

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 Summer Term 2025 edition.

The DLP is a Co-operative Trust which was established in October 2017. From 1 April 2025 we became a 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

The summer term became our first term as a Trust of 8 primary schools. As such a good deal of work went into changing documents such as our Memorandum of Understanding, updating our website and sorting out the Trust's budget. So now it's all systems go for the 'new look' DLP!

We held our termly Trust Board meeting where we shared the progress on our annual action plans, asked for approval of the budget and had a discussion on the future direction of the Trust. Priorities for this term included the organisation of the Annual Music Festival (see report below), our Times Table Rock Stars Competition (report and winners below), the Annual Spelling Bee (see below) and our Business Enterprise Event. We have also spent some time discussing the focus for the Heads' Away Day in September and deciding the theme for the DLP Staff Event in October. Forward planning!

We are sad to say goodbye to two DLPers at the end of this term. Vanessa Payne, Headteacher of Knowsley Junior School is retiring. Vanessa was the head when Knowsley became one of the original schools that established the Co-operative Trust. She has been fully involved in all the DLP has undertaken and achieved over the years. Vanessa has been a tremendous support to all. She made sure the staff and pupils of the DLP were always at the forefront of any decisions taken. We shall miss you Vanessa - and probably have less virtual meetings!!!

Also retiring is Jane Clarke the Principal of Oldham Six Form College who joined our Trust Board not long after it was established. Jane has been a key member of the Board and supporter of the DLP. We shall miss your insightful questioning and thoughtful comments. We wish both the very happiest of retirements.

And some lovely news. Miss Hill, Headteacher at Friezland Primary School is getting married during the school holidays and we would like to pass on our congratulations and best wishes for the future. Have the best day. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Hammond back in September!

All in all it has been another successful and busy year for the DLP. It is always about balancing the need for school improvement and targeting the areas that will make the most difference in our schools, to providing enrichment activities and experiences for our pupils. Although the DLP has gone through changes in its constitution and personnel we still continue to hold onto our original vision and values. Stronger together for our pupils!

Annual Music Festival 2025

Thursday 10 July 2025 saw the third Annual DLP Music Festival. Mr Anderson welcomed us all to Saddleworth School and the entertaining programme began with Diggle Primary School's clarinets and flutes woodwind band. They played us 5 pieces including Lord of the Dance and An English Country Garden.



Next up we had the Musical Theatre Group from Delph Primary School who gave us two fantastic songs - Maybe from Annie and When I Grow Up from Matilda. The West End beckons!



The Knowsley Junior School Orchestra were next to perform with rousing presentations of Spiderman, Lord of the Dance from Riverdance and the band's favourite The Theme from Wallace and Gromit.



Next we had a short break for fruit juice (it was a very hot day!) and the delicious Saddleworth biscuits.



Suitably refreshed we continued with the Choir from St Mary's, Greenfield CE Primary who performed three songs Birdhouse in Your Soul, Time to Get Loud and a reminder to Try Everything. The performance came with lots of actions to complement the lyrics and got us all singing along.

Next up we had St Thomas', Leesfield CE Primary School Guitar Group. The Group only got together last September and played a number of pieces to show the progress they had made over this short period of time. They played 013, Ode to Joy, Mary had a Little Lamb, Little Bird and The Banks of the Ohio. There has obviously been a lot of practising. The hard work has paid off.



Finally we had the pleasure to close the event with pupils from St Agnes CE Primary performing an extract from their school show - All In It Together from High School Musical. Complete with acrobatics and pom poms it was a fitting end to another fantastic music festival.



A massive thank you to everyone who supported the Festival. Saddleworth for hosting and refreshments, all the staff who supported the pupils and the pupils who have obviously spent time rehearsing and practising. Another amazing event.

The event was filmed and will be available through the schools.

Times Table Rock Stars Competition 2025



In May we held a DLP Times Table tournament on TT Rocks Stars called Top of the Rocks. This was aimed at our Year 3 and 4 children. All the children spent time each day during the week competing against each other to improve their times table fluency.

Trophies were awarded for the top 3 performing schools

These were.:

1st Friezland Primary School

2nd Knowsley Junior School

3rd Diggle Primary School

Gift cards were also awarded to the top scoring pupil in Years 3 & 4 across all the DLP schools. Congratulations to:

Year 3 - TBD

Year 4 - Amelia Moradyn, Knowsley Junior School

This was an enjoyable way for the children to practice a key math skill and we hope to run it again next year.

Super Council

This year the DLP Super Council has been hosted by Knowsley Junior School. A meeting has been held each term and has been well attended by most of the schools in the partnership. The theme of the first meeting was British Values, after introducing the five British Values we focused on Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect.

The next meeting was about Wellness and Mental Health Awareness, covering the five keys to wellbeing (Connect, Get Active, Take Notice, Give and Keep Learning).

The last meeting was titled, My Transition Journey and concentrated on transitions the pupils would make in September. Mini topics during this session included Feelings, Problem Solving, Friendships and Team Building.

The pupils who attended the sessions were enthusiastic, contributed well to individual and group activities, made new friendships and were engaged in learning. At the close of each meeting the pupils were given resources, relevant to the theme of the session, for them to take back to their respective schools to share with their peers.

