

Dovestone Learning Partnership

Welcome to our Dovestone Learning Partnership newsletter. We aim to send out a newsletter each term to update you on DLP activities. This is our Spring Term 2025 edition.

The DLP is a Co-operative Trust which was established in October 2017. From 1 April 2025 we will become partnership of 8 primary schools:

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



General Update

We started off the new year and Spring Term by launching our Writing and Art Competition. This was linked into World Book Day by basing it on the book - The Mysteries of Harris Burdick. Please see below further information on the event and meet our finalists. The work produced really impressed the judges. We will be holding a Maths competition in the Summer Term.

We held our Annual General Meeting in February where we produced our Annual Report and Unaudited Accounts for our Directors to approve. We also gave a short presentation on our plans for the remainder of the year. These have now been submitted to our accountants. All the documentation is available on our website.

A number of discussions have taken place on the future of the DLP as Saddleworth School leaves the partnership to formally join the Cranmer Multi Academy Trust (see below). We have needed to amend some of our paperwork and put some new systems in place but we will still continue to work together. The commitment to the DLP remains firmly in place! We wish Saddleworth all the very best for their new arrangements.

Along with all of these activities our EYFS, Chairs, Pastoral and School Business Managers networks have met, moderation meetings have taken place, our working parties and heads have met to further develop our planning and we held our termly meeting with our union colleagues. Two of our schools had a visit from Ofsted.

Staff took part in a training session by Mr P ICT looking at how to use IT to work smarter not harder and how AI can help with this. This is the first of three events aimed at developing staff ICT skills.

The Sports Programme continues to offer exciting opportunities for our pupils (see report below) and the Super Council met to discuss wellness and mental health.

Yet again it has been a busy, productive term. We hope everyone has a restful Spring break.

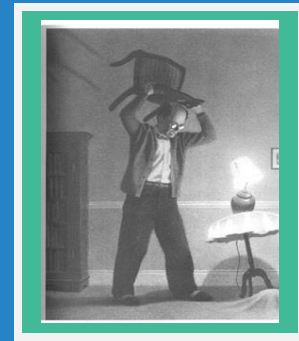
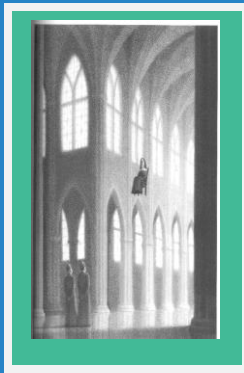
Art and Writing Competition 2025

*This year, our art and writing competition for Year 5, 6 & 7 pupils was inspired by an intriguing book: **The Mysteries of Harris Burdick** by Chris Van Allsburg.*

It consists of a series of images, ostensibly created by Harris Burdick, a man who has mysteriously disappeared. Each image is accompanied by a title and a single line of text, which encourages readers to create their own stories. Our DLP pupils have either produced a piece of artwork or a piece of writing based on their chosen illustration from the book. We received an incredible collection of entries from all schools, from charcoal drawings and applique work to diary entries, letters and short stories.

The headteachers who carried out the judging were all impressed by the standard of work that was submitted - a testament to the great work that is happening in writing and art lessons across the partnership.

Here are some examples of the pictures in the book used by the pupils to write their stories or draw their pictures



Our Finalists



Friezland Primary



Diggle Primary



Delph Primary



Christ Church CE Primary



St Agnes CE Primary



St Thomas' CE Leesfield



Knowsley Junior



St Mary's, CE Greenfield

Our Winners!

Three finalists were selected from each school and entered into the grand final, and seven winners were chosen. The winners received a The Works voucher as a prize. Presentations were made in the individual schools. All received a certificate.

Congratulations to:

Alice, Yr 6, St Thomas, Leesfield CE Primary

Max, Yr 5, St Agnes, CE Primary

Lochlan, Yr 6, St Mary's, Greenfield, CE Primary

Umaina, Yr 6, Knowsley Junior

Hannah, Yr 6, Delph Primary

Aggie, Yr 6, Diggle Primary

Poppy, Yr 6, Christ Church, Denshaw CE Primary

All the finalists work will be included in a booklet that is currently being produced. This will be shared once completed.



Not Goodbye - Just See You Later!

