



DARLEY DENE DISPATCHES

Empowering success through a strong and respectful home-school partnership

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www.darleydeneprimary.co.uk

Headteacher's Message

As we reach the end of another week at school, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate some achievements. It has been a particularly significant week for our Year 6 class, who have completed their SATs with such wonderful resilience and determination. We are all immensely proud of the way they conducted themselves, showing a real drive to achieve their absolute best. While we recognise the hard work that goes into these assessments, we have reminded the children that these are merely a snapshot in time; they should reflect with pride on everything they have achieved throughout their entire journey here at Darley Dene and also so many exciting events planned before they transition to secondary school.

Our youngest learners also reached a milestone this week as our Reception children went on their very first school trip to Chobham Adventure Farm. From the excitement of the minibus journey and seeing the animals to the joy of eating lunch outside and exploring play equipment, it was a magical experience. Thank you to Mrs. Holmes and her team for such a memorable day.

This week also marked Mental Health Awareness Week. We are fortunate to have a wide and impactful pastoral offer at Darley Dene, and while this week allows for deeper discussion among staff and children, our commitment to wellbeing, as you know, is constant. Many of you already work with our Home School Link Worker, Catherine Webb, who also serves as our Senior Mental Health Lead, ensuring that support for our community remains an ongoing focus rather than just a yearly event.

In light of the recent inclement weather, I am sharing a quick reminder to ensure your child is prepared to be comfortable at school all day. As we navigate both sudden downpours and bright sunshine, please pack a raincoat and a sun hat, but also apply sunscreen before school when it gets hotter. If you send sunscreen in, please ensure it is clearly labelled in their bag; please note that we do not provide sun cream and children cannot share with friends. Please leave sunglasses at home as these are likely to get lost or damaged and not needed for the period of time they are on the playground.

I am also delighted to share that we have been successful in our application for the Tesco Free Fruit & Veg for Schools Programme. This initiative will help all our children work towards their five a day, further supporting our Healthy School status. A huge thank you to our Office Manager, Mrs. Surey, for her hard work in securing this for us. Additionally, Tesco is offering "Free Fruit for Kids" in-store from 27th April to 31st May 2026, a scheme that will continue across the school holidays for the remainder of the year (excluding December). With a store so close to us, I encourage you to take advantage of this great offer.

There is a great deal to look forward to next week before we head into the half-term break, so please do check the calendar below to stay up to date with the latest events. I wish you all a wonderful and relaxing 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
- Year 4 News
- Year 5 News
- Year 6 News

Darley Dene Nursery

Spaces for September are limited, we encourage you to submit your application by the end of June.

Darley Dene Nursery provides 15 & 30 hour placements for 2-4 year olds. Why not come and see for yourself the lovely Nursery facilities we offer? We would love to show you around!

Please email the office for more information or book a tour on our website [here](#) or come to our Open Morning on June 6th from 10.00am - 11.30am.



Are you new to the area?
Are you looking for a place now or in the future?

You are invited to our
DARLEY DENE PRIMARY NURSERY & RECEPTION OPEN MORNING

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2026

COME WITH YOUR CHILD
FOR A STAY & PLAY SESSION BETWEEN
10:00am - 11:30am



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.



Transitions
The importance of transitions in children's lives

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.

Can you think of a time today when something didn't go as planned? What helped you manage it?



Inclusion Update: Building Resilience – Mastery (Part 1: Building Confidence Through Success)

As part of our focus on **building resilience through the Resilience Ball approach**, we are continuing to explore the key elements that help children develop confidence, emotional strength, and a positive approach to learning. This week, we are focusing on **Mastery** — how experiencing success helps children feel capable and confident in their learning.

Experiencing success helps children build confidence and feel capable in their learning.

In school, we support this by:

- Breaking tasks into small, **achievable steps**.
- Using scaffolds such as **word banks, models, and visual supports**.
- Celebrating progress through **verbal praise and feedback, green points, gold leaves, and celebration assemblies**.
- Providing regular opportunities for children to **practise and revisit skills at the start of lessons** to build fluency and confidence.

At home, you can support by:

- Celebrating **small successes and progress**, not just final outcomes.
- Encouraging your child to keep trying when something feels tricky and recognising their effort.
- Talking with your child about times they have found things challenging at school but showed resilience and achieved success — whether academically or socially.

By focusing on mastery in this way, we help children develop confidence, independence, and a belief in their ability to succeed through effort and perseverance.

