



DARLEY DENE DISPATCHES

Empowering success through a strong and respectful home-school partnership

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Headteacher's Message

Following on from last week's newsletter, where I shared a call for parent volunteers and new members to join the Family Dynamos, I wanted to continue the theme of community by highlighting some of the fantastic work we've been part of this week as a local community school.

I had the pleasure of attending our Governance Convention, where I spent time with both our Local Governing Body and members from across the Lumen Learning Trust. It was not only a valuable opportunity to connect, but also a powerful reminder of why we chose to be part of LLT. As a team, we share a commitment to putting children first – helping them grow into successful lifelong learners and happy, fulfilled individuals, ready to make positive choices about their futures.

This week, we were pleased to welcome two student teachers into our classrooms. Supporting teacher training is something we value deeply, and I know you'll join me in making them feel welcome as part of our school community.

Another highlight this week was the start of something very special for our Year 5 children - their first session with their St George's reading mentors, who work with us through the Bookmark Charity. It was wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm and excitement when meeting their mentors. These kinds of partnerships really enrich our pupils' experiences and learning.

We were also delighted to welcome Rev'd Ben Beecroft and his team from St Paul's Church into school to discuss a number of community projects we can take part in over the coming months. These included Remembrance, Christmas markets, and their brilliant FareShare initiative. We also explored how they could support us in school more directly – contributing to our RE lessons, helping with transitions to secondary school, and leading assemblies. We're excited that they'll be delivering our Harvest Festival Assembly next week and supporting our food collection.

Lastly, a huge thank you to all the parents who supported the Year 5 cake sale yesterday. It was lovely to see the buzz of excitement as the children left school, and to witness the teamwork between pupils, staff, and parents who helped run the event. These moments are only possible with your support – and they truly make a difference.

Parent-Teacher Consultations

As you will be aware from our calendar dates, our first Parent-Teacher Consultations of the year are taking place on Monday 20th & Wednesday 22nd October. You will need to book an appointment to meet with your child's class teacher via Scopay. The 10-minute time slots will go live at **9.00am on Wednesday 8th October** so please log into Scopay to select a time that is suitable for you. These first parent consultations of the year are a great opportunity for you to find out how your child has settled into their new year group and discuss some key areas to support your child's progress.

QUICK LINKS

Term Dates

School Calendar

Enrichment Clubs

Uniform

School Meals

Nursery

Reception

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6

LAN Centre



Inclusion Update

Please be aware that any sensory support items such as chew buddies, ear defenders, or fidget toys must be agreed upon in advance with the school's Inclusion Lead. These items are considered part of a child's individual provision, and it is the school's responsibility to determine whether such adjustments are necessary. Only items approved by the school may be used. Thank you for your continued support.

Zones of Regulation

Have you ever heard your child talk about being in the "blue zone" or "green zone"? At Darley Dene we are learning about The Zones of Regulation, a framework that helps children recognise and manage their emotions. Feelings are grouped into four coloured "zones": Blue (tired, sad), Green (calm, ready to learn), Yellow (frustrated, excited), and Red (angry, overwhelmed). Children are encouraged to identify which zone they are in and then use strategies from their own personal "tool kit" – such as breathing exercises, movement breaks, or talking to an adult – to help them regulate and return to a learning-ready state. This empowers pupils to develop independence in managing their emotions and supports a calm, positive classroom environment.

The BLUE zone	The GREEN zone	The YELLOW zone	The RED zone
How might you feel?	How might you feel?	How might you feel?	How might you feel?
sad tired bored moving slowly	happy okay focussed ready to learn	nervous confused silly not ready to learn	angry frustrated scared out of control
What might help you?	What might help you?	What might help you?	What might help you?
Talk to someone Stretch Take a brain break Stand Take a walk Close my eyes	The goal of this exercise is to get to the GREEN zone. What can you do to be happy, calm and ready to learn?	Talk to someone Count to 20 Take deep breaths Squeeze something Draw a picture Take a brain break	Stop what I'm doing Make sensible choices Take deep breaths Ask for a break Find a safe space Ask for help

Time to talk

What can teachers or other adults
at school do to better help you?



Advice from NSPCC - Anger Management in Children

Every year many thousands of children are referred to Childline for anger issues. Anger management in children is one of the top mental health concerns in childcare. Anger and the ability to control it are key skills of adulthood. Violent thoughts frequently bubble underneath human interactions. Anger is the quickest way for those thoughts to become reality. For this reason it is tightly regulated in our society. Children must learn to overcome anger so that they do not fall a foul of strict controls on violent conduct. However, this is difficult for children to learn to manage since anger is remarkably powerful. Yet as parents and teachers there is no choice but to teach them to reign these emotions in. This can be hard knowledge to impart, but the NSPCC has produced helpful resources to aid you in that vital mission. If interested, please follow the link below: [Support for parents](#)



P.E. News

We are thrilled to announce that Darley Dene has officially become a Parkrun Primary school. This means our children and families can get involved in junior parkrun which is a free, fun and inclusive 2km weekly event for children aged 4 to 14. It takes place in local parks across the UK and encourages children to walk, jog, run, skip or even volunteer in a supportive community environment. Parents and carers are also welcome to take part alongside their children which makes it a fantastic community experience for the whole family. As part of our Healthy Schools initiative we are always looking for ways to encourage movement and wellbeing. Alongside our exciting new Parkrun partnership, the children also take part in our Daily Mile challenge each day as part of each class' movement break.

Secondary school place

Year 6 parents please remember to apply for a secondary school place for your child by 31st October 2025. If you need support applying for secondary schools, please speak to Mrs. Webb by 23rd October 2025. Please see link below for application form: [Secondary admissions](#)

EYFS & KS1 News

This week the children have been busy exploring some exciting new stories and topics. In Year 2, the children enjoyed reading *Slug Life*, with Miss Kennedy even dressing up as a giant slug to bring the story to life! Year 1 started reading *Handa's Surprise* and have been learning all about the senses, as well as beginning to explore maps. Meanwhile, in EYFS the children have been reading *Hair Love* and learning about Black History Month, celebrating important stories and role models.

KS2 News

This week has been an entrepreneurial week for our Year 5 children who have successfully set up and ran a cake sale to raise funds. All of us at the school have been so impressed with the effort and craft that the children have put into this exercise. It was also exciting for our Year 5 children to meet their Bookmark mentors and begin that wonderful connection that will follow them for much of this school year. For our other children in KS2, the focus has been on developing new skills in lessons and putting these into practice. I was lucky enough to do a book look across the key stage on Tuesday and I was so impressed with the level of work shown.

Year 5

A huge congratulations to the Year 5 children and families for organising, baking, and buying cakes for our fabulous fundraising cake sale. We are so grateful to everyone who supported the event by purchasing cakes after school on Thursday.

The children threw themselves into the whole experience - from designing eye-catching posters and spreading the word, to helping prepare for the big day. Their hard work and enthusiasm paid off as they raised an incredible over £112. What a wonderful achievement - well done, Year 5!



House Competition

The winner of our Book Corner House Competition will be announced to the school on Tuesday. Also, look out for our House Competitions calendar that will be released very soon!

House Points



23



27



35

Dynamos

Next week our Dynamos will meet again to be assigned their roles. They will be involved in helping our library, helping children on the playground and in the food hall, and rewarding positive behaviour choices in assembly.

Darley Dene Wellbeing

On the 10th October, it is Hello Yellow Day. This day raises awareness around children's mental health and gives children strategies to keep themselves healthy and safe. Children have the option of wearing one item that is yellow - such as yellow socks, laces, headbands, bows, or other items of yellow. School uniform is still a requirement.

Home Learning

Home learning will be given out on a Thursday and will need to be completed (and returned in KS1) for the following Tuesday. [Home Learning](#).

Alongside their home learning, the expectation is for children to read daily at home for 10-15 minutes. If your child is in Reception or KS1, please log this in their reading journal. If your child is in KS2 (Year 3,4,5 or 6) they will be able to write a short paragraph in their reading journal. *Examples may include their favourite parts in the story, character descriptions and their predictions.*

Each week, your child will also have a chance to visit the Library and they will bring a reading for pleasure book home. This may be a book they can read by themselves or a book to read with you.

Reading, reading, reading

So far this half term, I've been really impressed with the children's work in reading! It's been wonderful to see such enthusiasm and effort from everyone. The children have been engaging in a wide range of exciting activities linked to our class texts, helping them to develop their reading skills in fun and meaningful ways.

We've been focusing on key skills such as retrieval and inference, and it's great to see the children becoming more confident at finding evidence in the text and using clues to understand deeper meanings. Their discussions, written responses, and creative follow-up tasks have all shown fantastic progress.

Finally, here are some **reading recommendations** for you to enjoy at home - perfect for building on all the brilliant work happening in class!



