



DARLEY DENE DISPATCHES

Empowering success through a strong and respectful home-school partnership

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www.darleydeneprimary.co.uk

Headteacher's Message

Wow - what an exciting end to the half term with so much happening for our parents and children. At Darley Dene I am incredibly proud to offer a wide range of opportunities for all our children, and the past few weeks have truly reflected the energy, enthusiasm and commitment of our whole school team.

Thank you to all the parents who attended our parent consultations. These meetings are such an important opportunity for you to receive detailed information about the progress your child is making, both academically and in the wider aspects of school life. We hope the resources you were provided with will be helpful in continuing learning at home, in a different environment, and in consolidating the message that education is important for life. I wrote previously about homework, so hopefully all the log-ins have now made their way home. If you would like any further tips about how to support your child, or if you have noticed areas they may be struggling with, please do speak to your child's class teacher. The closer we work together, the better the outcomes for your child.

Workshops have taken place throughout this half term and, whilst the topics and timings were planned carefully based on parent feedback, we would have liked to see more families taking up these opportunities. These sessions take a great deal of time to plan and deliver, and the messages shared are extremely helpful for everyone. I look forward to seeing more of you engaging in the Spring 2 workshops, so please do add the dates below to your diary.

This week in particular has been one to remember. We marked Children's Mental Health Week with the theme "This is My Place". The children created artwork as part of a house competition, which they always love being part of. Thank you to Mr Markham for launching this so enthusiastically. Safer Internet Day was also a key focus, and Tuesday was dedicated to exploring online safety across the school. The children learned about artificial intelligence at an age-appropriate level, considering both the pros and cons, and immersed themselves in games and writing activities to deepen their understanding. Thank you to Miss Johnston for bringing such energy and enthusiasm to the day for the whole school.

Our Year 5 and 6 children took part in Aim Higher Maths Day, where they were challenged and inspired to apply their mathematical thinking to new contexts linked to the curriculum. Thank you to Mrs Mackie for organising, Miss Hussein for accompanying and to St George's Junior School, Weybridge for working in partnership with us to make this opportunity accessible for all. Year 2 enjoyed their trip to St Paul's Cathedral, which is always a memorable moment for our Key Stage 1 children. Being immersed in city life and making links between real locations and their curriculum learning is very special. Thank you to Miss Oomen and her team for making this happen.

Finally, parking outside school remains a concern. Families are able to park for free in the car park when collecting children. It is not acceptable to park on double yellow lines or to block the school entrance when dropping off, as this creates a significant safety hazard and obstructs our emergency entrance and exit. Please allow extra time in the morning by setting alarms a little earlier and establishing calm routines to avoid last-minute, rushed curbside drop-offs.

As mentioned previously, our family support workers will be on the playground at dismissal on 25th February for you to ask any questions – they will be full of ideas and ready to help.

I wish you all a restful half term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another busy and successful term.

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 are some things that you look forward to when you go to school?



Inclusion Update: E-Safety and SEND

Keeping children safe online is an important part of their wellbeing. For some children with SEND, navigating the online world can bring additional challenges, such as understanding social cues, recognising risk, or managing impulses. Supporting e-safety helps children build independence, confidence, and safe digital habits.

In school, we teach e-safety through clear, age-appropriate lessons and discussions. We use simple language, visuals, and real-life examples to help children understand topics such as privacy, respectful communication, and what to do if something online makes them feel uncomfortable. We reinforce key messages regularly and provide structured guidance where needed.

At home, you can support e-safety by talking openly about online experiences, setting clear boundaries around device use, and keeping devices in shared spaces where possible. Encourage your child to tell you if something online worries them and reassure them that they will not be in trouble for speaking up.

By working together, we can help children develop the awareness and confidence they need to stay safe and responsible online.

Food for Talk

This week launched food for talk in the hall. Children have been asked to engage and talk to their peers about the following....

Would you rather be a unicorn or a dragon?

If I was a gladiator, my name would be...

If I ruled a Fairytale Kingdom, I would...

If tomorrow could be any day...

