



DARLEY DENE DISPATCHES

Empowering success through a strong and respectful home-school partnership

01932 847674

office.darleydene@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk

www.darleydeneprimary.co.uk

Headteacher's Message

Firstly, thank you to all the parents that engaged with our survey over the last few weeks. All of your responses are so helpful for us to re-consider what we have in place for our families at Darley Dene. The senior leadership team are now busy reviewing these individually and planning workshops tailored to your requests, which will be shared next week.

Across the school this week, the children have loved taking part in our Diwali Dance Workshops and some of our Year 3 and 4 children went to an AIM (Achieve, Master, Inspire) Day led by a published author at St George's Junior School. Our Year 6 children will be returning from the Bristol Residential later today, so please look out in next week's newsletter to read all about how it went.

This term, we have been taking part in an exciting project with EYFS Surrey all about how high-quality interactions support children's learning. EYFS Surrey spent time in our nursery observing and engaging with our staff and children, and we're delighted to share their lovely feedback. They noted that all staff were warm, receptive, and welcoming, getting down to the children's level, making eye contact, and using positive body language. They also saw lots of great techniques in action, such as questioning, active listening, using Makaton, and modelling language. Staff were praised for using mathematical language through play and for supporting children to develop new skills, especially outdoors. Positive interactions were seen across many areas of the nursery, including the main carpet, home corner, small world, playdough table, and outside area. We're so proud of our nursery team for creating such a nurturing, engaging environment for all our children and look forward to continuing this important work.

Staying on the topic of Early Years, we know how important it is for families to feel supported during this time – and so I would like to take a moment to highlight the **Best Start in Life Parent Hub**. This free online resource offers a wide range of expert advice: from supporting your child's early speech and language development, to behaviour strategies, and guidance on healthy sleep, diet and emotional wellbeing. The hub also provides information on local support services, childcare options, upcoming community groups and practical tips for day-to-day family life. To access it, visit [Best Start in Life Parent Hub](#) Once registered, you'll receive a welcome email with access to all the content.

Our class teachers have also been collecting examples of the many talents and achievements your children bring to our school, so we can develop and celebrate these even further. We always enjoy celebrating their successes outside of school, so please continue to share these with your class teacher or the school office. They will be celebrated in our assemblies and future newsletters.

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:

Developing Independence and Life Skills

Developing independence is an important part of helping children gain confidence, build resilience, and prepare for life both in and out of school. Independence isn't just about doing things alone - it's about having the skills and confidence to make decisions, solve problems and take responsibility for yourself.

In school, we support independence in many ways:

- Visual checklists, routines, and photos to remind children of the steps in a task or what their day will look like.
- Narrating "now and next" to help children understand what they are doing and what comes after, building structure and confidence.
- Encouraging children to try solving problems themselves before asking for help.
- Opportunities to take responsibility for tasks, such as setting up equipment or helping with classroom jobs.

At home, you can build these skills by:

- Letting children pack their own school bag or organise their belongings.
- Using visuals or photos to support routines at home, for example showing the order of morning or bedtime tasks.
- Encouraging them to plan their day or prepare for activities, and narrate "now and next" for tasks that might feel tricky.
- Giving them small choices, like deciding which homework to do first or what to wear.
- Celebrating their efforts and successes, even for small achievements - this helps build confidence and motivation.

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's the best thing that happened to you this week?



EYFS & KS1 News

This week, all of our EYFS and KS1 children took part in a wonderful Diwali workshop! They thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Festival of Lights and exploring its traditions through art, music, and storytelling. Here are some of our Nursery children in action!



Our youngest learners in EYFS have been very busy creating beautiful Rangoli patterns using a variety of shapes and colours. They have also enjoyed learning about different 2D shapes through their artwork. To finish the week, the children designed their own henna patterns, showing amazing creativity and fine motor skills. In Year 1, the children have been working hard on their character descriptions, linked to their current class book *A New House for Mouse*. They have been using lots of exciting adjectives to bring their characters to life. The class also enjoyed a special visit from a parent, who came in to talk about old toys – everyone was fascinated to see how different toys were in the past. Year 2 have been writing their own missing posters for Traction Man. The children showed great imagination and used fantastic descriptive language to make their posters stand out. Across EYFS and KS1 it's been a fun and creative week of writing, dancing and problem-solving.

KS2 News

What an exciting week this has been for our Year 6 children who attended the Bristol residential trip. We are all greatly looking forward to having our eldest children back in school soon and hearing about all of the fantastic adventures and memories that have been made.

