



DARLEY DENE DISPATCHES

Empowering success through a strong and respectful home-school partnership

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Headteacher's Message

It has been a wet and windy week but luckily it is brighter today. Hopefully you will be able to spend some time outside as a family over the weekend. As always, the children have been immersed in their learning and some highlights have been the Greek Day in Year 4 and the dance lesson being led in the afternoons.

This week you will have received an email from myself and Mrs. Butler detailing the workshops we are hosting for the spring term. These workshops will provide opportunities to learn more about how to support your child's learning, development and wellbeing, as well as to ask questions to school staff. Following the parental questionnaire completed, we carefully listened to your feedback and suggestions. As a result, we have put together a series of workshops designed to support families and respond directly to the areas you told us you would find most helpful. We are looking forward to welcoming you into school for these.

Please see the list of workshops below. To attend, we kindly ask that you sign up in advance using either the Google link provided or by scanning the QR code. If this is proving difficult, please speak to the office team and they will support you in signing up for these events.

The children took part in a stay in place drill today. We explained to them that this practice helps everyone stay safe while at school and may be used in situations such as extreme weather or if an animal was loose on site. This drill is an important part of our safety planning, and we are pleased to say that the children were sensible, calm, and followed instructions carefully.

Miss Legg has been speaking to children across the school on their friendships. Children shared that they enjoy school for many reasons, especially spending time with friends, learning new things, and activities such as maths, PE, lunch and breaktimes. Most children feel the school is welcoming, noting the friendly teachers who greet everyone with smiles. They described a good friend as someone who is kind, helpful, listens, shares and looks out for others, and said they learn about friendship through play, lessons such as PSHE and RE, assemblies, and guidance from teachers. Children feel supported by friends, teachers and family when they have friendship worries, and suggested ways to improve friendships at school include more playground support from Dynamos and buddy bench monitors, particularly for our younger children.

Have a wonderful and restful weekend.

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

Spring Term Family Workshops

Title	Date	Classes
Homework Help	Tuesday 20 th January 2.45pm	Reception to Year 6
Regulation & Resilience Workshop	Wednesday 21 st January 2.45pm	All
Early Number	Tuesday 3 rd February 2.45pm	Reception & Year 1
Magma Maths	Thursday 5 th February 8.45am	Year 2 to Year 6
Internet Safety	Monday 9 th February 8.45am	All
SATS Information	Tuesday 24 th February 8.45am & 2.45pm	Year 6
Multiplication Times Table Check	Tuesday 31 st March 8.45am & 2.45pm	Year 4

Google Link: [Spring Term Workshops](#) QR Code:



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 most interesting thing you learned today?



Inclusion Update: Supporting Transitions Throughout the School Day

Throughout a child's day, there are many transitions - from arriving at school, moving between lessons, changing activities, going to lunch or playtime, and preparing to go home. While these moments may seem small, each transition can come with its own challenges, especially when routines change or expectations feel unclear. Supporting children through transitions helps reduce anxiety, build confidence, and develop resilience and independence.

In school, we support transitions in a variety of inclusive ways:

- Using visual timetables so children know what is happening now and what comes next.
- Narrating "now and next" to help children prepare for change and understand expectations
- Giving advance warnings before a transition, such as "five minutes left" or using a timer.
- Maintaining clear and consistent routines so transitions feel predictable and safe.
- Providing reassurance and adult check-ins for children who may need extra support with change.

At home, you can support transitions by:

- Talking through plans for the day and using visuals or lists.
- Giving advance notice before changes, such as leaving the house or moving to bedtime.
- Using "now and next" language to help your child prepare for what's coming.
- Allowing extra time for transitions and recognising that change can feel tricky.
- Praising your child when they manage a transition well.
-

By recognising that children experience many transitions each day - and supporting them with clear communication, visuals, and reassurance - we help them feel secure, manage change, and build the resilience and independence they need to navigate their day successfully.



