



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

It has been a wonderfully busy week in school as we enter our final week before Christmas. There has been a real sense of excitement and festive cheer across all year groups. Reception and LAN had a fantastic time welcoming their families into the classroom for Stay, Play and Learn sessions. A heartfelt thank you to all families who were able to attend and to those who joined Mrs Butler for the phonics workshop afterwards. If you weren't able to join us this time, there will be another opportunity in the Spring Term. All phonics resources and slides have been shared via email this week, and children have brought home their handouts.

Our KS2 Christmas Concert rehearsals have been in full swing, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming our KS2 parents to St Paul's Church in Addlestone on Monday at 1:45pm for the performance. In addition to rehearsals, the children enjoyed taking part in a Christmas decoration house competition and these are now on display around the school ready for our Christmas Lunch next week. Our EYFS and KS1 children participated in a lovely Christingle workshop led by St Paul's Church staff.

This week also saw our school choir make their first visit to local care homes to spread some festive cheer. The children sang beautifully, and we are incredibly proud of the way they represented Darley Dene. The choir will also be visiting another care home in Addlestone next week. Experiences like this are truly special for all involved.

Earlier this week, the children were treated to a wonderful pantomime show of Beauty and the Beast. The hall was filled with laughter, excitement, and plenty of classic panto moments - from loud boos and hisses to enthusiastic cries of "He's behind you!" As we look ahead to the final days of term, I want to thank you all for your continued support and partnership. It is a privilege to share these special moments with the children, and we look forward to ending the term with even more joy together. Wishing you all a peaceful and happy weekend.

Reminder: School finishes at 1pm on Friday 19th

Class Christmas Parties

On Thursday 18th December the children will be having their class parties in the afternoon. There will be treats provided and children can bring a festive item of clothing or accessory to wear during the party only.

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.

Can you describe a recent moment when you felt proud of yourself?



- Quick Links
- Term Dates
- School Calendar
- Our Facebook Page
- LAN Centre News
- Nursery News
- Reception News
- Year 1 News
- Year 2 News
- Year 3 News
- Year 4 News
- Year 5 News
- Year 6 News

Reading

We are excited to announce that our Christmas Reading Challenge is launching soon! This festive challenge is designed to keep children reading and enjoying books all the way through the holiday season.

Full details can be found below, and we hope many children will take part and share their reading journeys with us. Mr Bartlett will be introducing the challenge to the children during next week's assembly - so stay tuned!

Maths

Keeping Up With DecemBAR!

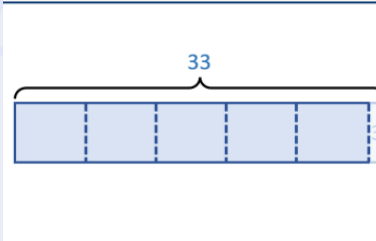
As we move through December, continue to join in with DecemBAR - our school's festive push to bring short, active learning moments into everyday life, using bar modelling. These simple activities are a brilliant way to strengthen key Maths skills while having fun together. Try these below.

Amir has 33 chocolates.

He eats 3 of them.

He shares the remaining chocolates equally into 5 boxes.

How many chocolates are in each box?

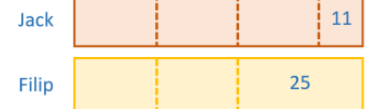


Jack has 3 bags of candy canes and 11 single candy canes.

Filip has 2 bags of candy canes and 25 single candy canes.

They have the same number of candy canes in total.

How many candy canes do they have altogether?



Fun Weekend Maths Ideas for You and Your Child

Maths on the Move

- **Number Spotting:** Look for numbers on doors, buses, signs and shop windows. Ask your child to read them, order them, or identify which is greater or smaller.
- **Estimate and Check:** Whether you're walking to the park or visiting the shops, choose landmarks and estimate how many steps it will take to reach them—then count to find out!
- **Time Challenges:** Use a watch or phone timer to measure how long short journeys take. Can your child predict the time before you set off?

