



DEVONSHIRE DISPATCH

www.devonshireprimary.org

July Edition 2026

Devonshire Diary

Fri 17th July - last day of term (*school closes early 1.20pm Reception, Yr1 & Yr2; and 1.30pm Yrs 3-6*)

Wed 2nd Sept – INSET day (school closed)

Thurs 3rd Sept – children return to school.

Mon 14th Sept – Extra-curricular clubs restart for children who have been allocated a place.

Thurs 17th Sept – Reception & Nursery Coffee Morning

Mon 5th Oct – INSET Day (school closed)

Wed 7th Oct – Harvest Festival

Mon 19th Oct – Black History week starts

Thurs 22nd & Fri 23rd Oct – Yr6 Junior Citizenship scheme

End of Year Message

We have reached the end of a busy year. Lots of learning has taken place and the children should be very proud of all they have achieved during the year. We are very proud of them!

It has been lovely to welcome so many of you into school for curriculum events, our wellbeing coffee mornings, sports mornings, parents' evening and our recent 'meet the teacher' event. Thank you for your support throughout the year – it is very much appreciated.

Year 6

Year 6 have performed their end of year show, 'Grossbusters' to the school and their families. The children worked very hard, learning their lines, song words, dance moves and knowing where to be on stage and when. Not only did the audiences enjoy the performances, it was clear how much the children enjoyed performing and working together on the production and everything that needed to be done 'behind the scenes'. Year 6 did a brilliant job and everyone who watched it, left with a smile on their face!

At the end of the school year, we say goodbye to our Year 6 children who are leaving us to start the next stage in their education. We will miss them and they leave us with many memories of their time at Devonshire. We hope that they take many happy memories of primary school life with them too.

Children are going on to a number of schools - 15 in total (Harris Academy Sutton, Overton Grange, Oaks Park, Glenthorne, Greenshaw, Wallington Girls, Royal Grammar School, Nonsuch, St Philomenas, Carshalton High School for Girls, Carshalton High School for Boys, Oxted, Wilsons, Sutton Grammar, Harris Academy Merton) - they are very lucky to be having our children joining their school community.

Good luck and thank you Year 6!

Devonshire Cup

The Devonshire Cup is an eagerly awaited tradition of the summer term. Teams from Years 5 & 6 took part, playing their way through the stages, with 3 teams reaching the final. Congratulations to Pinesul, the winners of the Devonshire Cup 2026. Thank you to Mr Reddy who ensures that the Devonshire Cup happens each year.

Sporting News

We have been awarded the silver sports mark for 2025/26, in recognition of the work that we do to support and promote fitness.

Last week, we had a fun filled fitness week. The children thoroughly enjoyed it - the opportunities they had to try new activities, the tournaments they participated in and the 2 assemblies all about the importance of persevering when facing challenges and using these challenges as a learning point. The highlight of the assembly for the children, was when the professional BMX and scooter riders demonstrated all sorts of stunts which included jumping over a number of teachers.

Events included zorbing, BMXing, scooting, bouncing shoes, taekwondo sessions, tennis sessions, gymnastic sessions, as well as year group sporting tournaments - lots of fun!

Moving Up to a New Class

The children enjoyed meeting their new teacher and visiting their new classroom. On the same day that the children did this, we opened our doors to parents/carers, giving them the opportunity to meet their child's new teacher and visit their new classroom, after school. We had very positive feedback from parents/carers about this additional and new element to our transition procedures.

A date for your diary is our Autumn term parents' evening – **Thursday 19th November**. School closes early on this day (1.20pm for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and 1.30pm for Years 3 - 6. A - Z club will run until 4.30pm, but all other clubs that run on a Thursday evening will be cancelled for this week.

School Council Update

Last Friday, children were allowed to 'break the rules'. The School Council organised 'Break the Rules' day to raise money for The Shooting Stars charity. Children were given specific rules they could break - rules associated with behaviour and health and safety could not be broken! Together we raised £245.20 for this very worthwhile charity.

Our school council work very hard, with Mrs King. They have created an update of all that they have done this year, please do have a read - [School Council Update](#).

Thank you to our School Councillors for everything that they have done this year – we are very grateful!

Quizzing Champions

Our top of the form quiz team has worked with Dr Reddy to organise a general knowledge quiz tournament for teams of children from Year 4 upwards. It is a very popular event, with 27 teams taking part. Mighty Mars, Mythics and Braincells all reached the final, with Braincells being our quiz champions for this school year.

Enriching Activities

This year, we have expanded the number of enriching opportunities that the children are provided with, over and above their classroom learning, – these include trips, workshops and visiting experts. We have also extended our range of before school, lunchtime and after school clubs this year. Thank you to the staff who give up their time to run a club, to provide children with an enrichment opportunity outside of the school day.