Reading

Well done to everyone for working so hard in their reading this week. I had the pleasure of looking at reading fluency across KS2 and was so impressed by everyone's engagement and enthusiasm for reading. A huge congratulations to the children who have completed the reading challenge - what a fantastic achievement! Your prizes will be given out next week. Keep up the brilliant reading! 📖

Here are some recommended reads:

	<p>Recommended for Years 1 - 4</p> <p>Easy-to-read with larger font, this magical animal-healing adventure includes mild peril, STEM elements, puzzles and codes. When best friends Lilli, Leo and Bea find a sick guinea pig called Popcorn, they rush her to Auntie Bumble's vet surgery.</p>		<p>Recommended for Years 1 - 3</p> <p>Relatable story about friendship and play, with delightful illustrations. Perfect for children moving on to first chapter books. Join best friends Vicky and June as they play, chat and laugh together.</p>
<p>Super Questers series Paul Ian Cross</p>		<p>Vicky and June series Patricia Toht</p>	

Maths

📅 **Monday 2nd - Friday 6th February - Darley Dene Maths Week** 📈

Bringing Numbers to Life!

With Maths Week fast approaching, we are thrilled to share the exciting lineup of events designed to inspire our children at Darley Dene. Our goal this year is to raise the profile of "real-life" mathematics and help children understand the tangible value of money.

🚀 The Enterprise Challenge: From Concept to Profit

In a world of "tapping" debit cards and digital payments, it can be difficult for children to visualize the actual cost of goods. To bridge this gap, every class will participate in an Enterprise Project. 🛒 Children will be tasked with **planning, budgeting, and pricing** their own products. We want them to understand that every item has a cost to produce and that a successful business must aim for a profit! 💰 ⚡

📅 Key Dates & Event Schedule

Date	Event	Details
Thursday 5th Feb	Maths Enterprise Day	Grand Sale! Please join us on the playground at 3:15pm to purchase the children's creations. 🛒 🏠
Friday 6th Feb	NSPCC Number Day	A day of dress-up and competitive maths (details below). 🎭 📊

☀️ Friday 6th February: NSPCC Number Day & TTRS

To wrap up our week, we are supporting the **NSPCC** with a special themed dress-up day. We kindly ask for a **£1 donation** per child. 🙌 📄

- 📺 **EYFS & KS1:** Dress up as a **Numbot!**
- 🎸 **KS2:** Dress up as a **Rockstar!**

The Main Event: Friday will also host the **NSPCC ROCKS TTRS Battle**. Who will top the leaderboard in this ultimate times-table showdown? 🏆 ⚡

We look forward to seeing our young entrepreneurs and rockstars in action! 🙌 ⚡

House Points



15



16



16



Year 4 Greek Day 2026

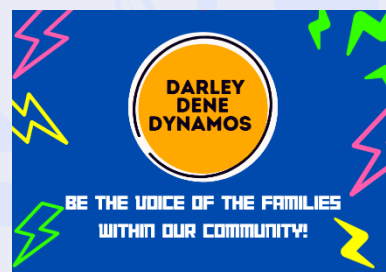
Year 4 celebrated our annual Greek Day on Thursday this week. We were able to transform our classroom into Ancient Greece by wearing our very best Greek costumes and participating in some very Greek activities. We made a Greek Salad, used our Maths skills to defeat the Minotaur in his Maze, learned the story of King Midas and the Golden Touch, and debated whether we would live in Athens or Sparta. The best part of our day was the visit from Chertsey museum where Ms.Dove was able to bring and share real Greek artefacts for the children to see and hold, as well as teach us how to play Greek spinning tops, and how us children at school in Ancient Greece wrote on wax tablets to complete their learning.



Family Dynamo Meeting

Building on from the amazing work of our pupil Dynamos, our **Family Dynamos** are formed of parents and carers from our community. This group plays a vital role in strengthening the partnership between home and school, acting as the collective *voice of the families within our community*.

Do you have ideas to help raise money for our school? Come and join our next Family Dynamo meeting. We need your help! The next meeting will be on **Thursday 5th February 2026 at 2.30pm**. Please sign in through the school office.



Dress as your future career day

On Thursday 22nd January, all pupils from Reception to Year 6 are invited to come dressed as the future career or ambition that they feel is in line with their dreams and goals. This is a celebration as part of the PSHE unit for this term 'Dreams and Goals'. Please talk to your child and encourage them to think deeply and with ambition about the career they want to show. Accessories and props are encouraged so do not worry about needing a whole costume from head to toe. The important part is encouraging each child to dream freely about their future.

