

DARLEY DENE DISPATCHES

Empowering success through a strong and respectful home-school partnership

01932 847674

office.darleydene@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk

www.darleydenepriamry.co.uk

Headteacher's Message

It is so lovely to be writing this newsletter with the sun shining - brighter days are certainly on the way as we approach the final week of the Spring term. I will take this opportunity to remind you that next week is our final week of term, and all children will finish school at **1:00pm** on Friday 27th March. Please ensure that you have made suitable arrangements for collection so that no child is left unsure at the end of the day.

Today, it was wonderful to see so many of our children showing their support for Comic Relief by wearing red. Thank you for your generous donations to support this important cause. I am so proud of the kindness and community spirit shown at Darley Dene.

We are also delighted to share that our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs. Butler successfully applied for the Runnymede Community Grant Scheme and secured £4,500 to enhance our outdoor learning opportunities. This is an exciting development for the school - watch this space!

It has also been a busy and rewarding week for our staff. Colleagues have been supporting other schools across the trust by leading writing moderation sessions in EYFS, Year 2 and Year 6. In addition, all of our teachers either attended or led seminars across the Lumen Learning Trust on Wednesday evening. These opportunities not only allow for valuable collaboration with colleagues from other schools, but also highlight the strength of practice here at Darley Dene - something we should all take pride in.

Finally, we are looking for parent volunteers who may be able to support the school with some painting projects, including fences and planters. If this is something you would be interested in helping with, please speak to a member of the office team.

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

Language
Language is a vital means of communication



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.

How does it feel when someone really understands what you're saying?



Darley Dene Nursery

Darley Dene Nursery is an integral part of the wider Darley Dene family, working alongside our Reception year group and supporting children in taking their first steps towards being school-ready



Darley Dene Nursery

Applications are available for Darley Dene Nursery places for September 2026.

With 15 and 30 hour funded places available for 2 & 3 year olds, please contact the School Office for more information 01932 847674.



Inclusion Update: Nurture Principle – All Behaviour is Communication



Behaviour
All behaviour is communication

Children's behaviour is often a way of communicating how they are feeling or what they need. Sometimes this may be through words, but at other times it can be shown through actions, especially when children feel overwhelmed, frustrated, or unsure. Understanding behaviour in this way helps us respond with support, guidance, and empathy, while also helping children develop the skills to manage their emotions.

In school, we support behaviour by:

- Helping children **recognise and name their emotions** using approaches such as the Zones of Regulation.
- Using **calm, consistent responses** to support children when they are dysregulated.
- Asking questions like **"What do you need?"** to help children reflect and problem-solve.
- Teaching and modelling **appropriate ways to express feelings** and resolve difficulties.
- Providing **time, space, and strategies** (e.g. breathing, movement breaks) to help children regulate.

At home, you can support by:

- **Naming and validating feelings:** "I can see you're feeling frustrated."
- Staying **calm and consistent**, even when behaviour is challenging.
- Helping your child think **about what they need or what might help** in that moment.
- Talking about situations afterwards to reflect: "What could we try next time?"
- Praising positive choices, accepting help and moments when your child manages their feelings well.

By understanding that behaviour is a form of communication, we can work together to support children in expressing their feelings, building resilience, and developing positive ways to respond to challenges.



Dynamos

We're thrilled to introduce the very first edition of the Dynamos Dispatch! Created proudly by our Dynamos, this newsletter captures the voices and shares an insight to the amazing things going on at Darley Dene. Click the link below to explore the full edition and hear directly from our amazing Dynamos! [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 available to purchase on SCOpay till 12pm on Monday.

Thank you to the Families who have volunteered to help already. We need lots of helping hands to make these events sparkle! If you are able to support, please let our school Office know.

Please note children in EYFS and KS1 do not need to be collected at normal dismissal time if they are attending this event. They can be collected at 4.20pm.

