



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 – we have certainly started the first week back with a bang! There have been so many moments already that have made us all so proud to be part of our Darley Dene community.

Yesterday, Miss Nhambure and Mrs Sek took a group of children to Royal Holloway, where they joined other schools from across Surrey to take part in a range of sporting activities. The children were coached by experts in a range of sports including tennis, boxing, dance and even wheelchair rugby. The smiles on their faces were priceless. It was a truly fantastic opportunity and one they embraced with enthusiasm and pride.

Meanwhile, in Early Years, our chicks have arrived. This has sparked real excitement as the children experience life cycles first-hand. The buzz in the classrooms is wonderful, with rich conversations already leading to some fantastic opportunities for oracy and writing.

Miss Johnston and Miss Oomen also took part in an assessment day as part of the National Nurturing Schools Programme. This involved sharing evidence of the six nurturing principles, alongside hearing from both staff and children about their daily experiences. The initial feedback was very positive, and we now look forward to receiving the official outcome in the coming weeks.

There are a number of statutory assessments taking place across the school this term. These include the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check, Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check and the Year 6 SATs assessments. Please ensure you add the relevant dates to your calendar. While we will, of course, prepare the children thoroughly in school, your support at home is invaluable. If you would like any further information, please speak to your child's class teacher.

We were also delighted that our new Reception families have now been offered their places for September. We are very much looking forward to welcoming them into our community over the coming weeks as they begin this important transition in their child's primary school journey.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support as we move through the Summer 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
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- 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 term, we will be focusing on the Nurture Principle of **Transitions**: The importance of transitions in children's lives, sharing weekly prompts to help guide meaningful conversations at home and nurture those positive emotions.

What's something you enjoyed doing today, and how did it feel when it was time to stop?

An icon showing two stylized human figures sitting at a table, facing each other with speech bubbles above them, representing a conversation.

Year 1 Class Assembly

Next week, our Year 1 children are excited to invite their families into school to watch their class assembly. The assembly will take place on Tuesday 21st April at 9:00am. Please sign in through the school office on arrival.

Inclusion

We are pleased to share that, as part of our journey through the National Nurturing Schools Programme, we took part in the final assessment process on Thursday. This included valuable opportunities for pupils, staff, and parents/carers to share their experiences of our school and the support we provide.

We are incredibly proud of how confidently our pupils spoke about feeling safe, supported, and valued, and how our staff and families contributed thoughtfully to the discussions. Their voices are a vital part of our nurturing approach and reflect the strong sense of community within our school.

We now look forward to receiving the outcome and are excited to continue developing our nurturing provision for all children.

Dynamos

This half term, our Dynamos will begin supporting class teachers in delivering Wednesday assemblies. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to develop their leadership and oracy skills. We look forward to sharing further information about their roles in assemblies as the term progresses.

House Competitions

Let the Summer Term begin! 🌞🏆 Who will take home the House Cup this term? With a fantastic line-up of House Competitions ahead, it's all to play for! Get ready for a term full of energy, teamwork, and friendly rivalry.

Eco-Warrior: Recycling Competition - Our Geography House Competition will run next week in celebration of World Earth Day. Children are encouraged to pick up any piece of safe recycling they find around our school. Bins will be allocated to each house to see who picks up the most recycling! Just a reminder that recycling should not be sent in from home.

Family Dynamos

We are very excited about our upcoming Summer term events. To allow more families to join our next Family Dynamo meeting, we have decided to hold this meeting virtually. The meeting will now take place on **Tuesday 5th May 2026** at **3:30pm**. The meeting link will be shared closer to the time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office.

PSHE Curriculum - RSE

Before the Easter break, information was shared regarding the upcoming PSHE Curriculum this term. Please ensure to read the following letter carefully. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. [Click here to read the letter](#)



Reading

We hope everyone enjoyed spending some time reading over the Easter holidays. Reading regularly at home makes a huge difference to children's confidence, fluency and enjoyment of books.

Please continue to encourage your child to read a range of books from our school library. We have recently updated the library with some exciting new texts for the children to explore. There is something for everyone, from exciting adventure stories to fascinating non-fiction.

Keep an eye out in particular for the new graphic novels and comics, which have already been proving very popular with the children!

Maths

🚩 **The Big Announcement: Battle of the Houses!**

To celebrate National Numeracy Day, we are launching an epic Times Tables Rock Stars House Battle! This is your chance to turn your mathematical speed into House Points and help your team climb to the top of the leaderboard.

🎯 **Who is involved?**

Students from Year 2 all the way to Year 6 will be competing. Whether you are just starting your 2s, 5s, and 10s, or you are a "Rock Hero" mastering your 12s, every correct answer counts! But don't worry, even our younger mathematicians in EYFS and Year 1 will be fueling their team totals by playing on Numbots.

