



DARLEY DENE DISPATCHES

Empowering success through a strong and respectful home-school partnership

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Headteacher's Message

We have had another fantastic week at Darley Dene. Yesterday, we hosted our Meet the Teacher and Community Showcase event which was a wonderful success. Thank you to every parent and carer who attended and took the time to explore the classrooms. It was lovely to see the children glowing with pride as they walked you through their learning spaces, shared their early work, and introduced their teachers. I also want to say thank you to all of our local community services, charities, and partner companies who gave up their valuable time to join us. Having these organisations present provides invaluable support and resources to our families, strengthening the community network around our children.

Specsavers have kindly booked out appointment slots on **Thursday 8th October** for Darley Dene children to have their eyes tested. If you didn't have a chance to sign up at yesterday's Community Showcase you can still book an appointment by scanning the QR code.



We are currently looking for parents to join our Local Governing Body. While this might be a role you have never considered before and it can sometimes seem like a big commitment, I can assure you that the time required is very manageable. We provide full training and support to ensure you feel confident and clear in your role. If this piques your interest and you would like to work with us to support all the children at Darley Dene, please come and speak to me on the playground. In the meantime, more details have been sent home in a letter today and you can find a leaflet with key information below.

Our Scholastic Book Fair has been running all week and has been buzzing with excitement. It has been delightful to see so many children eagerly browsing and getting books into their hands with their parents. Beyond fostering a genuine love for reading across the school, every purchase made directly helps us acquire books and learning resources for our school.

There are so many children attending our free Breakfast Club, which is wonderful to see, but please can I remind families to drop children off directly at the main school office. This is vital to know they have arrived safely, rather than leaving them at the outer gate. Similarly, for families with younger children on the playground, please ensure you walk them through the gate so that you and we know they have safely arrived at school.

A reminder that next Friday, 2nd October, is an INSET day. School will be closed to all children on this day.

Have a lovely weekend while the weather is remaining warm.

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

Secondary school place

Year 6 parents please remember to apply for a secondary school place for your child by 31st October 2026. You can apply for a secondary school place from 1st September 2026. Please see link below for the application form.
[Secondary admissions](#)

Inclusion Update

Surrey SEND Ofsted Inspection – Have Your Say

Surrey is currently taking part in an inspection of services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) are carrying out the inspection to look at how well education, health and care services work together to support children and young people with SEND, from birth through to age 25.

Ofsted would like to hear from parents and carers

As part of the inspection, Ofsted and CQC would like to hear directly from **children and young people with SEND, their families and the professionals who support them.**

Parents and carers are invited to share their experiences of SEND support in Surrey through a short, anonymous online survey. Your views are important and will help inspectors understand what is working well and where improvements may be needed.

The survey closes at 9am on Wednesday 30 September 2026.

[Complete the Ofsted SEND survey](#)

Time to Talk

As part of our ongoing work with **around Oracy**, our weekly **Time to Talk** questions will use different *Springboards for Talk* to encourage meaningful conversations at home. These prompts help children develop confidence in sharing their ideas, listening to others and explaining their thinking.

Sometimes, Always, Never

Starting something new is **always exciting, sometimes exciting or never exciting.** What do you think? Why?

Maths

✖ MATHS IS LEVELING UP! ✖

What a sensational week of Maths we've had across the school! 🧠 ⚡

As you can imagine, anticipation is reaching a fever pitch for our upcoming **Times Tables Rock Stars House Battle!**

🏆 The Battle Breakdown:

- 📅 **When:** Starts **Monday** through to **Thursday evening**
- ⌚ **Daily Limit:** 1 hour maximum per day (keep those speed sessions sharp and focused!)
- 👥 **Competitors:** Years 3, 4, 5, and 6

Those fingers are going to be pulsing on the keys and those numbers will be crunching at record speeds! Every correct multiplication and division earns crucial points for your House.



⚡ Let the battle of the bands begin! Which House will claim the top spot? ⚡

⚡ Who will be at the top of the Leaderboards ⚡



Reading

It has been wonderful to see so many children around school enjoying their new books from the Book Fair! From sharing exciting discoveries with friends to getting completely absorbed in a new story, there has been a real buzz about reading across Darley Dene. Thank you to all of our families who supported the Book Fair and helped us continue to build a love of reading.

