



DARLEY DENE DISPATCHES

Empowering success through a strong and respectful home-school partnership

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Headteacher's Message

Welcome back and happy new year. It has been wonderful to see all the children return with such energy and enthusiasm for the start of the Spring term. We have had a few new TAs join us this week and I am sure you will join me in making them feel welcome when you see them around school.

The recent snow flurries have definitely sparked an extra layer of excitement across the playground this week, though it serves as a timely reminder to ensure that children are dressed appropriately for the colder weather. Please make sure your child comes to school with a warm winter coat, a hat, and gloves. On that note, it has been lovely to see so many children wearing the items from the Amazon gift they received at the end of last term; they certainly look cozy and ready for the day.

I have noticed, however, that some children are arriving on the playground still eating their breakfast from home. While I fully understand that mornings are incredibly busy times for families, I would ask for your support in developing a routine where breakfast is finished before children arrive at school. This ensures they are settled and fully ready for the day of learning ahead. If this is something you feel you need further support with, please do not hesitate to speak to Catherine, our Home School Link Worker.

It has been a flying start to our curriculum topics this week, with two visits from Chertsey Museum to launch the World War II topic in Year 6 and the Viking topic in Year 5. The children were so engaged by the opportunity to see real artefacts and ask questions - experiences which will no doubt spark their curiosity for the rest of the half term. Our EYFS children also enjoyed a fantastic visit from Little City, where they took on various roles and engaged in wonderful imaginative play. Please see the [Curriculum Web](#) that was sent home for your child this week for a full overview of their learning.

Finally, Miss McIsaac arranged for Surrey Arts to lead an inspiring assembly about guitar lessons this week. We know our children have a wide variety of talents, so if guitar skills are something they would like to further develop, or perhaps try for the very first time, please click on the barcode below and register your child's interest.

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 was the best part of the past week for you?



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

Uniform

We have noticed lots of children in EYFS wearing plimsolls to school in this cold weather. Plimsolls are only to be worn for PE. Our uniform policy states children need to wear black sensible outdoor shoes with velcro, buckle or laces (*NOT boots, Vans, canvas shoes, jelly shoes, sandals, high heels, ballerina/dolly shoes*).

Inclusion Update: Supporting Communication and Interaction

Strong communication and interaction skills are essential for learning, building relationships, and developing confidence. Children communicate in many different ways, and supporting speech, language, and social communication helps them express their ideas, understand others, and feel included within the classroom community. When children feel confident communicating, they are better able to ask for help, solve problems, and build resilience.

At Darley Dene, staff support communication and interaction through a range of inclusive strategies, including:

- Visual cues and prompts to support understanding and reduce language overload.
- Simplified and clear language, with key points repeated or modelled.
- Planned "wait time", giving children extra thinking time before responding.
- Turn-taking games and group activities that support listening, sharing ideas, and social interaction.
- Modelling language and social skills during everyday classroom routines.
-

At home, you can support communication and independence by:

- Reading together and talking about stories, pictures, and characters.
- Modelling new vocabulary during everyday activities, such as cooking or shopping.
- Talking about your day and encouraging your child to share theirs, using prompts like "What happened first?" or "How did that make you feel?"
- Giving your child time to respond without rushing or finishing sentences for them.

By supporting communication and interaction both at school and at home, we help children develop the confidence to express themselves, connect with others, and navigate challenges — building the foundations for resilient, independent learners.

Reading

It has been wonderful to see each year group diving into their new Power of Reading texts this week. Classrooms have been buzzing with excitement as children explored new stories, discussed characters and began responding to their texts in thoughtful and creative ways.

We are also looking forward to launching Comic Club this term – something I am very excited to be running! Check out the recommended reads below for children in KS2.



Maths

Get Ready for a Math-tastic 2026!

Welcome to a brand new year! As we kick off 2026, we are incredibly excited to continue our mathematical journey with your children. We've already had a fantastic start to the term, with the children eagerly diving into new challenges and showing great resilience.

You can continue to play a huge part in your child's progress by helping them spot "Maths in the Wild." In 2026, why not try some of these quick, fun activities at home?

- The Grocery Challenge: When shopping, ask your child to help you find the best value or estimate the total cost of five items in the basket.
- Baking by Numbers: Use recipes to explore fractions and mass. What happens if we need to double the recipe? That's scaling and multiplication in action!



- Time Travelers: With a new year comes new schedules. Help your child calculate "time duration" -for example, "If your swimming lesson starts at 4:15 PM and lasts 45 minutes, what time will we finish?"

There are many exciting things happening this term , in particular, Maths week. Look out for more information in next week's newsletter.

Music Guitar Lessons

Please follow these sign up instructions:

- Scan the QR code and click Apply for Music Lessons.
- Search for Darley Dene under Find your In-School Tuition and click on Music Lessons.
- Choose between Guitar and Electric Guitar.
- Click on 'add to basket' once they have made their choice and proceed to checkout.
- If you are finding sign up difficult, please speak to the school office and we will be able to support with this.



P.E. News

We are back into the new year and excited for the sports season ahead! We have lots of tournaments and events booked with the Elmbridge and Runnymede School Sports Association, giving children across the school plenty of opportunities to take part, compete, and represent our school throughout the year.

