



DARLEY DENE DISPATCHES

Empowering success through a strong and respectful home-school partnership

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Headteacher's Message

As we reach the end of our first half term, I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all our parents and families for your incredible support so far. It has been a wonderful start to the academic year. Please remember that we now have a two week half term break ahead of us and we look forward to welcoming all the children back to school on Monday 2nd November. Looking ahead to returning, the school office has sent out all the essential information regarding Family Consultations, including details on how to book your slots. During these meetings, important information about your child's start to the year and support in place are shared so all our families should attend. Please note that these consultations will take place during our second week back.

We have had two exciting school trips this week that have brought learning to life. As I write this newsletter, Year 6 are exploring RHS Wisley Gardens enjoying the beautiful outdoor environment and taking part in a workshop. Yesterday, Year 4 had a fantastic time visiting the London Wetland Centre for their Generation Wild adventure. Our Young Carers meet-up took place on Monday, and the children thoroughly enjoyed spending time together, sharing experiences, and supporting one another in their shared roles.

Our Governors have also been on site this week; Mr Bartlett and Miss Legg led the visits that focused closely on Oracy and Foundational Skills for children across the whole school. Further visits are already in the diary for November.

A massive thank you to all the families who took part in our Family Dynamo Pumpkin competition. You are such a creative bunch! The children absolutely loved being part of this whole-school Autumn event. It was also wonderful to see so many of our families at the Year 1 Stay and Play sessions this week. These sessions are incredibly useful for seeing school life in action and I would like to thank Miss Legg and the Year 1 team for organising them and to you for attending.

While we always prioritise having our families on site to work alongside each other, please can I remind everyone that recording on the school site with any device is strictly prohibited. Signs are visible around the school to remind visitors of this, which is in place to ensure the safety of everyone in our community. On a similar note, please remember that we do not allow smoking, including vapes, on the school premises and animals must not be brought onto the school site. If you ever have any concerns, please speak directly to a member of staff at that time so that the issue can be resolved at that moment. Finally, I would like to remind families that children are not permitted to have smart technology in school. This includes smartwatches and air tag style tracking devices, in line with our child protection policy. Thank you for your support in keeping our school safe.

I hope you all have a wonderful but restful two week break and we look forward to seeing you in November.

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](#)

Nursery and LAN Stay and Play Sessions

Next half term we are excited to welcome families into school for stay and play sessions in our Nursery and LAN classrooms. This is a valuable opportunity for families to see their child's future provision and learn more about their learning environment.

Nursery: Tuesday 24th November 2026 2.15-2.45pm
Thursday 26th November 2026 2.15-2.45pm

LAN: Tuesday 24th November 2026 2.30-3pm

Nursery and Reception Open afternoon for New Families

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

Come and
see our
wonderful
school!

You are invited to our

**DARLEY DENE PRIMARY
NURSERY & RECEPTION
OPEN AFTERNOON**

Tuesday 10th November
3:45pm - 4:30pm

Come with your child for a stay & play
session between 3:45pm and 4:30pm.

- Meet our
EYFS team
- Explore our
indoor & outdoor
learning spaces
- See some of
our children's
work
- Ask
questions

Generated with Chat GPT and Canva

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.

Would You Rather...?

Would you rather be the first person to try something new or wait and watch someone else try it first?



Inclusion Update

Inclusion Explained: What is an Intervention?

In previous weeks, we have explored Inclusion, Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) and the Graduated Approach – Assess, Plan, Do, Review. This week, we are looking at interventions and how they support children's learning and development.

What is an intervention?

An intervention is a planned, targeted activity designed to help a child develop a particular skill or address an area where they need extra support.

Interventions may take place individually or in small groups and can focus on areas such as:

- Reading, phonics, spelling or maths.
- Language and communication.
- Fine motor skills and handwriting.
- Social skills and emotional regulation.

How are interventions chosen and reviewed?

Interventions are identified through the Graduated Approach – Assess, Plan, Do, Review. Staff identify a child's needs, plan appropriate support, put it in place and review the impact to decide on next steps.

Does receiving an intervention mean my child has SEND?

Not necessarily. Interventions can benefit any child who needs extra help or practice with a particular skill. For children with SEND, interventions may form part of a wider package of support alongside inclusive classroom teaching and Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP).

The aim of an intervention is to help children overcome barriers, build confidence and make progress in their learning. If you would like to know more about the support your child may be receiving, please speak to your child's class teacher at our upcoming family consultations.

