

# DARLEY DENE DISPATCHES

Empowering success through a strong and respectful home-school partnership

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## Headteacher's Message

Some families have asked me this week about who is best to speak to with regard to queries they have. In the first instance, your child's class teacher is always the best person to start with. From there, there is a Senior Leader called a Phase Leader for each key stage. If you need a further conversation, after the phase leader, Mrs. Devonport, Mrs. Gardner and I are available.

### **Mrs Butler is the Phase Leader for Early Years and Key Stage One**

Early Years includes Nursery – Robins and Reception – Sparrows

Key Stag One includes Year 1 – Jays and Year 2 – Woodpeckers

### **Miss Legg is the Phase Leader for Key Stage Two**

Key Stage Two includes Year 3 – Magpies, Year 4 – Doves, Year 5 – Kingfishers and Year 6 – Eagles.

I hope that most Year 1 families have had the chance to meet Miss Smit by now. Miss Smit is the full-time teacher in Year 1 from this term and we hope she settles in quickly and feels part of our school community.

I would like to remind everyone that when the school gates open at 3.10pm, this is for families with children in EYFS and Key Stage One to collect their children. The children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, in Key Stage Two, do not finish until 3.15pm and so their classroom doors will not open until this time.

Please see two important attendance leaflets attached to the bottom of the newsletter.

## QUICK LINKS

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

## PE Kit

Thank you for supporting your children with wearing PE kit to school on their PE days; it has been successful. Can I just remind everyone that earrings have to be removed for PE. If your child can do this themselves that is great but if they find it tricky, they will need to come to school without earrings in on their PE days.

## Parent-teacher Consultations **Mon 5<sup>th</sup> February & Weds 7<sup>th</sup> February**

Important dates for all parents to put in their diaries are the dates for the parent-teacher consultations. These will be taking place just before half term on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February from 4.30-7.00pm and on Weds 7<sup>th</sup> February 3.30-6.00pm. Look out for more information about how to book your appointment early next term.

## Theatre Visit

This week Jays took part in a space workshop entitled 'To Infinity and Beyond' hosted by the Freshwater Theater Company. We traveled through time from the days of Christopher Columbus and his ocean crossing to Neil Armstrong and the Apollo 11 space mission. The children thoroughly enjoyed the magic of the performance and actively took part in telling the story creating a truly immersive experience.

## Admissions

A reminder to parents in Nursery that the closing date for Reception applications for September 2024 entry is **15 January 2024**. Surrey CC encourage online applications via <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app>. Full information is available on Surrey's website at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions).

## Uniform

Our children are looking very smart in their uniform – a big thank you to those families who have changed boots for black shoes, this makes a big difference. Occasionally wearing a plain, royal blue polo shirt is fine if your ones with logos on are in the wash. Please do not send your child to school wearing a white shirt or polo shirt or a pale blue polo shirt as these are not part of our uniform.

## Reading Advent Challenge Winners

Congratulations to Lena, Anusha, Roshan, Scarlett and Nethuli for completing the reading competition over the winter break! Each of these children read a different piece of text everyday for 24 days which is such an incredible achievement. In this morning's assembly, they each received 10 house points and their own book to take home. Stay tuned for our next house competition.

## Class Assembly Dates

This term each class will be leading an assembly to showcase their recent learning. We are inviting families of each class to attend the class assembly to be part of the audience. The dates for the class assemblies are listed below and will begin promptly at 9am.

Reception (Sparrows) - **Thursday 21st March**

Year 1 (Jays) – **Thursday 14th March**

Year 2 (Woodpeckers) - **Thursday 7th March**

Year 3 (Magpies) – **Thursday 29th February**

Year 4 (Doves) - **Thursday 1st February**

Year 5 (Kingfishers) – **Thursday 8th February**

Year 6 (Eagles) – **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

In the morning of the class assembly, you will be able to enter the hall directly from the playground after dropping off your children and the playground gates will close as usual at 8:50am. This will allow the class teachers to register the children and bring them to the hall after the audience is already seated.

