



15.12.2023

Issue No: 1105

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

The Little Mermaid

My thanks to everyone involved in the school production of The Little Mermaid - it was amazing! I attended the last night of the show with my family and it was a pleasure to listen to the audience feedback – everyone had an amazing time, as did I and my family.

I know how many hours go into producing a show of that quality and of course it is a real team effort from everyone involved. For those of you that saw the show I am sure you agree that it is all worth it when we see a show of that quality and the heartfelt gratitude shown by the students and parents at the end of the night. It was also lovely to see ex-students coming back to support with producing the show as well as parents. I am sure that the experience of being part of these school productions will stay with the students involved for the rest of their life. The learning that has taken place cannot be measured but is worth as much as any grade 9 or A*. Congratulations to all that took part!

Achievement Assemblies

Achievement assemblies finished today with the Year 8's. It has been wonderful to hear about all the achievements this term and well done to those students presented with an award. My thanks to the staff involved in running these worthwhile events.

And finally ...

As this will be the last Link before we break up for the festive season, I would like to thank all parents for their support this year. There has been so much to celebrate. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and I hope you get time to relax and have a well deserved break with family, friends and loved ones. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Wednesday 3rd January.

Aston Smith

Satchel One parent account

Satchel One have recently deleted some parent accounts where they had a sent a verification e-mail and there was no response. They have done this for GDPR reasons but it unfortunately has meant that quite a few parent accounts have been deleted. If this has affected you, please e-mail Ms Russell on ARI@cdarwin.com to ask for your parent code so you can set your account up again. This only takes a couple of minutes.

Ms Kelly

A reminder to parents that as well as the LINK and the 'latest news' section on the website, you can follow the latest events happening in our school community on:

CDarwinSchool



CDarwinSchool



Mr Jones

INSET 26th January 2024

A reminder to parents that the school is closed to all pupils for INSET on January 26th 2024. All of the information around school INSET is available on our school website regarding this and future INSET. Please note that there is an error in the school planner which identifies a further INSET that week. This appears to be a printing error and the only INSET is 26th January.

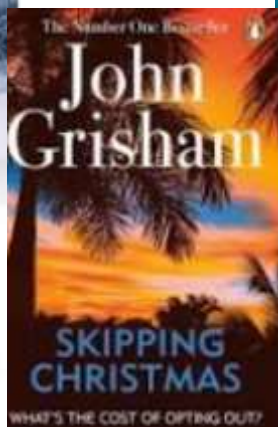
Mr Jones

Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

The Christmas Holiday is a perfect time to enjoy reading. You might like to try one of the top ten Christmas books of all time:

- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens [a GCSE Literature set text!]
- *Letters From Father Christmas* by J.R. Tolkien
- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- *The Little Match Girl* by Hans Christian Anderson
- *The Tailor of Gloucester* by Beatrix Potter
- *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham
- *The Penguin Book of Christmas Stories* by selected authors
- *Hercule Poirot's Christmas* by Agatha Christie
- *The Gritterman* by Orlando Weeks
- *The Twelve Birds of Christmas* by Stephen Moss

Mrs Pitt



Trip to London



On the 13th of December, a group of Year 12 and 13 Politics and History students went to London to broaden their knowledge in both courses. Starting in Parliament Square, our learning stretched from learning about historical figures to watching a live Supreme Court trial. We were guided by Miss Swinscoe and Mrs Ruth who toured us through London to show us important political and historical sites in London including Downing Street. We ended the trip at Somerset House where the students learnt its history before setting out on the ice for some ice skating. The students and staff had a lovely day out with some amusing ice-skating techniques!

Mrs Ruth

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 8 December 2023.



7LMc	96.7%
8LBr	95.7%
9HBu	95%
10ZPa	91.5%
11ADo	91.9%
12JDa	98.8%
13FSu/MEd	94.1%

As you are aware attendance is linked to a student's attainment and at Charles Darwin we work closely with the parents to keep students' attendance levels as high as possible. Please could we ask that if your child feels unwell in the morning (headache etc.) and they do feel better later on, that you send them in. This will benefit them as they will not miss a whole days learning.

