



DARLEY DENE DISPATCHES

Empowering success through a strong and respectful home-school partnership

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www.darleydeneprimary.co.uk

Headteacher's Message

It has been a wonderful first week back as we begin the Autumn 2 half term. The children have settled in beautifully and are already fully engaged in their new topics and class texts.

Our teachers have been planning an exciting range of enrichment opportunities for the weeks ahead. For example, our Year 6 pupils have been taking part in Bikeability this week, while Year 4 began their swimming lessons, which always bring a sense of excitement to the school day. Our Early Years and Key Stage One children are already being heard around the school singing Christmas songs ready for their nativity. Miss Nhambure has organised for all our children to engage in a Diwali Dance Workshop next Wednesday. Mr Bartlett, our English Lead, will be taking some children from Year 3 & 4 to an AIM Higher Author Day at St George's College soon. Year 6 were preparing for their much-anticipated residential trip to Bristol next week. Experiences like these are valuable in helping children develop independence, confidence and resilience as they face new challenges away from home.

This half term, we have welcomed new Teaching Assistants to our team. They have been getting to know our routines and values, and most importantly, building positive relationships with the children so that they can provide the best possible support each day.

As part of Lumen Learning Trust, we continue to work closely with other schools to support staff development and improve outcomes for all children. This week, Mrs Butler led a valuable training session for Early Career Teachers across the Trust, focusing on professional growth and collaboration.

I welcomed our Attendance Service and Support Officer for our termly attendance review this week. He praised the strong systems we have in place to monitor attendance and support families. Regular attendance is crucial for every child to achieve their full potential, and we appreciate your continued efforts in ensuring your child attends school every day.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for Anti-Bullying Week, with a focus on kindness this year. The week will be filled with activities to help children understand what bullying is, how to seek support, and how to support others. This will begin with Odd Socks Day on Monday. We will also be marking Children in Need Day on Friday, raising money for this important charity. More details about these events are included below.

Thank you to everyone who has already completed our parent survey. Your feedback is very important to us and helps shape future decisions for our school. If you have not yet had the chance to complete it, there is still time! [CLICK HERE](#)

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

Update - Surrey Local Government Reorganisation

You may have heard that Surrey will be reorganised into two new unitary authorities from April 2027, replacing the current county and district councils. This change will affect how local services are managed (such as transport, planning, and children's services) but will not impact our school's daily operations. For more information, please visit the Surrey County Council update: news.surreycc.gov.uk/unitary-update

Bristol Residential

Those families with children who are attending the Bristol residential next week are encouraged to make extra sure that they are clear of the kit list requirements and restrictions, have any medication that will be needed handing in and ready in the morning. Please re-read over the behaviour contract and expectations with your child for the trip. We are greatly looking forward to hearing about what a wonderful time you are all going to have!

A reminder to families with Year 6 children who are not attending our Bristol residential that school attendance at school is an expectation. Please drop your child off at the Year 6 classroom as usual. If your child is usually collected at the end of the day and does not walk home, they will be collected from the Year 3 classroom.

Anti-Bullying Week

Next week, Darley Dene will be celebrating Anti-Bullying Week with the theme Power of Good. This will begin on Monday 10th November with 'Odd Socks Day', where children are invited to wear odd socks in recognition of the importance of celebrating our differences.

Throughout the week, each class will be taking part in assemblies, short morning activities, and PSHE lessons with the aim of arming our children with knowledge of what bullying is, the role of the bystander in bullying, and how kindness can be used as a tool by all us to combat bullying. These skills are vital for our children to feel happy and safe at school and ultimately succeed.

Children in Need

On Friday 14th November, we will be recognising 'Children in Need' day. On this day, children are invited to wear a spotty accessory - such as headbands, hats, scarfs, socks, or bracelets. This is alongside wearing their full school uniform. An optional donation of £1 will be collected by each class and donated to the Children in Need charity. A whole school assembly will take place highlighting the significance of 'Children in Need' and the work that the charity does.