House Points



56



81



80

World Oral Health Day

Today is World Oral Health Day and to mark this day our School Nurse has spoken to our EYFS & KS1 children about the importance of brushing their teeth and visiting a dentist on a regular basis. If your child isn't signed up to a registered dentist, we would recommend putting this into place. If you need any support with this, please do not hesitate to contact our HSLW who will be happy to help.

Comic Relief

It was lovely to see a flourish of red throughout our school today in aid of Comic Relief. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this fantastic cause.

Stay, Play and Learn

Over the last couple of weeks we have held Stay, Play and Learn sessions in LAN, Nursery and Reception. For our Reception families, this was followed with a phonics workshop. If you were not able to attend, the slides for this have been added to the website and can be found here: [Parent Workshops](#)

Reading

Well done everyone for working so hard in your reading lessons. It has been fantastic to see reading buddies taking place outside in the improved weather. At the bottom of this newsletter are some great book recommendations for you to enjoy!

P.E.

Year 1 and 2 Dance Show

👏👏 You're Invited! 🎉👏 Tuesday 24th March, our Year 1 and Year 2 children will be taking to the stage to showcase all the amazing learning they've done this half term in their Dance lessons. The performance will begin at 2:45pm and we would love for families to come along and celebrate with us.

Please sign in at the school office when you arrive.

Year 6 Netball Competition

On Tuesday 17th March, 7 year 6 children participated in a Yr 6 Netball rally as part of our ERPSSA membership. They showed fantastic teamwork, enthusiasm and confidence throughout their matches. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, dedication and the way they represented our school. Well done to all of the children involved!



Football Kit Donations

We are currently looking for donations of football boots and shin pads for our school football teams. If you have any pre-loved items in good condition that your child has outgrown, we would be very grateful for any donations. Please send them into the school office.

Year 5 Football Tournament

Our Year 5 team will also be taking part in a football tournament on Thursday 26th March. The children have been training hard and we wish them the best of luck representing Darley Dene!

National School Football Week

Next Week we are participating in the ESFA National School Football week. This year they have partnered up with Pokemon and the children will be getting lots of Pokemon/Football prizes for their participation. Therefore, we have launched a House Football tournament Competition next week. We are so excited to see the children join in to the sports themed activities next week. The football team are also helping referee the matches for the children all week.

Dress like an Athlete Day

On Thursday 26th MARCH the children are invited to come to school dressed up as an athlete to celebrate National Schools Football week with the ESFA.

Maths

🌐 National School Football Week: Numbers on the Pitch! 🌐

Next week, our school joins the rest of the country to celebrate **National School Football Week**. While we'll be focusing on teamwork and skill, we are also shining a spotlight on the "hidden teammate" in every match: **Maths!** Whether it's a Reception student counting the balls or a Year 6 student calculating possession percentages, football is a world built on numbers (whilst using our oracy skills).

Year	The Mathematical Match-Up	The "Talk Tactic" Challenge
EYFS & KS1	Counting & Shapes: We are counting goals, players, and bibs! We're also hunting for shapes - can you find the circle in the middle or the rectangle of the goal?	Instigate: "I've spotted a shape! I think the center of the pitch is a..."
Lower KS2	Time & Addition: We are tracking the match clock and using addition to find total scores. We're also looking at the geometry of a pass - is the angle wide or narrow?	Build: "I agree we've played 5 minutes, and I want to build on that - how many minutes are left until half-time?"
Upper KS2	Decimals & Data: Year 5 and 6 are looking at the "stats." We are using decimals to track sprint times (e.g., 10.45 seconds) and comparing player ratings.	Challenge: "I challenge the idea that the striker was faster. Their time was 12.5 seconds, but the winger's was 12.05!"