Flame Chasers
Julie Pike

KS2 fantasy book

All Ember wants is to fly with the golden flamebirds that visit Bright Beacon each year before heading west. Their fiery feathers can grant wishes, and the Flame Chasers wait in the harbour to follow them. But when Ember's dad leaves without her, she's heartbroken. Can she find a ship, and a captain, to help her catch up and discover the flamebirds' secret home?



Wilder than Midnight
Cerrie Burnell

KS2 fantasy book

A magical series about friendship, family, and being different - perfect for fans of Katherine Rundell and Catherine Doyle. Silverthorne is full of secrets: a dark forest, a locked-up castle, and a village living in fear. But something is stirring in the leaves... Saffy, Aurelia and Wild Rose will change Silverthorne forever.



Oracy Celebration

All of our children are enjoying the opportunity to earn one of the certificates. Well done to all the children who have already been successful and good luck to everyone else for the coming weeks.

Oracy Champions

Leo M
Ola
Rory M
Jacinta
Advik
Jake

Jigsaw

Sebastian
Jayleen
Labiba
Lorelai
Shylla

Sports Stars

Cj
Graham
Logan
Chloe
Arzo
Matt

Maths

Alex
Roman H
Leo S
Gizem
Andrei
Diana
Olaf

Writing

Aarish
Victoria
Remi
Harper
Frankie
Alan
Bonnie

Gold Leaves

Congratulations to the children who earned a Gold Leaf this week. This could be for an exemplary piece of work, an over and above gesture of kindness, showing responsibility, perseverance, determination or other positive trait etc.

Lan Centre: Mateo, Miles

Nursery: Luna

Reception: Diego, Tae

Year 1: Sebastian, aaron, Jacob

Year 2: Elif, Andrei

Year 3: Leelou, Labiba, Tariq, Reuben

Year 4: Paige, Hanna, Frankie, Tyler

Year 5: Jasmine, Skylar, Arzo, Fatmana

Year 6: Jake, Hargun, Charlotte-Ann

Timetables Rockstars

Amelia, Jordan

Messages from the School Office

Uniform

We want children to be proud of Darley Dene and to take a pride in their appearance whilst wearing our school uniform, encouraging a sense of belonging amongst the children as well as embedding our identity in the wider community. Please ensure that your child's uniform including Coats, Jackets and PE Kits as well as water bottles **are named**.

Earrings

It is a Trust-wide stipulation that school children must not wear earrings while taking part in PE lessons. Members of staff cannot remove earrings on behalf of children so a child must be able to remove their earrings independently or alternatively the earrings are removed before they come to school. Children with newly pierced ears are included in these guidelines and so are also required to remove their earrings; the duration of the lesson is not long enough to allow piercings to close over. Additionally, we are not able to allow children to take part in lessons with plasters covering earrings so it is imperative that children learn to remove/insert earrings themselves.

Pupil Premium/FSM

Have your circumstances changed? You may qualify for your child to have free school meals and other benefits under the Pupil Premium/FSM scheme from Surrey County Council. Scan the QR code to check.



Entrance to School

Entrance to the school should be via the main school gates only between 08.30am - 08.50am. If you need to speak to the office staff, parents should go via the internal door to the office from the playground. The main office entrance is for the use of Breakfast Club only before 08:30am.

Water bottles

Water only is allowed in children's water bottles. **No juice or sugary drinks are allowed in school.** Please also name your child's water bottle.

Lunch Boxes

Darley Dene is a **nut free** school. Please **DO NOT** send your child to school with chocolate spread Sandwiches, chocolate crepes for lunch as it is not possible to distinguish between Nutella and a nut free chocolate spread. If your child has a chocolate spread sandwich or a chocolate crepe we will call home to request that an alternative be brought in. Thank you for your co-operation.

School Meals

Autumn term menu available [click here](#)

Please continue to pay for lunches through your ScoPay account.

Nursery **£2.49**

KS2 **£2.80**



Medication

If your child has been prescribed with medication which needs to be administered during the school day, please ensure that you complete a Pupil Medication Request form which can be found on the school's website or from the school office. Without the completed form staff will not be able to administer any medication.

Our School App

Live and ready for you to install, our school app is available free of charge on your mobile device via the iOS App Store or Android Google Play. Just search for 'School News', look for the dark blue logo (right) and install to give you access to the key parts of our website including our website school calendar, a quick contact tab as well as handy extras to connect you to key school information and online forms. The app calendar will even allow you to add school events to your own device calendar so you need never miss an important date again. Make sure you install it today!

