



DARLEY DENE DISPATCHES

Empowering success through a strong and respectful home-school partnership

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Headteacher's Message

What a wonderfully busy week it has been across the school, with children taking part in a wide range of additional learning and activities for Parliament Week, engaging enthusiastically in discussions about democracy. Our pre-loved book giveaways were also a success, with many children excited to choose a new story to take home; these events will run again throughout the year to continue promoting a love of reading. In addition, children have been busy creating colourful posters for the various events in our calendar. They are also busy preparing for their festive performances. These start next week with both the EYFS & KS1 Nativity and the Nursery Singalongs. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our parents to these events.

It has been quite the week for staff learning as well. Mrs Butler attended supervision training with our other Deputy Headteachers to support pastoral teams across the Trust, while Miss Johnston and I took part in training with Surrey Virtual School focused on the provision in place for some of our most vulnerable children. We came away with many valuable ideas, and it was reassuring to hear that our current offer is considered an example of best practice. In addition, Mr Bartlett and Miss Oomen completed further Reading Fluency training led by the English Hub and have returned brimming with new strategies for our children, some of which will be shared with families during the upcoming parent workshops.

Within the Lumen Learning Trust, we thrive on opportunities to collaborate and to share what is working well, widening our impact beyond our own school gates. On Wednesday, I met with all the Headteachers and our Chairs of Governors, which provoked thoughtful discussion and generated a number of constructive ideas for strengthening our collective practice. Our class teachers also met with colleagues teaching the same year groups across the other schools in the Trust, allowing them to share approaches and explore ways to further improve outcomes for our children. This collaborative work is already having a positive impact, ensuring that our teaching remains informed and continually improving.

A communication was sent earlier this week about our adjustment to our after-school provision. Following the winter break, we will be offering two bookable sessions only. We will no longer be offering the late session from 4:30pm to 5:30pm as a standalone option. This decision has been made to ensure that our provision is aligned with the offer across the wider Trust and to support consistent staffing. Please be assured that after-school care will still be available, and families may continue to book either of the following options: Early session: 3:20pm – 4:30pm (£7); Full session: 3:20pm – 5:30pm (£12.50).

As the weather turns colder, please continue to send your children in with everything they need to stay warm throughout the day, especially as we still enjoy outdoor playtimes. With the winter season also comes an increase in seasonal bugs, so we ask that you check your child is well enough for school before sending them in. We are also continuing to remind pupils about good hygiene, including regular handwashing and using tissues to catch coughs and sneezes, and we appreciate your support in reinforcing these habits at home. If there is anything we need to be aware of or monitor, please speak directly with your child's class teacher or a member of the office team.

Quick Links

Term Dates

School Calendar

NEW! Our Facebook Page

NEW! LAN Centre News

NEW! Nursery News

NEW! Reception News

NEW! Year 1 News

NEW! Year 2 News

NEW! Year 3 News

NEW! Year 4 News

NEW! Year 5 News

NEW! Year 6 News

Inclusion Update:

Nurture 100

Last year, we began working toward becoming a Nurturing School through the Nurture 100 UK program, which is based on the Six Principles of Nurture. To bring these principles to life throughout the school year, we will focus on one principle every two weeks, exploring practical ways to promote it across the school.

In each newsletter, we will share the principle we are focusing on, celebrate the children's achievements, and show how they have engaged with it. We will also include a simple prompt for you to discuss the principle at home, helping your child reflect on their learning and progress.



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.

How do you feel when you spend time with people who make you feel understood and appreciated?



Parliament Week Update

Thank you Darley Dene for your wonderful, active participation in our first ever annual British Parliament Week. The videos and displays that I have seen around the school have been inspiring. We were lucky enough to receive a message to one of our students from Ben Spencer MP himself, answering some of the amazing questions that a Year 2 child had sent him with the help of his teachers. We all hope that all our students take the knowledge that they have gained this week about parliament and about the voting process, into their lives going forward and this will empower them to make the changes they want to see in their communities as they become older.

Pyjama-Rama Day

Wednesday 3rd December is Pyjama-rama day. This is a day where pupils are invited to come into school wearing pyjamas and bring in an optional £1 donation. This is to raise money to help support children living with cancer. During the day, our pupils will learn about the hard work that charities supporting children with cancer do, and even learn about some of the lived experiences of those children living with cancer.

Please note the importance of appropriate clothing, even on pyjama day. Children will need to be covered and warm and must wear their usual school shoes.

KS1 children who are performing their Nativity that day should come in pyjamas if they wish and their costumes to change back into after.



Reading

Thank you for your wonderful support with our pre-loved book giveaway. It was great seeing the excitement as families selected books to take home, and we're grateful for the enthusiasm you've shown in giving these stories a second life. We hope you enjoy reading the texts with your children and that they spark curiosity and imagination. Sharing books at home is such a powerful way to build a love of reading. Here are some recommended reads:



Maths - Supporting Your Children With Fractions at Home

Fractions are everywhere in daily life, and exploring them through real experiences helps children understand them more deeply. Here are simple ways to bring fractions into your child's everyday world.

Try these activities with your child:

Baking together:

- Use measuring cups ($\frac{1}{2}$ cup, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup) to compare fractions.
- Ask questions like "How many quarter cups make a whole cup?"

Cutting food:

- Slice pizzas, sandwiches, apples or cakes into halves, quarters or eighths.
- Let your child arrange pieces and check if they make a whole.

