



# DEVONSHIRE DISPATCH

[www.devonshireprimary.org](http://www.devonshireprimary.org)

27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Devonshire Diary

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March** – last day of term (school closes early – 1.20pm Rec, Y1 and 2/ 1.30pm Y3 – 6)

**Tues 14<sup>th</sup> April** - first day of term

**Weds 15<sup>th</sup> April** - Little Recyclers clothing collection

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> April** – PSA discos

**Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> April**  
- Aspen class swimming

**Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> April** – Y5 Viking workshop

**Tues 28<sup>th</sup>/Weds 29<sup>th</sup> April**  
– class photos

**Tues 28<sup>th</sup> April** – W/peckers & Wrens (Y1) trip

**Weds 29<sup>th</sup> April** - Nightingales (Y1) trip

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> May** – Bank Holiday (school closed)

**Tues 5<sup>th</sup> May** - Virtual phonics meeting for Y1 parents/carers

**Weds 6<sup>th</sup> May** – Y3 trip

**Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> May** - Y4 trip

**Week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> May**  
– Ash class swimming

**Week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> May**  
– Chestnut class swimming

## Out and about

We have been out and about in the community and further afield.

- ✓ Reception have been to Godstone Farm.
- ✓ Year 2 have been to Leeds Castle.
- ✓ Year 4 have been to the Easter Experience.
- ✓ Birch and Hawthorn classes have been swimming.
- ✓ We have sent a team of Devonshire children to a borough hockey festival and a gym and dance festival.
- ✓ Our netball and football teams have been playing matches in their leagues, with our football team playing particularly well in their last match, securing a victory.

When out and about, our children have received compliments on their behaviour and their attitude, not only from the parents who have kindly accompanied the trips but also from the staff at the venues that we have visited. We are very proud of our children!

## Parent partnership

It was lovely to see so many of you at our recent parents' evening. We hope that you enjoyed meeting with your child's teacher and seeing some of their work.

We have also held virtual meetings for Y6 parents/carers about the SATs and Y4 parents/carers about the multiplication check. It was great to meet, virtually, with so many parents/carers in these year groups. The information shared at the meetings is available on our website. Next term (5<sup>th</sup> May), we have a virtual meeting for Y1 parents/carers about phonics.

There is an opportunity in the summer term for parents/carers to come into school to visit their child's classroom and for children to share their work with you. A date for your diary – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May (2pm) – more details will follow next term.

## Mobile phones

We have been awarded the gold rating for our policy of not allowing smart phones to be brought into school. Since introducing this policy, there has been a noticeable positive impact on children well-being.

It is only children in Year 5 and 6 who are able to walk to and from school and it is only our 'walkers' who are allowed to bring a phone into school. They are only allowed to bring 'brick phones' into school which they put into a class 'phone box' which is locked away until the end of the day, when they collect it before going home.

If your child is currently in Year 4 and when they are in Year 5 you would like them to walk to or/and from school, please take note of our policy – the children are not allowed to bring smart phones into school. Please factor this into decisions that you make around phone purchases.

## Parent voice

We would love to hear your thoughts! Our annual parent questionnaire is now open. We welcome your feedback on what we do well and how we can further improve. We would be really grateful if you could take 5 minutes to share your views, using the links below.

[Reception - Y6 parent/carers questionnaire](#)

[Nursery parent/carers questionnaire](#)

### **Website – [www.devonshireprimary.org](http://www.devonshireprimary.org)**

Our website photos have recently been updated. A big thank you to Tom Dulat, one of our parents who came into school to take the photos. They really do capture 'Devonshire life'!

### **Caterlink**

Caterlink are the company who provide school meals. Bilyana, our school cook, and her team do an amazing job each day, cooking approximately 500 meals each day. They cater for all dietary needs and requirements, ensuring that every child is able to have a hot nutritious meal each day, should they want one.

A reminder that all school meals are **free of charge**. We offer flexibility for school meals, with children only needing to let us know on the morning whether they are having a school dinner and then only needing to choose which school meal choice they would like when they reach the serving counter. The new school dinner menu begins in Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, with a number of new additions to the menu.

### **PSA news**

Thank you to everyone who ordered a gift for 'Someone Special' earlier this month. Our pop-up shop was a sell-out and the children really enjoyed 'shopping' and choosing the best colour of bag for their gift!

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April we are collecting your pre-loved clothes and shoes to send to The Little Recyclers. Please bring your bags to the fieldhouse on the 15<sup>th</sup> April before 9am.

The school discos will be taking place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April. This is just after the Easter holiday, so please book online via <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/devonshirepsa/>

We are also busy planning our Summer Fayre, so if you, or anyone you know would like to have a stall, be a fayre sponsor or volunteer to help in any way, please get in touch via [psa@devonshireprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:psa@devonshireprimaryschool.co.uk)

### **Education Wellbeing service news**

Attached to this newsletter is a poster giving details of a supportive four-week group programme designed especially for families with young children aged 1–4. The group offers practical, evidence-based strategies to help understand and respond to a child's big emotions and challenging behaviours. It is led by experienced practitioners from Sutton's Education Wellbeing services. It is a great chance to connect with other parents and carers who are navigating similar experiences.

This group is ideal for parents/carers who want practical tools to better understand and manage their child's emotions and behaviour. Spaces are limited, so if you are interested, please submit your application, using the information on the poster, as soon as possible. Please note that this group would not be suitable for families currently receiving support from Children and Family Services or CAMHS.

### **Governor news**

Our sustainability working party met recently. We reviewed the actions that have taken place to improve sustainability. These have included increasing the number of LED lights in school, ensuring that the solar panels on the school roof were serviced and in good working order and introducing specific food waste bins at lunchtime. We also reviewed the school's climate action plan. We will be working with the children on sustainability in school and hope you will also join us in this at home.

### **Daffodils**

Thank you to the gardening club who have created a lovely daffodil display at the front of the school. In the autumn term, they planted the bulbs and have looked after them since then. Once the green shoots and flowers appeared, they moved them to the front of the school for everyone to see. They really do brighten up the school entrance.

Many of the local gardens also have daffodils in them. Please ensure that your children do not pick these, as the owners of the houses have, like our gardening club, taken time to plant them, look after them and now that they have flowered, are enjoying them brightening up their gardens. We have made been aware that some of our children have been picking the flowers from local gardens on their way to and from school.

**ParentPay**

When making payments on ParentPay, we would recommend that Parents/Carers **do not** use the 'One Click Payment' option and instead add the payment item to the basket and checkout using a debit/credit card as you would with any online shopping. This is because the 'One Click Payment' can take up to ten days for ParentPay to attempt to take the payment from your bank accounts and these also sometimes fail.

**Toys from home**

A reminder that children should not be bringing toys from home into school; everything that the children need for their learning is provided by the school. When children bring in things from home, it often leads to upset that can so easily be avoided if things were not brought in. They also distract children from learning. Also, please ensure your child does not bring in any squidgy toys as these can split and cause injury. If your child brings this type of toy into school, you will be asked to collect them.

**Help us beat the ever-increasing lost property pile!**

Before term ends, please take a look in lost property – it is overflowing! At the end of each term, we clear lost property so anything that is not named and not claimed by the end of the term will be recycled.

Over the holidays, please help us by checking that all of your children's clothes, lunch boxes and water bottles are named. Also, check whether existing labels have faded and need a refresh so that names can easily be seen.

**Easter holiday fun**

With the Easter holidays starting next week, we hope that you have some lovely things planned. There are a number of Easter themed activities running locally and further afield too. Whatever you do in the holidays – have fun! We look forward to seeing you all for the first day of the summer term on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April.