



DARLEY DENE DISPATCHES

Empowering success through a strong and respectful home-school partnership

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Headteacher's Message

As always, this week began with our whole school assembly on Monday. I encouraged the children to reflect on the half-term and the achievements they've had so far. The children were able to share some truly wonderful moments they've experienced during these first eight weeks of the year, including: gaining medals in gymnastics, earning a new belt in karate, receiving a gold leaf, and answering a question correctly in front of the class in maths, to name but a few.

We spent time recognising the effort that goes into achieving such things, and reflected on the choices they made to enable these moments to happen - an important part of our children's journey in building resilience.

This week in school, our Year 4 children have been particularly busy with a trip to Wetland Centre and our Year 5 children welcomed visitors from Surrey Fire and Rescue into their class.

Family consultations also took place this week. As you know, these are an important point in the year when teachers can share your child's progress, set targets for the term ahead, and discuss how they've settled into school. Please remember that at any point during the school year, you're welcome to speak to your child's class teacher at the start or end of the day. Alternatively, you can book a meeting if that's more appropriate. Building strong relationships - including the home-school connection - is a key strength and value of our provision.

It was lovely to have so many parents on site over the two evenings. I hope you found the time to complete the parent survey. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us understand how we can continue to improve and serve our community. If you haven't yet completed the survey, please do take a few minutes to do so. [CLICK HERE](#) It's very much appreciated.

Also, remember to follow us on Facebook for regular updates.

You'll have noticed this newsletter is coming to you on a Thursday, that's because tomorrow is an INSET day, and children are not expected to be in school. INSET days are an important opportunity for our staff to come together for training, focusing on our school priorities for the year ahead.

As we head into the half-term break, I want to wish all our families a happy and restful time together - whether that means cosying up in front of a film on a chilly evening, jumping in crunchy (or soggy!) autumn leaves at the park, carving pumpkins, or enjoying some fireworks. These are just some of the lovely things this season brings.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday, 3rd November**.

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



EYFS & KS1 News

We've had a wonderfully busy week across the school, filled with exciting seasonal activities inspired by Autumn and Halloween. Children have been enjoying themed stories such as *Room on the Broom* and *Funnybones*, which helped bring the spooky season to life. In DT, pupils created their own ghosts and skeletons, produced skeleton-themed artwork, and even had a go at pumpkin carving! Year 2 took things a step further by hollowing out pumpkins, which they will use to sequence steps and write their own instructions in English later this week. In Maths, the focus has been on key number skills, including subitising within 5, number formation, and partitioning numbers to make 10, while also exploring the concepts of parts and wholes. In RE, we've been learning about how different families celebrate Diwali, enriching our understanding of cultural traditions and celebrations.

KS2 News

It has been a very busy and very active week at school as all the classes wind their lessons down and remember everything that they have learnt this first half term. In year 6, the class were lucky enough to be visited by a scientist who took them through some excellent investigations to help them better understand water, its uses, and the importance of water conservation. I have been really pleased with the level of effort, focus, and excellence shown by the KS2 children this half term and I am greatly looking forward to this high standard continuing next half term as well.

Black History Month

For the month of October we have been celebrating Black History Month at Darley Dene. This started off with our assembly led by Mrs. Butler about 'Standing firm in Pride and Proud'. EYFS looked at the book 'Hair Love' by Matthew A. Cherry, while KS1 learnt some interesting facts during a class discussion followed by a short quiz. Year 4 dived into an investigation about the Windrush. To finish off our celebration of Black History Month, Mr Bartlett held an assembly this week about Inspirational Black Activists. Year 6 tied this assembly to their art lesson to further celebrate the Black Activists they have learnt about.

House Competition

TTRS House Battle of the Bands

The final scores will be revealed in our Celebration Assembly after half term, when we'll announce which house has claimed the victory.

House Points



38



30



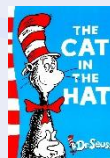
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Reading

Well done to all the children for working so hard on their reading this half term! It's been wonderful to see so many pupils enjoying their books and making great progress. This week, we've been busy making sure our school library is well-stocked with a wide range of exciting stories and that it stays neat and welcoming for everyone. A quick reminder - each class visits the library every week, and children should bring home a new book to read for pleasure. Please encourage your child to spend some quiet time reading and sharing their book with you at home. Here are some recommended reads for children in KS1 and KS2.



