values throughout this time, leading to excellence.

This thanks extends to all our families too, for their ongoing support throughout this academic year. It has been truly remarkable in so many ways – the sense of belonging, the commitment and collaboration to supporting our children in the best way we can. We have worked hard work to keep each other happy and safe, as well as providing our children with the best educational opportunities possible through our blended learning and face to face provision. I am proud of all of their achievements, academically, emotionally and socially. The children have used their learning and life skills to full effect and they truly shine like the stars. End of year reports are being shared next week, sharing their achievements and readiness for the forth coming year.



Resilience

Bouncing back



The last day of term this year is Wednesday 21st July, with learning and events taking place until we break up for the summer holidays. Please refer to your school Ping messages regarding end of day arrangements, sports days and other important news, including information on our year six leavers Virtual assembly and dedicated page to the Class of 2021 on the website. Our year six children have shown 'bounceability' – they have continued to 'bounce' forward throughout the year, rising to every challenge with positivity. Even today, as I write they are sharing their inflatables day with all the children across the academy, giving everyone a turn. What a sense of belonging and a way to bounce out the year.

The sun is shining and our sunflowers are smiling.

Please look out for the letter outlining September arrangements. This will include information on 'drop off' and 'pick up' times and routines, along with PE days and other important information at the start of the next academic year.

Until then, enjoy your family time together this weekend and we look forward to our final week together.

Mrs Nicholls





From the Rockpool

This week in **Tiddlers** we have all been thoroughly enjoying our full week of last term together. The children have been playing with mud and water, and loving getting really wet and very muddy!

We have also been practicing the activities for our sports day on Monday, please ensure that the children arrive at school in their appropriate team colours that we have informed you of and have sun cream already applied. We are really looking forward to celebrating sport with the children in our last week.

This week, the topic in **Reception** was 'Safety in the Sun' and the children enjoyed creating their own posters to promote its awareness. Just in time it seems, as the weather seems to be heating up again! Please apply sun cream/ lotion to your child before school. If this is not an all-day product, please send in sun cream/ lotion for them to re-apply at lunchtime. A sun hat is required everyday too, as is a water bottle. Please ensure that all personal items are labelled. The Reception children and staff are really looking forward to spending an exciting last few days together next week. As usual, we have been blessed with a year group of marvellous children and equally marvellous families. Have a wonderful weekend. **The Reception Team**

Around the Academy

This week in **Year 1**, we have continued to be historians looking at a great day out in Victorian times and comparing these to great days out we go on nowadays. In writing, we have been using the story What the ladybird heard, writing our own creative stories, with a focus on exclamation marks and adding suffixes to a variety of words to change their meaning or tense. In Maths, we have used our previous knowledge on quarters, sharing for division and arrays to solve a selection of challenges as well as having the opportunity to develop our reasoning skills, by discussing with our talk partners, how we solved the challenge. We have had a great week in Year 1 and we cannot wait for our final few days next week, to complete some more amazing, fun activities.

To help to round off our topic that has been discovering how families had fun in the past, this week we have been designing and making our own board games in **Year 2**. We have definitely discovered that simple is best especially when it came to writing instructions on how to play our games. The children have tried out their games with their friends and have been able to develop their ability to listen to and give instructions. The children were very excited to receive their orders from the Year 6 Enterprise event and we would like to thank the Year 6's for all of their hard work.

In **Year 3** this week we have... Continued with our excellent acrostic poems in writing. Delved into the depths of addition and subtraction strategies with a game of darts. Reviewed our Spanish greetings. Gave it our very best with PE. Refreshed our understanding of climate change. With more yet to come. Well done everyone I'm sure you can almost taste the summer holidays.

The Year 3 Team

This week, in **Year 4**, the children have enjoyed carrying out independent research into a European country of their choice. This was in preparation for producing a travel brochure to entice visitors to the country, the children considered interesting facts about food, history, iconic sites and climate. They showed their amazing artistic talents by creating some eye-catching front covers. We have had informative conversations, in PSHE, about 'Why do I need to budget?' and what is a need or a want. Following this, the children used their mathematical skills to work out how to save money on a budget.

Year 6 have been working hard practicing for their leaver's assembly which we will be filming for parents and classes to view afterwards. They have enjoyed creating their books and publishing their best pieces of writing on laptops and using handwriting pens. They have enjoyed looking through their writing from the year and editing and improving it. Their front cover designs have been really creative and inspired by their stories and non-fiction work.



Eco News

A huge thank to everyone who has bought in crisp packets for our recycling scheme. Here are the stats for what we have collected this year:

October	667
December	598
January	289
March	625
April	284
May	2063
June	163
July	823

In total, we have collected: 5512 crisp packets for the academic year 2020/21
Please remember, we can only accept crisp packets and not popcorn, nuts or muesli/porridge bags.

This year, we have also managed to recycle over 700 pens and over 2000 batteries. Please also note, we accept standard ink cartridges.

We look forward to continue to recycle these products next year.

The Rockpool would like to say a massive thank you to two of our wonderful Nursery parents for their contribution to our outside area. Firstly, thank you to Ed Kemp, who has very kindly found and donated a large wooden boat for our outside space, which the children will have hours of fun in in the coming years. Ed works for the RNLi in Southend and went out of his way to source and deliver a boat for our children. Secondly, thank you to Stacey Williamson-Michie who has agreed to come into school over the summer and paint a sea themed mural on the side of one of our large sheds. The Rockpool is going to look incredible in September and we are all very excited. All nursery and reception staff are giving up time in the holidays to come into school to paint, sand, and generally make the outside space amazing for our children. We are asking if you could help too by taking a look in your sheds for any outside paint (for sheds/fences etc) in all colours including white please. Greatly appreciated.

The Early Years team

A huge thank you from the PTA for all the support parents and carers have shown us over this unusual year, we haven't been able to do our events as normal but our alternative fundraisers have allowed us and the school to start improving the wellbeing garden and we can't wait to start showing you all the changes 😊

We hope you all have a fantastic summer break and we will be back in September with some new ideas! If you would like to take part in our schools PTA please let us know on darlinghurstpta@hotmail.com or pop us a message on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DarlinghurstPTA/>. Thank you again!





The PTA are delighted to announce the academy have walked an impressive **1,759 miles**, our target was 1,197! We've exceeded our mileage - what an amazing team effort. Well done all!

Thank you to everyone who took part and a huge thank you those of you who sponsored our virtual event we have raised an incredible **£1,653.50**. The money raised will be going towards a bench and some improvements in the Wellbeing Garden

Summer Reading Challenge

Southend Borough Council are running the summer reading challenge again this year. Wild World Heroes will be taking place from 17th July – 28th August.

You can sign up at any Southend Borough Library and pick up a goody bag.

You can complete the summer challenge if you read 6 books during the school holiday. Every time a book is completed, your parents will give you a sticker from the goody bag. Each time you collect a sticker you can help improve the environment in the fictional town of Wilderville by putting your transformational sticker on your fold-out map.

If you are aged between 4 and 12 and have read 6 books, you can get a certificate and a medal from your local library. If you are 4 or under, you can earn a large medal sticker.

Every child that has read 6 books over the summer will also be entered into a draw and you could win an Adventure Island wristband.

Summer Reading Challenge 2021



If you want to talk about the books you have read, you can book a slot at your local library. You can also draw a picture or write a book review and send them to librarydevelopment@southend.gov.uk.

What have
you missed
on Instagram
this week?