Inclusion Update:

Before half term, we explored how children can build resilience when learning feels challenging. This week, we're looking at **co-regulation** - how adults support children to manage big emotions - and **emotion coaching**, which helps children recognise, understand, and manage their feelings.

In school, staff support pupils in a variety of ways:

- **Modelling calm behaviour** – showing how to take deep breaths or pause before responding.
- **Offering choices** – giving children small options to help them feel in control.
- **Short breaks or quiet spaces** – allowing children time to calm before re-engaging with learning.
- **Emotion coaching** – helping children name what they feel, understand why, and decide what to do next.

For example, a teacher might say: *"I can see you're feeling frustrated (naming the feeling). That's okay. Let's take a few deep breaths together and think about our next step."*

How you can support at home

You can use the same principles to help your child manage strong emotions:

- **Name the feeling:** "I can see you're feeling angry/sad/worried."
- **Validate:** "It's okay to feel that way - everyone gets frustrated sometimes."
- **Co-regulate:** Take deep breaths together, count slowly, or share a calm moment.
- **Problem-solve:** Ask "What could help you feel better or try again?"
- **Offer choices:** Let them decide the order of tasks or which strategy to use.

By combining co-regulation with emotion coaching, children learn to recognise, understand, and manage their feelings, which builds resilience and confidence - both in learning and in life.



Time to talk

Understanding what makes children and young people feel happy, safe, and loved helps us support their wellbeing and build resilience when challenges arise. This half term, we will be focusing on **Questions to Understand Their Positive Feelings**, sharing weekly prompts to help guide meaningful conversations at home and nurture those positive emotions.

What makes you feel happy?
What makes you feel excited?



EYFS & KS1 News

The children have been busy learning and exploring exciting new topics! In EYFS, they've been reading *Little Glow*, a lovely story that sparks their imagination. They've also learned about firework safety to stay safe during celebrations and have enjoyed discovering the story and traditions of Diwali. In Year 1, the children have been reading *A New House for Mouse* and have started exploring toys from the past and present, comparing how they've changed over time. Year 2 students have dived into the *Traction Man* book and have been investigating different materials and their properties. They've also just begun designing their very own cap, using what they've learned about materials to make the perfect design! We look forward to seeing the finished products.

KS2 News

It's been an excellent first week for our KS2 children as they begin their Autumn 2 term. In the phase assembly this week, I shared with the children about the plans we have for Anti-Bullying Week that is happening next week and spoke about the power of small kindnesses and positivity when seeing each other everyday. As we progress throughout the year and the nights get darker, the power of these small kindnesses - greetings, holding the door for each other, smiling, compliments, and including each other in games, will go a long way.

I wanted to include a shout out to our Year 4 children who have begun their swimming lessons this term. The feedback from staff has been positive and I have been delighted to hear that our Year 4 children have been so resilient and courageous in the face of learning this new skill!

P.E. News

Football Team Trials

This week, our Year 5 and 6 boys and girls took part in football trials, and we were so impressed by the enthusiasm, teamwork, and positive attitude shown by everyone involved. It was fantastic to see so many pupils giving their all on the pitch. We are now in the process of forming our new Darley Dene Football Team, and the final team will be announced later this month. Well done to everyone who took part!

Junior Parkrun Reminder

A reminder that **Junior Parkrun** takes place every Sunday morning at Woking Park or Lahlem Park. It's a wonderful way for children to stay active, challenge themselves, and celebrate their achievements. Families can sign up online and join our school group, **DD Dynamos**, to represent Darley Dene. We love seeing our pupils taking part each weekend.

Maths and House Competition

House Battle of the Bands Results

I am delighted to announce the winners of the Battle of the Bands House Competition from the end of last term. The winners won a prize and earned housepoints for their Houses. Well done everyone in KS2 who took part.

🏆 Most Valuable Player of the Whole Competition

1st - Alan Y5
2nd - Caesar Y5
3rd - Tyler Y4

🏆 Most Valuable Player of the Whole Competition

Comet - Aaliyah Y5
Meteor - Reni Y4
Supernova - Mehrab Y5

The next TTRS battle begins in a few weeks. More information to follow very soon.