Please can we also remind parents to call in before 8.30am for each day of your child's absence and not rely on receiving a text from us chasing their absence.

Thank you for your continued support.

Students Services Team

A reminder that pupils **should not** contact home if they feel unwell but should be seen and assessed by Mrs Booth, our Health Care Lead.

Parents should be aware that pupils will not be sent home without being seen by Mrs Booth in the first instance.

If your child contacts you directly, please phone the school to confirm whether they are unwell and have permission to go home.

Thank you

Student Services Team



Parents should be advised that the school does not provide students with Paracetamol unless it is a medical emergency.

We have a limited supply in school and prefer that medication wherever possible is administered at home.

Many thanks for your support.

**Mrs Booth
Lead First Aid**

Year 8 Duty Pupils

Finley Hamilton
Joshua Clarke
Charlie Harris
Charlie Ward
Catherine Seidler

Rosie Kelly-Johnson
Gene Downer
Freddie Dodson
Poppie Hemple
Mia Bailey

Student Services Duty Pupils

Taylor Aling
Oliver Hollman
Harry Douglas
Gbolahan Omoyele



They have been fantastic this week, and their help has been invaluable.

PTA Update

We have had a busy week and enjoyed serving refreshments to families this week at the three nights at the production of Little Mermaid. Thank you to everyone who purchased refreshments and raffle tickets. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the 'Own Clothes Day' on Friday 8th December. Miss Buckle and Mrs MacKay spent a long time counting all those £1 coins and we believe this has raised over £1000 for our school which is incredible! We hope the students enjoyed this opportunity.

Easyfundraising

Please, please sign up to Easyfundraising. A proportion of your shopping spend will then be paid directly to our charity. We have built an impressive £579.72 in our pot so far, just via the 29 supporters who have already enrolled.

If you have the donation reminder switched on, your search engines will automatically tell you if a retailer will contribute - you don't have to log into a separate APP to shop. If you are looking at booking a holiday for next year, some travel company's offer 2% of your spend so that would raise £90 for a £4500 holiday!

Big thanks to recent supporters: Sarah H, Melanie L, Nicola T, Jason H, Graham P, Kayleigh B, Helen H, <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charles-darwin-school-pta>

Staff Requests

We recently wrote to staff to invite them to apply for PTA funds. This will hopefully help our staff to fund projects and initiatives to further enhance the learning experience for our students in 2024. We look forward to sharing this list with you once we have collated any requests.

Urgent Vacancy

The PTA team are in urgent need of someone with an accounts background to maintain our PTA accounts. We estimate this will require around 30 minutes of administration time per month. We would fully support our treasurer with day to day tasks such as banking etc and they would not need to commit to attending PTA meetings. If you think you can help, please contact Chrissie at friends@cdarwin.com

2024

We have had a busy term so far and are looking forward to planning the following events:

- Quiz Night - March 2024
- Year 7 & 8 Disco

The PTA team would like to thank you for all your support this year and wish you and your families a healthy and happy festive period and a wonderful 2024!

School jumpers and PE kits needed!

Parents/Carers

We need your help! We are specifically short of navy school jumpers, red and black PE hoodies, white polo shirts and red socks. If you have any lying around that your daughter/son has outgrown, we would greatly accept donation of these. We also welcome any other parts of school uniform like school and football shoes.



All donations can be left at **Main Reception**.

Thank you in advance for your kindness.

Preloved Uniform Shop Team

Achievement Points Leader Board

Top 10 achievers across the school for the period 01.09.2023 - 15.12.2023

Ivy Bird	7LMc	104
Leah Benwell	7SHu/WCa	101
Jack Wilson	9RMo	101
James Azzopardi	8ZHa	98
Phoebe Vincent	9RMo	97
Jade St John	8RSi/RBr	94
Valour Martins	7STe	93
Milly Rogers	8ZHa	92
Charlie Ince	8EOI	90
Samuel Young	8LBr	88



Top highest achievers per each year for the period 01.09.2023 - 15.12.2023

Ivy Bird	7LMc	104
James Azzopardi	8ZHa	98
Jack Wilson	9RMo	101
Jessica Dorsett	10ZPa	71
Olivia Cuddy	11NDy	66
Scarlett Towersey	12JDa	48
Piper Roseman	13Mcr	44



In partnership with...



