



DEVONSHIRE DISPATCH

www.devonshireprimary.org

3rd April 2025

Devonshire Diary

Fri 4th April – last day of term (school closes early – 1.20pm Rec, Y1 and Y2/1.30pm Y3 – 6)

Weds 23rd April – first day of summer term

Fri 25th April - Y5 Viking workshop

Mon 28th April – Virtual phonics meeting for Y1 parents/carers (9.30am/2pm)

Mon 28th and Tues 29th April – class photos

Tues 29th April – Y3 trip

Tues 6th May – Y4 trip

Week beginning 12th May - Ash class swimming

Week beginning 19th May – Cherry class swimming

Tues 20th May – Reception Minibeast workshop

Mon 26th – Fri 30th May – Half term

Mon 2nd June – INSET day (school closed to children)

Devonshire's budding scientists

Everyone at Devonshire celebrated British Science Week. Assemblies about the importance of science, and the learning that can come from science, started the week off. During the week, classes focused on science activities and last Friday, we had our very own Devonshire science fair.

Mr Mannin, our science leader, invited children to bring in examples of 'science' to share at our science fair. 50 children, from Reception to Year 6, brought in science learning from home and had their own area in the fair to showcase their work. Many of them brought in practical examples of their learning, enabling visitors to the fair to participate in the activities and have the science behind it explained to them. The fair had a buzz of scientific excitement, with every class visiting it and children learning something new and fun about science. Thank you to all our budding scientists who confidently exhibited their science learning and were so keen to share it with others.

World Book Day

On Thursday 6th March we celebrated World Book Day at Devonshire Primary! World book day is a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and (most importantly) it's a celebration of reading. It was fantastic seeing many of the children and staff dressed up in their pyjamas and settling in to read during the day! Thanks to your donations, we raised £320 towards new books for our school libraries and our Reading Champions are very excited about their visit to Waterstone's this week to purchase some new books. A big thank you also goes to anyone who bought books at the book fair, as this raised over another £500 towards books for our school, which have already proved very popular in the library!

Devonshire out and about

This month has been a busy month, with many year groups having trips. Reception have been to Godstone Farm, Year 1 to Sutton Library, Year 2 to Leeds Castle, Year 3 to Butser Farm and Year 4 participated in the Easter Experience at Sutton Baptist Church. All of these trips support and enrich the learning that the children have been doing in the classroom. It brings their learning to life!

Our children have also been out and about representing the school at a variety of borough sporting events. These have included a hockey festival; a gym and dance festival and 2 Panathlons. All of the children who participated in these activities were excellent ambassadors for Devonshire and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

A special mention must go to our Key Stage 1 Panathlon team, who were all from Year 1 and 2, so between the ages of 5 and 7. They were so excited to be participating in the event and came back to school, having come 2nd and with a trophy to mark their achievement and for us to proudly display in school.

Learning from Virtual Reality (VR)

Year 2 and 4 have had a 'virtual reality' (VR) workshop in school, to support their history learning. It gave them the opportunity to enhance their learning about the Romans (Year 4) and castles (Year 2) through immersing themselves in the virtual surroundings for each of these topics.



Attendance news

Our whole school attendance is currently 95.2%. Eagles class have the highest attendance of 97.8%

Sustainability news

We set ourselves the challenge of making sure that, where possible, we explore more environmentally friendly transport options when travelling to and from school trips and school events. With Year 1 having walked to the library last week, that means that all year groups (Reception – Year 6) have had a trip where their mode of transport was walking and when going further afield (beyond the local area) year groups and school teams have used public transport. Not only is it better for the environment, it also promotes active travel.

PSA news

DISCO THANKS

A huge thank you to the parents/carers who volunteered at our recent discos; Caroline, Vilma, Asha, Kate, Katy, Emma, Luana, Regina, Oksana, Michelle Mc, Michelle and Megan as well as school staff volunteers; Mrs Elsey, Miss Kuziola, Miss Cadman, Mrs Rose, Mrs Anatsui-Agvei, Miss Furnell, Mrs Love, Miss Oastler, Miss Chadwick, Mrs Attrill, Miss Phillips, Mrs Mackinlay, Miss Martin, Mrs Bark, Miss Dourado, Mrs Scrivens, Miss Roy, Mrs Memon, Mr Gardner-Cliff, Mrs Connolly, Mrs Carter-Hodge, Miss Carter-Hodge, Mrs Setter, Miss Byfield and Mrs Byfield. The next discos will be in the autumn term **BUT** we will need more parent/carer volunteers in order for these to go ahead.

SCHOOL LOTTERY

Please buy your tickets from <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/devonshire-primary-school-sutton> to be in with a chance of winning a weekly prize or even the jackpot of £25,000! Tickets cost £1 each and 40% of money raised comes directly to the school PSA charity.

MOTHERS' AND OTHERS' DAY

Thank you to everyone who bought a gift for a special someone in our recent sale – we hope you enjoyed receiving them at the weekend. Thank you to the team; Asha, Kate, Caroline and Mrs Love for all their efforts in organising this opportunity.