Reading

A huge **well done** to all our pupils for being so engaged with our new *Power of Reading* texts — it's been wonderful to see such enthusiasm for stories and books across the school!

This week, we've been busy giving our book corner and library a big sort-out, ready to make room for even more exciting reads. Keep an eye out for our Pre-Loved Book Giveaway coming up in the next couple of weeks — a great chance to find some new favourites to enjoy at home! Here are a couple of our recommended reads this week:

KS1



Year 3 & Year 4

	<input type="checkbox"/> The Boy Who Grew Dragons Andy Shepherd		<input type="checkbox"/> Stig of the Dump Clive King
	<input type="checkbox"/> The Iron Man Ted Hughes & Chris Mould		<input type="checkbox"/> The Hundred-Mile-an-Hour Dog Jeremy Strong
	<input type="checkbox"/> The Legend of Kevin Philip Reeve & Sarah McIntyre		<input type="checkbox"/> Gangsta Granny David Walliams

Year 5 & Year 6

	<input type="checkbox"/> Tilly and the Bookwanderers Anna James		<input type="checkbox"/> Diary of an Accidental Witch Honor and Perdita Cargill & Katie Saunders
	<input type="checkbox"/> A Case of Grave Danger Sophie Cleverly & Hannah Peck		<input type="checkbox"/> Always Clementine Carlie Sorosak
	<input type="checkbox"/> The Last Bear Hannah Gold & Levi Pinfield		<input type="checkbox"/> Runaway Robot Frank Cottrell-Boyce & Steven Lenton

House Points



40



48



68

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

Sorayah
Leo S
Joshua
Franek
Kaylee
TJ

Jigsaw

Bradley
Marya
Nellie
Olivia
Jordan
Emine

Sports Stars

Roman B
Anisa
Aksha
Thabie
Kayden

Maths

Willow
Mileh
Jayleen
Levy
Lorelai
Srisajini
Anelie

Writing

Arin
Taylor
Ola
Hallie
Aya
Esther
Danica

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: Ayan

Nursery: Eymen

Reception: Tae

Year 1: Sharon, Sorayah, Isabella, Taylor

Year 2: Noah M, Noah R, Nancy-May, Lilly-May, Zion

Year 3: Nellie, Ronnie, Joshua, Eyup

Year 4: Gabi, Kaya

Year 5: Srisajini, Yusuf, Scarlett, Advik

Year 6: Kayden

Timetables Rockstars

Madison, Scarlett R



Messages from the School Office

Southfield Park Primary School

We are thrilled to announce that Southfield Park Primary School, found a short drive from Epsom town centre, has joined the Lumen Learning Trust family of schools. With a relentless approach to providing the very best educational opportunities within a nurturing environment for primary pupils in the Surrey area, this important step marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for our school communities. Bringing expertise, strong collaboration and high-quality practitioners to all of our schools, this new addition will further enrich our pupils' learning experience.

While we embark on this journey with Southfield Park, we want to reassure you that our unwavering commitment to creating a warm, inclusive and supportive environment for every child remains stronger than ever. Our core values and our dedication to your child's growth, wellbeing and success will continue to guide everything we do.

We will keep you updated on developments and we welcome any questions or feedback you may have. Thank you for your continued support as we embrace these new opportunities together.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme HAF vouchers

Surrey County Council have partnered with Holiday Activities to support the delivery of the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF), a scheme which offers free school holiday club places to children entitled to Free School Meals (FSM). This means that we automatically distribute HAF vouchers to all our eligible families via the free HolidayActivities platform without families having to request the vouchers. Vouchers will be sent via email to the same parent who currently receives the holiday time FSM vouchers. If your child is eligible for free school meals and you would like to check the contact details for the individual who will be receiving the vouchers please contact the school office as soon as possible. For more information about HolidayActivities, please see their website: <https://www.holidayactivities.com/>

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.



Breakfast and After School Club

A reminder to parents that spaces in both these clubs are limited. Please ensure you book within 48 hours prior to the days needed to secure your child's space. If you need help booking, please call the office.

