

Dovestone Learning Partnership

Welcome to our Dovestone Learning Partnership newsletter.

We are aiming to send out a newsletter each term to update you on DLP activities. This is our Autumn Term 2023 edition.

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



General Update

It was great to welcome everyone back to a new academic year in September (it feels so long ago now!) and we were especially happy to say a big welcome to Michala Uttley, the new head at Christ Church Denshaw. We also wished our colleagues Rachel Swaby and Rebecca Hill all the very best in their new roles at Delph Primary and Friezland Primary Schools respectively.

Our DLP activities started off with a planning day at Uppermill Civic Hall in September. It felt a good time to review our vision and values and ways of working given the changes since the DLP was originally set up. It was pleasing to see that not a lot of amendment was required and those original common goals still held true. We updated our 5 year plan and how this then translated in our aims for the year ahead..

Heads worked together to develop our working party plans and everything from networks to peer review was discussed. We finished the day with our plans for the year complete and a clear, agreed focus. We have decided to pull together our Transition and Curriculum Continuity and School Improvement Working Parties as a number of priorities were common to both. Financial Efficiencies and Well-being remain the same.

These plans were then fed back to, and agreed with, the Trustees at the Board meeting in October.

So this term new networks have been established (Design & Technology and SEND), a calendar of events produced, work underway on the website, a staff training event organised (see below) and data analysed resulting in a focus on primary literacy. Our ever-popular sports programmes began again.

The last few weeks of this term are busy with schools' Christmas celebrations. Please see below information about our DLP Walking in a Winter Wonderland song and preparations for a Winter Writing and Art Competition.

A busy and productive term.

DLP Staff Event

The last Friday of the Autumn half term has become our annual staff CPD event. This year's focus was SEND which is priority for the DLP. We all met at Saddleworth School and the morning was given over to two speakers:

Colin Foley – Training Director, ADHD Foundation whose role is to support teaching professionals to develop their awareness of Neurodiversity and explore ways in which organisations can adapt their practices to support inclusion. He particularly supports developments in ADHD, mental health and education.

Abigail Hawkins

Abigail is a passionate and seasoned SENCO with over 25 years of experience and established SENDCO Solutions and SENSible SENCO CIC. She is an experienced consultant offering practical resources for teachers and schools.

Colin gave us an inspiring keynote speech - Adaptive Teaching and meeting the needs of all learners



Following Colin's keynote the morning then split into two workshops – one delivered by Colin and dealing with anxiety and the other provided by Abigail on SPICEs – not the girl band from the 90s but looking at the factors that influence a child's development:

- Social
- Physical
- Intellectual/cognitive
- Communication
- Emotional



After lunch staff went back to school to discuss the learning from the morning and to look at how this could support developments in school to support our pupils.

A useful, productive day which will have positive outcomes and impacts.

DLP Sporting Events

FOOTBALL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

Over the Autumn Term, DLP schools have been competing in several friendly football matches, at Saddleworth Pool and Leisure Centre. St Thomas' Leesfield have invited a different DLP school each week for a fixture, providing our children with an opportunity to experience competitive sport and form friendships with their peers, across the partnership.

To conclude the fixture calendar, all 8 primary schools took part in a tournament, on Tuesday 5th December. Teams of 6 were split into two groups, with the winners of each group meeting in a final. The final was a hotly contested affair between Christ Church Denshaw and Diggle. The game ended 0-0, before Diggle secured the victory 4-3 on penalties.

All games were played with excellent spirit and sporting etiquette. We have a wealth of talented footballers within our schools and it was particularly pleasing to see how many girls have been inspired to participate, following the successes of our England Lionesses in recent years. Congratulations to Diggle, but a huge well done to all the children who participated over the term.

The football competition will return next year, but before then, we look forward to a full calendar year of sporting competition across our partnership.