Parent/Carer Health Drop-In Service

Darley Dene are taking part in a new initiative being offered by the School Nursing Service to further support families and school communities. The school nurse will be available once a month to offer support and advice on health-related concerns. E.g., fussy eating, toileting and sleep. Each parent/carers will be offered a maximum 15-minute discussion. If a longer or more detailed conversation is required, the School Nursing Service will arrange a follow-up telephone call or home visit directly with the family.

Upcoming dates are: 9:00–10:00am Thursday 26th February

2:00–3:00pm Friday 13th March

9:00–10:00am Thursday 16th April

2:00–3:00pm Thursday 7th May

If you have any questions, please contact Catherine Webb (HSLW).

Please note you can get health advice and support for you child 0-19 years from the Surrey Child and Family Health Single Point of Access Tel: [0300 247 0025](tel:03002470025) Email: scfh.contact@hrcgcaregroup.com

If you are emailing us, please include the child's name, date of birth or nhs number and the service you require. Open: Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (excluding Bank Holidays)



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](#)



Safer Internet Day

This week, we celebrated Safer Internet Day 2026, focusing on the theme "Exploring the Safe and Responsible Use of AI." The children took part in engaging activities to help them understand what Artificial Intelligence (AI) is, how it can support us, and how to use it safely and responsibly. Across the school, children learned that AI is a tool made by people, that it can be helpful but can also make mistakes, and that not everything online is true.

The day ended with creative activities and a showcase for parents and carers, where pupils confidently shared their learning. We encourage families to continue reinforcing these important online safety messages at home by talking regularly about safe, kind and responsible technology use.



We also recently held an Internet Safety Parent Workshop on Monday. As no parents/carers were able to attend, we will be rescheduling this session to ensure this valuable opportunity to support the safety of your children in the digital world is not missed. Further details will be shared soon, and we strongly encourage families to attend. Working together, we can ensure our children grow into safe, confident and responsible digital citizens.

Reading

We are excited to announce that this year, Darley Dene will be celebrating World Book Week, leading up to World Book Day on Thursday, 5th March 2026. Throughout the week, children will take part in a range of fun, creative activities designed to celebrate reading and inspire a love of books.

On World Book Day (Thursday, 5th March), children are invited to take part in our special "Dress Up as a Word" day. Children can choose a word to dress up as and be as imaginative as they like - this could be a character trait, an adjective, or a word inspired by a favourite book. Simple, creative costumes are encouraged.

We would love families to begin preparing together by talking about favourite books, sharing stories at home, and thinking creatively about word choices and costume ideas. More details about the rest of World Book Week will follow soon.

We can't wait to celebrate reading with our whole school community!

Maths

After a brilliant Maths Week, the children have spent this week balancing the books! The children have been busy calculating the total takings from our Enterprise Fair, subtracting their costs, and celebrating their final profit figures. The children will choose and vote as a class what they would like to buy. It was a wonderful way to see addition and



subtraction used in a real-world context. As a school, just under £220 was raised that will go to individual class. Thank you for making it such a successful (and profitable!) event.

🎸 NSPCC Rocks: The Battle Results Are In! 🎸

A massive "You Rock!" to every pupil who channeled their inner rockstar for the NSPCC Rocks TTRS Battle. The competition was fierce, the finger-speed was legendary! While the overall scores were incredible, we want to give a special encore to our Top Rockers who led the charge for their respective classes. Join us in a round of applause for these chart-topping mathematicians: Year 3: Saboath, Year 4: Reni, Year 5: Alan, Year 6: Kayden.

In addition enjoy these Maths facts...

⚡ Out of the 3,761 schools in the UK that entered the competition, Darley Dene came 428th!

⚡ Out of the 502 schools, in the greater London area, that entered the competition, Darley Dene came 59th!!!

Well done everyone!



Lastly, during our Maths Quest Day, one of the activities was to guess how much pasta the jar held. There were in fact 351 pasta shells. Congratulations to Ms McIsaac who was 1 away and Olaf in Year 6 who was 10 away! Great prediction skills.

Year 5 & 6 Maths Day at St. George's

We went to St George's School and it was so cool, we loved algebra because we got to play a game so that we could learn more about space and planets. It was good to find out about times tables with four digits measuring perimeters around the spaceships and using formulas using algebra. By, Alan, Srisajini and Ire.

P.E.

