



DEVONSHIRE DISPATCH

www.devonshireprimary.org

June Edition 2026

Devonshire Diary

Thurs 2nd July – Meet the New Teachers

Fri 3rd July – Spanish Day (except Yr3)

Fri 3rd July – Yr1 Bollywood Day

Mon 6th to Fri 10th July – Fitness week

Mon 6th July – Hazel swimming

Wed 8th – 15th July – Devonshire (Virtual) Duck Race. Final Race @ 9am, Weds 15th July.

Wed 15th July – Yr3 & Yr4 Borough Athletics

Fri 17th July – Last day of term – **EARLY FINISH**

KS1 – 1.20pm

KS2 – 1.30pm

Sporty Times

We held our sports mornings in June. Thank you for your patience where the Year 5 and 6 sports morning had to be postponed (twice!), due to weather.

Fitness week is coming up, where all children have the opportunity to try a new sport, over and above the sports that they learn as part of the PE curriculum

This month, our swimming team participated in the borough's swimming gala. The team demonstrated all of our Devonshire values, with every member of the team being an excellent ambassador for the school and contributing to points for the team as a whole. The boys team came third, the girls team came third and overall, we came third – very consistent! A special mention must go to the girls' relay team who came 1st and won the girls relay trophy. Several of the team left the gala proudly wearing a medal (or medals, in some cases), having come in either first, second or third place and all of the team were awarded medals from the school in merit assembly.

Year 6 Careers Event

On 12th June, Year 6 had a careers afternoon. Visitors, all with different careers, came to work with our Year 6 for the afternoon. The children thoroughly enjoyed talking to our visitors about their jobs - learning about what they do, what they enjoy about their jobs and how what they learnt at school helps them with their job.

Thank you to our visitors, who showed our children the variety of careers that are out there and how what they learnt at primary school is important to them in their job today.

Many of the visitors were ex Devonshire pupils so Year 6 could see that Devonshire had helped them get to where they were today.

Come and See your Child's New Classroom and Meet their New Teacher – Thursday 2nd July (3.30-4pm)

This year, we are providing the opportunity for parents/carers to meet their child's new class teacher and visit their new classroom before the end of term. We have taken on board feedback from parents/carers that they would prefer this session to be before their child moved into their new class. This event replaces the September meet the teacher events. The children will have already met their new teacher and visited their new classroom, by the time you have the chance to do the same. Please refer to the email sent to all families on Friday 26th June giving you further details about this event.

It was lovely to welcome so many parents/carers to our recent wellbeing coffee morning which focused on supporting children with transition as they move to a new year group. We had a lot of positive feedback that parents/carers benefitted from the expertise of the wellbeing practitioners who hosted the event, but also from talking to other parents/carers who were there too. Do look out for our wellbeing coffee mornings – they focus on a different topic each time and are always full of useful information.

Spanish Day

On Friday 3rd July, we are having a Spanish Day. The children will be doing a variety of Spanish themed activities, including a whole school collaborative art project which will be on display at the front of the school at the end of the day on Friday. Come and have a look and see what we have been up to.

OPAL

This week, we welcomed visitors from another school who are just starting to introduce OPAL into their lunchtime provision. We have been using the OPAL (outdoor play and learning) approach to our lunchtimes for a number of years and can see the benefit of it on our children's experiences and how it supports their creative and collaborative play skills. There are lots of different activities for the children to participate in and resources for them to use – all of which enable them to have fun at lunchtime. Thank you to Mrs Bassett, our play co-ordinator, and our team of playworkers who are key to the success of our OPAL approach.

Chess News

Our highly committed Devonshire Chess Team won on their final game against Homefield by the narrowest of margins, Devonshire 4.5 – Homefield 3.5, on Friday 26th June.

The final game itself was very close throughout, with each player having a turn at being slightly ahead in the game. The quality of play was high and we also have some good feedback on things to work on in the future. The children played in extreme heat at Homefield school and behaved spectacularly well. They were a great credit to themselves and the school. Well done!

PSA News

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to help at our Summer Fayre. Whether you helped set up, ran a stall, cleared away. We are so grateful.

The day was a wonderful success and it simply would not have been possible without your enthusiasm and willingness to help. Your support helped create a fantastic event for our children, families and the wider school community and raised over £3000 to support future school projects.