RE Pause Day: Diwali

As part of the Diwali Pause day on Tuesday 10th November, children in the LAN centre, EYFS and KS1 will take part in a Diwali and Bollywood Dance workshop. Through this enrichment opportunity, the children will gain a cultural insight to India and explore traditional stories through dance. Collaboratively, the children will use scarves to create patterns and shapes, while learning dance routines to bollywood music. This cost of this workshop is £4 and payable via SCOPay.

Maths



What a fantastic end to the term! It has been lovely seeing Maths in action across the entire school this week. To help our pupils build strong mathematical foundations, staff took part in training on a targeted counting intervention. This program focuses on ensuring all children know their number bonds to 10 and 20 fluently. By mastering these core facts, children will no longer need to rely on counting on their fingers, giving them a much deeper, more confident understanding of numbers that will support their learning for years to come.



Autumn is a brilliant season for hands-on, practical maths! Using items found outdoors makes learning visual and engaging for children during the half-term break. Thank you for supporting your children with their maths practice at home and don't forget to do Numbots or TTRS practice over the holidays. Short, regular bursts of practice keep those facts active, ensuring that they stay in the children's long term memory.



Reading

A Magical End to Our Book Corner Competition!

The results are in, and we are delighted to announce that Year 3 are the winners of our Book Corner Competition! Their beautiful enchanted forest-themed reading corner has truly brought the magic of books to life! With its wonderful woodland atmosphere and imaginative decorations, it is the perfect place for children to escape into a good story. A huge congratulations to Year 3 for creating such a fantastic space!

We would also like to say an enormous well done to every class for the creativity, teamwork and effort that went into transforming their book corners. It has been wonderful to see so many inviting reading spaces appearing across Darley Dene, and we hope they will continue to inspire a love of reading throughout the year.

Half-Term Reading – Keep the Magic Alive!

With half term just around the corner, it's the perfect opportunity to enjoy a little extra reading at home! Reading doesn't have to mean sitting down with a school book—it can be fun, relaxing and part of everyday adventures.

Here are a few simple ways to keep children reading over the break:

-  Let them choose! Whether it's a comic, graphic novel, magazine, fact book or story, children are more likely to read when they love what they've picked.
-  Just 10 minutes a day! A little reading each day can make a big difference to confidence, fluency and vocabulary.
-  Bring stories to life! Try using silly voices, acting out favourite scenes or predicting what might happen next.
-  Visit your local library! Addlestone Library is a fantastic place to discover new books for free.
-  Be a reading role model! Let your child see you enjoying a book, newspaper or magazine too.

Most importantly, keep reading enjoyable and pressure-free. Half term is a chance to relax, explore new interests and perhaps discover a new favourite author!

Wishing all our Darley Dene families a wonderful half term filled with rest, adventures and a little bit of reading magic!

PE

Well done to all the children for an excellent half-term of PE! It has been fantastic to see everyone so engaged in their learning, developing their skills and showing great enthusiasm across all lessons.

A huge shout-out to our Year 5 and 6 football team, who won their first-round match in the Surrey Cup and have progressed to the next round! A brilliant achievement – well done to everyone involved!

Please see below the updated PE timetable for next half-term, which outlines the days your child will need to come to school in their PE kit.

Class	Day
Reception	Thursday
Year 1	Monday
Year 2	Monday
Year 3	Thursday
Year 4	Friday
Year 5	Wednesday
Year 6	Wednesday

Family Dynamos

A massive well done to all the children who took part in our fantastic Family Dynamo Pumpkin Making Competition! It was wonderful to see so much creativity, imagination and effort put into the pumpkins. Miss Johnston announced the winners during Friday morning's assembly, and a huge congratulations goes to all our winners! A big thank you to all our families for supporting this brilliant house competition and helping to make it such a success!



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

Maizah
Ana Julia
Jayleen
Tyler M
Tyler Mu

Jigsaw

Amber
Noah L-A
Zion
Manha
Arabella

Sports Stars

Eymen
Leo M
Cristian
Raven
Lukas

Maths

Marcel J
Rory
Azeemah
Dev
Franek
Shylla

Writing

Adelina
Jacob
Elfida
Janani
Lizzie
Advika

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: Athaliah, Asel

Year 1: Rhuno, Mahadev

Year 3: Remi, Alyssia

Year 4: Mirac, Leelou, Eyup, Dolcie, Payton

Year 5: Tyler, Lukas

Year 6: Aaliyah

Timetables Rockstars

Curtis, Dolcie, Lorelai

Messages from the School Office

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.



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

**Spaces are available for
2-4 year olds starting
in January.**

Need more information?
Please contact
Mrs Surey, Admissions Officer via email at
office.darleydene@lumenlearning-trust.co.uk
or call 01952 847674



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](#)

Riverbridge Primary School is recruiting: We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic and creative individual who can bring high quality support to children in Early Years Foundation Stage. This is an opportunity for someone who is patient and emotionally resilient to join our friendly, inclusive and aspirational team of teaching and support staff.