Saddleworth: Joining the Cranmer Education Trust and Maintaining Links to the DLP

As Saddleworth prepares to join the Cranmer Education Trust, we are also preparing to say a fond farewell to our formal role within the Dovestone Learning Partnership (DLP).

This is a significant step in our school's journey, and while our path is evolving, our commitment to collaboration and community remains unchanged.

We've truly valued the strong relationships we've built with our DLP partner schools over the years. The joint projects, shared expertise, and collective support have made a real difference to our students, staff, and our wider community.

This is far from goodbye. We will continue to maintain strong links through representation on the Trust board and by embracing the invaluable cross-phase working that has been such a key part of the partnership.

Saddleworth remains deeply committed to working with our local partner schools, learning from their strengths, and ensuring that all children across the borough continue to benefit from the powerful connections and shared opportunities that have defined our time in the DLP.

Saddleworth joins the Cranmer Trust with effect from 1 April 2025

Meet the DLPers!

As part of our regular feature of introducing you to people in the DLP this edition we have a very special person for you to meet – Catering Manager Alison Hopkinson



This year at St Mary's, we are incredibly proud to celebrate a truly exceptional milestone — our wonderful school cook, Alison Hopkinson, has been part of the St Mary's family for an incredible 40 years!

Since joining the school in September 1984, Alison has been the heart of our kitchen and a cherished presence in our community. Generations of pupils have grown up enjoying her home-cooked meals, always prepared with love, care, and that little extra something special that only she can deliver.

What makes Alison truly extraordinary is not just her dedication to the job, but the joy and warmth she brings to everyone she meets. Whether it's offering a comforting smile to a nervous new Reception pupil, remembering everyone's favourite puddings, or making sure every child with dietary needs is cared for, Alison goes above and beyond every single day.

Throughout four decades of changing menus, new regulations, and even a global pandemic, Alison has never wavered in her commitment. Her consistency, kindness, and pride in her work have made her a role model for staff and a treasured figure for pupils past and present. And her meat pie is to die for!

To mark this incredible achievement, the school held a special assembly where Alison was honoured with heartfelt speeches, handmade cards from the children, and a celebratory message from Jamie Oliver and Simon Wood

Headteacher, Mrs Suzanne Hall shared:

"You don't meet many people who give 40 years of service to one place, let alone with the warmth and unwavering commitment Alison has shown. She is more than just our cook – she is part of the soul of St Mary's. We are so lucky to have her."

Thank you, Alison for 40 years of dedicated service, delicious meals, and countless memories.

Here's to you – and to many more pies, puddings, and smiles to come!



DLP Sports Update

It has been a busy term for sporting participation and achievement, across the DLP schools. In January, Year 1 and 2 pupils attended a gymnastics session at Friezland. Children put together sequences of key skills, such as rolls, balances and jumps, before showcasing their routines for one another on the mats. Later that half-term, Year 3 and 4 pupils met at Delph to compete in an archery competition. They developed their precision, aiming for the bullseye, as they tried to score the highest number of points for their team collectively.

In March, Saddleworth School hosted a football session for, 'Girls New to Football'. This was a brilliant opportunity to allow girls, with little or no experience of playing football, to become familiar with the sport. The children developed fundamental football skills and learnt the rules of the game through a carousel of activities, each with a Disney theme! We hope to run our first ever girls' tournament soon!

The final sporting event of the Spring Term was virtual rowing, at Diggle. Each primary school sent a team of 4 rowers, who recorded individual distances, as part of a time trial, contributing to an overall team score. It was a closely contested event with St Agnes' travelling the furthest distance overall.

We have tried to ensure a broad balance of different sporting activities, accessible to all our children, regardless of age or ability. Staff and parents have commented on the outstanding sporting attitudes displayed by pupils at all of our events.

Next term we look forward to rounders, cricket and tennis!



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

Twitter – find us at @DovestoneLP

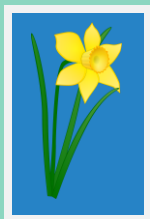
Website – Our website has had a make-over. Please check it out. Here you will find more detailed information about the DLP such as events, action plans, board meetings and our trustees.

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 happy spring break. Happy Easter to everyone.