



DEVONSHIRE DISPATCH



SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION

STAFFING NEWS

Two teachers have joined the Devonshire teaching team - Miss Bulbrook and Miss Carter-Hodge.

Two of our existing teachers have joined the Senior Leadership Team - Miss Byfield as our Upper Key Stage Leader and Miss Furnell as our Early Years Leader.

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

The children have all made a great start to the school year. They have quickly got used to the routines of their new class and have been working hard.

It has been lovely to welcome families new to the Devonshire community - welcome!

SILVER AWARDS

We have had some wonderful news to start the school year - we have achieved the silver award within the Attachment Research Community framework. This is in recognition of the work that we do to support children's mental health and well being. Last year, we introduced calm corners in each of our classrooms to provide the children with space to help them to self regulate, if needed.

At the end of last year, we were awarded the Silver Level School Games Award in recognition of the physical activity opportunities that the children are provided with at Devonshire.



OUT AND ABOUT

Over the course of the school year, children have opportunities to enhance their classroom learning through opportunities outside of the classroom. This month:

Year 2 have been on a local walk to support their learning in geography.

Year 3 have had a RE workshop to support their learning in RE.

Year 5 have visited the River Wandle in Morden Hall Park to support their learning in geography. They have continued their practical learning about rivers through their work in the Woodland Project.

Year 6 children have had the chance to participate in bikeability sessions - developing their cycling skills when riding on the road - you may have seen them riding with the instructors on the local roads.

HARVEST

Our Harvest Festival is taking place on Tuesday 6th October. Year groups will be sharing harvest related facts, poems and songs in our whole school harvest celebration.

This year, we are supporting The Sutton Foodbank through our Devonshire harvest donations.

We are asking children to bring donations of:

- tinned potatoes or packet mash,
- tinned meat,
- vegetables or fruit,
- tea bags or instant coffee (small),
- long-life UHT milk,
- orange juice,
- toiletries - deodorant and shower gel

PLEASE NO PASTA OR NUT PRODUCTS.

Please send any donations into school with your child(ren) on 6th October and these will be taken to the Sutton Foodbank.



GOVERNOR NEWS

We had our first full governing body meeting of the school, last week. We reviewed last year's published data – in each area there was an increase in the previous year's data – with particularly good outcomes in reading, maths and grammar, spelling and punctuation in the end of Key Stage 2 SATs.

We heard about the school's priorities for this school year, which are all centred around inclusion – ensuring that all pupils experience consistently strong, inclusive provision that removes barriers to learning, participation and wellbeing, enabling every child to feel valued, included and able to achieve their potential.

YOUNG WRITERS

Last year an impressive number of children entered a Young Writers competition and over the summer their certificates were delivered to school.

We are aware, that due to the timings of the certificates being delivered to school, the deadline for agreeing to have your child's work published has passed. We have been in touch with the organisers of the competition and there will be a second opportunity for you to give your permission for your child's work to be published.

Look out for other Young Writers competitions that we will be sharing details of this year.

ROAD SAFETY

Once your child has been dismissed to you, please ensure they remain safely by your side while on the school site and on the way home. The pavements and roads surrounding the school are particularly busy at home time so you need to be extra vigilant to ensure your child's safety. We were made aware last week, that a Year 1 child ran into the Brighton Road and cars had to come to an emergency stop to avoid them being knocked over by the oncoming traffic.

If your older child walks to and from school independently, please take time to talk to them at home about the importance of road safety and staying alert near traffic. Thank you for your continued cooperation in keeping our school community safe.

Please remember to park considerately and safely. The car parks that belong to the flats in Devonshire Avenue **must not** be parked in – the spaces belong to their residents.

PSA NEWS

We would like start by thanking the PSA volunteers who have been busy clearing rubbish and painting our PSA shed over the last few months. We are sure you will agree it brightens up the afternoon walk into school. Thank you to the school who will doing the finishing touches that are too high for us to reach.

Our PSA Discos are coming up on Thursday 22nd October, after school, for Years 1–6, and we'll need volunteers to help with things like setting up, supervising, refreshments and tidying up. You don't need to be a professional party planner – just bring yourself and a willingness to help! 😊

👴 Christmas Grotto – Santa is making a very special flying visit to Devonshire this year!

👴 ✨ Unfortunately, he's been struggling to find cover in his busy December schedule, so we're very grateful that he's managed to squeeze us in!

Our grotto will be taking place in early December, and we'll need some volunteers to help Santa and the PSA team make the grotto magical for the children. This could include helping with setting up, welcoming children, supporting Santa and generally keeping things running smoothly.

We will be holding raffles at all the Early Years and Key Stage One Christmas shows, so if you have any prizes to donate, please drop them at the school office for our attention.

As always, our events simply wouldn't be possible without our amazing parent/carers/staff volunteers, so if you can spare even a little bit of time, we'd really love to hear from you. Please speak to a member of the PSA or get in touch with us to volunteer – psa@devonshireprimaryschool.co.uk

Thank you as always for supporting our school community – we couldn't do it without you! 🌲 ✨

BENEDICT'S LAW

You may have heard about Benedict's Law; a law that introduces mandatory allergy safety guidance for schools to help protect children from severe, life-threatening allergic reactions. It has been developed to improve allergy safety in schools.

Please have a read of our [allergy_policy](#) on the school's website which shows how we are adhering to Benedict's law.

A reminder that we are a nut-free school. It is essential that nuts are not brought into school. Please take this into account when planning your child's packed lunches – they must not contain nuts which includes whole or ground nuts, peanut butter, nut-based spreads (such as Nutella), cereal bars containing nuts, or any products listing nuts in the ingredients or even products that look like they may contain nuts.

In line with Benedict's Law and our commitment to allergen safety, we will also no longer allow children to bring in sweets, cakes, chocolates, or any other food-related items to be shared with their class for birthdays etc. We kindly ask that you do not send these items into school, as we cannot distribute them.

Thank you for your ongoing support, understanding, and cooperation in keeping all of our pupils safe.

LOST PROPERTY

If your child has lost anything, please look in lost property. There are a lot of unnamed items in there, including jumpers, coats, packed lunchboxes and water bottles. Please do name your children's clothing, water bottles and packed lunch boxes so that if found, they can be returned to them.

A reminder that lost property can be found in the reception area at the school office. On dry days, we will wheel lost property out to the front of the school so it can be easily checked.

DEVONSHIRE DIARY

Dates for the diary:

October 2026

- 5th October – INSET day (**school closed**)
- 6th October – Harvest Festival
- 12th October – Reception phonics workshop for parents – 2.45pm
- Week commencing 19th October – Black History Week
- 22nd October – PSA discos
- 26th to 30th October – Half term (**school closed**)

November 2026

- 4th November – Little Recyclers clothing collection
- 11th & 12th November – Individual school photos
- 13th November – Children in Need
- 16th November – Flu vaccinations
- Week commencing 16th November – Anti Bullying Week
- 19th November – Parents' evening (**school closes early**)
- Week commencing 23rd November – Year 6 residential
- 25th November – Year 5 trip

STAY CONNECTED

Website: www.devonshireprimary.org

Email (General enquiries): office@devonshire.sutton.sch.uk

Email (to notify a child's absence): attendance@devonshire.sutton.sch.uk

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/devonshiresm2>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/100959319580966/>