DARLEY DENE DISPATCHES

Empowering success through a strong and respectful home-school partnership

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Headteacher's Message

I hope you all had a restful October half term. It has been fantastic welcoming the children back into school this week, ready for a busy and exciting term ahead.

As the weather has turned significantly colder, please ensure your child comes to school with a coat every day, along with hats and gloves as needed. We endeavor to give the children outdoor play and fresh air in all weathers, so having appropriate warm clothing is essential. Thank you for your support with this. Also, due to the darker evenings, Year 5 and Year 6 children are no longer permitted to walk home alone after attending after-school clubs; they must be collected by an adult on the collection list. Please note that Year 5 and 6 children with permission may continue to walk home independently at the usual 3:15 pm dismissal time.

You will have noticed our new wonderfully landscaped courtyard area. This is part of our ongoing outdoor projects. Just as with the playground equipment, please remind your children to stick to the paths and avoid walking on these spaces. Mrs. Butler successfully secured two grants from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and Runnymede Council. Thanks to these funds, we will soon be adding extra shrubs, trees and a dedicated gardening area near the Year 3 & 4 classrooms.

It has been wonderful to see so many families taking advantage of our free Breakfast Club. It is clearly becoming a positive part of many morning routines, and we are already seeing the impact with a much more settled start to the school day. Please consider this to support your child.

Please continue to follow our policy regarding smart technology in school, including any "AirTag" style devices.On a similar note, if your child travels to and from school with a mobile phone, these must be handed in upon arrival and will not be returned until they leave the site at the end of the day.

A reminder that Parent Consultations are taking place next week on Monday and Wednesday. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and learning. As outlined in our Home-School Agreement, attending these consultations is an important part of working alongside the school to support your child's education. We look forward to seeing our families then.

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

WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL

We would like to remind you that Darley Dene Primary & Nursery School is a nut free school therefore we do not allow any food containing nuts to be consumed anywhere on the school grounds.

Family Consultations

Family Consultations are taking place on Monday 9th November and Wednesday 11th November. This meeting is a valuable opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teacher. If you haven't yet booked a slot, please contact the school office or choose a time slot through SCOPAY.

Curriculum Webs

Earlier this week Curriculum Webs for Autumn 2 were emailed to families. The Curriculum Webs detail the topics and key learning taking place this half term, as well as key dates.
They have also been uploaded to our website: Curriculum Web

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

EYFS Open Afternoon

We're excited to welcome families to our EYFS Open Afternoon next week! If you're looking for a Nursery or Reception place for your child in 2027, please join us from 3.45pm to explore our classrooms and meet our team. Please enter through the Nursery entrance. We look forward to welcoming you!



Dynamos

Our Dynamos are launching fortnightly Class Meetings, giving pupils the opportunity to share their views on school life. As the voice of the children within our school community, the Dynamos will lead discussions, gather their peers' ideas and bring these to Dynamo meetings. These sessions will also help pupils develop their oracy skills by expressing their views clearly, listening carefully and responding thoughtfully to others. We look forward to hearing their ideas!



Outdoor Learning Day

On Monday 9th November the children will be participating in an Outdoor Learning Day. The theme of the day will be ***'You don't need a forest to find wild. Your job today is to discover where nature is hiding at Darley Dene and think about how we can make more space for it.'*** To support us with this day, if you go for a walk or visit a park over the weekend, please collect natural resources to bring into school on Monday.

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. This term we are looking at discussions around Celebrations, Traditions and Kindness.

Would You Rather…?

Would you rather celebrate a special occasion with a big group of people or have a quiet celebration with your family? Why?

Inclusion Update

As the weather gets colder, children will need to bring a few more items to school, including coats, hats, gloves and scarves. This is a great opportunity to help children develop their **independence and organisational skills.**

At home, you can help by:

- Practising putting on and taking off coats, fastening zips and managing gloves and scarves.
- Encouraging your child to pack their own belongings using a simple checklist.
- Having a consistent place at home for outdoor clothing so items are easier to find.
- Labelling belongings to help children recognise and look after their own things.

Small, regular opportunities to practise these skills help children build confidence and independence. Please remember to name all items of clothing.



Reading

We hope everyone had a wonderful half-term break and perhaps even found some time to get lost in a good book. We are buzzing with excitement for our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Spelling Bees next week. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to show off their spelling skills, build confidence and celebrate all of the hard work they have been putting into their learning. Over the weekend, why not encourage your child to practise some of their spellings in a fun way? They could challenge themselves to spell words aloud, create silly sentences using their trickiest words or even hold a mini Spelling Bee at home!

Key Stage 1 Spelling Bee Words:	**Key Stage 2 Spelling Bee Words:**	
Today	**Dictionary**	**Occupy**
School	**Queue**	**Neighbour**
Friend	**Ancient**	**Excellent**
Because	**Vehicle**	**Rhyme**
Whole	**Bruise**	**Language**

PE

Well done to all the children for getting stuck into their new P.E. units this week! Year 5 and 6 have started their dance lessons with our specialist teacher, and it was great to see so much enthusiasm and effort from everyone. Keep up the great work!

Maths

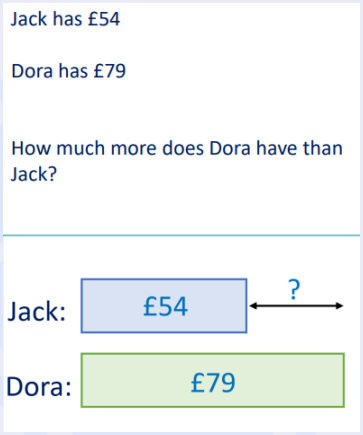
Welcome back, everyone! We hope you had a wonderful break and perhaps even spotted some Maths in action or enjoyed some mathematical chats together over the holiday.