Biggin Hill's longest established resident company, Falcon Flying Group who has supported the community since 1977.



PTA Auction

CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL

AUCTION: ONE HOUR FLYING LESSON

Our generous partners at Falcon Flying Group are offering a one hour introductory flying lesson with EFG Flying School, based at Biggin Hill Airport.

The lucky top bidder of this incredible donation will experience a typical first lesson format with the emphasis on the winner taking the controls and flying!

To place your bid for a one hour flying lesson, please e-mail friends@cdarwin.com or speak to the team! (Some flying lesson restrictions may apply)



Current Highest Bid is £50.00

Severe Weather Conditions

Charles Darwin School will stay open if at all possible when there is snow. The decision to close is not taken lightly and will be made with the health and safety of children and staff, many of whom do not live locally. We will try to make a decision by **7:30am** and communicate this through:

- ❖ The school website – www.cdarwin.com (**not the main school switchboard**)
- ❖ Twitter – [twitter.com /CDarwinSchool](https://twitter.com/CDarwinSchool)
- ❖ Instagram – [www.instagram.com /CDarwinSchool](https://www.instagram.com/CDarwinSchool)

All students are expected to check Satchel One to complete school work from home

Otherwise - Students should wear appropriate clothing i.e. coat, hat, gloves and come to school. Suitable footwear to cope with pavements may be necessary if snow and /or ice are on the ground. School shoes must be brought to change into.

Keep warm and safe on your journey

Transport

You are advised to check local transport information if you go to or from school by bus. The school will liaise with school bus companies to check whether the services are likely to be disrupted.

If weather conditions deteriorate whilst the school is in session, we will endeavour to contact parents via the website, social media and Call parent (txt).

There is a policy for users of the school minibus which parents/students concerned should be aware.



We are extremely proud of Elizabeth Merredew.

As the results stand Elizabeth is currently ranked number 6 in the under 52kg Cadet Female, her latest Judo competition was the British Championships on the 3rd of Dec, despite a chest infection marring her pre comp training and set up she finished a very credible 5th of 19, not only did she push the number 2 and number 5 to golden score throwing one in the process, she done all this whilst attempting to contain her asthma, (bought on by the Chest infection) this made her the highest finishing 1st year Cadet in the group.

Her year has been a hectic one, since becoming a Cadet she has impressed a number of coaches at England Judo and has placed thus.

English Closed, 5th/18
Northern Home Counties, 7th/15
Surrey Open, 1st/5.
Attained Blue Belt BJA.
Welsh Open, 5th/14.
Harnes International, 16th/35.
British Closed, 5th/19.

Notable achievements this year also include,
Kent International, 1st.
Bill Nobbs Team Competition, 1st.
Addington League Table 1st (with BJA events) 3rd (only BJC events).

Well done Elizabeth! What an achievement!



◆ TEACHING INFORMATION WEBINARS ◆



DATE

12th January 2024
26th January 2024
9th February 2024



TIME

4:00 PM - 5:00 AM



LOCATION

Online



**Do you know someone
that would make a great
teacher?**

**Book your place by emailing
administrator@gradteach.uk**



Information on the
application process,
funding, salaries and
bursaries



Discuss routes
into teaching



Learn more about our
approach to providing
professional training.

Dates for the Diary

January

2nd January - INSET DAY (school closed)
 3rd January - Spring Term starts
 25th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening
 26th January - INSET DAY (school closed to students)
 31st January - Year 9 Parents' Evening

February

8th February - Early close - 2pm
 12th - 16th February - HALF TERM
 29th February - Year 8 Parents' Evening

2023-24 Term Dates

Autumn 2023

Tuesday 29th August – Friday 13th October

Half Term: Monday 16th October – Friday 27th October

Monday 30th October – Friday 15th December

Christmas Holiday: Monday 18th December - Monday 1st January

Spring 2024

Tuesday 2nd January – Friday 9th February

Half Term: Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

Monday 19th February – Thursday 28th March

Easter Holiday: Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April

Summer 2024

Monday 15th April – Friday 24th May

(Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday)

Half Term: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

Monday 3rd June – Friday 19th July

Note:

Good Friday 29th March 2024
 Easter Monday 1st April 2024

INSET Days - School closed to students

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Friday 26th January 2024

Friday 28th June 2024 - INICIO Day (home learning for students)

Please see below MENU Week 1 for the week commencing 2nd January 2024.
 On Wednesday instead of Roast is Sausages and Mash.

