



DARLEY DENE DISPATCHES

Empowering success through a strong and respectful home-school partnership

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Headteacher's Message

What an incredible week we have had at Darley Dene for Maths Week. The focus this year was Business Enterprise, and I must say how proud I am of the staff for creating such exciting and real-world experiences. The children were thoroughly engaged in their projects, applying their maths skills to real-life scenarios. I am sure you will agree that the children and staff look awesome today, channeling their best robot and rockstar attire. Thank you to Mrs. Mackie for making this happen.

Our class teachers participated in Outdoor Learning training this week, organised by Mrs. Butler. It was a lot of fun, but more importantly, it has given us plenty of fresh ideas on how to use our outdoor spaces more effectively across all classes and phases. We are busy planning how to weave this into our lessons—now we are just hoping for some drier weather on the horizon.

We have had further Governor visits focusing specifically on our Nursery provision and our Maths offer in KS2. Our Governors are incredibly committed and work hard behind the scenes to support us, ensuring that every child receives a strong educational offer. On that note, would you like to become a Parent Governor? We currently have a vacancy on the Governing Body. It is a rewarding way to contribute to the school community. If you are interested in this role, please speak to the school office for more information.

After half term, Family Support Workers from Runnymede Family Centre will be visiting on Wednesday 25th February. They are coming to discuss how we can work together even more closely to support our school community. They will be available on the playground at the end of the school day. Please do stop by if you would like to introduce yourself, ask any questions, or simply have a chat about the support available.

I am sure you will join me in giving a warm welcome back to Miss Legg, who has been on the playground a few times this term following her maternity leave. It is lovely to have her back with us. Miss Legg will officially return to her full duties as our EYFS and KS1 Phase Leader from the middle of March.

We have noticed a pattern that when there is a school trip or a special event, children who are often late or struggle with attendance are much more likely to be here on time. While we love seeing them for these special days, we ask that you work with your child to make this a habit every day. The routine of the morning really does have an impact on how children settle upon arrival; arriving calm and on time sets them up for a successful day of learning. Every moment truly counts.

I look forward to seeing you all at Family Consultations on Monday and Wednesday next week. Have a wonderful 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

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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 do you do to manage difficult situations or conflicts with peers at school?
Where could you seek support?



Inclusion Update: Supporting Children in Maths

Many children find maths challenging at times, and this is a normal part of learning. Building confidence in maths is not just about getting the right answer, but about developing understanding, resilience, and a positive attitude towards problem-solving.

In school, staff support children by using practical resources and visual representations, breaking learning into small steps, and giving time to think and talk through ideas. Children are encouraged to explain their thinking, make mistakes, and try different strategies in a supportive environment.

At home, you can help by reassuring your child that mistakes help us learn, using maths in everyday situations (such as cooking or shopping), and encouraging them to talk about how they worked something out. Praising effort and persistence helps children build confidence and resilience.

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

 Reading at Home - A Little Time Makes a Big Difference!

Reading with your child every day is one of the most important ways you can support their learning and confidence. This special time helps to build fluency, deepen understanding and develop a lifelong love of books. We encourage you to talk to your child about what they are reading and ask them questions to check their comprehension. For support with this, please refer to their reading journal, where you will find helpful questions at the back of their books to guide discussions at home. Thank you for your continued support in making reading a daily habit!



Maths

Sum-thing Incredible: Our Maths Week Round-Up!

What a brilliant Maths Week we have had! From data analysis to high-energy games, our pupils have truly seen how maths lives outside the classroom.

Highlights of the Week:

- **The Age-Old Question:** We kicked off with the 'Guess the Age' competition. I was personally delighted by some very generous guesses of 24! We used this data to generate some fantastic investigative questions.
- **Tagtiv8:** On Tuesday, we got moving! Led magnificently by our Year 5 leaders, these sessions helped younger pupils embed their number-matching skills through active play.
- **The Great Maths Quest:** Wednesday was a huge hit, made even better by the glorious sunshine. The children were smiling from ear to ear as they challenged themselves to conquer the 10-Metre Dash, build the Tower of Power, master the Perimeter Power Walk, or beat the clock in the 'Minute' Challenge.
- **The Maths Fair:** Thursday was a roaring success. The hall was lit up in colour with displays from every class, but the real highlight was seeing our children turn into brilliant entrepreneurs. They showed fantastic business sense and money skills while managing their stalls and selling their products - a real-world masterclass in commerce!
- **Dressing Up for a Cause:** Today, we rounded off the week in style for NSPCC Number Day. Seeing the school filled with "maths-inspired" outfits while raising money for such an important charity was the perfect finale.

Furthermore, the national NSPCC ROCKS TTRS Battle has been raging across the school - the competitive spirit has been wonderful to see. What a fantastic week full of mathematical discovery!

At Darley Dene, we don't just do maths - we make it count!

Music

Mr St. Helaire still has spots available for guitar lessons! Families who are eligible for free school meals, as well as Surrey young carers are eligible for free lessons. You can sign up by clicking the link below: [Register your child\(ren\) here](#)



Parent Workshops

Our parent workshops have been taking place over the last two weeks for those of you that were unable to attend the presentations can be found on the website. [Click here](#)

Family Dynamos

The Family Dynamos are back with two egg-citing events on **Tuesday 24th March:**

- EYFS & KS1 Easter Crafts Afternoon: 3.20 - 4.20 pm
- KS2 Easter Games Night: 4.30 - 5.30 pm

Tickets for these events will be available on SCO-Pay after the half term.

House Points



23



27



33



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

Ayan
Leo D
John
Rory M
Olivia
Advika

Jigsaw

Lexi
Roman B
Marya
Levy
Jacinta
Daisy-May

Sports Stars

Miles
Alihan
Lilly-May
Gizem
Hanna
Jordan

Maths

Lucia
Freddie
Rory A
Graham
Harper W
Isabelle
Shylla

Writing

Alex
Sharon
Remi
Levi
Paige
Elsy

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: Archie M

Reception: Marcel J, Maizah

Year 1: Illyria, Roman, Sorayah

Year 2: John, Aaliyah, Alice, Remi

Year 3: Josh, Levi, Reuben, Logan

Year 4: Isabelle, Thabie, Tyler, Hanna

Year 5: Anusha, Elsie-Jean, Elsy

Year 6: Christina, Aadya, Izabella

Timetables Rockstars

Saboath, Paige, Advik

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](#)

The Echelford Primary School is recruiting: We are looking to appoint a Teaching Assistant who has a passion for creating lifelong learners, is committed to inclusion and equality and has high expectations of themselves and every child. The role will be to support children in their learning and development, in small groups or with individual pupils as directed, including those with additional educational needs. Working Hours are 31.25 hours per week, term time plus one week (38 weeks per year) to be worked Monday to Friday. 8.30am - 3.15pm. 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 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 Feb - 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



MATHS WEEK



limited space
Sign up soon!!!

FREE HALF - TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

Monday

16 FEBRUARY

YRS 1- 6

9:30am - 3pm

GAMES/CRAFTS/
MUSIC & SPORTS



St.Paul's Church,
Addlestone
140 church road
KT15 1SJ

FREE AS A BIRD



Sign in:

