



DARLEY DENE DISPATCHES

Empowering success through a strong and respectful home-school partnership

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Headteacher's Message

We've had a very busy Anti-Bullying Week this week, where the children had many opportunities to think hard about what is bullying and the harm it can cause. Yesterday we were treated to a fantastic house singing competition where each house sang a song focused on the "power of words". Read more about that and the other activities that took place later on in the newsletter.

The weather has been determined to make its presence felt this week as we've had some very heavy rain which has led to a number of wet starts and indoor playtimes. Please could you ensure your child comes to school with a coat and a school jumper that is clearly named?

Don't forget to make a note of the dates for the various Christmas celebrations - details at the end of the newsletter.

Reading

Last week we welcomed one of our local governors, Ms. Jenny Cheetham, who spent time with Mrs. Butler reviewing the developments to our reading provision through all the work that is going into our teaching of Phonics in our younger years. The feedback from this visit was very positive: Ms. Cheetham commented on the calm classrooms, the clear progression from Nursery through to Year 2 and the evident commitment by the staff to ensuring that the provision was just right for every child. We're very grateful for the time our governors give to helping us review all aspects of our provision.

Phonics & Reading Workshop - Tues 21st November 2.00-3.00pm

Staying with Reading & Phonics – don't forget - next week we have our phonics and reading workshop on **Tuesday 21st November from 2pm – 3pm**. During this workshop, we will share with you how we teach phonics and reading in school and the vocabulary used. The importance of reading and how you can support your child(ren) at home with reading. This week you will have received an email from the office with a link to confirm your attendance, please do let us know if you can make it. We hope to see lots of you there.

Anti-Bullying Week

At Darley Dene this week, we have been participating in 'Anti-Bullying Week' and recognising this year's theme 'Make a noise'. On Monday, we started the week by wearing odd socks to show our understanding that everyone is different and that is OK. On Tuesday, Miss Legg and some of the Dynamos led a whole school assembly. A special well done to the Dynamos who took part in this. Within the assembly, we explored Banter vs Bullying and later in the week classes took part in an exciting Banter Vs Bullying debate. Across KS2, the children really enjoyed the opportunity to express their opinions and challenge each others responses. On Tuesday afternoon, everyone enjoyed an across school meet up where classes merged together to focus on communication and team building. Yesterday, KS1 and 2 participated in a house competition focusing on the 'power of words'. Our judges were blown away by everyone's involvement and each team was awarded house points. This week has been a great success and we look forward to many more whole school events throughout the school year.

QUICK LINKS

[Term Dates](#)[School Calendar](#)[Enrichment Clubs](#)[Uniform](#)[School Meals](#)[Robins](#)[Sparrows](#)[Jays](#)[Woodpeckers](#)[Owls](#)[Magpies](#)[Doves](#)[Kingfishers](#)[Eagles](#)

Stay Play & Learn

This week it has been wonderful to welcome parents and carers into school. It's such a wonderful opportunity to see how the children interact in class and they have thoroughly enjoyed having you in their classrooms. Our Stay, Play and Learn looked different in Reception and we ended our session with a short workshop on phonics. We hope you found this useful and you now have more insight into what phonics is, how it looks in school and how you can support at home. If you have any questions, please do ask your class teacher. The more we work together and provide the children with a joined up approach, the better the outcomes for the children.

Apologies to those Reception parents who were due to attend the sessions which were cancelled due to sickness, we will run this session on **Wednesday 22nd November 2pm - 3pm.**

YEAR 4 (DOVES) PARENTS:

Year 4 Residential – "Rise Up": Information Meeting

On **Monday 28th November**, there will be an information meeting regarding the Year 4 residential trip 'Rise Up' that will be happening in May 2024. This will happen at **3.20pm in the Year 4 classroom**, once all the children have been dismissed. More information regarding this trip will be shared with families soon.