WEEKLY MENU Charles Darwin Week 1				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Korma with Rice	Lasagne & Garlic Bread	Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chicken Pie & Mashed Potato	Fish & Chips
Vegetable Curry with Rice	Vegetable Lasagne with Garlic Bread	Shepherdess Pie	Chilli Bean Wrap & Salsa	Vegan Sausage Roll with Chips
Mac'n'Cheese	Tomato & Basil Penne Pasta	Vegan Jambalaya	Tuscan Style Tomato & Bean Pasta	Vegetable Samosa with Chips
Green Beans or Sweetcorn	Carrots or Broccoli	Cauliflower or Green Beans	Peas or Carrots	Beans or Pasta
Apple Pie & Crumble with Custard	Chocolate Brownie with Chocolate Sauce	Jam & Coconut Sponge	Fruit Sponge	Apple & Berry Oat Bar with Custard

Please see below Bromley Y operating hours over the Christmas Holiday:



The poster has a light blue background with white snowflake patterns. At the top, the title 'Christmas & New Year Operating Hours 2023/2024' is written in a large, bold, dark green font. To the right of the title is a small holly leaf with a red berry. Below the title, the text 'Up to Friday 22nd December-Normal Working hours' is written in a smaller, dark green font, followed by a line of six asterisks. The dates and times for the following week are listed in a red font: 'Saturday 23rd December Closed-', 'Sunday 24th December-Closed', 'Monday 25th December (Bank Holiday)-Closed', 'Tuesday 26th December (Bank Holiday)-Closed', 'Wednesday 27th December-9-4pm', 'Thursday 28th December- 9-4pm', 'Friday 29th December- 9-4pm', and 'Saturday 30th December- Closed'. This is followed by another line of six asterisks. The final dates are listed in a red font: 'Sunday 31st December-Closed', 'Monday 1st January (Bank Holiday)-Closed', and 'Tuesday 2nd January-Normal working hours resume'. A small holly leaf with a red berry is positioned to the left of the final dates.

**Christmas & New Year
Operating Hours
2023/2024**

Up to Friday 22nd December-Normal Working hours

Saturday 23rd December Closed-
Sunday 24th December-Closed
Monday 25th December (Bank Holiday)-Closed
Tuesday 26th December (Bank Holiday)-Closed
Wednesday 27th December-9-4pm
Thursday 28th December- 9-4pm
Friday 29th December- 9-4pm
Saturday 30th December- Closed

Sunday 31st December-Closed
Monday 1st January (Bank Holiday)-Closed
Tuesday 2nd January-Normal working hours resume

didi Rugby

didi Rugby FREE Taster Class

didi Rugby Bromley is launching on Sunday 7th January 24 with a FREE taster class!

We provide activity classes for children aged 18 months to 6 years. Solve the playtime puzzle with active, confidence building fun. Our program is designed to get kids active, teach them new skills and improve their co-ordination, speed and balance. It will also help them learn social skills while they have lots of fun in a positive, safe and friendly environment.

Join our FREE trial class at Darwin Leisure Centre. Reserve your spot for a world of smiles!

<https://didirugby.com/find-a-class/>

Regular classes start on 14th January 2024

NEW!

didi Rugby Bromley

didirugby.com

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES 18m - 6yrs



When?

**Sunday 7th Jan 24
from 9:30 am**

Where?

**Darwin Leisure Centre
TN16 3AU**

★ Book a FREE trial ★

Why?

★ Empower your child's
growth with our activities!

★ Boost their confidence
and self esteem

★ Encourage their social
skills and friendships



Enquiries and booking

maxine.edwards@didirugby.com