In the phase assembly this week, I focused on our topic of Anti-Bullying in recognition of this week and the important work that our children and adults across the school do in order to keep the school a safe and happy place. I asked the question, what does being kind to others do for you? It was wonderful to hear, as always, our children talking so fluently about kindness and the benefits that kindness brings to a school environment. We watched a short video about how kindness positively impacts our whole bodies also. If you want to live longer, be happier, and look younger: try kindness!

Anti-bullying week

This week was an important week for Darley Dene, as we recognised Anti-Bullying week and its significance in empowering our children with the skills and confidence needed to keep our school safe, kind, and happy. Our focus in our PSHE lessons this week was on the power of positivity and meaningful noticing of each other through compliments. Each class created 'compliment flowers', which gave their classmates an opportunity to celebrate each other for the talents and gifts they possess. Check out the displays on the Year 3 and 4 doors!



AIM High Day

Some of our lower KS2 children visited took part in a special writing focussed day led by published author Margaret Bateson-Hill. The day helped the children become more confident writers, discover their own 'writing voice' and included numerous techniques that they can continue to use on their writing journey. The children left feeling motivated and inspired and were excited to share about their time when they returned to school. They presented themselves beautifully, demonstrating wonderful resilience when faced with a new challenge. Well done!

Thank you Mr Bartlett for organising this event and Mrs Zhao for supporting them throughout the day.



Children in Need

Thank you to those children and families who brought in donations as part of Children in Need. The spotty accessories and Pudsey designs really lit up a very gloomy (weather wise) Friday. In assembly, I shared the importance of the charity work that is carried out by Children in Need and celebrated the school's effort in raising money.




Reading

This week, each year group has been diving deeper into their core texts and exploring a range of reading skills linked to them. A key focus across the school has been developing children's vocabulary - learning and using new words to enhance both their reading and writing. By broadening their vocabulary, pupils are becoming more confident writers, able to express their ideas with greater precision and creativity.




In Key Stage 2, pupils have also been working particularly hard on improving their reading fluency - reading with accuracy, expression, and understanding. Keep up the great work everyone!


Maths


England Rocks TTRS Battle – Next Week!

Get ready, KS2 next week brings another exciting challenge as we take part in the **England Rocks TTRS Battle!** This national competition involves hundreds of primary schools from across the country, all racing to show off their times tables fluency. 

There are a few important rules to remember:

-  Each player has a maximum of 1 hour of playtime per day.
-  Your child can play in any game mode on TTRS.
-  The winning class will have the highest number of correct answers per pupil.

The competition runs on the 18th, 19th and 20th. 

Let's aim high and rock those times tables—good luck, everyone!  

House Points



57



52



82

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

Alihan
Alyssia
Tariq
Lizzie
Yusuf

Jigsaw

Victoria
Cristian
Jienna
Paige
Srisajini

Sports Stars

Noah LA
Azeemah
Reuben
Andrei
Alan

Maths

Marcel H
Leo D
Andrei C
Dolcie
Kayla
Jayden

Writing

Maizah
Illyria
John
Eyup
Lorelai
Irre

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: Lucia

Nursery: Anaya, Amayra

Reception: Rhuno, Pablo

Year 1: Illyria, Eslem, Ana Julia, Noah

Year 2: Aaliyah, Elfida

Year 3: Payton, Logan, Reuben, Josh, Ronnie, Eyup

Year 4: Tyler, Kayla

Year 5: Scarlett, Advika

Year 6: Danica, Ameerah, Mia, TJ, Lena, Izabela, Jake, Aadya, Christina, Orest

Timetables Rockstars

Manha, Franek, Fatmana



Messages from the School Office

Holiday Activities and Food Programme HAF vouchers

Surrey County Council have partnered with 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

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

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

Saxon Primary School is recruiting: We are looking to recruit a part time Teaching Assistant with a passion for creating lifelong learners, committed to inclusion who has a high expectation of themselves and every child. Working Hours: Monday to Friday, term time only (39 weeks per year) 22.5 hours per week, 8.30am to 1.15pm. This role is fixed term position to 31st August 2026.
For more information on these roles please see: [Teaching Assistant](#)



Upcoming Diary Dates

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term

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.darleydenepriamry.co.uk

Darley Dene

Upcoming House Competitions

Are you ready to lead your House to Dynamo Cup victory? This Autumn term is packed full of exciting House Competitions with exciting prizes to be won. Check them out!

TTRS 'Battle of the Bands' - wc 27th October

Odd socks design - 10th November TTRS

Design a Pudsey - 14th November

England Rocks - wc 17th November

Darley Dene Spelling Bee - 8th December

ENGLAND ROCKS

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

PRIMARY SCHOOL