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 Sharon Leo D Mirac Bella Daisy K	Jigsaw Deina Graham Levi Roni Caesar	Sports Stars Victoria Isabella AD Jienna Lizzie Advika	Maths Mateo Arin Ana Julia Zion Mia Paulo Ire Leo Do	Writing Ayan Adelina Darius John Ronnie Isabella Fatmana 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: Lexi

Nursery: Sulayman, Avery

Reception:

Year 1: Sharon, Victoria, Alihan

Year 2: Elfida, Frankie, Azeemah

Year 3: Reuben, Janani, Josh, Rory, Gizem, Eleigh, Leelou, Levi, Eleen, Dev, Mia, Logan

Year 4: Paige, Jacinta

Year 5: Aria-Mae, Kaylee, Scarlett

Year 6: Hargun, Lena, Izabella, Jude, Melody, Sudem, Christina, Milan

Timestables Rockstars

Andrei B, Jasmine

Summer Term Enrichment Clubs

Please find below the new list of enrichment clubs for the Summer term which will be starting from Monday 20th April 2026. Further information has been sent via email regarding clubs last week. Please note, clubs are live on SCOPAY to book and families that are in receipt of PP should email Mr Poleykett in the main school office to book your child on to a club.

Name of Club	Key Stage	Day	Description
Spanish Club	KS2	Monday	Join us to explore the Spanish language through fun games, songs, stories, and crafts! Children will learn basic Spanish words and phrases while discovering the cultures of Spanish speaking countries. No experience needed - just curiosity and enthusiasm!
Outdoor Reading Club	Reception KS1 & KS2	Tuesday	Join us for a fun outdoor reading club where kids can enjoy stories in the fresh air. Together we explore books, share the joy of reading, and take part in creative craft activities inspired by the stories we read. It's a great way for children to relax, use their imagination, and enjoy the outdoors with friends.
Dance Cheerleading	KS1 & KS2	Thursday	Children are encouraged to express themselves through positivity. They will learn routines and stunts in a safe environment. Children will need to bring a PE/sports kit for this club!
KS2 Football	KS2	Thursday	A fun and active club where children learn football skills, practice teamwork, and play friendly matches. Children develop coordination, confidence, and good sportsmanship while staying fit and enjoying the game.



Messages from the School Office Communication to Parents

The majority of communication to parents from the school is made via Email or Text Messages for important updates and information. If you are not receiving emails or text messages from the school please contact the Office to check that we have all your correct contact details.

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.**

Vacancies:

Saxon Primary School is recruiting: We are looking to recruit a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant with a passion for creating lifelong learners, committed to inclusion and equality and has a high expectation of themselves and every child. Working Hours: 3 days (days to be determined), 18 hours per week, 8.30am to 3.15pm. 45 minute unpaid break. 39 weeks a year (term time plus one week). This role is a fixed term position until 31st August 2026. For more information on these roles please see: [Fixed Term Higher Level 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](#)

Lumen Learning Trust is recruiting: An exciting opportunity has arisen for a part-time Finance Manager to work as a member of the finance team. The post will be based at Saxon Primary School in Shepperton and is a permanent, part-time role - 15 hrs per week to be worked over 3 days/ 38 weeks per year. Under the direction of the Head of Finance, the Finance Manager will provide accurate financial reporting, compliance with financial regulations and strategic financial support.

If you have experience of financial management, ideally within the education sector, but more crucially, are professional in your approach, possess strong financial skills and are tenacious in your desire to make a lasting personal contribution to our children's lives, we want to hear from you. For further information please visit: [Part-time Finance Manager](#)

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.