Mental Health Awareness Week

Mental Health Awareness Week has been a fantastic success. Children explored different strategies to support their wellbeing, including breathing techniques on Wellness Wednesday to help promote calm and positive mental health. Our Wellbeing Ambassadors have also been preparing the newly named Mindful Meadow, which will open after half term as a calm space for children to regulate emotions and enjoy mindful activities. It was wonderful to see a splash of green around school today as we celebrated Wear It Green Day to mark Mental Health Awareness Week.

Coffee Morning for Mental Health Awareness

The pastoral team held a family coffee morning with the focus on mental health. Representatives from the Eikon Charity, the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) and the family centre attended and answered questions around anxiety, routines and how to support your child's mental health. Please remember to reach out to the pastoral team if you have any concerns for your child. For immediate mental health crisis support call NHS 111 and select the mental health option (option 2) to reach a local crisis line 24/7.

Reception trip to Chobham Adventure Farm

Reception had a wonderful time on our trip to Chobham Adventure Farm! The children were full of excitement from the moment we arrived and enjoyed exploring all the different areas of the farm. Throughout the day, they took part in a range of experiences, including meeting and feeding the animals, exploring the outdoor play areas, and enjoying the soft play together. The children showed fantastic listening skills, curiosity, and confidence as they explored the farm and talked about the animals they could see. Well done Reception!

Year 2 Seaside Day

Year 2 had an amazing Seaside Day on Friday! They completed exciting activities inside and outside of the classroom in the morning where they sold ice cream, wrote postcards to loved ones, and made their own wiggly jellyfish too. In the afternoon, the children engaged in a fun-filled Seaside workshop. They dressed up in Victorian clothes, made seashell pictures, acted out entertaining puppet shows, and played beach games. What a great day!



PSHE Curriculum- Summer 2026

Before the Easter holidays, we shared a PSHE letter outlining the upcoming PSHE curriculum for the Summer term. Please ensure you read this letter carefully, and speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance if you have any questions. [Click here to read the letter](#)

PSHE Curriculum - September 2026

Today families would have received an email regarding changes to the PSHE curriculum from September 2026. On Monday 22nd June 2026, Miss Legg will be hosting a review meeting to answer questions regarding this. [Click here to read the changes](#)

Reading

At Darley Dene Primary School, we are passionate about developing confident, enthusiastic readers and this half term we have been focusing on reading fluency to help children read accurately, smoothly and with expression.

What is reading fluency?

Reading fluency is the ability to read accurately, smoothly and with expression whilst understanding the meaning of the text. A fluent reader is able to recognise words automatically, use punctuation to guide their reading and read in a way that sounds natural and engaging. Reading fluency is incredibly important because it supports children's overall comprehension and confidence as readers. When children can read fluently, they are able to focus more on understanding the text, discussing vocabulary and developing a deeper enjoyment of reading. Across the school, we continue to develop reading fluency through activities such as echo reading, paired reading and performance reading, helping children to become confident, expressive and enthusiastic readers.

Maths

What a week of geometric discovery! To keep those mathematical minds sharp over the weekend, why not take our learning into the "wild"?

Whether you're out for a walk or relaxing at home, keep an eye out for angles and 3D shapes in the environment. Can the children spot an obtuse angle in the roof of a house, or a right angle in a window frame? Perhaps they can identify the properties of a 3D object in the pantry—is that cereal box a cuboid, and how many vertices does it have? Exploring these concepts in the real world is a fantastic way to cement what we've learned in class.

Looking ahead, we have a very big week for numbers:

- National Numeracy Day (Wednesday, 20th May): This year's theme is *"Count on Your Community."* We'll be celebrating how maths connects us all and looking at the "Number Heroes" in our own neighbourhood.
- The TTRS Battle (Thursday, 21st May): On Thursday, the ultimate Times Tables Rock Stars battle commences for Year 2 through to Year 6!

Family Dynamos

Thank you to the Family Dynamos who attended the past virtual meeting. Summer events have now been organised, which is super exciting. The Family Dynamos will be running stalls at the Darley Dene Expo on 3rd July and hosting an exciting end-of-year party on 14th July. Our next Family Dynamo meeting will take place at **9:00am on Tuesday 16th June** at school.

House Competitions

Next week, the Houses will go head-to-head in a battle of the voices as we take part in the ultimate House Singing Competition! Each House will perform the beautiful song *"Tomorrow"* from the musical Annie. 🎵

Each House will be led by a staff House Captain, and our chosen judges will decide the winning House. They'll be looking for excellent teamwork, confidence, and enthusiastic performances from everyone involved! 🎯 ✨

Career Assemblies - We need you!