SUMMER FAYRE

Remember to get in touch at psa@devonshireprimaryschool.co.uk if you/your business are interested in being a sponsor of our summer fayre or if you would like to run your own stall or volunteer on the day! We will be asking for just 1 hour of your time to help set up, run a stall or tidy up at the end.

Governor news

At our most recent full governing body meeting, we heard about the school's work to support children's mental health and well-being. The school has strong pastoral support that is available to all children. This was recognised by Ofsted when they visited the school in January.

The school are further enhancing their approach to mental health and wellbeing to become trauma informed and have been working with Cognus as part of the Building Stronger Foundations project, alongside other schools. It has been a focus of staff training and is being included within the school's approach to children's mental health and wellbeing. We are hoping that by the end of the school year we will have become accredited for our trauma informed approach and continue the work into the next school year.

Active Journeys to school

With the weather warming up, it is lovely to see our cycle sheds and scooter pods more in use. If your child cycles or scoots to school, please ensure that they dismount the bicycle or scooter when they reach the school gate and walk with them to the cycle shed or scooter pod. There should be no cycling or scooting on the school site. This includes adults, if you bring a scooter on site when you are dropping off or collecting your child.

If your child is in Year 5 or 6 and scoots or cycles to school on their own, please talk to them about the importance of safe scooting/cycling and being aware of other road users, particularly cars, when are crossing roads. This week we were made aware of a Devonshire child scooting across a road, without looking and consequently not being aware that it was not a safe time to scoot across the road. Thankfully there was not a serious accident, but there so easily could have been. We have spoken to all Year 5 and 6 children about safe scooting/cycling, but would be grateful if you could repeat and reinforce this message at home.

Staffing news

Mrs Moat, Nightingales teacher, has had a baby girl – congratulations!

Miss Fitzpatrick, one of our teaching assistants, left at the end of March. We wish her every success for the future and are grateful for her hard work whilst at Devonshire.

Family Support Worker news

**Does your child have big feelings? Is it hard to get to them out of the door in the morning? Is bedtime taking longer and longer?
Does it feel like your child doesn't seem to listen to you?**

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, we can help! Next term we are running a 4-week parenting course to help you with challenges that you may be facing with your child's behaviour. We know that dealing with everyday tricky behaviour is a tough job and the aim of this course is to share skills, tips and strategies to make it feel a little easier.

Maddie West, our attached educational wellbeing practitioner, will be running the course. Further details can be found using the QR code below.



If you have any questions about the course, please speak to Mrs Carter-Hodge, our family support worker.

Broken toys

If you have any broken plastic toys that are no longer fixable, please donate them to the [recycleto read](#) scheme that we have signed up to. Hard, plastic toys only; NO battery powered, electronic or electrical toys, rubber or flexible plastic toys, metal or slime toys, soft toys, puzzles, inflatables, wooden toys, toys with fabric parts or packaging. For every toy donated, a point is earned for our school towards new books. The collection box is next to the post box in Tesco-Extra, Cheam - or they can be given to the school office marked for the attention of the Mrs Love.



General reminders

- Please ensure your child comes to school in the morning with all the things they need for their school day; especially school bags, packed lunches and water bottles. This helps us to avoid disruption to classes during learning time.
- Reminder - Packed lunches should not be brought in containing hot/warm food. If you would like your child to have a hot meal, school dinners offer a healthy range of hot meal options. The school dinner menu can be found via the Parent Portal on the school website so you can discuss meal options with your child.
- Please ensure that you are punctual when collecting your child. The school day ends at 3.15pm for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children and 3.20pm for children in Years 3 – 6. It is unsettling for children if they are not collected on time and can lead to them worrying.
- Lost property is very full and overflowing at times. Please ensure that all items that children bring to school are named. If your child has lost anything, do take a look in lost property as it may well be in there. Weather permitting, lost property will be outside the front of the school this week. At the end of term, all items in lost property will be recycled so that we start next term with an empty lost property.

Easter Holiday activities

With the Easter holidays approaching, there are many activities available for families to access.

Sutton Ecology Centre has a variety of activities on offer – details can be found using this link

[Events in Sutton Ecology Centre](#) | [Events by Location](#) | [Sutton Council's Cultural Services](#)

Whitehall House in Cheam has an Easter Trail for children 3 – 11 – details can be found using this link

[Millie's Easter Adventure: Trail & crafts](#) | [Events](#) | [Sutton Council's Cultural Services](#)

There is an Easter Egg hunt in Sutton on 12th April – details can be found using this link

[Easter Egg Hunt & Market](#) | [Enjoy Sutton](#) | [Discover Experience Enjoy](#)

Sutton Information Hub has an online directory of local activities that are taking place in the Easter holidays, as well as at other points in the year -- [Events](#) | [Sutton Information Hub](#)

Whatever you choose to do in the holidays, have fun and enjoy yourselves!