



DEVONSHIRE DISPATCH

www.devonshireprimary.org

30th September 2024

Devonshire Diary

[Devonshire website](#)
[calendar](#)

Weds 2nd October - Harvest
(we are supporting Sutton Foodbank)

Mon 7th October – INSET
day (school closed for children)

Thurs 17th October (9am) -
parent/carer coffee
morning – everyone
welcome!

Mon 21st October – Year 6
Junior Citizenship trip

Mon 21st - Fri 25th October
- Aspen class swimming

**Mon 28th – Fri 1st
November** – half term

Mon 4th – Fri 8th November
– Year 6 Bikeability courses

**Mon 4th – Fri 8th
November**– Birch class
swimming

**Weds 6th and Thurs 7th
November** – individual and
siblings photos

Fri 8th November – PSA
disco

Fri 8th November - School
Council trip

**Mon 11th - Fri 15th
November** – Year 6
Bikeability course

A new school year

The new school year has started well. The children have settled well into their news classes and made a good start to their learning for the year. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to those that are new to the school community, our new Nursery and Reception children and their families and new starters further up the school.

Four new staff have joined the Devonshire team: Miss Wright and Miss Hudson are our new teachers. Miss Anatsui-Agvei and Miss Lyall are our new Teaching Assistants.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Meet the Teacher event. The information shared at these meetings is on our school website.

Parents'/Carers' evening is on Thursday 14th November. School closes early on this day (1.20pm Rec – Years 1 and 2/1.30pm Years 3 – 6). All parents/carers will have the opportunity to meet with their child's class teacher for 10 minutes and look at some of their books.

In the recent parent/carer survey, you told us how much you enjoyed coming into school to see your child's work. This year, we are planning more opportunities for parents/carers to do this. Keep an eye on the school calendar for the dates. We will email you details of the dates too.

Website news

You will have noticed that there have been some exciting changes to the look of our school website. It can still be found at www.devonshireprimary.org If you have not had the chance to have look at it, it is well worth having a look, to familiarise yourself with everything that is on there. Thank you to Mrs Love who has co-ordinated the smooth transition to our new website and thank you to parents in our Devonshire community who volunteered their time and expertise to take the photographs for our new website. Thank you to Tom Dulat www.tomdulat.com/ and Haldun and Mine Ozkurt www.controlledhallucination.com/restaurants for all their support.

Kitchen news

A couple of weeks ago, the school kitchen and A-Z kitchen had an Environmental Health Inspection. Both kitchens maintained the top hygiene rating of 5 Stars! Well done and thank you to our catering team and the A-Z Team for maintaining such a high standard of cleanliness.

Playground news

Over the summer holidays, we had work done on our 2 sandpits in the playground. The sandpit under the canopy was completely rebuilt and the sandpit closest to the field had a new roof built to ensure that the sandpits, which are both very popular, can be played in, whatever the weather. We have had a new brick base installed for our mud kitchen and have exciting plans to refurbish the mud kitchen now that we have a base in place. Watch this space...

Sustainability news

Over the summer holidays, we have had new lights fitted in 3 of our classrooms. They have improved the quality of lighting in these rooms and the lighting is more energy efficient.



devonshiresm2



Devonshire Primary School



@DevonshireSM2

Attendance news

We have made a promising start to our attendance this school year. Our whole school attendance is 96.1%, which is in line with our target of 96%. This year, we have introduced an attendance league celebrating the 5 classes with the highest attendance each week. The children enjoy seeing if their class is on the league table and so far this term, we have had 2 classes (Aspen and Larks), leading a weekly league.

Family Support Worker news

A reminder that Mrs Carter-Hodge is our Family Support Worker and is available to support all families. She has a wealth of knowledge and expertise in supporting families and can be contacted through the office email (office@devonshire.sutton.sch.uk).

Maddie West, our attached Education Wellbeing Practitioner, is an important part of the support that we offer to our families. She is part of the Education Wellbeing team who provide support to families, through working with them directly and through webinars that they run. This year, there are a number of webinars, on various topics, taking place. We will be shortly emailing parents/carers with details of these.

PSA news

The PSA have been busy planning an exciting year of events for our school community. If you are new to the school – WELCOME! If you can offer a little of your spare time to help with any of our events, please get in touch via psa@devonshire.sutton.sch.uk

Key PSA dates for your diary:

2nd November – Our first school lottery draw will be taking place with the chance to win up to £25,000! Tickets can be bought online at [Your School Lottery](#) for £1 each

6th November – Our first Bags2School collection of the year. A bag will be sent home with your child for you to fill with your unwanted clothes and shoes for you to return to school.

8th November – School Discos – Reception to Year 6. Further details to follow, but if you are interested at helping at the years 1-6 event, please get in touch. Tickets will be on sale from 7th October at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/devonshirepsa>

29th November – Christmas Jumper Sale. Please bring any pre-loved festive jumpers you no longer need (adults and kids) to the school office.

Thank you to everyone who donated their pre-loved jumpers and cardigans to our **second-hand uniform shop**. Our prices are low - £3 per item, so please get in touch with your uniform needs (<https://www.devonshireprimary.org/page/?title=Uniform&pid=101>).