Thank you for giving your time and energy to make the day so special. We truly appreciate each and every one of you:- Emma, Oksana, Diana, Caroline P, Akanksha, Katy, Sufia, Rosie, Demi, Lij, Dan McC, Olivia, Roya, Jenny, Abdullah, Sarmistha, Charlotte, Kisa, Laura, Bharath, Miss Wright, Miss Furnell, Mrs Agvei, Mrs Herd, Miss Dourado, Mrs Meldon, Mrs Sargeant, Mrs Kuziola, The Carter-Hodge family, Miss Massey, Mrs Sweeney, Mrs Tickner, Mrs Rose, Mrs Attrill, Mrs Bassett Mrs Curtis, Miss Lyall, Mrs Byfield, Miss Donlan, Miss Byfield, Miss Phillips, Mrs Gorman, the Office Team, Miss Martin, Miss Cadman, Dr Reddy, Mr Reddy, Mr Ramsay, Mrs Moat, Miss Oastler, Mrs Elsey, Mrs Mackinlay, Mrs Scrivens, Mrs Love and all the additional unofficial helpers who were much needed! Our thanks also to the School Governors for the coconut shy and the site team for all their help.

From the PSA Committee Team - Michelle, Asha and Kate

Devonshire's Duck Race

We are excited to announce the upcoming VIRTUAL Devonshire Duck Race 2026! The event kicks off on Wednesday, 8th July, with the grand final swim taking place during assembly at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, 15th July.

Each class has adopted and named their own duck, and the children are already incredibly excited to cheer them on. However, this isn't just a race of luck - it's a race of support! The more donations a class duck raises, the more "energy" (speed boosts) it will receive on the virtual track.

To help train their ducks, you might want to encourage your child to complete a few extra chores around the house to earn their donation money!

The Key Details:

Minimum Donation: Just 50p.

How to Donate: www.pta-events.co.uk/devonshirepsa

Where to Watch: The race will be streamed online so everyone can join in the fun!

You can watch it live here: <https://www.schoolduckrace.com/#/view/devonshire-primary-school-xs4k>

The Prize: The class whose duck crosses the finish line first will win an end-of-term ice-cream party!

Thank you as always for your wonderful support. Let the training begin!

The Devonshire PSA team

Break the Rules Day - Friday 10th July – Organised by our School Council

Our School Council have organised a fundraising 'Break the Rules Day' activity on Friday 10th July. The School Council children have chosen Shooting Stars Children's Hospice as their nominated charity because they believe their work is very worthwhile in supporting children and their families too. We would be very grateful if you are able to donate to this very worthwhile charity - if everyone donates at least £1, that would be amazing!

You can follow this link to find out more: <https://www.shootingstar.org.uk/about-us/>

On 'Break the Rules Day', **for this day only (Friday 10th July)**, pupils are welcome to break the following rules in exchange for a charitable donation:

- Wear their own clothes
- Wear nail varnish
- Crazy hair/any style
- Fake tattoos
- Be able to wear a tiara

Many thanks in advance,

Mrs King and the School Councillors

Governor News

We have had a busy June with lots of committee meetings where we have seen the positive impact of all the hard work that has been taking place in school this year.

We thoroughly enjoyed being part of the summer fayre, and having the opportunity to join the fun. It was lovely to meet so many of our families and chat to you when you visited our coconut shy stall.

We hope that the winners of the coconuts, enjoyed them!

Staffing News

At the end of the school year, we are saying goodbye to 2 of our teachers: Mr Mannin, Upper KS2 Leader, is leaving to join a school closer to home and Mrs Attrill, Early Years Leader, is retiring. We wish them all the best and are very grateful for all of their hard work whilst at Devonshire Primary School.

Miss Carter-Hodge and Miss Bulbrook are joining our teaching team and Miss Hudson is returning from maternity leave.

Miss Byfield is our new Upper KS2 Leader and Miss Furnell is our new Early Years Leader.

Two of our teachers are getting married during the summer holidays; Miss Sumner will be returning as Mrs Tompkins and Miss Chadwick will be returning as Mrs Foswick.

Swimming

Westcroft Leisure Centre have shared with us details of summer holiday crash courses, which we thought worthwhile sharing with our families, as they are taking place in the summer holidays. See attached information.

Lost Property

Lost property is still very full. We put it outside the front entrance each day to try and make it as easy as possible for parents/carers to visit. Please do take a look in it if your child has lost anything. It contains jumpers, cardigans, coats, sunhats, packed lunches boxes, water bottles and much more!

What is not claimed at the end of term, will be recycled so will no longer be available to be reclaimed.

Where possible, we try to return named items. So please do ensure you clearly name all items with your child's full name.