We are so looking forward to seeing the children lead their assembly for their families. Please speak to the office or your child's class teacher if you have any questions.



## House Competition



Meteor	22
Supernova	28
Comet	29

### Oracy

Whilst walking around the school at the start of term, it has been wonderful to see the progress children have made during partner talk in each lessons. Teachers plan these opportunities to further the children's learning and over the Autumn Term, focused on teaching the children how to build on and challenge each other's ideas appropriately. In the staff meeting this week, we looked at the Oracy Curriculum further, planning how to further embed strategies into our practice. Over the next term, we will be supporting children in ensuring clarity in their talk as well as instigating talk respectfully. The children will continue to be the week's Oracy Champion with certificates given out in assembly every Monday. If your child receives one, ask them why.

### Celebration

All of our children are enjoying the opportunity to earn one of the 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	Jigsaw	Sports Stars	Maths	Writing
Ebrahim Leo D Arabella Aaliyah Harper Jacob S Lillie	Eleen Amelia Jasmine Mia M Ardi Poppy W	Melih Nellie Max Anusha Yusuf Grace Roshan	Mateo Levi Omera Elsie-Jean Olaf Nethuli Bahar	Ethan Leelou Frankie Laavanya Harper Taree Ellie



## Talk Question

If you could be any animal what would you be and why?

### 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.

**SPARROWS: Anisha, Rachel, Cristian, Marya, Fallon, Jayleen**

**WOODPECKERS: Tyler, Max, Paulo, Arabella**

**MAGPIES: Jayden, Laavanya, Anusha**

**DOVES: Tommy, TJ, Harper**

**KINGFISHERS: Lexi, Taree**

**EAGLES: Roshan, Ethan, Skyla**

### Timestables Rockstars

Srisajini

Orest

Poppy

Angela

### Messages from the School Office

#### Safeguarding

Are the contact details we have for you up to date? This is a safeguarding issue. We need to have the contact details of at least 3 people we can ring in case of an emergency.

#### 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, cereal, yoghurts and a variety of spreads and preserves.***

## Our School App

Live and ready for you to install, our school app is available free of charge on your mobile device via the iOS App Store or Android Google Play. Just search for 'School News', look for the dark blue logo (right) and install to give you access to the key parts of our website including our website school calendar, a quick contact tab as well as handy extras to connect you to key school information and online forms. The app calendar will even allow you to add school events to your own device calendar so you need never miss an important date again. Make sure you install it today!

Please visit this link for full instructions on how to install the app on your device: [Darley Dene School App](#)

## Lumen Learning Trust Vacancies

**Darley Dene Primary School in Addlestone is recruiting** Are you ambitious and keen to make a difference? We are seeking to appoint a highly enthusiastic, proactive, flexible and reliable individual for the role of Teaching Assistant. This is an opportunity for an individual who is patient and emotionally resilient to join our friendly, inclusive and inspirational team of teaching and support staff. For more information please see:

<https://www.eteach.com/job/teaching-assistant-1390677>

**Riverbridge Primary School in Staines is recruiting** We are looking to appoint enthusiastic and creative Teaching Assistants/1:1 Teaching Assistants with a 'can do' attitude who are passionate about making a difference, to join our friendly, committed, hardworking team <https://www.eteach.com/careers/riverbridgeprimary/job/teaching-assistant-1394790>

**Riverbridge Primary School in Staines is recruiting** We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic person to join the team in our extremely popular Breakfast Club <https://www.eteach.com/careers/riverbridgeprimary/job/breakfast-club-assistant-1394819>

## Upcoming Diary Dates

### Spring Term 2024

Thur 18<sup>th</sup> January EYFS Freshwater Theatre Company – Animals

Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> January Ancient Greece Workshop – Year 4





Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 2 Trip to St Paul's Cathedral
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 6 Class Assembly
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Year 4 Class Assembly
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent-teacher consultations 4.30-7.00
Weds 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent-teacher consultations 3.30-6.00
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5 Class Assembly
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Children return to school after half term break
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Book Fair
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 3 Class Assembly
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 Class Assembly
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Class Assembly
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Year R Class Assembly
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> March	End of term 1.00pm

### **Summer Term 2024**

Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Children return to school
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> to Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs (Year 6)
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Half term
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Children return to school after half term break
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> July	End of term for children 1.00pm
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	INSET DAY 4
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	INSET DAY 5

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards



**Sarah Kober**  
**Headteacher**





# ATTENDANCE MATTERS



## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

'Good school attendance gives your child the opportunity of success and helps develop academic and social skills for life'




### Why is good attendance important?

There is much research to prove the link between attendance and achievement and therefore it is very important that your child attends school every day unless there are exceptional circumstances.

### Pupils with good attendance are more likely to do well at school.

When children miss school, even if the time period is very short, it can lead to gaps in their learning which might make future lessons more difficult for them to access. Regular attendance helps children to feel part of the school community and enables them to develop good relationships with their peers and other members of the school community.

"The world is run by those who turn up."

% of attendance in a school year	Number of days absent	Weeks missed	Impact on achievement
98%	4	Less than 1 week 	Will almost certainly achieve full potential
95%	9.5	Nearly 2 weeks	Likely to achieve but could still improve
90%	19 	Nearly 4 weeks	Will be harder to achieve their best
85%	29	Nearly 6 weeks	High risk of under achievement
80%	38	Missing a year of school over the time spent in Primary education	Underachievement is highly likely
Below 80% 	over 38	Missing over a year of school over the time spent in Primary education	Extreme impact on learning and development

### What does the law say?

By law, all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16) must get a suitable, full-time education. As a parent, **you are responsible** for making sure this happens.

As a school, we have a legal duty to mark the register and record the attendance of every child on its roll and to specifically code which children are absent or late and the reasons why.

### What is an authorised absence?

- Your child is too ill to attend school (proof of illness from your doctor may be required).
- An unavoidable medical appointment.
- An agreed leave of absence (Note: A Leave of absence form needs to be completed prior to absence).

### What is an unauthorised absence?

- A family holiday.
- Sleeping in.
- Staying off school because a sibling or parent is unwell.
- Taking the day off because it is your birthday.
- Staying home for deliveries; Any other similar reasons.



## School attendance & your child

A Guide for Parents & Carers

Under the **Education Act of 1996**, 'the parent is responsible for making sure their child receives a full-time education. If a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school, his parent is guilty of an offence.'

Failure to ensure a child receives their educational needs results in a series of fines and prosecutions for the parent.

Did you know?

Child with **NO** absence compared to child who has **less than 90% attendance**



1.3

times more likely to achieve age-related expectations or above



3.1

times more likely to achieve greater depth

Figures taken from DfE report March 2016

What is Darley Dene's view on attendance?



We believe, and research shows, that children who attend school regularly are given the greatest opportunity to learn, develop their skills and to thrive.

Children who frequently miss school are less likely to achieve their full potential.

The more time a child spends around other children, whether in the classroom or as part of a school team or club, the more chance they have of making friends and feeling included, boosting social skills, confidence and self-esteem.

All of these skills contribute to ensuring every child is able to discover confidence, develop independence and build resilience so that each individual child realises their own unique value and can thrive both in our community and beyond.

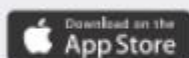




# INTRODUCING: **OUR NEW SCHOOL APP**



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## **UPDATES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS**

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## **NEVER MISS AN EVENT**

Add important dates from the school calendar directly onto your own device.



## **BE THE FIRST TO KNOW**

Enable push notifications to keep updated with important news from your school.



Search for **"School News"** to download the app



## 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>