This week, we also enjoyed a special whole-school assembly where we learned about Dolly Parton and her Imagination Library. The children discovered how Dolly's own love of reading inspired her to create a programme that provides free books to young children, helping families around the world enjoy reading together. We talked about how something as simple as sharing a book can inspire imagination, build a love of learning and make a lasting difference.

Try This at Home: Find Your Perfect Reading Spot!

Encourage your child to find their own cosy or unusual reading spot at home and spend 10–15 minutes reading something of their choice. It could be under a blanket, surrounded by cushions, in a homemade den or even out in nature! Giving children the freedom to choose what, where and when they read can help reading feel enjoyable.

PE

It has been great to see the children getting stuck into their PE units over the past few weeks! This week, football trials were held for our Year 5 and 6 girls' and boys' football teams. Well done to everyone who took part, showed a positive attitude and played the game in the right way. Keep an eye out for news about our upcoming fixtures!

We are also very excited for our **Great Athletes event on Thursday 1st October**. A huge thank you to everyone who has sponsored the children so far - your support is greatly appreciated. We are looking forward to a fantastic day of fitness, fun and inspiration!

Harvest Festival 2026

At Darley Dene, we are excited to be hosting our very own Harvest Festival! As a school community, we will be collecting non-perishable food items to support **Runnymede Foodbank** and help local families in need. Children and staff are invited to start bringing their donations into school from **Monday 5th October**. We will also be turning our collection into a House Competition - more information will follow! On **Wednesday 7th October**, we will be joined by our local church, St Paul's, for a special Harvest celebration. We are really looking forward to celebrating Harvest together and seeing our school community support such an important local cause.

Hello Yellow Day 2026

On **Friday 9th October**, we'll be celebrating Hello Yellow Day. Children and staff are invited to wear a yellow accessory or item of clothing alongside their usual school uniform. Think yellow socks, bows, headbands, hats, badges or bracelets – the brighter, the better! Hello Yellow Day helps us raise awareness of children and young people's mental health and reminds us how important it is to talk, listen and look out for one another. We can't wait to see our school glowing **YELLOW!**

The Dynamos

A huge thank you to all of our classes for taking the time to complete their Dynamo applications. It was a pleasure to read them and see just how much thought, care and enthusiasm our children put into their applications. Yesterday, our 2026–27 Dynamos were officially appointed! They proudly stood up in assembly and were introduced to the whole school as the **voice of the children within our community**.

Family Dynamos

Our Family Dynamos have been running for a few years now, and we have been so thrilled by the fantastic engagement and support from our families at school events. With the help of our wonderful school community, these events are able to happen and be such a success. As the academic year is now in full swing, we will be holding our first Family Dynamo meeting on **Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 8.50am**. During the meeting, we will be looking ahead to upcoming events, sharing ideas and thinking about fun ways to raise money for our school.



Our first Family Dynamo event of the year will be the Pumpkin Competition on **Thursday 15th October**. We will need a group of Family Dynamos to help us with the very important job of judging the entries!

We would love to see familiar faces as well as welcome any new families who would like to get involved. Your time, ideas and support really do make a difference, and we hope you can join us!

Second Hand Uniform Shop

We are thrilled to introduce our new Second-Hand Uniform Shop, which will be available on the playground every other Thursday. All uniforms will be provided free of charge. If you have any unwanted uniforms in good condition, we would be very grateful for your donations. Please drop off donations at the school office, ensuring that all names have been removed. The next shop will take place **on Thursday 1st October**. If you require uniform support before then, please contact our HSLW, Catherine Webb.

House Competitions

Next week is the ultimate Battle of the Houses! Children in Years 3–6 will take part in an exciting Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) Battle. Which house will come out on top, become our champions and show off their fantastic times tables skills? Then, Thursday lunchtime, Mr Bartlett will take on the children in a penalty shootout! Who will keep their cool, hit the back of the net and score the most goals? Let the House Battles begin!

Cauliflower Cards

Today Christmas cards were sent home. Families have the opportunity to purchase their child's design to make into Christmas cards, mugs or much more. Please follow the information on the sheet and return the design to school by **Thursday 1st October**.

Year 1 Stay and Play Session

We are delighted to welcome our Year 1 families into school for a Stay and Play session on Tuesday 13th or Wednesday 14th October 2026. Further information, including session details, will be shared via email early next week. We look forward to welcoming you!

