

Dovestone Learning Partnership

TERMLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first Dovestone Learning Partnership newsletter.

We are aiming to send out a newsletter each term to update you on the DLP activities.

The DLP is a Co-operative Trust which was established in October 2017.

We are a partnership of 9 schools:

- Christ Church Denshaw C.E. Primary School
- Delph Primary School
- Diggle Primary School
- Friezland Primary School
- Knowsley Junior School
- Saddleworth School
- St Agnes C.E. Primary School
- St Mary's Greenfield C.E. Primary School
- St Thomas' Leesfield C.E. Primary School



WHAT WE DO

We are a group of schools that celebrate our individual character. Our schools may have different systems, pedagogies and cultures, but we understand the need to focus on learning and the impact of teaching to improve outcomes for our children and young people. Together, we will endeavour to ensure that our children and young people receive a rich variety of learning. This commitment to developing a high-quality curriculum, delivered by well-trained, effective teaching and support staff, and the sharing of expertise is at the heart of our vision.

RELAUNCH!

Over the past 18 months, a number of activities have had to be put on hold whilst schools responded to the Covid pandemic. We are now keen to get 'back on track' and re-establish all the positive activities that the staff and pupils were involved in.

To do this, we are relaunching the DLP, recognising that we have new staff, new parents/carers, new pupils and new governors who maybe do not know a lot about the DLP.

A number of things will be happening over the next couple of months:

Presentations at staff and governor meetings, a new website, the newsletter, our networks and working parties will be starting up again and we will be looking at the use of social media so that we can share with you all the positive things the DLP is involved in.

Our plans include peer reviews for our schools, a DLP choir, work on the curriculum, a Spelling Bee and looking at further developing transition between the primary schools. Our working parties focus on well-being, financial efficiencies and school improvement as well as curriculum and transition.

SADDLEWORTH SCHOOL – NEW BUILDING AND SITE

Staff and students are incredibly excited about the prospect of moving to our new school in Diggle at the end of February 2022. After what has seemed an incredibly long wait, we are almost there and it's amazing to think that we will only have six teaching weeks in our current school before the big move.

The construction of our new school has been well-underway for the last eighteen months and is now at the point where work is focusing on the landscaping of the external areas and completion of the final stages on the interior. Progress over the last few months has moved quickly, with many areas of the school now complete.

What is becoming increasingly clear is how fantastic the school is going to be when it's finished. Students and staff will finally have the opportunity to work and learn in a modern, purpose-built building with state-of-the-art facilities.

In addition to helping us to provide outstanding learning experiences to our students at Saddleworth, our new school will be a valuable resource to our other DLP schools and to the local community who we will be encouraging to make full use of the amazing sporting facilities and performance spaces.

With just over six working weeks to go, we'll be busily preparing for the move to our new school. We are really looking forward to moving to our new school and our new home in Diggle!



Headteacher
Mike Anderson
with the Head
Boy and Girl
outside the
new school.

DLP Sports Competition Events

We are delighted to report that the DLP sports competition programme of events has restarted during the autumn term 2021. This has included children from across the DLP competing in a cross-country event at Churchill Playing Fields, orienteering at Diggle Primary School, short tennis at Saddleworth School and archery at Denshaw Village Hall. In addition, schools have been meeting up at the 3G pitch in Uppermill to play friendly games of football.

The events have been open to different year groups throughout the year and expertly organised by Steve Ferris from Oldham Community Leisure. We aim to offer some of the more unusual sports, as well as the regular ones, so that children have the opportunity to try something new and learn new skills – this has been a huge success! Young sports leaders from Saddleworth School have also helped with refereeing the football games.

We look forward to planning the next events for the spring term soon.



MODERATION

It has been great to be able to host the DLP moderation meetings for writing again at St Thomas' Leesfield. So far this term, the Year 2 and Year 6 teachers from across our DLP schools have met to moderate writing pieces for an 'Expected' child as well as one working at the higher, Greater Depth level. They have brought examples across genres which were anonymised so that no child could be identified from their writing.

The opportunity to compare pieces and to agree on assessments is an invaluable element of teaching. Being able to discuss content and the inclusion of different writing objectives helps our staff to ensure that judgements are accurate and meet the National Curriculum requirements.

In the new year, between January and March, teachers in our Year 1, 3, 4 and 5 classes will continue with this process so that there is consistency across year groups and schools.

FUTURE EVENTS

A key event for the DLP, beginning in January, is commencing the legal processes and consultations for Friezland Primary School to become a full member of the partnership. To date, Friezland has been an associate member of the Trust but we will begin the process for the school to consult on becoming a Foundation School and, in so doing, formally joining the Trust. We hope that this will be completed by 1st April 2022, depending on the outcome of the consultation with staff, parents/carers, the children and other school stakeholders.

Our commitment to training our staff to be qualified coaches will also continue with a Level 2 course commencing in January and a Level 1 course planned for the summer term. We will then be able to offer coaching opportunities to our staff to enable them to develop their roles, enhance skills and support their career aspirations.

The Wellbeing Hub has been busy planning an appropriate CPD and networking calendar for 2022, for our pastoral staff. As part of our 5-Year Plan, the DLP is committed to providing exciting and relevant CPD opportunities; being outward facing and engaging with external support where this brings benefit to our schools; belonging to a partnership that 'grows its own' and has a strong commitment to succession planning. To support this, we are running the following sessions:

Pastoral staff Network Session 1 – Tuesday 8th March 2022, 9:30-11:30am (Friezland School) The New Family Help Tool – An Introduction to DASH Risk Assessment

Pastoral staff Network Session 2 – Tuesday 5th April 2022, 9:30-11:30am (Friezland School) Supporting Children's Mental Health – An Introduction to Messy Play

Pastoral staff Network Session 3 – Tuesday 28th June 2022, 9:30-11:30am (Friezland School) Parental Engagement

'Looking Beyond Behaviour' CPD for all Staff – leadership, teaching & support Wednesday 23rd March 2022, 3:30-5:30pm (virtual session)

COMING SOON ... LOOK OUT FOR THE NEW DOVESTONE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE BEING LAUNCHED IN JANUARY 2022.

On the website, you will see all our up-to-date information, action plans, events and details about how to get involved.

THE STAFF, PUPILS AND GOVERNORS

of the Dovestone Learning Partnership would like to wish you all

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Stay safe and well

To contact the DLP, either email your school's Headteacher or the DLP Facilitator at juliebowdidge@googlemail.com