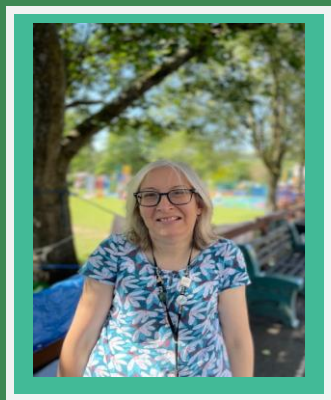
The Super Council will continued to run next year.



Meet the DLPers!

As part of our regular feature of introducing you to people in the DLP this edition we have special person for you to meet – Cheryl Butterworth

Silver Anniversary for Mrs Butterworth



This year, Cheryl Butterworth is celebrating her 25th year as a teacher at Friezland Primary School. As an Early Years specialist, she has worked with hundreds of pupils, nurturing and settling them into school life and building the foundations for the rest of their learning journey, and is now teaching her second generation of Friezland pupils!

Cheryl joined Friezland in September 2000 to teach Reception; after 2 years, she briefly taught Year 1 and 2 before returning to Reception, which has been her domain ever since. Her experiences over the years have been varied and interesting, including a week in Seville on an intensive Spanish course in 2007 when MFL was introduced in Primary

and Forest School Level 2 training at Tandle Hills in 2008. After becoming a Mum, she spent a number of years working part-time alongside her colleague Rebecca Keeley – sharing their passion for outdoor learning with pupils – before returning full-time on Mrs Keeley's retirement in 2016. Since then, Cheryl has become an Early Years Specialist Leader in Education, and an EYFS Moderator and reached out to support Early Years settings following the challenges of the covid years as a DfE Early Years Expert.

When asked what keeps her at Friezland, she described loving the family feel and the close community of staff and parents, who work together for the children. She explained that there is always a new challenge or exciting new project on the horizon, such as her recent work with the Regional Computing Hub, and she enjoys collaborating with Early Years and Science Leaders across the DLP. Congratulations on 25 years Mrs Butterworth!

DLP Spelling Bee 2025

Children from across the DLP schools met once again to take part in the annual DLP Spelling Bee! Each school held their own competitions to determine who would represent their school in the final, held at Delph Primary School.

The standard this year was particularly high involving children from Years 4 - 6. The final two children from Delph and St Agnes, battle it out for over 10 minutes before a winner was finally declare! Edward from St Agnes was the overall winner- for the second year in a row!

All the finalists did extremely well, holding their nerve and confidence throughout. Well done to all children across KS2 who took part, this year. See you in 2026!



DLP Sports Update

This term has seen events taking place for tennis, rounders and cricket.

We ran two tennis events in June at Tame Valley tennis courts for our Year 3-4 and Year 5-6 children. We had great attendance on both days and the children took part in a variety of activities to help them develop their tennis skills. We focused on improving individually by scoring points for hitting certain targets before moving on to some double matches between other schools.



In May pupils from across the Dovestone Learning Partnership came together for an exciting and energetic Rounders Tournament, held at Greenfield St Mary's. The event brought together children from partnership schools in a fantastic celebration of sport, teamwork, and community.

All the schools showed incredible determination, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship throughout the after-school club sessions. Competing against each other, the players in the partnerships demonstrated excellent fielding, strong batting, and quick thinking in every match.

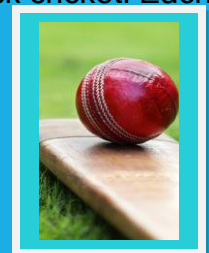
Win or lose, our pupils supported each other with encouragement and smiles, embodying the values of fair play and perseverance.



The tournament was more than just a sporting event - it was an opportunity for pupils to build relationships with their peers from other DLP schools, to enjoy friendly competition, and to experience pride in representing their school. We are incredibly proud of all the children's performance and attitude.

A big thank you to the Staff from St Mary's for organising such a well-run and enjoyable event, and to the staff and families who helped make the event such a success. We're already looking forward to next year's tournament!

The DLP cricket, hosted by Delph Primary School, was a great success. Five schools took part in a non-competitive taster style session where teams were taught how to play quick cricket. Each team played against one another, taking 5-minute turns to bat and field in a quick and safe manner. It was great to see so many children learn new skills as well as develop their sportsmanship games; there were certainly some magic moments and standout performers.



Well done to all who participated.
Next year's programme is already in development!

Professor Brian Cox visits Delph Primary School

Wednesday 2nd July was an exciting day for the staff and pupils at Delph Primary School as they welcomed Professor Brian Cox into school as part of the Great Horizons Tour; an initiative aiming to enhance young people's STEM opportunities and careers in Oldham.

As a former Oldhamer, Professor Cox was treated to a warm welcome from the school Brass Band before he talked to the children about Science, sharing some amazing photographs as well as facts about the planets! The children were then able to ask questions on a range of topics including, growing up in Oldham, pursuing a career in Science and whether space travel should be for all.

Many of the DLP schools take part in the annual Great Science Share. The campaign provides teacher support to develop pupils' curiosity, scientific questioning and a wide range of skills associated with working scientifically.

You can find out more by visiting www.greatscienceshare.org/#homepage



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

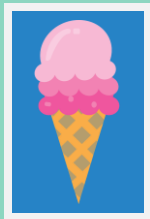
Website – Our website has had a make-over. Please check it out. Here you will find more detailed information about the DLP such as events, action plans, board meetings and our trustees.

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 restful, sunny summer break.

See you in September!