Young Writers

Many children have entered a piece of writing into a 'Young Writers' competition and having read their work, the judges decided that it was good enough to be published! This is a tremendous achievement. As well as having their work published, they have been awarded a certificate of achievement that they can proudly display.

PSA News

As another school year comes to an end - we'd like to say a huge thank you to every volunteer who has given their time to support our PSA events this year. Thanks to your hard work and generosity, we've been able to hold some fantastic events for our children and families- including our school discos, Jingle & Mingle at Christmas, and the Summer Fayre. These events have created wonderful memories and wouldn't have been possible without your support. We were thrilled with the support for the recent Devonshire Duck Race and the fantastic amount of money raised to support exciting projects in school next year.

As we look ahead to September, we'll be starting to plan our next school discos and Christmas celebrations. To make these events happen, we really do need more parents and carers to come forward and lend a hand. Even if you can only spare an hour or two, every bit of help makes a difference. Without enough volunteers, we simply won't be able to continue running these much-loved events.

We're also on the lookout for someone special to be our Santa this Christmas! If you (or someone you know) would be happy to spread a little festive magic, we'd love to hear from you.

Thank you once again to everyone who has supported the PSA this year. We hope you all have a fantastic summer, and we look forward to seeing you in September!

The PSA Team

psa@devonshireprimaryschool.co.uk

Governor News

We have enjoyed our year working together, and with the leadership team, to ensure that we are providing the children with a good quality education. Each governor has a link governor role, where we focus on specific areas of school life. Part of this role includes visiting school during the school day, meeting with relevant staff and seeing the area of school life in action. Our behaviour link governor recently visited school and was able to see the calm corners that are in each classroom and hear about the positive impact they have had on children's wellbeing.

Sutton Education Wellbeing Services Newsletter

Attached to this newsletter is the Sutton Education Wellbeing Services' Self Care Summer newsletter. The newsletter contains lots of useful information, much of which is specific to the summer holidays.

New Uniform

A reminder that our school uniform expectations can be found on our website - [School Uniform Policy](#).

If you are buying any new uniform over the holidays, please ensure that you name it. Lost property has a lot of unnamed uniform in it, which will be recycled if it remains unclaimed by the end of term. Naming it would save you money, as if your child loses something (and it is named) it can be returned to your child, rather than it going to lost property.

Lost property is outside of the school every morning and afternoon. What is not claimed by the end of term will be recycled so that we start the year with an empty lost property. Do have a look in it if your child has lost anything,

Term Dates 2026/2027

Devonshire term dates and other information can be found in the [Parent Portal](#) area on our website. See below for the term dates for the 2026/2027 academic year.

Autumn Term 2026

First Day	Last Day (school closes early)	Half Term
Thursday 3 rd September 2026	Friday 18 th December 2026	Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th October 2026

School closed – 5th October 2026

Spring Term 2027

First Day	Last Day (school closes early)	Half Term
Tuesday 5 th January 2027	Thursday 25 th March 2027	Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th February 2027

Summer Term 2027

First Day	Last Day (school closes early)	Half Term
Tuesday 13 th April 2027	Wednesday 21 st July 2027	Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June 2027

Important changes to Free School Meal eligibility from September 2026

We are writing to inform you about a significant national expansion to the Free School Meal (FSM) system that takes effect in September 2026. The government has updated the criteria to ensure more children and young people can access a healthy, nutritious meal at school every day.

What is changing?

Previously, families receiving Universal Credit had to fall under a specific income threshold to qualify. From **September 2026**, the system will change to include two main categories of benefits-based support:

- **Targeted Free School Meals:** This covers children in households receiving Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of £7,400 or less. These pupils will continue to receive daily free meals and access to Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programmes.
- **Expanded Free School Meals:** This is a brand-new national category. It grants free school meals to **all** children from households receiving Universal Credit, entirely removing the previous £7,400 income cap. However, these are not eligible for the HAF programmes.

Why you should apply

Even if you did not qualify in the past, or if your child already receives a meal through the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme (Reception, Year 1, and Year 2) or London Mayor meal scheme, **please apply** at:

<https://fsm.lgfl.net/>

Completing the check takes only a few minutes, helps ease weekly household budgets, and ensures your child is registered in the correct funding category. Crucially, formal registration allows our school to secure vital **Pupil Premium funding**, which directly provides extra resources and targeted support for our students.

Finally...

Thank you for all your support this year.

We hope that you have a lovely summer and look forward to seeing you on **Thursday 3rd September** to start the new school year.

If you are not returning in September, we wish you all the best at the school communities that you will be joining.