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

The Echelford Primary School in Ashford is recruiting: We are looking to appoint a Wrap Around Care Manager who wants to create a provision that is stimulating, safe, caring and creative. The right candidate will be organised and able to lead and work as part of a team and use their own initiative.

For more information please visit: [Wraparound Care Manager](#)

The Echelford Primary School in Ashford is recruiting: We are looking to appoint a talented teaching assistant on a fixed term contract with a proven record of providing high quality support to children of all abilities, including those with additional educational needs. The right candidate will be joining a strong, professional team of enthusiastic staff who will work alongside you in a supportive and constructive way. Full or part time considered for the role. For more information please visit: [Teaching Assistant](#)



Upcoming Diary Dates

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term

Mon 10th Nov - Odd Socks Day - whole school
Tues 11th Nov - Fri 14th Nov - Year 6 Bristol Trip
Wed 12th Nov - EYFS & KS1 Diwali Workshop
Fri 14th Nov - Children in Need - wear a spotty accessory
Wed 19th Nov - Year 2 Superhero Day
Thurs 20th Nov - Year 1 Chertsey Museum Toy Workshop
Fri 28th Nov - Year 6 cake & ice lolly sale
Tues 2nd Dec - Nursery Christmas sing-a-long
Thurs 4th Dec - Nursery Christmas sing-a-long
Thurs 4th Dec - Year 2 trip to Wakehurst
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
Mon 15th Dec - KS2 Christmas concert 1pm-2pm
Wed 17th Dec - Year 4 Delight Exhibition
Wed 17th Dec - Christmas Jumper & Christmas lunch - whole school
Fri 19th Dec - End of term 1:00pm

Spring Term 2026

Mon 5th Jan - Children return to school
Tues 20th Jan - Year 5 trip to SKY 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

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 (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

2

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



www.darleydeneprimary.co.uk

Odd Socks Day  We'll be wearing our odd socks this Odd Socks Day, will you?

Monday 10th November 2025



Andy and the Odd Socks ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

#AntiBullyingWeek
#OddSocksDay

This **ANTI-BULLYING WEEK** we will use our Power for Good

POWER FOR GOOD
#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

From **MONDAY 10TH to FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2025**

If you're worried about bullying and/or want to be involved in Anti-Bullying Week this year, please contact

Catherine Webb or Mr Markham

POWER FOR GOOD ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE
#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK ORGANISER

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Runnymede Family Centre
Every Wednesday
10 - 12

Family Support at the Revive Cafe
99 Guildford Street, Chertsey, England, KT16 9AS
www.revivecoffeeshop.co.uk

Family Support Workers from Runnymede Family centre will be available to offer support and advice on all aspects of family life.
Drop in, no booking required.

If you would like more information please scan the QR code or email:
runnymedefamilycentre@barnardos.org.uk



BARNARDOS Changing childhoods. Changing lives.

ENGLAND ROCKS

18TH TO 20TH NOVEMBER
7:30AM TO 7:30PM DAILY



Santa Fun Run

Join us

30 November
Bushy Park

14 December
Sandown Park Racecourse

santafunrun.pah.org.uk

Barratt Redrow **savills** **FR** registered with FUTURESKING REGULATORY

Princess Alice Hospice

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BASELINE EDGE
EST. 2025

BASELINE EDGE
est. 2025

Victory Park, Addlestone

TENNIS COACHING
for all ages and abilities

Junior Coaching
Ages 6 - 16 years

Adult Coaching
Beginners welcome
Cardio Tennis

To book, scan the QR code or visit:
www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/BaselineEdge

Runnymede
BOROUGH COUNCIL

In partnership with Runnymede Borough Council

Community Hubs

A friendly space for people to find help, advice, and signposting to local resources. Access support from any of the services below:

Catalyst Support
Mental Health Support

Citizens Advice
Financial Support

Home Start
Parenting and Perinatal support

Chertsey
Revive Coffee Shop, 99 Guildford St, Chertsey
KT16 9AS

Wednesdays, 10:00 - 12:00

The hubs are free to attend, there is no booking or referral required.

catalyst SUPPORTING WELLNESS TOGETHER

HOME START

citizens advice

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