Walking into a Winter Wonderland

This autumn term all the children across the DLP have been working hard learning the well known Christmas song. Walking in a Winter Wonderland. The joy of making music is to make it with other people and so whilst the children have been making music together in their own schools we decided that it would be wonderful if we could find a way to bring them all together. Now trying to get all 8 primary schools together in person would be logistically quite challenging and so taking our inspiration from some of the wonderful collaborations that came about in COVID we have created a virtual joint performance. A big thanks to Mrs Bradbury the ICT coordinator at Diggle School for pulling all our individual videos together.

Please head over to the DLP Facebook page to watch our festive offering or click on the link below:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d4-j5xGQ0qr_kqfxURDY0wxieEH5IOja/view?usp=sharing

Meet the DLPers!

As part of our regular feature of introducing you to people in the DLP today is the turn of Sarah Newton, Headteacher, Diggle Primary School



My name is Sarah Newton and I have the very great privilege of being the head teacher of Diggle School. This is a role that I have now done for the last eight years.

The team at Diggle School is absolutely amazing and I am proud of the way every single member of staff no matter what their role has the children's well-being and best interests at the heart of all we do. I couldn't ask for a more dedicated team to lead.

Our school's foundations are built on our 6 R's. We aim to develop well rounded children who do not just achieve and flourish academically but also find and develop their talents in other areas of the curriculum such as sports or the creative arts.

It is very important to me that the children that leave our school take with them **Resilience** with both emotions and work; a sense of personal **Responsibility** for their behaviour and learning and **Respect** for themselves, their peers and the adults they interact with both in and out of school.

We also teach them to be **Reflective**, **Resourceful** and help them to use their **Reasoning** skills to overcome obstacles and difficulties.

I am currently in my 31st year of my teaching career, yes I am that old! The first 14 years were spent as a classroom teacher where I taught children from Nursery to Year 6 and gained an in depth understanding of primary education across the board. I then went on to spend 5 years as a Deputy and then 3 years as the head of a small school over the hill, before finally landing in Diggle.

Being a member of the DLP has been one of the highlights of my career. Working with so many talented and knowledgeable headteachers over the last 5 years has been a joy and I have learned so much.

Apart from Diggle School my other passions are my family, my allotment and playing the clarinet and tenor saxophone. I can be found unwinding after a long day either at one of my band rehearsals or up to my elbows in soil.

Winter Writing and Art Competition

In the Spring Term the DLP is holding a Winter Writing and Art Competition. Each school will choose one of the following stimuli to inspire the children's writing or artwork.

- a painting
- a sculpture,
- a photograph and;
- a piece of music.

The competition will run until the end of January. Schools will select their own 1st, 2nd and 3rd place pieces which will go forward to the DLP final on 6th February. The finalists' work will be published in a DLP brochure and the DLP Headteachers will judge all the finalists and select 1st, 2nd and 3rd place pieces overall who will all be awarded a prize. Look out for the opportunities to see the art work.

We would love a local business to work with us and possibly offer sponsorship for this activity. It is an ideal opportunity to support local schools. If you would be interested or know someone who could help please do get in touch with Julie Bowdidge, Trust Facilitator on juliebowdidge@googlemail.com or 07515257389.

Keep UpToDate with the DLP

You can keep uptodate with us in the following ways

Facebook – search for Dovestone Learning Partnership – follow us – give us a like and receive regular updates.

Please share with your family and friends

Instagram – we can be found at [dovestonelearningpartnership](https://www.instagram.com/dovestonelearningpartnership)

Twitter – find us at @DovestoneLP

Website - Our website is now live but over the summer months will be undergoing some updating. Here you will find more detailed information about the DLP such as events, action plans, board meetings and our trustees.

www.dovestonelearningpartnership.co.uk

Would you like to get involved with Dovestone Learning Partnership????

DLP would like to have some community representatives on their Trust Board. The Board meets three times a year and you would become a trustee of the partnership. Your role would be to represent the Saddleworth and Lees community, That would mean asking questions and making comments and suggestions for the work we do. If you are interested please email juliebowdidge@googlemail.com or telephone 07515257389 for more information.

We would love to hear from you.



The Staff, Pupils and Governors would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

See you in 2024!! .