Music

Guitar Lessons

You can still sign up for 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.



Park Run

They're getting closer to launching Junior Parkrun, Addlestone and are looking for a few friendly volunteers to help make it happen. Volunteering just means lending a hand every so often on a Sunday morning and is a fun, healthy way to support our local children and families. If you'd like to get involved, please let the office team know so they can share your details with the Parkrun team.



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

Miles
Leo M-D
Lilly-May
Grace
Lizzie
Summer

Jigsaw

Mateo
Sharon
Noah M
Tyler Mo
Paige
Yusuf Y

Sports Stars

Lexi
Tamari
Andrei
Levi
Andrei B
Ire
Matthew

Maths

Lucia
Martyna
Darius
Marya
Saboath
Lukas
Anusha
Yusuf A

Writing

Ayan C
Sia
Eslem
Alyssia
Emily
Thabie
Advika
Isabella S

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 and Ayan

Nursery: Jasmin

Reception: Mahadev, Madison, Brodie, Freddie

Year 1: Isabella, Eslem, Noah

Year 2: Ola, Andrei, Marya

Year 3: Grace, Dolcie, Labiba, Hunter, Eleen, Emilie, Manha, Tariq

Year 4: Franek, Gabi

Year 5: Caesar, Elsie-Jean, Shylla, Jordan

Timestables Rockstars

Leelou, Lorelai, Aria_Mae

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.

Vacancies

Saxon Primary School is recruiting: Do you have a passion for Early Years? This is an exciting opportunity for an Early Years Teaching Assistant to work in our Nursery, who is not afraid to immerse themselves in the children's play. We are looking for someone who can be flexible and support learning in a creative way.

For more information on these roles please see: [EYFS Teaching Assistant](#)

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](#)



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.



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Upcoming Diary Dates
Term Dates 2025 - 2026
Spring Term 2026

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 - Family Dynano Meeting
Thurs 5th Feb - Magma Maths Y2-Y6 Parent Workshop
Thurs 5th Feb - Maths Enterprise Day
Thurs 5th Feb - LAN Centre Trip to Windsor Adventure Playground
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 Mar - 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

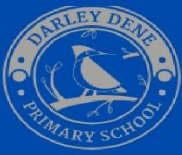
Mon 12th Apr - Children return to school
Fri 28th May - End of term - normal time
Mon 31st May - Fri 4th Jun - Half term
Mon - 7th Jun - Children return to school
Tues 20th Jul - End of term 1:00pm
Wed 21st - INSET DAY 4
Thurs 22nd Jul - INSET DAY 5

Kind regards



Zoe Devonport
Headteacher





**THE
DARLEY
DENE
DYNAMOS**

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Do you have ideas to help raise money for our school?

Come and join our next Family Dynamo meeting. The next meeting will be on **Thursday 5th February 2026** at 2.30pm. Tea, coffee and cake will be provided!

Please sign in through the school office.



FAMILY LEARNING



Free Courses for parents and carers

Surrey Family Learning offer **FREE** courses and workshops to help you create a better family life.

Do you want to help your child or teenager to improve their behaviour, development and learning?

Book onto one of our tailored courses today to begin supporting you and your family. Find more information at:

surreycc.gov.uk/familylearning



...or scan here

Courses available

- **Parenting** Help understand your children and teenagers' behaviour, anxiety and mental health.
- **Maths** Learn about methods used in schools today.
- **Literacy** Learn about how English is taught in schools today.
- **English as an Additional Language** Support for you and your child with English and how education in England works.
- **Cookery** Be inspired and cook healthy family dishes together.



family.learning@surreycc.gov.uk



0427P



Understanding your child: from toddler to teenager

Free online course for all parents, carers, and grandparents.

- Reading your child's behaviour and understanding their feelings
- Effective communication techniques
- Reflecting on your relationship and how to nurture your child's emotional health
- A transformative journey that can strengthen your bond with your child at every age

Designed by clinical psychologists in partnership with practitioners and parents



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