

# Dovestone Learning Partnership

Welcome to our Dovestone Learning Partnership newsletter.

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



## DLP Spelling Bee Grand Final

On the 19th May 2022, the first ever Dovestone Learning Partnership Spelling Bee Grand Final was held, hosted by Delph Primary School. Each of the primary schools had held their own individual school Spelling Bee prior to the event, the finalists of which competed at the Grand Final. Contestants were asked to spell a broad selection of words, with a varying degree of difficulty. To compete, participants must memorise the spellings of words as written in dictionaries, and recite them accordingly. The competition was tough and the standard high. All of the finalists from each of the DLP schools performed very well indeed. After several rounds of nail biting competition, Amelie, a Year 5 pupil from Delph Primary School was crowned the DLP Champion Speller! We would like to congratulate all of the children for participating in this very exciting and worthwhile event.



Amelie (Yr 5)  
Winner of  
the 2022  
Spelling Bee



## Pupil Well Being

Following the last two years of Covid 19 disruptions and challenges, the well-being of our pupils has been a significant priority for all DLP schools.

This year we have established a termly network meeting for all pastoral/pupil support staff to attend so that they can up-skill, network with others and share good practice.

The training delivered has been in conjunction with several LA experts and topics have included: therapeutic play, behaviour as a form of communication, parental conflict and supporting pupils' mental health.

The networks will continue into 2022-23 so that we can continue to work in partnership to be 'stronger together for our pupils'.



## DLP SPORTS COMPETITIONS

The DLP Primary Schools have continued to work with Steve Ferris the Sports Development officer at Oldham Community Leisure Centre.

This half term the children have taken part in Tri-Golf, Hockey, Year 5 Sports Leadership and an inclusion festival.

The children have continued to develop their teamwork skills. Year 5 children had the opportunity to spend a day at Saddleworth Leisure Centre. They worked in teams to develop their young leader skills. This will enable all the children who took part the opportunity to run team sports and playground games in each school and work with the younger children.

The year has been finished with celebration events in each school. The children have been awarded trophies for a range of different skills.

The collaboration between the DLP schools and Oldham Community Leisure Centre will continue next year to enable more children from each of the DLP schools to take part in a range of competitions and events.



## Friezland Primary School

Following an extensive consultation and statutory notice period Friezland Primary School Governors voted to join the Dovestone Learning Partnership. Having been an associate partner since October 2017, Trustees were delighted to formally welcome Friezland to the partnership. All the consultation reports and papers are available to view on the school's website.

## DLP Developments – An Update

### Peer Review

Over the spring and summer terms, our DLP heads have conducted Peer Reviews at other schools within the trust. In addition to general lesson observations and learning walks around the buildings and grounds, some visits have had specific foci including Early Years, Phonics, Behaviour for Learning and embedding IPEEL (a programme that develops writing). Reports have been compiled with 'Strengths', 'Areas for Development' and 'Questions/Queries'. As part of the process, each headteacher has given verbal feedback before writing their report. This type of peer review has been very welcome, as an 'external' pair of eyes is always beneficial, with feedback being constructive as well as complimentary. In the next academic year, a more formal Peer Review conducted by LA Officer, Julie Stevens will take place.

### **Moderation**

Moderation of reading and writing across our DLP schools has taken place as planned over the course of the academic year (2021-2022) although attendance has been influenced by Covid outbreaks and staffing shortages. Nevertheless, we have met on the scheduled dates at St Thomas' Leesfield to moderate by year group. This has been a successful model for a few years now, where colleagues are able to share good practice and discuss year groups in detail. Gaps in learning and 'catch-up' have been a particular issue due to the continued negative impact from the pandemic.

### **Coaching**

Our Coaching Model has also kept on track. Training has taken place virtually in the autumn and spring Terms and face-to-face in summer. Paul Simmons has been retained as our very experienced facilitator and has led groups for Levels 1, 2, 3 as well as 'refresher' training. Each DLP school is building up their numbers of coach-trained personnel in order to improve resilience and the wellbeing of our staff. Various grades are also now trained from business managers, TAs, SENcos, teachers, heads and pastoral leads. Next academic year, we will offer the opportunity of being coached with different school staff within our DLP group.

## **Our website is now live.**

[www.dovestonelearningpartnership.co.uk](http://www.dovestonelearningpartnership.co.uk)

To contact the DLP, either email your school's headteacher  
or the DLP Facilitator at  
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The staff, pupils & governors would like to wish you all  
**a very restful summer break**

Stay safe and well