Shape and Space Adventures

- **Shape Hunt:** Spot different 2D and 3D shapes in the environment—cylinders in cans, rectangles in doors, cubes in packaging.
- **Symmetry Search:** Look for symmetrical objects or buildings. Can your child find the line of symmetry?

Real-Life Reasoning

- **Money Matters:** If you're buying a snack or a treat, involve your child in adding up prices, estimating totals, or calculating change.
- **Measure It:** At home or outdoors, estimate and compare lengths, heights or capacities—How tall is the tree? Which puddle is widest?

Music

Last Friday marked the close of our survey on Music Lessons at Darley Dene. We had an incredible amount of interest in music lessons with nearly half of respondents indicating that their child would be interested in Piano lessons in the Spring Term. This was closely followed by Vocal, Guitar and Clarinet. We have shared the results of the survey with our partners at Surrey Arts and they are reaching out to instructors in order to arrange lessons. When we have put together a timetable of available lessons and instructors, we will share this with families and provide the opportunity to register for in-school tuition.



KS2 Christmas Concert

A reminder to parents and carers that the KS2 Christmas Concert takes place on **Monday 15th December**. Tickets are available on ScoPay, with 3 seats available per family. The concert will include: songs from each class, a poem read out by a member from each class, and a KS2 song.

The concert will open at **1.45pm** and is due to finish around 2.30pm. After the concert, classes will be walked back to school in time for dismissal as usual. We look forward to seeing families there!

Christmas Disco

On **Tuesday 16th December**, Darley Dene will be hosting a disco for all students! **KS1 3.15 - 4.15** and be dismissed from Year 2. Then, **KS2 4.30-5.30**. A reminder that all children from all year groups must be dropped off and picked up from school as it will be too dark to walk home.

Tickets are available on Scopay. £1 covers the ticket and refreshments. We look forward to all our students bringing the festive spirit.

Spring Term Enrichment Clubs

Please see below the clubs which will be on offer for the Spring term. Further information on booking clubs will be sent out next week.

Club	Year Group	Day	Description
Comic Club	Reception, KS1 & KS2	Monday	Welcome to Comic Club! This fun, creative club invites children to explore the world of comics through drawing, storytelling, and imagination. Each week, children will design characters, create their own comic strips, and learn simple techniques for bringing stories to life. No drawing experience needed - just a love of creativity and fun!
Craft Club & Bracelet Making	Reception, KS1 & KS2	Tuesday	A fun, creative club where children explore arts and crafts, learn simple DIY projects, and make their own colorful bracelets. Children develop creativity, fine-motor skills, and confidence while enjoying hands-on activities and working together with friends.
Dance & Cheerleading	Reception, KS1 & KS2	Thursday	A lively club where children learn fun dance routines and beginner cheerleading skills. Children build confidence, teamwork, coordination, and school spirit while staying active and enjoying energetic, creative movement.
Football	KS2	Thursday	A fun and active club where children learn football skills, practice teamwork, and play friendly matches. Children develop coordination, confidence, and good sportsmanship while staying fit and enjoying the game.
Spanish	Year 2 & KS2	Friday	Join us to explore the Spanish language through fun games, songs, stories, and crafts! Children will learn basic Spanish words and phrases while discovering the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. No experience needed - just curiosity and enthusiasm!



