DEVONSHIRE DISPATCH

OCTOBER 2026 EDITION

BIKEABILITY

34 Year 6 children participated in, and passed their level 2 bikeability – well done!

We offer this course to Year 6 children to give them the opportunity to learn skills associated with cycling safely on the road. As well as developing skills, it also increases their confidence when riding a bike, particularly when using the road.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

In October, the School Council visited the Houses of Parliament. The School Councillors had a great day, having a tour of the Houses of Parliament and the chance to ask questions. They could see the similarities between the work that they do as a school councillor, representing their class, and the work that the Members of Parliament do when representing their constituents in Parliament. Next term, Luke Taylor, our MP, is visiting Devonshire and part of his visit will be meeting with our School Council.

Not only do they do a wonderful job, as our School Councillors, but they were also excellent ambassadors for Devonshire as they travelled to and from Parliament on the tube and train and when in the Houses of Parliament.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In October, we celebrated Black History month.

Each year group took time to study an inspiring black figure, culminating in a whole-school assembly where the children proudly shared their learning with one another.

The assembly showed that lots of learning had happened – art work, writing, music and dance had taken place in classrooms.

A highlight of our celebrations was the Year 1 carnival, parading around school in their costumes, dancing along the corridors to music and spreading the carnival fun to everyone!

HARVEST NEWS

Thank you so much for your donations to our Harvest celebrations. We had a whole school harvest celebration, with each year group sharing their learning and at the front of the hall we had the display of foods that you had kindly donated. Your donations were taken to the Sutton Foodbank who were very grateful for the Devonshire delivery.

TURN OVER

ECO GROUP NEWS

The Eco group's recent competition, encouraging children to make pieces of art out of fallen leaves, was very popular. The pieces of art created were very inventive and used leaves in a variety of creative ways to produce impressive art work. The winning entries were Eric and Mia, both of whom had been particularly creative.

Thank you to the children who took part, the Eco group enjoyed looking at all of the pieces of art. Look out for their next competition!

EARLY YEARS NEWS

We are thrilled with the fantastic start our new Early Years Den has had!

Combining Nursery and Reception has created a vibrant and enriching environment where our children learn, explore, and play with real purpose. It has been wonderful to watch our younger children build self-confidence and language skills from their older friends, while our Reception children have naturally developed leadership and self-regulation skills, as positive role models in our school family.

Behind this smooth transition is our team of experienced and dedicated staff, who spend every day interacting with, supporting, and planning engaging activities tailored to every child's curiosity.

We could not be prouder of how brilliantly the children have started off their journey at Devonshire!

THE IMPORTANCE OF READING

Please ensure that your child reads regularly at home - there is so much enjoyment to be had from reading. Getting lost in a brilliant story sparks children's imaginations, helps them unwind and boosts their brain power for every day learning. It helps broaden their vocabulary as well as their knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

Children read each day in school with classes having a book that they read together, as well as whole class reading sessions.

If you are thinking ahead to possible Christmas presents, why not buy your child a book. You can find brilliant, age-specific recommendations on the *BooksforTopics Primary School Book Gift Guide*.

REPORTING ABSENCE

You can now report your child's absence using the in-app message function in the ARBOR app.

TRIP PAYMENTS

You will soon be able to make payments for your child's trips for the year via the ARBOR app. This is being rolled out to parents over the next few weeks. Please check the "Trips" section on your ARBOR app and make any payments for your child(ren) as soon as possible after they appear.

TURN OVER

GOVERNOR NEWS

Our premises committee met in October. We reviewed the work carried out in the summer holidays. This included replacement external doors being fitted in two Year 1 classrooms and two corridor doors that lead to the playground also being replaced. As part of our rolling programme of replacing lighting to be more eco-friendly, LED lights were fitted in two more classrooms. A new, and much larger, compost bin has been built over the summer holidays. Thank you to the site team for all their hard work, maintaining the site and school buildings.

PSA NEWS

The PSA would like to say a massive thank you to all of the parent and staff volunteers who made the Autumn Disco event a huge success! The children had a brilliant time and it was wonderful to see new and familiar faces among our volunteers.