October Half Term Holiday Camps

Bookings for the Foxhills Community Camps for October are now open. These camps are funded by the Hayton Charitable Trust (Foxhills) and organised by Runnymede Borough Council.

Spaces are first come first served and children need to attend for the full week. More details about what the camps involve can be found on the booking link. Please cancel if your child can no longer attend.

They are completely free for children in receipt of Pupil Premium.

To book, please visit: [Foxhill's Holiday Camp](#)

School nurse drop in Service: 9-10am Friday 9th October

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/carer 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Catherine Webb (HSLW) Telephone: 01932 847674 Mobile: 07387 700 236

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 00255

Email: scfh.contact@hcrccaregroup.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)



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

Aarish
Leo D
John
Ronnie
Aya

Jigsaw

Mayla
Hairam
Marya
Eyup
Lorelai

Sports Stars

Lexi
Amber
CJ
Leo S
Josh
Arabella

Maths

Kayden
Bradley
Andrei
Dolcie
Isabelle
Bahar

Writing

Yeva
Ellie
Anisa
Levy
Hanna
Ada-Marie

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: Archie

Nursery: Tade, Aria-Delilah

Reception: Louis

Year 2: Eslem, Isabella

Year 3: John, Anisha

Year 4: Amelia-Violet, Eleen, Leelou, Levy

Year 5: Chloe, Roni

Year 6: Alan

Timetables Rockstars

Elif, Reuben, Reni

Messages from the School Office

Privacy Notice for Pupils, Parents and Carers

Under data protection law, individuals have a right to be informed about how the school uses any personal data that we hold about them. We comply with this right by providing 'privacy notices' (sometimes called 'fair processing notices') to individuals where we are processing their personal data. Our Lumen Learning Trust privacy notice for pupils, parents and carers explains how we collect, store and use pupil & parent/carers personal data. This document can be found via this link: [General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR](#)

Your child's profile name within Google Classroom

Your child will automatically be provided with their own personalised profile to enable them to access Google Classroom as part of their educational experience at our school. This is a fantastic online tool that allows a virtual learning environment to connect teachers and classmates from any location. Additionally, both in certain and uncertain times it ensures that we can provide a safe, secure and reliable way to continuously deliver education. You can read more about our remote learning offer, how and why we use Google Classroom and the security of your child's data by visiting our school website and navigating to Curriculum > Online Learning.

Each child has a unique profile which represents them in the online classroom, this is comprised of a name tag. Only the individuals in the virtual class can view this profile and all members of a Classroom are bound by the Lumen Family Acceptable Use of ICT Agreement and E-Safety Rules. For clarity purposes their name tag is comprised of their forename and surname. However, if you would like your child's profile name to show only the first initial of their forename and full surname please do contact our school office who can action this for you.



Sharing data and information with NHS Surrey to support children to access local health and wellbeing services

Surrey Children's Community Health Provider, Children and Family Health Surrey request regular information from us about our children to support planning and delivery of school-based health screening at different points of a child's life. Information provided to them by the school is Name, Gender, Address and DOB. Assurances have been received from the Service that this request is in accordance with Government guidelines and adheres to the required Data Protection standards. If you would like further information please refer to <http://childrenshealthsurrey.nhs.uk>
<https://childrenshealthsurrey.nhs.uk/about-us/privacy-policy>

Darley Dene Nursery

Spaces for January are limited, we encourage you to submit your application as soon as possible.

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.



KS2 Healthy Snacks

Please remember to send your child into school every day with a healthy snack or a piece of fruit.

Breakfast Club

A payable session is available from **07.30-08.00am** for **£2.50 per day**. This is also available to book via the ScoPAY App

Paid session: Every morning 7.30-8.00am

Free session: Every morning from 8.00-8.30am

For parents using the Before School Club, we ask that you do not drive into the school car park but park and walk your child into the Club and confirm with the staff member whether your child is having breakfast.

After School Club

Our Before and After School Clubs are run by Darley Dene staff for children in Reception to Year 6. This is a popular facility. Therefore, places must be booked in advance to ensure we have the correct staffing levels to enable us to fulfil our safeguarding expectations.

Opening Hours: Every afternoon after school till **4.30pm** (For Children from Year Reception through to Year 6)

Cost: includes activities, fruit and a snack tea

£7.50 per session

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.

Parking

Please be considerate to the local residents whilst dropping off your children at school. Thank you

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.