House Points



55



62



100

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

Eslem
Graham
Aksha
Gabi
Elsy

Jigsaw

Leo D
Marya
Joshua
Jacinta
Jasmine

Sports Stars

Taylor
Agamjot
Raven
Isabelle
Srisajini

Maths

Izahaak
Bradley
Anisha
Eleen
Lukas
Arxzo
Harper M

Writing

Varsha
Mileh
Elif
Hallie
Hanna
Elsie-Jean
Mia M

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: Hunter

Reception: Mihai

Year 1: Taylor, Victoria, Noah, Leo D

Year 2: Marya, Graham

Year 3: Eyup, Reuben, Levy

Year 4: Kayla

Year 5: Aria-Mae, Jayden, Advika

Year 6: Christina, Yovana, Matt, Aadya

Timestables Rockstars

Labiba, Thabie, Alan

Outside Achievements

Amelia in Y4 took part in her first concert with the string ensemble in St Paul's church, Egham last week. Amelia started playing violin about 8 months ago with Surrey Arts and has joined the Junior String Ensemble only in September. Incredible achievement in a short period of time. Well done!



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**



Vacancies

The Echelford Primary School is recruiting: We are recruiting a Wraparound Care Manager (24.75 hours per week, 7:00 am 8:45 am and 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday, with an additional 1 hour per week for admin tasks during term time (38 weeks per year). 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](#)

The Echelford Primary School is recruiting: Contract (12 hours per week, 3pm – 6pm three afternoons per week and 7.30am - 8.30am three mornings per week, term time only (38 weeks per year). Flexibility around these hours may



be considered. 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](#)

Walton Oak Primary School is recruiting: We are recruiting an Early Years Teaching Assistant (32.5 hours per week, 8.30am to 3.30pm), term time only (38 weeks per year), Monday to Friday. We are looking for somebody who is not afraid to make mud pies and, if asked to be a zoo keeper, can jump into role and immerse themselves in the children's play. We are looking to appoint somebody who can be flexible and support learning in a creative way. For further information please visit: [EYFS Teaching Assistant](#)

Walton Oak Primary School is recruiting: We are recruiting a Part Time Early Years Teaching Assistant (20 hours per week, 11.30am to 3.30pm), term time only (38 weeks per year), Monday to Friday. This is a fixed term position to the 31st August 2026. We are looking to appoint somebody who can be flexible and support learning in a creative way, who is not afraid to immerse themselves in the children's play. The successful candidate will join a hard working and dedicated team of teachers and support staff. For further information please visit [EYFS Teaching Assistant](#)

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



www.darleydeneprimary.co.uk



Upcoming Diary Dates Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term

Mon 15th Dec - KS2 Christmas concert at St Paul's Church
Tues 16th Dec - Christmas Disco - Reception, LAN & KS1 - 3:15pm -4:15pm
Tues 16th Dec - Christmas Disco - KS2 - 4:30pm - 5:30pm
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
Mon 5th Jan - Year 6 WWII Workshop
Wed 7th Jan - Little City EYFS & LAN
Wed 14th Jan - English Hub Visit
Tues 20th Jan - Homework Help Y1-Y6 Parent Workshop
Tues 20th Jan - Year 5 trip to SKY Academy
Wed 21st Jan - Resilience Workshop for parents
Fri 30th Jan - Year 4 Bikeability
Fri 30th Jan - Whole School Coffee Morning
Mon 2nd Feb - 6th Feb - Maths Enterprise Week
Mon 2nd Feb - Year 1 trip to The Look Out Centre
Tues 3rd Feb - Maths Early Number YR-Y1 Parent Workshop
Thurs 5th Feb - Magma Maths Y2-Y6 Parent Workshop
Fri 6th Feb - NSPCC Number Day
Fri 6th Feb - Year 4 cake & ice lolly sale
Mon 9th Feb - 13th Feb - Children's Mental Health week
Mon 9th Feb - Internet Safety Parent Workshop
Mon 9th Feb - Family Consultations 4.30pm - 7.00pm
Tues 10th Feb - Year 2 St Paul's Cathedral Trip
Wed 11th Feb - Family Consultations 3.30 - 6.00pm
Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb - HALF TERM
Mon 23rd Feb - Children return to school
Mon 23rd - Wed 25th Mar - Y4-Y5 Bowles Trip
Tues 24th Feb - SATS Information meeting - Year 6
Mon 2nd - Fri 6th Mar - Book Week
Mon 2nd Mar - Surrey Singing Music Festival 2-7pm
Wed 4th March - Year 3 Forces & Magnet Workshop
Thurs 5th Mar - Bedtime Stories - Parents and Children 5:30pm-6:45pm
Thurs 5th Mar - Year 2 Florence Nightingale Workshop
Mon 9th Mar - Stay, Play and Learn - Nursery 2pm - 3pm
Tues 10th Mar - Stay, Play and Learn - Reception & LAN 2pm - 3pm
Wed 11th Mar - Year 5 Class Assembly
Wed 11th Mar - Stay, Play and Learn - Reception 2pm - 3pm
Thurs 12th Mar - Year 4 Roman Villa Visit
Thurs 12th Mar - Young Carers Day
Thurs 12th Mar - Stay, Play and Learn - Nursery 2pm - 3pm
Fri 13th Mar - Comic Relief Day
Fri 13th Mar - Year 3 cake & ice lolly sale
16th Mar - 20th Mar - Year 6 Mock SATs
Tues 17th Mar - Year 4 Class Assembly
Thurs 19th Mar - LAN trip to Bocketts Farm
Fri 20th - Mar - Resilience Workshop for parents
Mon 23rd -27th Mar - National School Football Week
Tues 24th Mar - Year 6 Class Assembly