For more information please visit: [Early Year Teaching Assistant Part-time](#)

Riverbridge Primary School is recruiting: We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic and creative individual who can bring high quality support to children in Early Years Foundation Stage. This position combines classroom-based support as an Early Years Teaching Assistant with class leadership responsibilities as a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant. This is an opportunity for someone who is patient and emotionally resilient to join our friendly, inclusive and aspirational team of teaching and support staff.

For more information please visit: [EYFS Teaching Assistant and Higher Level Teaching Assistant Combined Role](#)

Riverbridge Primary School is recruiting: We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic and creative individual who can bring high quality support to children in Early Years Foundation Stage. This is an opportunity for someone who is patient and emotionally resilient to join our friendly, inclusive and aspirational team of teaching and support staff.

For more information please visit: [Teaching Assistant](#)

Riverbridge Primary School is recruiting: We are looking to appoint a Breakfast Club Assistant to join our thriving and extremely popular Breakfast Club community, working with an amazing, already established, team of likeminded people, committed to offering first class 'wraparound' care to our Riverbridge children. This is an opportunity for someone who is patient and emotionally resilient to join our friendly, inclusive and aspirational team of teaching and support staff. For more information please visit: [Breakfast Club Assistant](#)

Riverbridge Primary School is recruiting: We are looking to appoint an After School Club Assistant to join our thriving and extremely popular After School Club community, working with an amazing, already established, team of likeminded people, committed to offering first class 'wraparound' care to our Riverbridge children. This is an opportunity for someone who is patient and emotionally resilient to join our friendly, inclusive and aspirational team of teaching and support staff. For more information please visit: [After School Club Assistant](#)



Upcoming Diary Dates

Term Dates 2026 - 2027

Autumn Term

Mon 19th Oct - Fri 30th Oct - Half term (two weeks)
Mon 2nd Nov - Children return to school
Mon 9th Nov - Family Consultations 4:00pm - 7:00pm
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 - Thurs 19th Nov - England Rocks TTRS Battle
Tues 17th Nov - Fri 20th Nov - Year 6 Bristol Residential
Tues 17th Nov - Kindness Workshop KS1 - KS2
Fri 20th Nov - Children in Need (Mufti Day)
Fri 20th Nov - Year 1 Chertsey Museum Toys of the Past Workshop
Fri 20th Nov - Year 4 Cake sale
Mon 23rd Nov - Superhero Day
Mon 23rd Nov - Reception Stay, Play and Learn Session 1 2pm - 3pm
Tues 24th Nov - LAN Centre Stay and Play Session 2 2.30pm - 3.00pm
Tues 24th Nov - Nursery Stay and Play Session 1 2.15pm - 2.45pm
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



Term Dates 2027 - 2028

Autumn Term

Wed 1st Sept - INSET DAY 1
Thurs 2nd Sept - Children return to school
Fri 2nd Oct - INSET DAY 2
Mon 18th Oct - Fri 29th Oct - Half Term
Tues 21st Dec - End of term 1:00pm

Spring Term

Tues 4th Jan - Children return to school
Mon 14th Feb - Fri 18th Feb - Half Term
Fri 31st Mar - End of term 1:00pm

Summer Term

Tues 18th Apr - Children return to school
Mon 29th May - Fri 2nd Jun - Half Term
Fri 14th Jul - End of Term 1:00pm
Mon 17th Jul - INSET DAY 3
Tues 18th Jul - INSET DAY 4
Wed 19th Jul - INSET DAY 5

Kind regards



Zoe Devonport
Headteacher







Little Stars

A SUPPORTIVE PLAYGROUP
FOR FAMILIES CARING FOR
CHILDREN WITH
ADDITIONAL NEEDS

We provide a safe, non-judgmental space for families to meet and make friends with others who truly understand the often overwhelming journey of caring for a child with additional needs.

We provide support in accessing early years services and can signpost families to the assistance they may need.
Families can enjoy a light lunch together and there is soft play equipment and sensory toys for the children to play with.

No diagnosis needed: all are welcome, at any stage of their journey. Parents can attend with or without their children.

When: Tuesdays 10.30am - 1pm

Where: St. Peter's Church Hall,
Windsor Street, Chertsey, KT168AT

Email: annie.burnham@stpeterschertsey.org.uk

**£2 DONATION
PER FAMILY**





Images used provided by: St. Paul's Church Addlestone, Early Years SEND Team and White Lodge.

