



DARLEY DENE DISPATCHES

Empowering success through a strong and respectful home-school partnership

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www.darleydeneprimary.co.uk

Headteacher's Message

A huge thank you to all staff who have led or been involved in recent governor visits, and to our governors for taking the time to see our school in action. Last Friday, governors focused on PE during their visit. They observed lessons, spoke to pupils, and reviewed planning. PE is a real strength at Darley Dene, helping pupils develop teamwork, confidence, and resilience. Pupils spoke enthusiastically about how much they enjoy PE and the new skills they are learning. Our links with other schools and external specialists continue to provide a wide range of exciting opportunities.

Throughout today and yesterday, an Inclusion Review was carried out by Schools Alliance for Excellence, led by Miss Johnston, our Inclusion Lead. During the visit, the reviewers explored our learning environments, staff development, contextual data and teaching and learning, and spoke with children and staff to gain a full picture of our provision. They saw lots of excellent inclusive practice in action, with children supported in ways that meet their individual needs. The visit was very valuable, helping us reflect on our strengths and identify ways to further develop and refine our processes, ensuring all pupils continue to thrive.

We are also thrilled to share that Darley Dene has been shortlisted for a Best Practice Network Apprenticeship Award 2026! This nomination recognises the exceptional support we provide to apprentices, including funding, mentoring, and development opportunities. A special thank you to Mrs Butler, our Deputy Headteacher for her regular check-ins, support with protected study time, and encouragement for our apprentices throughout.

Looking ahead, as I shared previously, Surrey County Council has moved to a two-week October half term starting this year. While we are an academy and not required to follow this, we have chosen to align with the local secondary schools to support families. The Autumn half term in 2026 will run from 19th to 30th October, with the end of the academic year being the 20th July 2027. From September 2026, the school day will start at 8:45am, with gates and registers closing promptly at this time. Assemblies have already been shortened this year to also accommodate the additional week in October.

There is so much for our families to engage with over the next few weeks, including Maths Enterprise week, starting on Monday. Please see below for more details of workshops and the fair which you are encouraged to attend. The LAN Centre and Year 1 are also out on exciting trips. Thank you for all of your support with these events - we are working hard to create memorable experiences for the children in school.

Parent Survey

Sodexo the school caterers are always striving to improve the service and menus provided throughout the trust; please use the following link to complete a survey on the food provision at Darley Dene

Parent Survey Link: [Primary Schools Catering - Pupil Survey Term 1 2025](#)

- 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

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 helps you to feel motivated and engaged in your learning at school?



Inclusion Update: Supporting Friendships and Social Skills

Friendships are an important part of children's development, but they can sometimes be tricky. Learning how to take turns, resolve disagreements, and understand others' feelings helps children build confidence, empathy, and resilience.

In school, staff support social skills by modelling turn-taking and listening, helping children resolve conflicts calmly, and encouraging them to think about how others might be feeling. Support is often provided during group work and playtimes, where friendships naturally develop.

At home, you can help by talking openly about friendships, reassuring children that challenges are normal, and helping them reflect on social situations. Role-playing tricky moments and encouraging kindness and listening can also support positive relationships.

Family Consultations

The booking system is now live via your child's SCopy account for the family consultations. Monday 9th February 4.30pm - 7.00pm and Wednesday 11th February 3.30pm - 6.00pm. Meetings will be held in the main hall.

Key events happening next week:

Mon-Fri	Maths Enterprise Week
Tuesday	Year 1 Look Out Centre Trip Maths Early Number Workshop (YR-Y1) - 2:45pm
Thursday	LAN Centre Trip to Windsor Adventure Playground Magma Maths Workshop (Y2-Y6) - 8:45am Maths Enterprise Fair - 3:15pm
Friday	NSPCC Number Day and Dress Up Day Reception Fire Truck Visit

Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 10th February 2026

Open Classroom: 3.10pm - 3.30pm

This year, Safer Internet Day focuses on exploring the safe and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

On Tuesday 10th February, children will be fully immersed in learning about internet safety throughout the day. They will develop an age-appropriate understanding of what AI is, explore how AI can be helpful as well as the potential risks it can bring, and learn how to develop safe, responsible, and critical attitudes towards using AI.

The day will conclude with an Open Classroom, where parents and carers are invited to visit their child's classroom to see the learning completed during the day and to support conversations about AI at home.

Classrooms will be open from 3.10pm to 3.30pm. If you have more than one child, you are welcome to move between classrooms during this time.

We look forward to seeing you there!



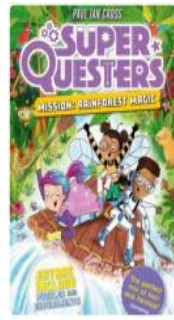
Reading

It has been wonderful to see so much enthusiasm for reading across the school this week. Children have been enjoying sharing books, recommending favourites to friends and spending time reading both in class and at home.