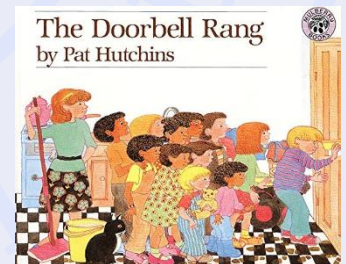
Sharing snacks:

- Share grapes, biscuits, or chocolate equally among family members.
- Ask: "If we share this between 3 people, what fraction does each person get?"

Liquid measuring:

- Use a jug with scale markings to show $\frac{1}{2}$ litre, $\frac{1}{4}$ litre etc.
- Compare different amounts: "Is $\frac{1}{2}$ litre more or less than 300ml?"

Read the book about sharing cookies



Music:

We have been given the opportunity by Surrey Arts to offer in-school music lessons starting in January. Children who are eligible for free school meals and young carers are eligible for funded lessons through Surrey Arts at no-cost to their families. Please complete the survey to indicate your interest: [Interest in music lessons](#)

P.E. News

Football Club Training Underway!

Football training for our Darley Dene teams is now well underway, and the children have shown fantastic enthusiasm, teamwork and dedication. We're really proud of how committed they are to developing their skills each week.

Junior Parkrun – Sunday Reminder

A reminder that Junior Parkrun continues every Sunday. It's a brilliant, community-based way for children to stay active, build confidence and represent Darley Dene. We'd love to see even more of our families getting involved.



Spring Term Sports Opportunities

We are excited to be part of the Elmbridge and Runnymede School Sports Association, and there will be plenty of sporting opportunities coming up in the Spring term. Keep an eye out for updates on the events and leagues Darley Dene will be participating in. It's going to be an exciting season ahead.

House Points



53



47



85

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

Jacob
Anisha
Emilie
Hanna
Elsie-Jean
Danica

Jigsaw

Sebastian
Agamjot
Gizem
Reni
Advika

Sports Stars

Ana Julia
Graham
Ronnie
Gabi
Ada-Marie

Maths

Marcel J
Darius
Ola
Hallie
Jacinta
Kaylee
Melody

Writing

Mihai
Sharon
Elif
Eleigh
Lizzie
Summer-Louise
Olaf

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: Priscilla

Reception: Yeva, Freddie, Pablo, Willow, Tae

Year 1: Rory, Isabella, Alihan

Year 2: Ola, Azeemah, John

Year 3: Leelou, Hunter, Eleen, Tyler, Logan, Reuben

Year 4: Paige

Year 5: Aria-Mae, Fatmana, Esther, Jordan, Daisy-May, Advik, Summer-Louise, Diana

Year 6: Aadya, Melody, Ameerah, Hargun

Timestables Rockstars

Gabi, Yusuf Y

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.



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](#)

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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Vacancies

The Echelford Primary School is recruiting: Are you committed and passionate about education and keen to make a difference? Are you highly motivated, proactive, flexible and reliable? We are offering a wonderful opportunity to become an integral part of our exceptional community of children and adults.

We are looking to appoint someone 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 on these roles please see: [Wraparound Care Manager](#)



Upcoming Diary Dates

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term

Tues 2nd Dec - LAN, Reception and KS1 Nativity 9:15am - 10:15am
Tues 2nd Dec - Nursery Christmas sing-a-long 2:45pm - 3pm
Wed 3rd Dec - Pyjama-Rama Day - Whole school
Wed 3rd Dec - LAN, Reception and KS1 Nativity 9:15am - 10:15am
Thurs 4th Dec - Nursery Christmas sing-a-long 2:45pm - 3pm
Thurs 4th Dec - Year 2 trip to Wakehurst
Fri 5th Dec - Resilience Ball Parent and Carer Workshop - 2pm
Tues 9th Dec - Pantomime YR-Y6
Tues 9th Dec - Stay, Play and Learn - LAN Centre 2:30pm - 3pm
Tues 9th Dec - Stay, Play and Learn - Reception 2pm - 3pm
Wed 10th Dec - Stay, Play and Learn - Reception 2pm - 3pm
Mon 15th Dec - KS2 Christmas concert 1pm - 2pm
Tues 16th Dec - Christmas Disco - Reception, LAN & KS1 - 3:15pm -4:15pm
Tues 16th Dec - Christmas Disco - KS2 - 4:15pm - 5:15pm
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



HELLO, DARLEY DENE!

You are invited to our school's

Pyjama -rama day



**WEDNESDAY,
3 DECEMBER 2025**

*Warm, pyjama
clothing with
normal school
shoes*

**1 POUND DONATION
TO RAISE MONEY
FOR IMPROVING
THE LIVES OF
CHILDREN WITH
CANCER**

Resilience Ball Parent and Carer Workshop

Run by: Rebecca Walker - Educational Psychologist,
Miss Johnston - Inclusion Lead, and Mrs Webb - HSLW

Find out about the role resilience (the ability to **cope with, adapt to, and recover from challenges, setbacks, or difficult situations**) plays in your child's learning and development, how the school supports this, and ways you can help at home.

Format: Presentation followed by a Q&A session.

In Person: Friday 5th December,
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Main Hall
(Tea, coffee, and biscuits provided)

Online: Wednesday 10th December,
12:30pm – 1:30pm
(link to be emailed prior to the session via the school office)

Educational Psychology Service



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