Next term, we are excited to give our pupils the opportunity to learn about the amazing variety of careers and jobs in our community - and we'd love your help!



Do you have an interesting career, hobby, or special skill that you would be willing to share with the children? Whether you work in healthcare, engineering, business, the arts, emergency services, technology, construction, or anything in between, we would love to hear from you.

A short presentation and interactive session could spark curiosity, inspire big dreams, and help our pupils discover exciting possibilities for their futures.

If you would be interested in coming into school next term to speak about your career, please email the school office. We can't wait to hear about the incredible talents within our school community!

Walk to School Week 2026

Next week, here at Darley Dene, we will be taking part in Walk to School Week 2026. Each day, classes will collect data showing how many children and adults walked to school. There will be other cross-curricular links across different subjects, including mathematical problem solving as children use the data collected to answer questions. Which class will be awarded the Golden Boot Certificate for the most participants?

The Darley Dene Expo

On Friday 3rd July, we are excited to invite families into school for our Darley Dene Expo. This is an open-classroom event where families are invited to see the immersive foundation learning that has been taking place across the school. The Expo will begin at 3:10pm, straight after dismissal. Alongside this, our Family Dynamo team will be leading two fair stalls for families to enjoy!

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,
Sebastian
John
Leelou
Ayaana
Yusuf A

Jigsaw

Mateo
Myles,
Jacob
Alyssia
Payton
Aya
Advik

Sports Stars

Aysha
Anisa
Manha
Jacint
Diana

Maths

Lexi
Pablo
Bradley
Remi
Ronnie
Isabelle
Srisajini
All of Year 6

Writing

Marcel J
Illyria
Elif
Labiba
Gabi
Ada-Marie
All of Year 6

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.

Nursery: Lilly, Nakiya

Reception: Martyna, Selin, Varsha, Alex

Year 1: Isabella, Eslem, Alihan, Sharon

Year 2: Andrei, Cristian

Year 3: Rory, Gizem, Reuben, Leigh

Year 4: Franek, Tyler

Year 5: Elsie-Jean, Scarlett, Srisajini, Yusuf, Jayden, Caesar

Year 6: Whole Class

Timetables Rockstars

John, Saboath, Tyler Mu, Daisy



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](#)

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.

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Upcoming Diary Dates

Summer Term 2026

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
Thurs 21st May - TTRS Battle of the Houses!
Fri 22nd May - Year 5 Hampton Court Palace Trip
Fri 22nd May - Reception Growth Performance - Parents - 10am
Fri 22nd May - Year 2 Open Classroom
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 - Fri 12th June - Create a house t-shirt design for sports day
Mon 8th June - Year 1 Windsor Castle Trip
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 - 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
Tues 16th June - Year 6 Trip to Thorpe Park
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
Mon 22nd June - PSHE - Changes to Curriculum -Workshop
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
Fri 3rd - KS2 - The Darley Dene Expo
Mon 6th July - Fri 10th July - End of Year Quiz - House Competition
Mon 6th July - Wellbeing Ambassador Training



Wed 8th July - Year 6 - Pizza Express
Thurs 9th July - Year 6 Show
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
Thurs 16th July - Year 6 Leaver's Assembly
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





THE DARLEY DENE EXPO

COME AND CELEBRATE OUR CHILDREN'S LEARNING!

- ✦ CLASSROOM DISPLAYS - SHOWCASING THEIR WORK
- ✦ RECEPTION CAKE SALE
- ✦ EXCITING STALLS BY OUR FAMILY DYNAMOS

FRIDAY 3RD JULY 2026
3:10PM

#Weallbelong

#ProudtobeDarleyDene





Keeping the Child in Mind

Self Awareness; The role of parents/carers for children and young people

Boundaries, positive discipline and parenting styles

Empathy, choosing how to respond and putting techniques into practice

This 4 week programme is aimed at those parenting children of any age and supports working together for a calmer family life.

Scan the QR code to find out more about our workshops and how they can fit around your busy life.



admin@families thriving together.org.uk



www.families thriving together.org.uk



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- Antenatal and postnatal learning pathways for the foundations of emotional health
- Children's early development and behaviour
- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Adolescence and young people's mental health
- Adult emotional health including trauma

For healthier relationships and happier lives.

Residents of **SURREY**

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