ASDA – Cashpot for Schools. Please sign up to our cashpot on the ASDA Rewards APP. There is no charge and for everyone person who signs up (even if you never buy anything in ASDA!) we earn £1 for the school.

Carshalton Fireworks (Saturday 9th November) – if you are attending this fireworks display, booking your tickets through this link (<https://www.skiddle.com/e/40089588/?skrep=9067500>), the school get £1 for every ticket sold.

Look out for more exciting events coming up, very soon! Thank you in advance for all you support.

News from the Governors

Look out for an email from the school office announcing the opening of nominations for a new parent governor very soon – we currently have 2 parent governor vacancies. Please do consider whether it could be the role for you or whether there is another parent you could encourage to apply. This rewarding role will give you the opportunity to influence Devonshire's strategic direction and contribute to the policies that underpin the day to day running of the school. Working together with Miss Oastler and the Senior Leadership Team, you have the potential to impact the whole Devonshire community, helping to ensure our children have the best education and experience of primary school as possible. More detailed information will be available soon but please do reach out to those of us currently serving as governors ([Governor's who's who](#)) and we'll be very happy to answer your questions. Several of us are often around at the beginning or end of the school day. Please ask Miss Oastler, Mrs Love, Mrs Scrivens or Mrs Elsey to point us out or speak to the school office. And if you haven't already read it, the Governing Body's Annual Report for 2023-24 is available on the school website and gives a great overview of what's involved - [Governor's annual report 2023 - 24](#)

School Council news

Our new school councillors have been elected and had their first meeting today. Thank you to all children who participated in the elections. We are always impressed by the number of children each year, who want to represent their class on the school council and be part of a group of children who work together on a specific project, always with the aim of making a difference, whether it be to something school related or representing the school at local events. Mrs King, who runs our school council, has some exciting plans for our School Council this year.

Office news

Miss Whittaker, one of our office team, is shortly leaving. We are very grateful for all her hard work over the 11 years that she has been part of the Devonshire team and wish her all the best for the future.

Behaviour

Visitors to Devonshire always comment on our children's behaviour. We were delighted that in the recent parent/carer survey, 95% parents/carers agreed that we have high expectations of behaviour. We have very clear and simple expectations around behaviour, which we refer to as 'green choices'. These are displayed around the school and in classes as a reminder to the children. We talk to the children about the importance of our green choices (learning, listening, being honest, being kind, being helpful, being gentle and sharing) and why they should be kept to – to ensure that everyone can do good learning, be happy and fun at school. Our behaviour management procedures are based on an emotion coaching approach, a well-researched approach that we have found to be very effective. Details can be found in our behaviour policy and procedures.

Christmas

Christmas seems a while off, but it will soon come round. We have planned the dates of our Christmas shows and activities, so that we have them in our diaries and parents/carers can put them in their diaries too. The dates can be found on our school calendar and are set out below too.

Nursery – Wednesday 11th December (11.15am)

Reception – Wednesday 11th December (2pm) and Thursday 12th December (9am)

Year 1 – Monday 9th December (2pm) and Tuesday 10th December (9am)

Year 2 – Thursday 12th December (2pm) and Friday 13th December (9am)

Years 3 and 4 – Monday 16th December (1.45pm)

Years 5 and 6 - Tuesday 17th December (1.45pm)

Christmas dinner day and Christmas jumper day - Wednesday 18th December

Class Christmas parties - Thursday 19th December

More details will be sent to parents/carers in due course, but for now put the dates and times in your diaries.

Parking

Please remember to park considerately when you are parking in Devonshire Avenue and the surrounding roads. With the weather getting colder and wetter, it is inevitable that there will be more cars on the road, especially at the beginning and end of the school day. Do not use the car parks belonging to flats, these spaces belong to the residents of the flats and should not be used by parents/carers who are dropping their child off at school or collecting them, at the end of the day.

Packed lunches

We are making a change to the end of lunch procedures for our packed lunches. Children will be asked to put any rubbish that they have from their packed lunches, in their packed lunch box/container. The main reason for this change is that enables parents/carers to check that children have eaten all their packed lunch or if they have not, what parts of it they have not eaten. It also reduces the amount of rubbish that we are generating as a school.

Late collection

As a reminder, the school day finishes at 3.15pm for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and 3.20pm for Years 3,4,5 and 6. There are a number of children who are not collected at these times, which leads to an unsettled end to their school day. At the end of a school day, children worry if they are not collected at the time that they should be and have to stay longer in school when their classmates have been collected or gone to an after-school activity. At the end of the school day, the school is busy with staff running extra-curricular activities, the school being cleaned and teachers planning learning, ready for the next day. Looking after children not collected, takes staff away from doing these important activities, all of which benefit our children. Where children are collected significantly late (after 3.30pm), and we have not been contacted to let us know, we will be utilising our A-Z club. The children will be taken to the A-Z club and parents/carers charged for the session that their children attend. Parents/carers will need to collect their children from the A-Z club door.

If your child attends an after-school club, please ensure that you check the time that it finishes so that you child is picked up