01932 847 674 www.darleydeneprimary.co.uk



Upcoming Diary Dates

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Spring Term 2026

Mon 23rd -27th Mar - National School Football Week
Mon 23rd - Year 1 Trip to Blue Diamond Weybridge Garden Centre
Tues 24th Mar - Year 6 Class Assembly
Tues 24th Mar - EYFS & KS1 Easter Craft Afternoon 3:30pm-4:15pm
Tues 24th Mar - KS2 Easter Games Night 4:30pm-5:30pm
Thur 26th Mar - Dress Up as an Athlete - Whole School
Thur 26th Mar - Florence Nightingale Workshop
Fri 27th Mar - End of term 1:00pm

Summer Term 2026

Mon 13th Apr - Children return to school
Tues 14th Apr - Multiplication Tables Check - Year 4 - parent talk - 8:45am and 2:45pm
Thur 16th Apr - Sportability Event
Fri 17th Apr - Year 3 Visit to St Augustine's Care Home
Fri 17th Apr - Year 2 cake & ice lolly sale
Tues 21st Apr - Year 1 Class Assembly
Thur 23rd Apr - Year 1 Phonics Screening Check - Parents Meeting
Fri 24th Apr - Year 3 Visit to St Augustine's Care Home
Mon 27th Apr - Year 3 Feet First Training
Tues 28th Apr - Year 2 Class Assembly
Fri 1st May - Bee Visit Year 1 & Year 3
Fri 1st May - Year 3 Visit to St Augustine's Care Home

Mon 4th May - Early May Bank Holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED

Tues 5th May - Year 3 Class Assembly
Tues 5th May - Resilience Workshop for parents - 2:45pm
Wed 6th May - Year 4 Handball Competition
Thur 7th May - Year 4 Bikeability
Fri 8th May - Year 2 Seaside Workshop
Fri 8th May - Year 4 Bikeability
Fri 8th May - Year 3 Visit to St Augustine's Care Home
Mon 11th May - Fri 15th May - KS2 SATs Week
Fri 15th May - Year 3 Visit to St Augustine's Care Home
Mon 18th May - Year 5 Habitat Workshop
Tues 19th May - Reception Class Assembly
Wed 20th May - Year 1 St George's Choral Festival
Wed 20th May - Year 5 & 6 Girls Cricket Match
Fri 22nd May - Year 5 Hampton Court Palace Trip
Fri 22nd May - Reception Growth Performance - Parents
Fri 22nd May - Year 3 Visit to St Augustine's Care Home

Mon 25th May - Fri 29th May - HALF TERM

Mon 1st June - Children return to school
Tues 2nd June - Summer Of Song at The Echelford
Thur 4th June - Year 1 Maths Challenge
Fri 5th June - Class Photos
Fri 5th June - Year 3 Visit to St Augustine's Care Home
Mon 8th June - Fri 12th June - Healthy Eating Week
Mon 8th June - Year 1 Windsor Castle Trip
Tues 9th June - Importance of Health and Fitness Parent Workshop
Wed 10th June - KS2 District Sports
Thur 11th June - Year 4b Maths Challenge
Thur 11th June - Year 2 Forest School at St George's
Fri 12th June - Year 3 Visit to St Augustine's Care Home



Fri 12th June - Year 1 cake & ice lolly sale
Mon 15th June - Year 2 Wisley Garden Trip
Mon 15th June - Stay, Play and Learn - Nursery 2pm - 2:45pm
Mon 15th June - Stay, Play and Learn - Reception 2pm - 3pm
Mon 15th June - Stay, Play and Learn - LAN 2:30pm - 3pm
Tues 16th June - Stay, Play and Learn - Reception 2pm - 3pm
Wed 17th June - Sports Day
Thurs 18th June - Stay, Play and Learn - Nursery 2pm - 2:45pm
Fri 19th June - KS2 St George's Theatre Trip
Fri 19th June - Year 3 Visit to St Augustine's Care Home
Fri 19th June - Transition Coffee Morning
Fri 26th June - Year 3 Visit to St Augustine's Care Home
Tues 30th June - Year 6 Move Up Day
Wed 1st Jul - Year 6 Move Up Day
Thur 2nd Jul - Young Carers Meet Up
Thur 2nd Jul - LAN Chessington World of Adventure Trip
Fri 3rd Jul - Resilience Workshop 9am
Fri 3rd Jul - Year 3 Visit to St Augustine's Care Home
Fri 3rd July - Year Reception cake & ice lolly sale
Fri 10th Jul - Year 3 Visit to St Augustine's Care Home
Mon 13th Jul - Year 6 Mini Olympic at St Georges
Fri 17th July - End of term 1:00pm
Mon 20th July - INSET DAY 4
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
Kind regards