Our thanks go to our parent volunteers on the evening; Fakhra, Clare, Katherine, Caroline, Sian, Michelle, Roya, Justine, Diana, Sheila, Laura, Joanne, Joanna, Kate, Sabrina, Olha, Hanna, Ranjani, Asha and staff volunteers; Mrs Mackinlay, Miss Oastler, Mrs Scrivens, Mrs Elsey, Mr Ramsay, Mr Gardner-Cliff, Mrs Moat, Mrs Rose, Mrs Sweeney, Mrs Byfield, Miss Byfield, Miss Carter-Hodge, Mrs King, Miss Furnell, Mrs Carter-Hodge, Mrs Lee, Miss Phillips, Mrs Love as well as Sophie from Didi Disco, who always puts on an amazing show!

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Little Recyclers collection this week. This raised a wonderful £254.70 towards providing winter crafts for all the children in school.

We're now starting to plan our Christmas festivities - so if you know anyone who'd be willing to volunteer as Santa, please get in touch via psa@devonshireprimaryschool.co.uk

We will be holding raffles at the Reception and Key Stage One Christmas shows. If you have any prizes that you are happy to donate; please drop them into the school office.

Please remember to use easyfundraising every time you shop online. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us so this means you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE. You can find our easyfundraising page here:
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/devonshire-primary-school-psa/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=email-2

PARENTS EVENING

Parents' consultation evening is on Thursday 19th November. Please remember that school closes early (1.20pm Reception, Years 1 - 2/1.30pm for Years 3 - 6). Details of how to book appointments will be sent to families shortly.

If you haven't already logged into ARBOR, please do so as soon as possible. All bookings for parents' consultation appointments will be done through ARBOR.

TURN OVER

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Now that we have reached the second half of the Autumn term, all children should now be wearing winter uniform.

Nursery: Royal blue crew neck sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan (branded items are available); trousers such as jogging bottoms which have elasticated waists; sensible shoes or trainers (NOT flip flops, NO laces) and washable clothes which your child can be independent in.

Reception & Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2): Royal blue crew neck sweatshirt, jumper, or cardigan; white collared shirt, blouse, or white air-tex polo shirt; grey trousers, skirt, or pinafore; and plain black school shoes.

Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6): Royal blue V-neck sweatshirt, jumper, or cardigan; white collared shirt or blouse with a school tie; grey trousers, skirt, or pinafore; and plain black school shoes.

Full details of our uniform policy can be viewed on the school website at www.devonshireprimary.org

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school looking smart!

UNIFORM SUPPLIERS

As a reminder, we have two suppliers for the sale of school uniform items

- Your School Uniform - order online or by post
- Cladish in Wallington - 29 - 31 Woodcote Road, Wallington (Tel: 020 8669 9992) - order online or by post.

We also have a pre-loved uniform shop in school, where we sell uniform items that have been donated to us, but are in good condition – Pre-Loved Uniform.
Uniform items, such as grey trousers, shorts, dresses or skirts and white shirts, blouses or polo shirts are standard items and can be purchased in most department stores and supermarket chains.

There is a Sutton Community Uniform Bank which provides free school uniforms for 4 – 18 year olds. There is a no eligibility criteria to use this service (it is open to anyone with a child or young person who needs a school uniform). Their uniform shop is based at:

Carshalton Family Hub (formerly Tweeddale Children's Centre)
Tweeddale Road
Carshalton
SM5 1SW

UNIFORM REMINDERS

There are a lot of school jumpers, cardigans and some coats in lost property. Now that the weather has got colder, they will definitely be needed, so if your child has lost a jumper, cardigan or coat, do look in lost property as it will more than likely be there!

Please ensure that if your child has their ears pierced, that they only wear stud earrings (not hooped earrings) and they do not wear earrings to school on PE days. If they are wearing them they will be given tape to cover them before they do PE.

TURN OVER

SOCIAL MEDIA

At our school, we want to work with you to keep your children safe and happy. Many popular apps and social media sites have an age limit of 13 because young brains are still growing. When primary school children spend too much time on screens or short video apps, it can hurt their health. Constant online alerts and videos train young brains to expect instant entertainment. Over time, this can make it hard for children to focus in school, control their feelings, or get enough sleep.

How you can help at home:

- **Check your child's phone regularly:** Please look at the apps your child uses, the videos they watch, and the messages they send and receive.
- **Set clear limits:** Keep phones out of bedrooms at night and talk to your child about what they do online.

Thank you for helping us protect your child's learning, health, and safety!