Entrance to School

Entrance to the school should be via the main school gates only between 08.30am - 08.45am. 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

Autumn term menu available [click here](#)

Please continue to pay for lunches through your School Grid account.

Nursery **£2.75**

KS2 **£2.80**

Vacancies

Darley Dene Primary School is recruiting: We are seeking to appoint a highly enthusiastic, proactive, flexible and reliable individual for the role of Teaching Assistant. This is an opportunity for individuals who are patient and emotionally resilient to join our friendly, inclusive and inspirational team of teaching and support staff.

If you actively enjoy working with children in a stimulating and creative environment, have experience ideally within the education sector and are professional in your approach with a desire to make a lasting personal contribution to our children's lives, we want to hear from you. For more information please visit: [Teaching Assistant](#)

Saxon Primary School is recruiting: We are looking to recruit a Teaching Assistant with a passion for creating lifelong learners, committed to inclusion who has a high expectation of themselves and every child. Working Hours: Monday to Friday, term time only (38 weeks per year) 31.25 hours per week, 8.30am to 3.15pm.

For more information on these roles please see: [Teaching Assistant](#)



Upcoming Diary Dates

Term Dates 2026 - 2027

Autumn Term

Mon 28th Sept - Thurs 1st Oct - TTRS Battle

Thurs 1st Oct - AIM High St George's Year 5 & 6 Maths

Thurs 1st Oct - House Competition: Penalty Shoot Out

Fri 2nd Oct - INSET DAY 3

Mon 5th Oct - House Competition: Harvest Challenge Launch

Wed 7th Oct - Individuals and Siblings Photos

Fri 9th Oct - Whole School Coffee Morning

Fri 9th Oct - Hello Yellow Day

Tues 13th Oct - Wisley Gardens Trip - Year 6

Tues 13th Oct - Year 1 Stay and Play Session 1 - 9:10am-9:45am

Wed 14th Oct - Year 1 Stay and Play Session 2 - 9:10am-9:45am

Thurs 15th Oct - Family Dynamo: Design a pumpkin Competition

Thurs 15th Oct - Reception and LAN Centre Crazy Hair Day

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

Mon 9th Nov - Family Consultations 4:30pm -7:30pm

Tues 10th Nov - Diwali Dance workshop - EYFS & KS1

Tues 10th Nov - Reception 27/28 Open Afternoon - 3:30pm-4:30pm

Wed 11th Nov - Family Consultations 3:30pm - 6:00pm

Tues 12th Nov - House Competition: Spelling Bee

Mon 16th Nov - Fri 20th Nov - Anti Bullying Week

Mon 16th Nov - Odd Socks Day

Tues 17th Nov - Fri 20th Nov - Year 6 Bristol

Fri 20th Nov - Children in Need (Mufti Day)

Fri 20th Nov - Year 4 Cake sale

Tues 22nd Nov - LAN Centre Stay and Play Session 2.30pm - 3.00pm

Tues 22nd Nov - Nursery Stay and Play Session 1 2.15pm - 2.45pm

Mon 23rd Nov - Superhero Day

Mon 23rd Nov - Reception Stay, Play and Learn Session 1 2pm - 3pm

Wed 25th Nov - Reception Stay, Play and Learn Session 2 2pm - 3pm

Thurs 26th Nov - Year 3 Local Walk

Thurs 26th Nov - Nursery Stay and Play Session 2 2.15pm - 2.45pm

Mon 30th Nov - Fri 4th Dec - Last week of Enrichment Clubs

Wed 2nd Dec - EYFS and KS1 Nativity Performance 1 9:15am

Thurs 3rd Dec - EYFS and KS1 Nativity Performance 2 9:15am

Mon 7th Dec - Fri 11th Dec - House Competition: Design a Christmas Bauble

Tues 8th Dec - AIM High Writing Day Y5-Y6

Tues 8th Dec - Family Dynamo Event - EYFS and KS1 Christmas Movie Night

Thurs 10th Dec - Family Dynamo Presents: KS2 Movie Night

Tues 15th Dec - KS2 Christmas Concert 1.50pm at St Paul's

Wed 16th Dec - Pantomime

Wed 16th Dec - Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch Day

Thurs 17th Dec - Winning House Team Party

Fri 18th Dec - End of term 1:00pm



Spring Term 2027

Tues 5th Jan - INSET DAY 4

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 5

Thurs 22nd Jul - INSET DAY 6

Kind regards



Zoe Devonport
Headteacher





A Parent Governor

We are seeking a person who fits the following description:

-  Currently has a child or children in our school;
-  Has an open and enquiring mind;
-  Shows a willingness to listen and make informed judgements;
-  Is able to work well with others;
-  Is interested in education generally and our school in particular;
-  Has a desire to play a part in supporting and developing our school;
-  Is willing to give about 15 hours per term to attend meetings, read papers, carry out a school visit and complete training.