Zoe Devonport
Headteacher



Recently released books celebrating neurodiversity

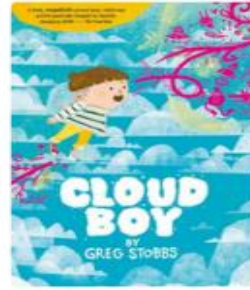
Neurodiversity Celebration Week: 16th - 20th March



Make It All Go Away
Helen Docherty

Recommended for EYFS - Year 3

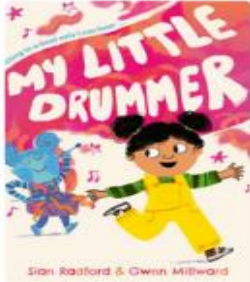
Join Melodie on a day out with her family as she gets overwhelmed with horrible smells, sights, sounds, tastes and textures. Inspired by the author's daughter's experiences of sensory overload, this gentle rhyming picture book explores what a child with sensory issues experiences. At the back of the book, there is an informative spread on sensory overload.



Cloud Boy
Gregg Stobbs

Recommended for EYFS - Year 2

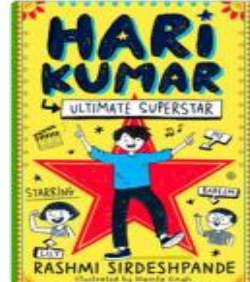
A little boy tries to change how he thinks about and interacts with the world around him but learns to appreciate that the way he is naturally is just as valid as everyone else. Bobby would like to concentrate like his friends, but it's very hard, so his family and friends come up with all sorts of clever plans. In this uplifting story, Bobby's friends and family might just learn that the best way to understand Bobby is to think a bit like him.



My Little Drummer
Sian Radford

Recommended for Years 1 - 3

A joyful rhyming picture book exploring neurodiversity. *There's a drummer in my head. They are tiny, but they're there. And they tap-a-tap-tap and pa-rum-pa-pum-pum All day without a care...* Sounds distracting? It can be! Debut children's author Sian Radford shares her experience of neurodivergence in this playful, imaginative picture book - perfect for ALL readers.



Hari Kumar, ultimate superstar
Rashmi Sirdeshpande

Recommended for Years 4 - 6

Hari Kumar, a funny and imaginative 10-year-old with AuDHD, enters a school film-festival hoping it will be his big break. But with an unhelpful "villain" of a new kid, a chaotic film crew, and a rule-heavy Deputy Head, his movie dreams start to wobble. Told in a light, illustrated-diary style, it's a warm, humorous story about creativity, friendship, and staying true to yourself.

MATCH FIXTURES
Football Tournament

Meteor **VS** Supernova

Comet **VS** Supernova

Meteor **VS** Comet

Monday Round 1: Class Tournament
Tuesday Round 2: Year Group Tournament
Wednesday Round 3: Teachers Tournament
Wednesday Final Round: Teachers VS Children

KS1 DANCE SHOW

TUESDAY 24TH MARCH 2026
2:45PM

THIS HALF TERM, YEAR 1 AND 2 HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD IN THEIR PE LESSONS TO CREATE SOME AMAZING DANCE ROUTINES.

DARLEY DENE PRIMARY SCHOOL



St Paul's
Addlestone

Good Friday Workshop

3rd April - 10am - 1pm
All Primary - Years R - Year 6

GAMES, CRAFTS, and MORE!

Join us for our Celebration Service
Easter Sunday, 5th April @ 11am
Followed by our Easter Egg Hunt

Places are limited so please sign up early to avoid disappointment