In football news, both the girls' and boys' teams have now chosen their team captains for the 2025-26 season. A huge well done to all pupils who put themselves forward for captaincy - the speeches were confident, motivating, and incredibly brave. After voting, the teams selected Kaylee as Girls' Football Captain and Milan as Boys' Football Captain for 2025-26. Congratulations to both pupils on this fantastic achievement. The teams also created their own sports team charter to set out their values, expectations, and commitment to teamwork and respect for the New Year.



Football training is now underway, with Mr Gillard already developing team positions and focusing on building key skills to prepare the teams for upcoming fixtures.

Junior Park Run continues to take place weekly, and we strongly encourage parents and families to get involved where possible - it's a great way to stay active and support our young runners.



We're looking forward to an exciting and active year ahead!



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

Rory A
Aaliyah F
Grace
Olivia
Shylla

Jigsaw

Sorayah
Anisha
Saboath
Deenie
Esther

Sports Stars

Sebastian
Noah R
Dolcie
Ayaana
Olaf

Maths

Tae
CJ
Evelin
Hallie
Andrei
Advik
Ammerah

Writing

Madison-Luna
Leo D
Isabella
Logan
Amelia
Caesar

Gold Leaves

Congratulations to the children who earned a Gold Leaf this week. This could be for an exemplary piece of work, an over and above gesture of kindness, showing responsibility, perseverance, determination or other positive trait etc.

LAN Centre: Mateo

Nursery: Albie

Reception: Alex, Amber, Ariana, Martyna

Year 1: Alihan, Sorayah, Sharon

Year 2: Agamgot, Elfida

Year 3: Logan, Eyup, Ronnie, Levi, Dolcie

Year 4: Amelia, Andrei, Paige, Chloe, Ayaana, Kayla

Year 5: Srisajini, Arzo, Daisy-May, Anusha, Scarlett, Skylar

Year 6: Milan, Sudem, Melody, Isabella, Anelie, Harper

Timestables Rockstars

Reuben, Kayla, 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

Breakfast and ASC are bookable via Scopay. Please book 24 hours in advance to secure your child's space - **Please note credit is needed on your account in order to book sessions. 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

Spring 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 thenotice. 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.

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Vacancies

Darley Dene Primary School is recruiting: We are seeking to appoint a highly enthusiastic, proactive, flexible and reliable individual for the role of Teaching Assistant on a fixed term contract to cover a maternity leave. This is an opportunity for individuals who are patient and emotionally resilient to join our friendly, inclusive and inspirational team of teaching and support staff.

If you actively enjoy working with children in a stimulating and creative environment, have experience ideally within the education sector and are professional in your approach with a desire to make a lasting personal contribution to our children's lives, we want to hear from you.

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

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](#)

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](#)



Upcoming Diary Dates
Term Dates 2025 - 2026
Spring Term 2026

Wed 14th Jan - English Hub Visit
Tues 20th Jan - Homework Help Y1-Y6 Parent Workshop - 2:45pm
Tues 20th Jan - Year 5 trip to SKY Academy
Wed 21st Jan - Resilience Workshop for parents - ZoR & Family Relationships - 2:45pm
Thurs 22nd Jan - Dress as Your Future Career Day
Fri 30th Jan - Year 4 Bikeability
Fri 30th Jan - Whole School Coffee Morning
Mon 2nd Feb - 6th Feb - Maths Enterprise Week
Tues 3rd Feb - Year 1 trip to The Look Out Centre
Tues 3rd Feb - Maths Early Number YR-Y1 Parent Workshop - 2:45pm
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 - Theme 'This is my place'
Mon 9th Feb - Internet Safety Parent Workshop - 8:45am
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 - 8:45am and 2:45pm
Mon 2nd - Fri 6th Mar - Book Week
Mon 2nd Mar - Surrey Singing Music Festival - 2pm-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 - Behaviour & Growth Mindset - 8:45am
Mon 23rd -27th Mar - National School Football Week
Tues 24th Mar - Year 6 Class Assembly
Tues 24th Mar - EYFS & KS1 Easter Craft Afternoon
Tues 24th Mar - KS2 Easter Games Night
Fri 27th Mar - End of term 1:00pm
Mon 30th Mar - Behaviour & Growth Mindset Parent Workshop - 8:45am
Tues 31st Mar - Multiplication Tables Check - Year 4 - parent talk - 8:45am and 2:45pm

Summer Term 2026

Mon 13th Apr - Children return to school
Fri 17th Apr - Year 2 cake & ice lolly sale
Tues 5th May - Resilience Workshop for parents - 2:45pm



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



£1 Tea or Coffee & Cake throughout January starts Tues 13th Jan, 9am

JANUARY 2026
ALL MONTH LONG

SPECIAL OFFER
FOR SCHOOLS

HEBREWS
COMMUNITY CAFE
ST PAUL'S CHURCH,
ADDLESTONE



Enjoy a delightful treat this January with our incredibly affordable coffee and cake special! Support your local community Coffee Shop!

Everyone is welcome!

We strive to provide an welcoming environment for the whole community.

Visit us at www.stpaulscofe.org/hebrews