CHRISTMAS DATES

1st December - Panto show (Aladdin) to children in Years 1 - 6
7th December (2.15pm) - Year 1 show to parents
8th December (9.15am) - Year 1 show to parents
9th December (9.15am) - Reception show to parents
10th December (9.15am) - Year 2 show to parents
10th December (2.15pm) - Reception show to parents
11th December (2.15pm) - Year 2 show to parents
14th December (1.45pm) - UKS2 carol service
14th December (9am - 10am) - Foxes Winter craft event
15th December (1.45pm) - LKS2 carol service
15th December (9am - 10am) - Squirrels Winter craft event
16th December - Christmas dinner day - wear festive jumpers
16th December (10.30am - 11.40am) - Hedgehogs Winter craft event & singing
17th December - Christmas parties - wear party clothes
18th December - Final day of term - **early finish 1.20pm for Reception and Years 1 - 2/ 1.30pm for Years 3 - 6.**

EDUCATION WELLBEING SERVICE

The Understanding and Supporting Your Child's Sleep webinar will be held on the 10th November at 12.30pm, and at 7.00pm. (See poster on next page for more information).

The SWLSTG Education Wellbeing Service is offering lunchtime and evening parent Webinars across the year to help support your child's wellbeing and mental health.

You can sign up to any of their free webinars by copying these URL's:

Early Years:
https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/early-years-parents-nhs-wellbeing-workshops-3573849?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=creatorshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=odclsxcollection&utm-source=cp&aff=escb

Primary Years:
https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/primary-parents-nhs-wellbeing-workshops-682309?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=creatorshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=odclsxcollection&utm-source=cp&aff=escb

TURN OVER

NHS
South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust

Education Wellbeing Service

Education Wellbeing Service Webinar

Understanding and Supporting Your Child's Sleep



The topic of sleep comes up a lot during our discussions with parents and carers and it's something that can impact the whole family.

During this webinar we'll look at why sleep is so important for our children, how to create the right environment and routine to aid high quality sleep, the importance of independent settling, and some common sleep challenges for families.

DATE / TIME

Tuesday 10th November
12.30-1.30pm

Scan the QR code or click here

LOCATION

Online - Hosted on Teams

Sign up to either event for free on Eventbrite by scanning the QR Code.

You can also check out our other events by clicking here

wellbeinginschoolsevents@swlstg.nhs.uk

DATE / TIME

[illegible]er

7.00-8.00pm

Scan the QR code or click here

TURN OVER

ARBOR PARENT PORTAL

In September we introduced a new Management Information System to the school – Arbor. This has a parent portal which can be accessed via an app on mobile devices or by logging on to our Arbor site - https://login.arbor.sc/

If you haven't already logged in please do give it a go!

Over the next few months, we will be rolling out more features of the Parent Portal to improve communication and reduce the number of systems that we ask you to use – everything will be in one place. The Arbor Parent Portal will eventually fully replace Parent Pay, club bookings and Parent Evening bookings – so it is important that you set-up your access to the portal as soon as possible!

You can already update your child's details and report your child's absence using the in-app message function.

Guides on how to use the Portal can be found at: https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/categories/22645174482845-Students-and-Guardians

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 recepion 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.

NUT FREE SCHOOL

Reminder - Devonshire Primary School is a nut-free school.

We have several members of our school community who are severely allergic to nuts and to protect them we ask that no nuts, or nut products, are to be brought onto the school site.



RAINBOWS

Rainbows are the youngest section of the Girlguiding organisation. It is for girls aged between 4 – 7 years old and they have lots of fun playing games, being creative, trying new things and making friends.

There are a number of local Rainbows groups but the Rainbows group in Cheam currently has spaces. Details of how to join or find out more are in the poster below.

TURN OVER

Girlguiding

Rainbows

For girls aged 4–7

Play ♥ Learn ♥ Make Friends ♥ Be You

Join Our Rainbows Unit!

When:
Wednesday 4-5pm

At:
The Guide Hall,
Mickleham Gardens,
Cheam, SM3 8QJ

Small steps. Big adventures!



DEVONSHIRE DIARY

Dates for the diary:

November 2026

- 11th & 12th November - Individual and sibling school photos
- 13th November - Children in Need - children may wear yellow clothes for a suggested £1 donation. **(Please note we are only accepting cash donations)**.
- 16th November - Pupil flu vaccinations **(Please fill out the form if you have not done so already)**.
- 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/