A reminder that our **House Reading Competition** is still running - entries are **due in next Friday**. We have already seen some fantastic effort, so please keep encouraging children to record and celebrate their reading at home.

Please also **keep an eye out for the book packs that have been going home in Nursery this week**. These packs are designed to support early reading and to help families enjoy sharing stories together at home.

Below are some **recommended reads** for children to enjoy - we hope these inspire even more reading for pleasure:



Super Questers series
Paul Ian Cross

Recommended for Years 1 - 4

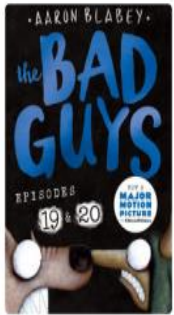
Easy-to-read with larger font, this magical animal-healing adventure includes mild peril, STEM elements, puzzles and codes. When best friends Lilli, Leo and Bea find a sick guinea pig called Popcorn, they rush her to Auntie Bumble's vet surgery.



Vicky and June series
Patricia Toht

Recommended for Years 1 - 3

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.



The Bad Guys series
Aaron Blabey

Recommended for Years 3 - 5

A quick, fun read packed with the usual madcap antics. Perfect for reluctant readers and those who read for pleasure. Best enjoyed as part of the series, so worth getting the full set. They look like Bad Guys, sound like Bad Guys - even smell like Bad Guys. But Mr Wolf, Mr Piranha, Mr Snake and Mr Shark are about to change all that - whether you like it or not!



Bear and Bird series
Jarvis

Recommended for Years 2 - 4

Charming illustrations, lovable characters and gentle tales - ideal for new independent readers. When Bear and Bird both want the same stick, they're determined not to let it spoil their friendship.

Maths

Next Week 🇬🇧 Get Ready for Darley Dene's Maths Week! 2nd - 6th Feb

The excitement is truly building for both staff and children as we gear up for a jam-packed Maths Week starting Monday! It's going to be a high-energy week, so be sure to check the poster for all the brilliant events we have planned.

- Workshops: Don't forget to sign up for the workshops specifically for your child's year group! These are a fantastic way to see how your child learns.
- The Big Event: Don't miss our Maths Enterprise Sale after school on Thursday. The children have been working hard to design and make their own products - come along and grab a bargain to help them raise money for their own class funds!
- Grand Finale: We're finishing the week with a bang on Friday with our Maths Dress Up Day. Whether you want to come as a "NumBot," a "Rockstar," or just bring along a clever math prop, we want to see your spirit. Please bring in a donation of £1 to go towards the NSPCC.

It's going to be a week to remember—let's count down to the fun!

Darley Dene MATHS WEEK 2026

MON 2nd FEB DD MATHS WEEK LAUNCHES!

MON 2nd FEB GUESS THE AGE COMPETITION

TUES 3rd FEB EARLY NUMBER FAMILY WORKSHOP - RECEPTION & YEAR 1 @ 2.45PM

TUES 3rd FEB TOGIUS CHALLENGE!

WEDS 4th FEB MATHS QUEST

THURS 5th FEB MAGMA MATHS FAMILY WORKSHOP Y2-6 @ 8.45AM

THURS 5th FEB ENTERPRISE SALE AT 3.15PM

FRI 6th FEB DRESS UP DAY - COME AS A NUMBOT OR A ROCKSTAR £1 DONATION TOWARDS NSPCC

FRI 6th FEB NSPCC iROCKS CHALLENGE!



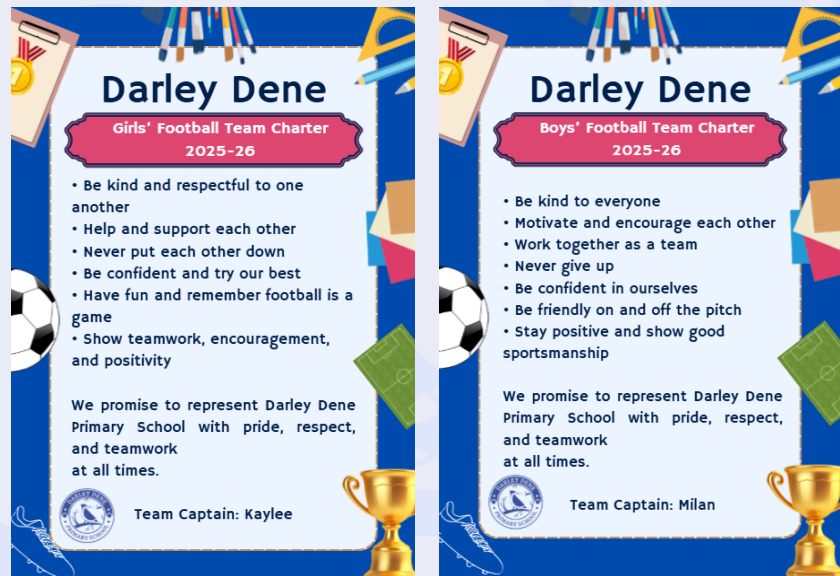
P.E. News

A huge well done to our Key Stage 2 pupils, who have been working incredibly hard on their dance choreography with Heather. The routines are coming along brilliantly, and the children have shown fantastic focus, creativity, and teamwork. In the final week of term, pupils will have the opportunity to perform their dances to the rest of Key Stage 2.