If you match the above description, you could be the very person to become a parent governor. Everyone has something to offer and we want people from as many backgrounds and interests as possible.

Reward

In return we can offer:

- ▶ An insight into the wider perspective of the school through long-term planning;
- ▶ A chance to develop skills in strategic management;
- ▶ The opportunity to work with our team of Trustees, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Governors and Staff in developing our school;
- ▶ Training to develop an understanding of specific school management issues;
- ▶ The support and assistance of the Lumen Learning Trust (LLT) Trustees;
- ▶ A sense of achievement in making a difference for the children in our school;
- ▶ The pleasure of seeing children thrive and become successful learners.

The role of the Local Governing Body (LGB) of our school:

- ▶ Is a committee of the Trust Trustees and has an advisory role, to support the Trustees, in providing support and challenge to the senior leaders;
- ▶ Supports the CEO and Headteacher in their monitoring role within the context of the school's key performance indicators;
- ▶ Supports the CEO in their role regarding duty of care for Headteachers;
- ▶ Supports the Headteacher in their role regarding duty of care for staff;
- ▶ Works collaboratively with the Headteacher on the strategic planning and leadership of the school by adding strength and integrity to evidence cited by the leadership team through questioning, visiting and seeing for yourself what action leaders are taking to achieve the school priorities;
- ▶ Collaborates with governors and school leadership teams from other LLT schools along with Trustees and the CEO in considering impact of decisions;
- ▶ Keeps abreast with National & local 'landscapes' affecting schools.

Governors link communities and schools

Governors are the link between the school and the community and representatives of all those with an interest in the well-being and reputation of the school are needed.

We are all volunteers, working in our own time, and we are all busy people. However, we feel that we gain much in personal development as well as satisfaction that we have played an important part in improving education in the local community.

Teamworking

We work together as a team, with a collective responsibility.

Different people

The LGB seeks individuals from as many different backgrounds as possible, in order to fully reflect the community the school serves. Everyone has something to offer. Specific training (free) is available to develop an understanding of strategic school improvement.

Representing parents

As a parent governor you will be a governor in your own right, with the same responsibilities as everyone else, to work together as part of the Governing Body for the good of the school.

As a parent governor you do not have to carry out your role in a particular way because you have been pressed to do so by parents - you are not the 'voice' of the parents; you bring your experience of being a parent in the school to the work of the LGB. Objectivity, however, is essential. You are not there to promote the interests of your own children, but all children.

Sometimes a parent governor may be approached with a concern. Parent governors are not there to provide an alternative route to addressing individual parental concerns, although if you do become aware of more widespread disquiet about the school's policy and practice then you should alert the Headteacher and Chair of Governors.

Making a Difference

Governors can make a real difference to the performance of the school and have a real part to play in making the school successful.

As an effective parent governor you:

- Help to decide the priorities for supporting and developing the school;
- Work in partnership with the headteacher, senior leadership team and cooperatively with other governors, to strengthen achievement for all children;
- Prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand, as well as keep abreast of developments in education nationally through the press;
- Take responsibility for your own learning and development, as a governor, including attending training;
- Prioritise your time to enable you to attend in person LGB meetings promptly, regularly, and for the full time;
- Read briefings and newsletters for governors; present a balanced view of issues representing different sections of the community;
- Promote the interests of the school in the wider community;
- Respect the confidentiality of Governing Body affairs. Be loyal to the decisions made by the Governing Body;
- Never promise anyone to 'solve a problem' on your own;
- Never press your own child's case at the expense of others;
- Declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where you, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain, or where you are so close to a matter discussed it is difficult to be impartial;
- Abide by the LGB code of conduct and Visits policy and work within the LGB terms of reference;
- Use the Nolan Principles of Public Life, as guidance for your governor role.



Lumen Learning Trust
Learning together for a brighter future