November is always an exciting month for Maths in school because it marks the start of **BARVEMBER!** Bar modelling is a fantastic visual strategy that helps children unpack word problems, see the underlying structures of numbers, and build a much deeper conceptual understanding of Maths.

To celebrate, the children are tackling a bar model problem every day. We would love to have you all at home involved too! Each week during November, we will share a Barvember Challenge of the Week in the newsletter for you to try at home, with the answer revealed in the following week's edition. Good luck and happy Barvember!

BARVEMBER 2026

Week 1



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

Adelina
Jordan
Remi
Harper
Franek

Jigsaw

Kayden
Ana Julia
Ola
Jienna
Reni

Sports Stars

Leo
Sebastian
Evelin
Ronnie
Charlotte

Maths

Lexi
Maheer
Bella-Rai
Marya
Amelia-Violet
Amelia
Jordan H

Writing

Eymen
Eslem
Frankie
Eleigh
Liza
Elsy

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: Aurora, Rana
Reception: Mia, Louis, Stefan, Aadi
Year 1: Kayden, Pablo, Kiara, Alex
Year 2: Eslem, Ellie
Year 3: Elif, Pacifique, Andrei
Year 4: Leelou, Josh
Year 5: Lorelai, Lukas
Year 6: Aaliyah, Caesar

Timestables Rockstars

Ryan, Roni

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.

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.

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.

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

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**

Upcoming Diary Dates
Term Dates 2026 - 2027
Autumn Term
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 Competion: 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 2.30pm - 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



Runnymede Family Centre

Keeping Your Child in Mind

A course for parents to find new ways to work together to support growing families.

Do you want to:

- Understand you child's behaviour?
- Find new ways to deal with challenges?
- Learn how relationships impact children?
- Have a calmer and happier life?

4 week face to face course
Thursdays 7:00pm - 9:00pm
12th Nov - 3rd Dec 2026

Please register your interest by email or telephone:

runnymedefamilycentre@barnardos.org.uk

01932901488

Families Thriving Together

Runnymede Family Centre

The Poplars, Queen Mary's Drive, New Haw KT15 3TT

BARNARDO'S

Changing childhoods.
Changing lives.



WOKING SWIMMING CLUB

NEW MEMBER TRIALS

For children born between **September 2017** and **March 2021** who are interested in competitive swimming

2021 born must be able to swim basic front crawl and backstroke.
2017 born must be able to swim good front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke.

WHEN
Tuesday 10th November 2026 from 6.30pm

WHERE:
Pool in the Park, Woking

REQUEST A TIMESLOT
Or email Christine: wokingsc.newmembers@gmail.com

NOT READY FOR COMPETITIVE SWIMMING JUST YET?
Learn2Swim is a great next step. We have spaces in our upper stages.
Email: wokingsc.learn2swim@gmail.com

citizens advice Runnymede & Spelthorne

Citizens Advice Drop-In Service

November and December 2026

Citizens Advice will be available at the following locations, no appointment necessary

Ashford Library 10am – 12pm every Tuesday Church Rd, Ashford TW15 2XB	**3rd Nov, 10th Nov, 17th Nov, 24th Nov** **1st Dec, 8th Dec, 15th Dec, 22nd Dec**
Addlestone Baptist Church 10am – 12pm 5 Crouch Oak Lane, Addlestone, KT15 2AN	**Tues 10th Nov** **Tues 8th Dec**
Addlestone Library 12pm – 2pm every Thursday Civic Centre, Station Road, Addlestone KT15 2AF	**5th Nov, 12th Nov, 19th Nov, 26th Nov** **3rd Dec, 10th Dec, 17th Dec**
Chertsey 10am – 12pm Beacon Centre, 95 Guildford Street, Chertsey, KT16 9AS	**Weds 4th Nov, Weds 18th Nov** **Weds 2nd Dec, Weds 16th Dec**
Egham 10am – 12pm Virginia Lodge, 68A Station Road, Egham TW20 9LF	**Mon 16th Nov** **Mon 14th Dec**
Englefield Green Village Centre 1pm - 2pm 68 Victoria Street, Englefield Green, TW20 0QX	**Weds 25th Nov** **Weds 23rd Dec**
Staines Library 10am - 12pm every Thursday Elmsleigh Centre, Staines, TW18 4QB	**5th Nov, 12th Nov, 19th Nov, 26th Nov** **3rd Dec, 10th Dec, 17th Dec**
Stanwell Events 10am - 12pm Community Building, Cordelia Park, Stanwell, TW19 7ER	**Fri 13th Nov** **Fri 18th Dec**
Sunbury 10am – 12pm St. Saviour's Church, Vicarage Road, Sunbury TW16 7TP	**Mon 23rd Nov** **Mon 21st Dec**

Please note that our Drop-In service is limited to 15 minutes of initial exploratory advice per person and we are unable to complete forms such as PIP at these sessions. If further, more detailed advice or form filling is required, you will be offered a telephone appointment.

We apologise if you have to queue at busy times, please respect our staff and volunteers. Our queue will close 15 minutes before the published finish time. If you've been unable to obtain advice at our Outreach session, you'll be offered a telephone appointment. Dates correct at time of publishing but subject to amendment at short notice. Please treat our volunteers and staff with respect.

Our freephone Adviceline is open Monday - Friday 10am to 4pm ***(excl. public holidays)***

0808 250 5706

www.randscab.org.uk

Images used provided by: Barnardo's, Woking swimming Club & Citizens Advice