

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 2026 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

Another busy term goes by!

We began by celebrating last term's winners of our Times Table Rock Stars competition. Trophies were awarded to the classes that won and these were: 1st Diggle Year 4, 2nd Friezland Year 3 and 3rd St Mary's Year 3. Congratulations to all. Watch out for our Spring Term winners in the next newsletter.

We also began our planning for our staff event later in the year and to help facilitate this we had discussions with Huw Lloyd who has worked with the partnership previously and is helping us put together something for all our staff. More to come on this - watch this space!

With the increasing use of AI across all schools we looked at a policy for the DLP schools to jointly agree. As with all our policies, they are developed through consultation and discussion and then schools adapt them for their own individual school context. Through this we achieve a common understanding whilst recognising each school's autonomy.

Given it is nearly the end of our financial year we began budget planning for 2026-27. We looked at different models to agree the school's financial contribution to the partnership and how our spending would break down for the coming year. In these times of real difficulties for schools' budget it is important that we plan carefully so we can ensure that our action plans can be delivered. At the same time our budget for 2025-26 is being brought to a close.

We also used this term to look back on our plans to see if we were on target with what we set out to do this year. Unlike our budget, our action plans are based on the academic year so we do check termly that everything is in place or planned. It is pleasing to say that we are on track!

Finally, we look forward to welcoming Tommy Bunn as the Head of Knowsley Junior School. Tommy will take up post after the Easter Break. He has written a piece to introduce himself below.

We hope you all had a lovely Easter/Spring break.

DLP Does Park Run

It's been an exciting and energising time across the **Dovestone Learning Partnership** this term, as our schools proudly took part in the **parkrun UK Primary Initiative!**

This fantastic programme is **FREE** and encourages children aged 4-14 to get active, build confidence and experience the joy of movement in a fun, inclusive way.



Through our involvement, pupils embraced the opportunity to run, jog, walk and cheer one another on – embodying the true spirit of determination, teamwork and personal achievement.

Several of our children have previously participated in a Parkrun but the DLP are keen to promote this initiative to become a regular event for our pupils. The atmosphere at the event was filled with enthusiasm and encouragement. Staff, families and the amazing Parkrun volunteers came together to support our children, reinforcing the powerful message that physical activity is for everyone, regardless of pace or ability. For many pupils, it was their first experience of a community-style running event, and it was wonderful to see so many smiling faces crossing the finish line with pride.

Our participation reflects Dovestone Learning Partnership's ongoing commitment to promoting wellbeing, resilience and healthy lifestyles. We are incredibly proud of every child who took part!

We look forward to building on this momentum and continuing to inspire our pupils to stay active, aim high and enjoy the journey every step of the way!

You can find more about Junior Parkrun by visiting their website.

<https://www.parkrun.com/about/join-us/junior-parkrun/>



Sporting Update

The DLP Primary Schools have continued to work together to provide a range of Sports activities and competitions for each year group.

This half term the children have taken part in Gymnastics, Archery, Circuit training and a Dancathon. (see below)

All events have given the children the opportunity to develop further skills or showcase their talent.



The collaboration between the DLP schools supports the children to develop their skills, take part in a range of activities and get to know new children.

SEND Questionnaire

As part of our commitment to inclusion and to supporting our families across the partnership, we have drawn up a survey to gather interest from parents and carers about support that we might be able to offer. **If we were able to offer an information session for parents, by a visiting expert, about supporting pupils at home, which of the following would you attend?**

- Autism
- ADHD
- Speech & Language
- Dyslexia
- Anxiety
- Social Skills & Emotional Regulation
- Behaviour

Please complete this survey here to indicate your interest:

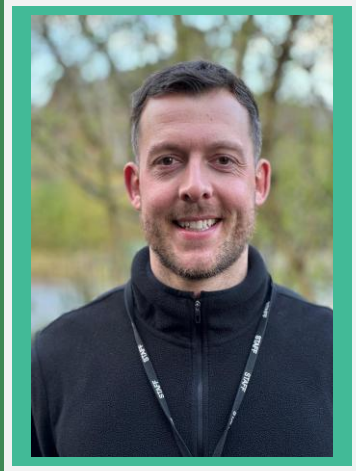
<https://forms.gle/T4EZ8gu9h6S7H8BW9>

Data will be collated at the end of May in order for us to plan our offer to families for the 2026-27 academic year.