Year 6 Junior Citizenship

From Year 6: Yesterday, Eagles class visited Thorpe Park to participate in the Junior Citizen day event. At first, we thought we were going to be able to go into Thorpe Park and go on all the rides.... Instead we had a fun morning taking part in all the activities. One of our favourite experiences was the sport activity when we had to work together to get as many points as possible by swiping lights. We learned so much, especially the first aid session, when we learned how to help someone who is unresponsive and put them in the recovery position. It was fun and exciting and we particularly liked the free bag and soft ball that we were given at the end.

Attendance

We carried out another attendance check this week. Whilst there has been some improvement for a few children, there are still too many children below the expected attendance figure. Letters will be going out to all those families letting them know about their child's attendance and asking if they need help in enabling it to improve.

Every day counts

From time to time it is difficult to make a call as to whether or not your child is well enough to attend school – especially as we are going into the winter months. Please do remember that we can administer medicine – including antibiotics and Calpol etc. You just need to complete the online form which can be found here from our website: [Pupil Medication Request](#)

To help further you may find this NHS information useful <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Whilst it is a last resort, parents whose children's attendance continues to be too low run the risk of being prosecuted by Surrey County Council which can lead to a significant fine – as detailed in last week's newsletter.

Support for parents

From time to time parenting our children through this busy and ever more complex world can feel very challenging. This is a useful website that offers a range of resources for children of all ages, along with a Parent helpline <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/>



Celebration

All of our children are enjoying the opportunity to earn one of the new certificates. Well done to all of the children who have already been successful and good luck to everyone else for the coming weeks.

Oracy Champions

Ayan
Noah L
Elfida
Ada-Marie
Orest
Ardi
Harley

Jigsaw

Eyup
Paige
Jordan
Isabella S
Miguel
Lexi C

Sports Stars

Oscar
Joshua
Bradley
Hanna
Elsy
TJ
Gracie
Zabia

Maths

Ethan
Aria
Denis
Hunter
Lizzie
Amelia
Jayden
Maddie
Taliya

Writing

Raven
Sophia
Advika
Charlotte-Ann
Zenat
Bahar

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.

OWLS: Ethan

SPARROWS: Esmae, Noah M, Denis, Millie, Violet, Isabella, Eddie

JAYS: Reuben, Rory, Olivia

WOODPECKERS: Tyler

MAGPIES: Fatmana

DOVES: Matthew, Jayden,

KINGFISHERS: Cu Chulainn

EAGLES: Lillie, Flynn, Oakley, Roshan, Poppy, Taliya, Ellie

Times Tables Rock Stars

Eddie
Orest
Poppy
Flynn

Explorer of the Week

Year 6 have tutoring sessions with Explore Learning on a weekly basis. Each week a Year 6 pupil will be awarded a certificate for the effort shown, commitment and, the amount of resilience shown towards understanding new concepts in their tutoring sessions. This week the Explorer of the week is **Roshan**



Talk Question

Is something boring because of it or because of you?

For parents of our youngest children, this BBC website is a useful one – full of ideas to help develop your child's language – do have a look: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

Reading - Collins eBooks Update

Following on from last week's newsletter, each class now has access to the Collins eBooks library which they are using throughout the day. The children will practise using their own log ins to read assigned books in reading sessions. Further information about how to access this and successfully use all the features at home will be sent home with your child soon.

Dynamos

On Wednesday, Miss Legg met with one of our governors to discuss our new pupil voice the 'Dynamos'. They discussed the long term vision for the Dynamos and what we hope to achieve here at Darley Dene. A small group of Dynamos then joined to share their thoughts about being a 'Dynamo' and to reflect on their different roles at school.

House Teams

Yesterday, we had a house singing competition for Anti-Bullying week. Each house worked together to perform their chosen and listened carefully to other houses perform. We were all blown away by the children's efforts, well done everyone. A special well done to Meteor, who were the winners closely followed by Comet and Supernova.

At the end of the term, one house will be deemed the winner based on the house point total. The winning house will receive the Darley Dene House Cup, which will be displayed with the relevant house colours. Children and staff in the winning house will also be treated to a house colour themed day and a short house party.