Fri 27th Mar - End of term 1:00pm
Tues 31st Mar - Multiplication Tables Check - Year 4 - parent talk

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





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



Christmas Lunch Project

Collect your child's FREE



Packed Lunch on

Monday 22nd to Wednesday 24th December

Monday 29th to Wednesday 31st December

FROM 12 noon TO 12.45pm

St Paul's Church

Lunches available for all children, regardless of circumstances.

Tesco Addlestone

Longden Drive
Off Strawberry Fields



Contact us at hebrews@stpaulscofe.org or on 07743 243008 with any queries



Jingle & Joy December

December Holiday Club

17th, 18th, 19th, 22nd & 5th Jan
@ St Georges, Weybridge

22nd Dec @ Staines
Preparatory, Staines - HAF
Vouchers Accepted

Join us this winter break as we celebrate the wonder of the season.

Book Now!



01753 251077

www.thegapclub.com



SCAN ME



Support available this WINTER

If you need support now, here's what to do:

If you are in immediate danger: call 999

If you have an urgent need, call our crisis line on 0800 915 4644. It's open 24/7. You can also call NHS 111 and select the mental health option.

Self help tools & resources

A range of resources, strategies, and tools developed by professionals can be found on our [resources section](#). Resources on self care, anxiety, depression and much more are available, with links through to other useful websites.



Online support

If you need support with life's ups and downs outside of your regular support system, try Kooth which offers a free, safe, anonymous online support (kooth.com) or Chat Health which offers confidential text support with a qualified nurse (chathealth.nhs.uk).



Workshops and groups

We offer free workshops and groups for children, young people, and families - no request for support or diagnosis needed. More information on our [Early Support pages](#).



CYP Havens

The [Children Young People \(CYP\) Havens](#) are a welcoming space for 10 to 18 year olds to talk about worries and mental health in confidence. Provided by Surrey County Council.



Out of hours advice line

A free out-of-hours phone line provides advice to parents and carers who are struggling with behaviours or difficulties which could be related to neurodevelopmental need, such as autism or ADHD. It runs from 5pm until 11pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Please call 0300 222 5755





CHRISTMAS READING CHALLENGE

THE 12 CHALLENGES OF CHRISTMAS

Read a Christmas themed book



Have a whole family bedtime story



Create a puppet show of a book



Read a story by the Christmas tree



Read a book that is older than you



Build a den and share a story in it



Read a story about an animal



Read a book about kindness



Write a poem about Christmas



Draw a picture from your favourite book



Share a poem with someone



Read a book that makes you laugh



Darley Dene Primary School