Looking ahead to next term, we are excited to be taking part in the Dance Festival, where pupils will perform their routines as part of a dance festival competition with the Elmbridge and Runnymede Primary School Sports Association. It has been wonderful to see how dance is being embedded within P.E. lessons to support performance, confidence, and expression.

As a Junior Park Run school, we continue to encourage families to get involved. If any parents, carers, or adults are interested in volunteering at Junior Park Run in Addlestone, please speak to Mrs Devonport for further information.

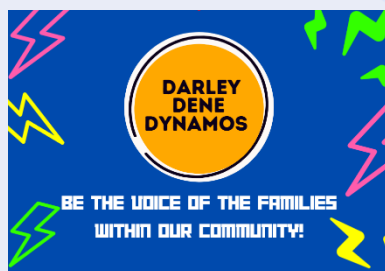
Our school football teams are also training hard in preparation for upcoming fixtures. Pupils are developing their skills, practising game situations, and actively using their team charter during sessions, demonstrating commitment, teamwork, and positive sportsmanship.



Music

We had our first taster sessions for Guitar lessons with Mr. St. Hilaire this week. It's been fantastic to see children getting hands-on with both electric and acoustic guitars! Places in lessons are still available for children from Year 2-6. Click the link below or scan the QR code to register now.

Children eligible for Free School Meals and Surrey Young Careers are eligible for fully-funded lessons. [Register your child\(ren\) here](#)



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.

House Points



23



27



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Class Assemblies

You're invited! Our class assemblies are a special chance for students to take the stage and share their learning with you. Hosted by the children themselves, these assemblies are a wonderful way to celebrate their confidence, creativity, and hard work. We'd love to see you there!

March 3rd 2026 - **LAN** Class Assembly
March 10th 2026 - **Year 5** Class Assembly
March 17th 2026 - **Year 4** Class Assembly
March 24th 2026 - **Year 6** Class Assembly
April 21st 2026 - **Year 1** Class Assembly
April 28th 2026 - **Year 2** Class Assembly
May 19th 2026 - **Reception** Class Assembly

All assemblies begin at 9:00am. Parents are asked to drop off as normal and register as a visitor at the office if they would like to stay for the assembly.

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
Deina
Alyssia
Jienna
Andrei
Jordan
Lena

Jigsaw

Ayan
Isabella DF
Anisa
Grace
Thabie
Ire

Sports Stars

Mateo
Jacob
Zion
Eleen
Chloe
Fatmana
Orest

Maths

Priscilla
Aarish
Ana Julia
Andrei
Leelou
Liza
Yusuf
Olaf

Writing

Lucia
Mahadev
Noah LA
Curtis
Joshua
Amelia
Shamirra
Aadya

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: Lexi, Lucia

Nursery: Hunter

Reception: Maheer, Yeva, Maizah

Year 1: Victoria, Deina, Jacob

Year 2: Andrei, Anisha

Year 3: Jienna, Eyup, Levi, Leelou

Year 4: Paige, Tyler, Paulo

Year 5: Elsy, Jordan

Year 6: Izabella, Anelie, Christina, Jake, Emi

Timetables Rockstars

Ayanna, Kaylee



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](#)

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](#)

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

FIRST OFFENCE

1

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent per child if paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days.

SECOND OFFENCE

(WITHIN 3 YEARS)

2

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent per child if paid within 28 days.

No reduced rate will be offered.

THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

3

The third time an offence is committed for term time leave or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a parent's future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD
Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.



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Upcoming Diary Dates



Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Spring Term 2026

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 - 8:45am
Thurs 5th Feb - Maths Enterprise Day
Thurs 5th Feb - LAN Centre Trip to Windsor Adventure Playground
Thurs 5th Feb - Maths Enterprose Fair - 3:15pm
Fri 6th Feb - NSPCC Number Day and Dress Up Day
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
Tues 10th Feb - Open Classroom for Internet Safety - 3:15pm
Wed 11th Feb - Family Consultations 3.30pm - 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
Tues 3rd Mar - LAN Class Assembly
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 - Year 5 Class Assembly
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 21st Apr - Year 1 Class Assembly
Tues 28th Apr - Year 2 Class Assembly
Tues 5th May - Resilience Workshop for parents - 2:45pm
Tues 19th May - Reception Class Assembly
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



We've been
SHORTLISTED



Best
Practice
Network



Thrive

Apprenticeship
Awards

2025-26

Apprenticeship Employer of the Year

Darley Dene Primary School