Below is the current House point total:

Meteor	38
Supernova	33
Comet	30



Messages from the School Office

Safeguarding

Now that the days are getting shorter and it is darker earlier, if you would still like your child to walk home alone after an Enrichment Club at 4.20 – we ask that you give us additional permission to enable them to do this. Please contact the school office office.darleydene@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk who can send you paperwork that will need completing.

Absence

If your child is unwell or off school for another reason, please ensure that you phone the school office promptly on the first day of absence by 8:00am and report by pressing 1. We will contact you if your child is not in school when the registers close. For any medical appointments please email a copy of your appointment to the school office.

Uniform

Please ensure that your child's uniform including Coats, Jackets and PE Kits as well as water bottles are named.

Lunch Boxes

Darley Dene is a **nut free** school. Please do not send your child to school with chocolate spread Sandwiches 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 we will call home to request that an alternative be brought in. Thank you for your co-operation.

Medication

If your child has been prescribed with medication which needs to be administered during the school day, please ensure that you complete a Pupil Medication Request form which can be found on the school's website or from the school office. Without the completed form staff will not be able to administer any medication.

Wrap Club

At Darley Dene we offer extended care at our breakfast and after school Wrap Clubs in order to support our families should they require it. Wrap Club is open to pupils in all year groups, including Nursery. At Wrap Club we have a variety of activities for the children to take part in.

- Play dough, puzzles, Rubik's games, book corner, kitchen area. Lego, bingo, transformers, costumes, construction, dominos, 4 in a row, cards, balloons, dolls. Engines, bowling and a wide selection of board games.
- We have plenty of puzzle words, cut-outs, water colour, painting and colouring.
- We promote "Reading for Pleasure" and free art, providing different sorts of materials every week to expand our children's imagination.

Breakfast Club

- The Breakfast Club is a safe, stimulating and nurturing environment, provided for those children who may have parents or carers with work commitments outside of the usual school hours.
- Children who join us for Breakfast Club enjoy an array of activities - **from reading and crafts, to games and puzzles** - supervised by our friendly and experienced team.
- The children are provided with a delicious and nutritious breakfast which includes **bagels, toast, juice, cereal, yoghurts and a variety of spreads and preserves.**
- The Club can be booked online through ScoPay and operates from the school premises from 7.35am until the start of the school day.

If you are interested in finding out more about our Breakfast Club please contact the school office or visit our website.



Diary Dates

Tues 21 st November	Reading Workshop for parents	2.00-3.00
Weds 22 nd November	Reception Stay Play & Learn	2.00-3.00
Tues 28 th November	Year 4 (Doves) parents information meeting about Year 4 Residential: Rise Up	3.20 (in Doves classroom)
Thurs 7th December	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Production	9.15
Tues 12th December	Year 1-6 Pantomime Performance in school for the children.	
Weds 13th December	Christmas Jumper and Festive Lunch in school for the children.	
Fri 15 th December	KS2 Christmas Concert	1:45pm at St Paul's Church, families welcome to attend.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards



Mrs. Mary Ellen McCarthy
Executive Principal



FODD (Friends of Darley Dene) News

Don't forget our school lottery! Tickets are £1 each, buy as many as you like and it is open to friends, family and neighbours.

The weekly prize is 30% of the total school ticket sales for each week, so the more we sell, the bigger the prize!

40% will go to F.O.D.D to help buy extras for the children at Darley Dene, *and* there is also a national draw with the **chance to win £25,000** that you will automatically be entered into.

Please click onto the link below to buy a ticket!

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/darley-dene-primary-school>



CRAFT FAIR

Handmade craft stalls
including miniatures and
terrains, woodwork, wax
melts, badges, sculptures,
frames, jewellery, mugs,
and sweet treats!

Sunday 3rd Dec
11am - 4pm
Geek Retreat
Addlestone

FREE ENTRY

GEEK RETREAT