Meet the DLPers!

As part of our regular feature of introducing you to people in the DLP. We have another special person for you to meet – Tommy Bunn, the new of Head of Knowsley Junior School



I am delighted to introduce myself as the Headteacher of Knowsley Junior School and to be part of the Dovestone Learning Partnership. It is a privilege to lead a school within such a collaborative and supportive network of schools.

Having spent six wonderful years as a teacher at Knowsley, I am proud to re-join the school and build on the strong foundations already in place.

With over a decade of experience in primary education, including leadership roles at Friezland and St Thomas' Leesfield, I am committed to ensuring that every child receives a high quality, inclusive education that enables them to thrive.

At the heart of my leadership is a belief that every child should feel safe, valued and inspired. I am passionate about nurturing the whole child - academically, socially and emotionally - and creating an environment where high expectations are matched with care and support.

My vision for Knowsley is to continue to build a culture of ambition, respect and community, where strong relationships underpin everything we do. I am committed to working closely with staff, families and the wider community to ensure that every child is cared for, supported and able to succeed.

Being part of the Dovestone Learning Partnership offers valuable opportunities for collaboration, shared learning and continued improvement. Having gained first-hand experience of organising sporting events across the DLP and being part of the Saddleworth SENDCO Collaborative, I know the positive impact the partnership has on the children at our schools.

I look forward to working with colleagues across the DLP to ensure the very best outcomes for all our children.

It is a privilege to serve this community, and I am excited about the journey ahead.

Dovestone Learning Partnership is delighted to have Tommy join us and we all look forward to working with you too.

Diggle Dance-a-Thon

On Monday 23rd March Diggle School held a Dance-a-thon as part of Move it March. The children and staff came to school dressed to dance the day away.

Each class had a period of time dancing to ensure that someone was dancing all day. Each class performed a dance for the rest of the school and the children also danced through playtime and lunchtime to the speaker outside.



At the end of the day children from Diggle's Just Dance Club were joined by children from St Agnes, Christ Church Denshaw and Friezland. The children all danced together to songs such as YMCA, Timber and Waka Waka. Everyone had a wonderful time and showed off their best dance moves.



Well done to everyone who took part



Equality Proofing Charter

One of the things the DLP has committed to develop this year is a Charter that each school will sign up to that outlines our commitment to Inclusion, Access and Opportunity for our pupils and families.

Through it schools commit to proactively identifying and removing financial, social and practical barriers to participation, designing policies and school practices with vulnerable families in mind, ensuring no child is excluded from opportunities due to cost or circumstance and treating all support offered with discretion, respect and dignity. Work is nearly complete on the Charter and it will be available for all to see on our DLP website.

The DLP Annual General Meeting

In February we held our Annual General Meeting. This is one of the things we need to do for the Trust to comply with legal requirements.

The AGM is open to all stakeholder of the Trust and in our case this is our staff, governors, parents and carers as well as our partners. We hold the meeting via zoom as we feel this makes it more accessible to anyone who wishes to attend.

The meeting is predominately held to approve our accounts (which are then filed at Companies House), agree our Annual Report that looks back on what activities we have undertaken the previous year and to share our plans for the coming year. This is all part of us being able to look at the impact of our work and also be responsible and accountable to our trustees.

The reports, accounts and minutes are now available on our website.

The Trust Board meets each term and is made up of the headteachers and usually, but not always, the chair of governors from each DLP school together with representatives from our partner organisations. Please see below if you would be interested in getting involved.

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 hope you have all had a wonderful Easter Break and welcome back - ready for the summer term.