We are looking forward to an exciting start to next term as we take part in the **Dance Festival** and **the Year 6 Netball Rally** with the Elmburgh and Runnymede Primary School Sports Association. These events provide fantastic opportunities for pupils to perform, compete, and represent our school with pride.

A huge congratulations to pupils in **Years 3, 4, 5 and 6** for a brilliant dance term. The effort, focus and teamwork shown throughout rehearsals has been excellent, and their performances to Key Stage 2 were delivered with confidence and enthusiasm. Well done to all involved.

P.E. Update for Spring 2

Please note the following changes to PE days next term:

- **Year 1 and Year 2** will now have PE on **Mondays**.
Monday will also be their PE kit day, and children should come to school wearing their PE kit.
- **Year 3 and Year 4** will now have PE on **Thursdays**.
Children in these year groups should come to school wearing their PE kit on Thursdays.

PE Kit Requirements

- Plain white round-necked T-shirt
- Black jumper
- Black shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms
- Trainers

Thank you for your continued support. We are excited for another active and successful term ahead.



House Points



40



37



51

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

Lexi
Eslem
Lilly-May
Isabelle
Aria-Mae

Jigsaw

Miles
Mileh
Alice
Hanna
Bahar

Sports Stars

Ayan
Sorayah
Marya
Thabie
Caesar

Maths

Lucia
Amber
Leo M
Frankie
Raven
Andrei B
Advika
Jude

Writing

Mateo
Willow
Victoria
Agamjot
Mia
Grace
Manha
Roni
Jayden T
Matthew

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: Miles

Nursery: Ayaan

Reception: Brodie, Izahaak, Bella, Kayden, Marcel H

Year 1: Bradley, Mileh, Isabella, Tamari, Rory

Year 2: Graham, Esmae, John

Year 3: Grace, Mia, Logan, Raven, Leelou, Eleen, Reuben

Year 4: Deenie, Tyler

Year 5: Advik, Srisajini, Caesar

Year 6: Ameerah, Charlotte-Ann, Lena

Timestables Rockstars

Isabelle, Scarlett

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 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.



01932 847 674



www.darleydeneprimary.co.uk



Upcoming Diary Dates
Term Dates 2025 - 2026
Spring Term 2026

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 - World Book Day
Thurs 5th Mar - Year 2 Florence Nightingale Workshop
Thurs 5th Mar - Bedtime Stories - Parents and Children 5:30pm-6:45pm
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



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

Sign in:



FREE AS A BIRD




Runnymede Family Centre

Every Monday
10 - 12

Family Support at the Revive Cafe
99 Guildford Street, Chertsey, England, KT16 9AS
www.revivecoffeeshop.co.uk

Family Support Workers from Runnymede Family centre will be available to offer support and advice on all aspects of family life.
Drop in, no booking required.

If you would like more information please scan the QR code or email:
runnymedefamilycentre@barnardos.org.uk



BARNARDOS Changing childhoods.
Changing lives.

Children's Mental Health Week
9th - 15th February 2026

Helping Your Child Feel "This is My Place":
Activities for Primary Families



This year's Children's Mental Health Week theme - *This is My Place* - focuses on helping children feel they belong: in their home, at school, in their community and within themselves. Here are simple, practical ways families can use the *Five Ways to Wellbeing* to build belonging every day.

Contents:

- Connect ... 2
- Keep Learning ... 3
- Be Active ... 4
- Take Notice ... 5
- Give ... 6



www.eikon.org.uk 



A helping hand for a healthier family

Do you need help to achieve a healthy weight for your child or teenager?

Be Your Best is a funded healthy lifestyle programme for Surrey families with children & teenagers aged 5-17 years, who are above the healthy weight range. We can help you make a positive difference to your child or teenager's health & wellbeing.

The programme is made up of one-to-one and group sessions:

<p>Sessions include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live cooking workshop Meal planning for the whole family Easy food swaps Managing screen time How to become an active family Importance of sleep 	<p>One-to-one sessions</p> <p>With a health & wellbeing advisor at a mutually agreed time & location</p> <p>Online group sessions for parents/carers</p> <p>Week days after school via Zoom</p> <p>Online physical activity sessions</p> <p>Group sessions via zoom or on-demand video content</p>
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"Me and my boys are really enjoying this programme and we are so grateful to be taking part." - Mum

Find out more: 

  