Please visit this link for full instructions on how to install the app on your device: [Darley Dene App](#)

Attendance & Fixed Penalty Notices

Amount Payable for a Penalty Notice and Consequences for repeat unauthorised absences

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, **per parent/carer per child**, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

[Attendance & Punctuality Policy 2024](#)



Vacancies

Darley Dene Primary School is recruiting: We are looking to appoint a Teaching Assistant with a Level 3 qualification who has a passion for creating life long learners, is committed to inclusion and equality and has high expectations of themselves and every child. For more information please see: [Level 3 Teaching Assistant](#)

Darley Dene Primary School is recruiting: We are seeking to appoint 2 highly enthusiastic, proactive, flexible and reliable individuals for the role of Teaching Assistant. This is an opportunity for individuals who are patient and emotionally resilient to join our friendly, inclusive and inspirational team of teaching and support staff. For more information please see: [Teaching Assistant](#)

Saxon Primary School is recruiting: Do you have a passion for Early Years? This is an exciting opportunity for an Early Years Nursery Assistant to work in our Nursery, who is not afraid to immerse themselves in the children's play. We are looking for someone who can be flexible and support learning in a creative way. For more information on these roles please see: [Nursery Assistant](#)

Upcoming Diary Dates

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term

Wed 8th Oct - Year 5 Planetarium Workshop
Fri 10th Oct - Whole School Parent Coffee Morning - 9am
Fri 10th Oct - World Mental Health Day - Hello Yellow Day
Mon 13th - Tues 14th - Year 6 Bikeability
Mon 20th Oct - Parent consultations 4:30pm - 7:00pm
Tues 21st Oct - Individual and siblings photos
Wed 22nd Oct - Parent consultations 3:30pm - 6:00pm
Friday 24th Oct - INSET DAY 3
Mon 27th Oct - Friday 31st Oct - HALF TERM
Mon 3rd Nov - Children return to school
Mon 3rd Nov - Fri 7th Nov - Year 6 Bikeability
Tues 11th Nov - Frid 14th Nov - Year 6 Bristol Trip
Thurs 20th Nov - Year 1 Chertsey Museum Toy Workshop
Tues 9th Dec - Pantomime YR -Y6
Fri 19th Dec - End of term 1:00pm

Spring Term 2026

Mon 5th Jan - Children return to school
Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb - HALF TERM
Mon 23rd Feb - Children return to school
Fri 27th Mar - End of term 1:00pm

Summer Term 2026

Mon 13th Apr - Children return to school
Mon 25th May - Fri 29th May - HALF TERM
Mon 1st June - Children return to school
Fri 17th July - End of term 1:00pm
Mon 20th July - INSET DAY
Tues 21st July - INSET DAY 5

Kind regards



Zoe Devonport
Headteacher

Darley Dene Primary School Penalty Notice and Fines

Changes effective 19/08/24

FIRST OFFENCE

1

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:
£160 per parent per child if paid within 28 days.
Reduced to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days.

SECOND OFFENCE

2

(WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:
£160 per parent per child if paid within 28 days.
No reduced rate will be offered.

THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

3

The third time an offence is committed for term time leave or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a parent's future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD
Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.



01932 847 674



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WHOLE SCHOOL COFFEE MORNING

FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER
9AM - 9:45AM

Catherine Webb, the Home School Link Worker,
and Mrs Jones the ELSA will be available to answer
any questions and discuss any support
you may need with your child in school.

We really look forward to seeing you.

Catherine Webb & Mrs Jones
The Pastoral Team



All-Age Harvest Celebration

Sunday 5th October
@ 10.30am

Followed by shared lunch

Please bring tins and dried goods that will
be shared between Hebrews Café,
Runnymede Foodbank & Salvation Army



It's another
**HARVEST
FESTIVAL**

*We will be collecting donations
of non-perishable food items to
benefit the local Salvation Army,
Runnymede Food Bank, and St.
Paul's Church.*

*If you are able, please bring in
your donation by
October 7th*





YOUNGMINDS

**Hello
Yellow**
FRIDAY 10 OCT

**Wear it loud.
Wear it proud.**

Wear yellow this World Mental Health Day, 10th October,
and donate to YoungMinds to support young people's mental health.

#HelloYellow

M&S | YOUNGMINDS

YoungMinds, registered Charity in England (1016968) and Scotland (SC039700)