KS1
Grandpa
John Burningham



The Cat in the Hat
Dr Seuss



KS2
The Explorer
Katherine Rundell



Krindlekrax
Philip Ridley



Maths

🎸 Times Table Rock Stars House Battle! 🎸

The children in Key Stage 2 have been having an absolute blast taking part in our House Times Table Rock Stars Battle! The excitement has been sky-high as we've watched the leaderboard change with houses overtaking each other throughout the week.

The final scores will be revealed in our Celebration Assembly after half term, when we'll announce which house has claimed the victory. Good luck, Rock Stars! 🌟

P.E. News

Last week, the children enjoyed an exciting assembly from the Junior Park Run team, learning all about how they can get active, have fun, and be part of their local community. We'd love to encourage all families to take part in Junior Park Run over half term! It's a fantastic, free event for children to run, jog, or walk at their own pace on Sunday mornings. When signing up, you can join our school group "DD Dynamos" so we can celebrate our school's Park Run progress together. Children who take part regularly will also be recognised in school with certificates and celebrations!

You can find more details and register online at www.parkrun.org.uk.

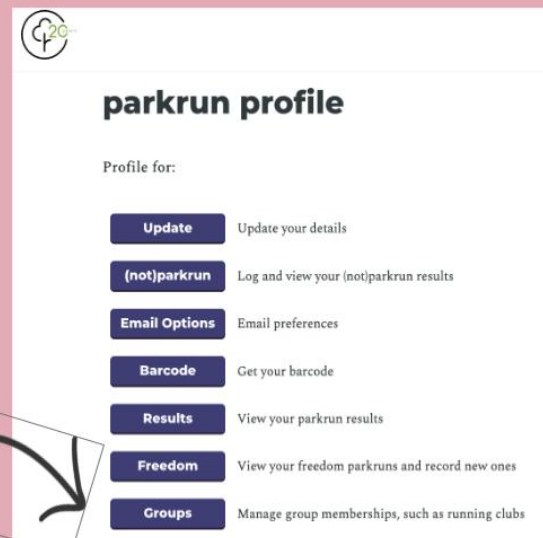


We are also delighted to share that Darley Dene is now part of the **Elmbridge and Runnymede Primary School Sports Association**. This means we'll be joining a local network of schools to take part in games, leagues, and district sports events. More information will be shared next term about the Darley Dene Boys Football Team and other exciting sports teams being formed at our school!

How to join the DD Dynamos group

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!!!

1. Already a parkrunner? Skip to Step 3!
2. New parkrunners should ask a parent or another adult to register you via www.parkrun.org.uk
3. **Once you have been registered, [log back in](#) and join the DD Dynamos group!**



Year 4 & Year 5 Bowles Trip 2026

There is still time to sign up for the Bowles trip in February 2026. The weekend's activities for the children are many and various, taking part in activities in a safe and secure environment which has a positive effect on children's achievement in many areas of their lives. **Please email the Office to confirm that you wish your child to attend, this trip can be paid over instalments for more information contact the Office via email**



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.

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

Taylor
Elfida
Leelou
Ire
Christina

Jigsaw

Jacob
Cristian
Emilie
Sienna

Sports Stars

Leo D
Kaeylenn
Ronnie
Isabelle
Yusuf Y
Emine

Maths

Maheer
Alihan
Alice
Tyler Mo
Lorelai
Scarlett
Yovana

Writing

Martyna
Rory A
Frankie
Mia
Paige
Anusha
Alyaan

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

Nursery: Irena

Reception: Bella, Arin

Year 1: Alihan, Isabella, Sharon, Mileh

Year 2: Jayleen, Noah M, Zion, Elif, Anisha

Year 3: Dolcie

Year 4: Lizzie, Kayla, Tyler

Year 5: Ire, Arzo, Jordan

Year 6: Sudem, Jude, Yusuf

Timetables Rockstars

Rory, Gabi, Caesar, Kayden

Time to talk

What do you do when you encounter challenges or obstacles in your learning?



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.



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

Riverbridge Primary School in Staines is recruiting: We are looking to appoint an After School Club Assistant to join our thriving and extremely popular After School Club community, working with an amazing, already established, team of likeminded people, committed to offering first class 'wraparound' care to our Riverbridge children.