🏆 **How it works:**

- **The Goal:** Earn as many points as possible for your House.
- **How to Score:** Every correct answer you give in any game mode earns 1 point for your House.
- **The Timeline:** The battle takes place on Thursday 21st May

💡 **Top Tips for Rock Stars**

- **Accuracy is King:** It's not just about how fast you click, but how many you get right!
- **Little and Often:** 10 minutes of play every day is better for your brain (and your House score) than one long hour.
- **The "Garage" Mode:** If you want to improve your heat map and get faster, spend some time in the Garage!

P.E.

PE Timetable Update

We would like to inform parents and carers of a change to our PE timetable for this term. PE lessons for Years 3 and 4 will now take place on Fridays, while Years 5 and 6 will have their PE lessons on Thursdays. Please ensure that children come to school wearing their full PE kit on the correct day.

Sportability Event

We are pleased to share that our children participated at the Sportability event, hosted by Runnymede Council. This inclusive sporting event provided our pupils with the opportunity to participate in a range of activities, including tennis, boxing, dance, boccia, judo and wheelchair rugby. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and demonstrated excellent enthusiasm and teamwork throughout.

All participants were awarded medals and prizes in recognition of their efforts. A particular highlight of the day was the visit from the soon-to-be Mayor of Runnymede, who joined our pupils for a game of boccia and took the time to speak with them about his role within the council. It was a memorable and inspiring experience for all involved.



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

Priscilla
Victoria
Esmée
Saboath
Charlotte W
Mehrab

Jigsaw

Lucia
Roman
Alyssia
Rory M
Chloe
Advika

Sports Stars

Mateo
Illyia
Agamjot
Logan B
Aya
Aria-Mae
Matthew

Maths

Miles
Maizah
Eslem
Graham
Leelou
Bella
Jasmine
Danica

Writing

Ayan
Izahaak
Alihan
Jayleen
Hicabi
Andrei B
Srisajini
Melody

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: Pola, Stefan

Year 1: Leo M, Victoria, Hiram, Eslem, Deina

Year 2: Aaliyah, Lilly-May

Year 3: Logan, Eyup

Year 4: Jacinta, Olivia, Charlotte

Year 5: Scarlett, Alan, Advik

Year 6: Harper, Lena, Charlotte-Ann

Timestables Rockstars

Manha, Paulo, Advik

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.**

Vision Tests

Please be aware children in reception classes no longer have a vision test at school. Children can have a vision test at any optician free till the age of 16: [Eye tests for children - NHS](#)



Vacancies:

Southfield Park Primary & Ewell Grove Primary & Nursery School are recruiting: We are looking to appoint a permanent part-time HR Assistant to join our HR Team. This exciting role will support the Trust's HR Manager with providing a range of administrative support services to assist effective and efficient HR, payroll and training & development across the Trust. This is an excellent opportunity for someone looking to grow their experience in HR whilst contributing to a supportive and collaborative team. Working hours are: 25 hours per week, to be worked between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday, term time plus 5 inset days and one additional week to be worked during school holidays (39 weeks a year). For more information please visit: [Part-time HR 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

Summer Term 2026

Mon 20th - 24th Apr - Recycling House Competition
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
Thur 7th May - Year 4 Bikeability
Fri 8th May - Year 2 Seaside Workshop
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 - Fri 22nd May - Walk to School Week
Mon 18th May - Year 5 Habitat Workshop
Tues 19th May - Reception Class Assembly
Tues 19th May - Singing House Competition
Wed 20th May - Year 1 St George's Choral Festival
Wed 20th May - Year 6 Midsummer's Night Dream at St George's
Wed 20th May - Year 5 & 6 Girls Cricket Match
Wed 20th May - PSHE Workshop - Policy Changing Consultation
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
Mon 1st June - 5th June - Create a house team chant music/P.E. for Sports Day
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
Mon 8th June - Create a house t-shirt design for sports day
Tues 9th June - Importance of Health and Fitness Parent Workshop
Tues 9th June - AIM High Writing Year 1 & 2
Wed 10th June - KS2 District Sports
Thur 11th June - Year 4 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 26th June - Transition Coffee Morning
Fri 26th June - Year 3 Visit to St Augustine's Care Home
Mon 29th June - Fri 3rd July - World Cup Countries House Competition
Tues 30th June - Year 6 Move Up Day
Wed 1st July - Year 6 Move Up Day
Thur 2nd July - Young Carers Meet Up
Thur 2nd July - LAN Chessington World of Adventure Trip
Fri 3rd July - Resilience Workshop 9am
Fri 3rd July - Year 3 Visit to St Augustine's Care Home
Fri 3rd July - Year Reception cake & ice lolly sale
Mon 6th July - Fri 10th July - End of Year Quiz - House Competition
Mon 6th July - Wellbeing Ambassador Training
Mon 6th July - KS2 - The Darley Dene Expo
Fri 10th July - Year 3 Visit to St Augustine's Care Home
Mon 13th July - Year 6 Mini Olympic at St Georges
Tues 14th July - Family Dynamo Presents: Island Glow - The Final Party
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





Small Actions To Make Big Changes

CONNECT WITH SOMEONE



Reaching out with a simple "Are you okay?" can offer vital support. In turn, being open with "Are you okay?" allows others to care for you. Nurture your support network and consider building new connections - a sense of belonging and community is a powerful antidote to loneliness and its associated stress.

PRIORITISE SLEEP

Gradually enhance your sleep by making small adjustments to your bedtime routine. Try these steps: reduce screen time before bed • keep your bedroom tech-free • ensure a clean and restful sleep space • write down your thoughts for tomorrow • avoid caffeine after 4 pm.



MOVE IN YOUR OWN WAY



Whether it's a gentle walk, an energising run, calming yoga, refreshing stretches, or the simple act of gardening, find an activity you enjoy. Getting those feel-good endorphins flowing is a fantastic way to release tension and enhance your overall wellbeing.

SPEND TIME IN NATURE

Take some time out of your day to step outside, get some fresh air and spend time in nature. This could be eating your lunch outside, or taking a short walk after work. Stimulate your senses and look at the beauty of nature



CONSCIOUS BREATHING

The way you breathe significantly impacts your stress levels. Short, shallow breaths can fuel anxiety, while consciously slowing down and taking deep, full breaths actively encourages your body to enter a state of relaxation.

PRACTICE MINDFULNESS

Want to be more present, self-aware, and in control of your emotions? Practice mindfulness. This involves focusing on the here and now, either through specific exercises or by mindfully engaging your five senses during activities like a nature walk.



#LittleByLittle



Runnymede Family Centre

The second Tuesday of each month
10am to 12 noon

SEND Connect Café Drop-In for parents/carers of SEND children

Join us for an informal drop-in session where you will be able to get advice and support from a Family Support Worker.
We will be based at the The Village Cafe on the second Tuesday of each month.

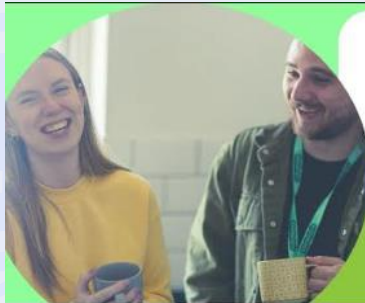
The Village Centre, Victoria Street, Englefield Green, Surrey, TW20 0QX
This is not a playgroup but children are welcome to come with you
www.villagecentre.org.uk

To check on dates or if you would like more information please scan the QR code or email:
runnymedefamilycentre@barnardos.org.uk



BARNARDOS

Changing childhoods.
Changing lives.



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.

House Competitions

2026

SUMMER TERM

EVENTS SCHEDULE

Eco Warriors Challenge (Recycling)

Grab your gloves and get stuck in! Which House will clean up the most litter and become our ultimate eco-champions? Every piece counts! ♻️

The Great School Scavenger Hunt

Clues are hidden... puzzles await... teamwork is EVERYTHING. Which House will crack the clues first and race to victory? 🗺️

BATTLE OF THE VOICES

Stand confidently, sing together, and show true teamwork! Which House will perform as one and shine? 🎵

Create Your Ultimate House Chant

Get creative and make it catchy! Your chant will represent your House on Sports Day—so make it powerful, proud, and impossible to ignore! 📣

World Cup Challenge

Travel the globe through this exciting competition! Test your knowledge of countries, teams, and cultures—who will be crowned world champions? 🌍

End-of-Year Mega Quiz

Think you've been paying attention this year? Time to prove it! From memorable moments to key highlights at Darley Dene—only one House will come out on top! 🏆



Poetry Competition

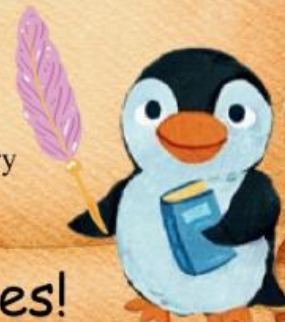
A penguin called Pebble, quite grand.
Once joined a loud rock n roll band.
He played the guitar,
Became a big star,
The coolest bird in the land!

That's Pebble's poem.

Can you do better?

Enter our Poetry Competition!

Prizes!



Entries must be received by April 25th.
Name and Contact details on the reverse.
Age categories :10 and under, 11-18, 19+