For more information please visit: [ASC Assistant](#)

Upcoming Diary Dates

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term

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

Fri 28th Nov - Year 6 cake & ice lolly sale

Tues 9th Dec - Pantomime YR -Y6

Tues 9th Dec - Stay, Play and Learn - Reception & LAN 2pm - 3pm

Wed 10th Dec - Stay, Play and Learn - Reception 2pm - 3pm

Fri 19th Dec - End of term 1:00pm

Spring Term 2026

Mon 5th Jan - Children return to school

Tues 20th Jan - Year 5 trip SKYT Academy

Fri 6th Feb - Year 4 cake & ice lolly sale

Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb - HALF TERM

Mon 23rd Feb - Children return to school

Mon 9th Mar - Stay, Play and Learn - Nursery 2pm - 3pm

Tues 10th Mar - Stay, Play and Learn - Reception & LAN 2pm - 3pm

Wed 11th Mar - Stay, Play and Learn - Reception 2pm - 3pm

Thurs 12th Mar - Stay, Play and Learn - Nursery 2pm - 3pm

Fri 13th Mar - Year 3 cake & ice lolly sale

Fri 27th Mar - End of term 1:00pm



Summer Term 2026

Mon 13th Apr - Children return to school
Fri 17th Apr - Year 2 cake & ice lolly sale
Mon 25th May - Fri 29th May - HALF TERM
Mon 1st June - Children return to school
Fri 12th June - Year 1 cake & ice lolly sale
Mon 15th June - Stay, Play and Learn - Nursery 2pm - 3pm
Tues 16th June - Stay, Play and Learn - Reception & LAN 2pm - 3pm
Wed 17th June - Stay, Play and Learn - Reception 2pm - 3pm
Thurs 18th June - Stay, Play and Learn - Nursery 2pm - 3pm
Fri 3rd July - Year Reception cake & ice lolly sale
Fri 17th July - End of term 1:00pm
Mon 20th July - INSET DAY
Tues 21st July - INSET DAY 5

Term Dates 2026 - 2027

Autumn Term

Tues 1st Sept - INSET DAY 1
Wed 2nd Sept - INSET DAY 2
Thurs 3rd Sept - Children return to school
Fri 16th Oct - End of term - normal time
Mon 19th Oct - Fri 30th Oct - Half term (two weeks)
Mon 2nd Nov - Children return to school
Fri 18th Dec - End of term 1:00pm

Spring Term 2027

Tues 5th Jan - INSET DAY 3
Wed 6th Jan - Children return to school
Fri 12th Feb - End of term - normal time
Mon 15th Feb - Fri 19th Feb - Half term
Mon 22nd Feb - Children return to school
Thurs 25th Mar - End of term 1:00pm

Summer Term 2027

Mon 12th Apr Children return to school
Fri 28th May - End of term - normal time
Mon 31st May - Fri 4th Jun - Half term
Mon - 7th Jun - Children return to school
Tues 20th Jul - End of term 1:00pm
Wed 21st - INSET DAY 4
Thurs 22nd Jul - INSET DAY 5

Kind regards



Zoe Devonport
Headteacher

Darley Dene Primary School Penalty Notice and Fines

Changes effective 19/08/24

1

FIRST OFFENCE

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.

2

SECOND OFFENCE (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.

3

THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

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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Darley Dene

Upcoming important dates

There is so much going on at school from now until end of the Autumn term. Here is a taste of some of the exciting events we have planned!

Black History Month - October

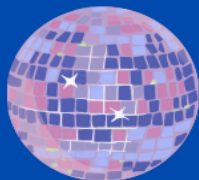
Diwali - 20th October

Remembrance Day - 11th November

Anti-bullying week - 10th to 14th November

Children in Need 14th November

Christmas Dynamo Disco 16th December



junior parkrun - where everyone is



welcome

junior parkrun is a free, fun, friendly, weekly, community event organised by volunteers of all ages for children aged 4 to 14.

2k junior parkrun events take place on Sunday mornings and are for the whole community to come together to walk, jog, run and volunteer. Join in on the fun at junior parkrun!



junior parkrun

limited space
Sign up soon!!!

FREE HALF - TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

TUESDAY
28
OCTOBER

YRS 1- 6
9am - 3pm
GAMES/CRAFTS
DANCE & SPORTS

St.Pauls Church,
Addlestone
140 church road
KT15 1SJ

Sign in:



FREE AS A BIRD



BORCELLE CLUB

LIGHT Party

AT CHURCH HALL

31st October 5:30 - 7 PM
140 CHURCH RD, ADDLESTONE
KT15 1ST

SIGN IN:

