

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 Summer 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

And yet another busy term for the DLP

This term saw us meet with our Trust Board and our union colleagues. We discussed our budget for 2023-24, recent Ofsted Inspections and CPD that was currently being undertaken. The Board is made up of Heads, Chairs, LA reps and Trust Partners. We also meet with unions and professional associations representatives termly. It is always useful to hear external views on what the partnership is doing.

We have had three schools over this term publish the outcome of their recent Ofsted inspections. St Thomas', Leesfield, Delph and Diggle Primary Schools were all judged as good schools. Whilst it is a stressful time during the inspection, our schools felt they were well prepared through our Peer Reviews. All felt that overall the inspectors had been fair. We are delighted for our pupils, staff, governors and school communities that they received such positive outcomes from the inspections. The reports are available through the schools' websites.

Our CPD programme has continued with further behaviour training for staff to become trainers. We trained 10 people who are now deemed Classroom Culture Certified Instructors This means we have a specialists in each school and have a team we can call on to support across all schools.

We have also begun a bespoke 4 session event for subject coordinators to develop their skills and support the work they do across school.

Planning has also started for our annual staff event which is held in October each year. The focus for this will be SEND under the theme of 'everyone's responsibility'.

As well as all this several schools have participated in their Peer Reviews, we held our Spelling Bee (see below), networks have taken place and we have looked to further develop our Social Media presence.

Thanks to everyone for all your hard work supporting the DLP this academic year.

DLP MUSIC FESTIVAL

On Friday 14th July 2023 we held our first DLP Music Festival. Celebrating the talents and dedication of our pupils and music coordinators, Saddleworth School hosted the event - For the Children by the Children. Performances were filmed and will be shared with parents/carers and the individual schools. The morning featured an eclectic mix of music from brass bands, keyboards, choirs, piano, guitars and a Spice Girls tribute.

Compared by Mr Anderson, first up was Saddleworth Brass Band with a rousing performance of songs from West Side Story including Maria, Tonight and America . Followed by Delph Primary School Brass Band who gave us a hymn – They Shall Not Grow Old, popular songs Can You Feel The Love Tonight and A Whole New World finishing with Just Do It!



To complete our brass section we had two performances - F Sharp Jam Blues & Movie Buster from Christ Church Denshaw Year 4 Brass



Diggle Guitar Group were up next. The group are made up of pupils who have just started playing and those who have been playing for quite some time. They played a real mix of tunes including

The Banks of the Ohio, a bluesy tale of woe about hunger and eating a dog (!), Let it Go from Frozen and finally Pink Floyd's Another Brick in the Wall (the audience joined in with 'we don't need no education'). Please note the magnificent selection of hats worn.

After an interval where juice and delicious biscuits were on offer, we reconvened with Friezland Primary School's Keyboard Group. They played What Do We Do With the Drunken Sailor and Hallelujah.

Next up we welcomed the St Thomas', Leesfield Primary School Choir who sang two Elton John songs Can You Feel the Love Tonight (with a fantastic piano accompaniment) and I'm Still Standing.



We finished the morning with a lively performance from St Agnes Primary School. Fresh from their school show we were treated to a song - and dance - Spice Up Your Life! What a great way to end the Festival



A fabulous morning. All the pupils were attentive respectful. We must thank all those who helped make this event possible, the staff and pupils who work so hard to develop their skills and talents. A special mention to the staff at Saddleworth for hosting the Festival. We hope to make this an annual event.



DLP Sporting Events

This term has seen our next wave of sporting events, beginning with a rounders tournament, hosted by St Mary's Greenfield. Each school was represented by a team of 8 children, competing in hotly-contested head-to-heads. The eventual winners were Diggle – but a huge well done to all of our children who participated. The support received from families was lovely to see too: we couldn't have so many successful events without you.

On Wednesday 5th July, our Year 3 and 4 children were invited to participate in a Tennis competition. The children competed in a range of doubles matches at Tame Valley Tennis Club, in Greenfield. The children played in great spirit and the progress made by all was impressive. You never know; we could have a potential Wimbledon winner in one of our schools!



Unfortunately, due to poor weather, our cricket and netball competitions had to be cancelled. However, St Thomas' Leesfield and St Agnes' managed to squeeze in a friendly netball match before the end of term. It provided our children with the opportunity to put their skills to the test, in a competitive environment, after weeks of practice.

Meet the DLPers!

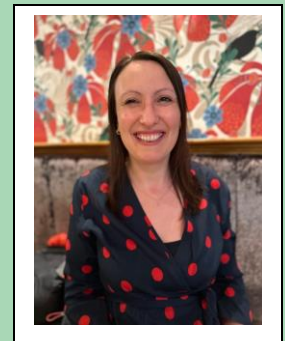
Coming and Goings!

We have several changes for September across the DLP. Alison Leigh the Headteacher at Delph Primary School and Sue Callaghan, Headteacher at Christ Church, Denshaw CE Primary School are both taking well-deserved retirement. We thank them for all their hard work and support for the DLP and wish them wonderful, exciting times ahead.

Following recruitment, we are delighted to welcome Michala Uttey as the new head of Christ Church and Rachael Swaby as the new head of Delph. Rachael is the current head of Friezland Primary another DLP school. Rebecca Hill will be taking over as Acting Headteacher at Friezland prior to formal recruitment in the Spring Term 2024. We wish them all best wishes in their new roles. Please see below where Michelle, Rachael and Rebecca introduce themselves

Michala Uttey, Headteacher, Designate Christ Church Denshaw Ce Primary School

I am thrilled to be able to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Christ Church Primary School, starting in September 2023. Knowing that I will be following in the footsteps of a Headteacher (Sue Callaghan), who has served her community with love and commitment for so many years, I do not underestimate how privileged I am to be in this position. I know I come 'from out of the area' and am a passionate Huddersfield Town FC fan but please don't hold this against me!



My overarching aim is always to ensure that children are at the heart of every decision and that no decision should ever be made that is not for their best interests. I truly believe school should be a 'safe environment' in every sense of the word, a haven to express themselves, make mistakes, grow and learn. A child's experience of school should be a positive one, where they feel truly valued and are given a strong foundation from which to grow and flourish. I am an experienced teacher of 23 years, having worked in contrasting contexts and localities. I've led in a variety of areas with my passion lying in English and raising standards in Reading and Writing. I have also enjoyed working for the LA, as an STA moderator and an SLE for English, deployed in schools to support outcomes. For me, working with others, both to learn and grow but also to support, when needed, is the cornerstone of education.

I recognise that it literally takes a village to raise a child. Strong relationships already exist between the Church, Governors, parents and Dove Stone Learning Partnership at Christ Church and I am keen to continue to grow and develop those relationships.

Our school motto is 'Small school, growing great minds' and I can't wait to join the DLP to continue to uphold this vital vision.



Rachael Swaby

Headteacher of Friezland Primary School soon to be Delph Primary School Headteacher

The summer term in schools is always an exciting term as we engage in lots of curriculum activities which make primary schools the special places they are: sports' day, end of year shows, leavers' activities, residentials and a range of transition activities to welcome our new families for the next academic year, to name but a few.

However, the summer term of 2023 has been a term of mixed emotions for me as I prepare to leave Friezland Primary School after 20 years and move on to Delph Primary School to take up the Headship there in September.

I'm Oldham 'born and bred' and have lived, studied and worked here all my life, only leaving briefly for University (and even then I only went as far as the MMU campus in Didsbury)! It may seem a cliché but I'm passionate about giving back to the town that has served me and when the opportunity arose for the Headship at Delph, I decided to challenge myself and give it a go, knowing that if I wasn't successful, I still had a great job at a great school- nothing to lose!

I place the wellbeing and pastoral care of children at the heart of everything I do- if we don't have happy children who want to come to school, we can't support them to develop their unique skills and talents and be the best that they can be. Over the years I have worked for Oldham LA alongside my teaching commitments, to support other schools across the borough with their PSHE education and pupil wellbeing programs of study and initiatives.

I feel extremely fortunate to have worked for so long at Friezland and to now be given the opportunity to lead the community of Delph School, following Mrs Leigh's retirement. The move to Delph also means that I can continue to be part of the Dovestone Learning Partnership and maintain the strong partnership we have established across our nine schools, ensuring the best possible outcomes for our children and students.

I hope the Delph families will be as kind to me as the Friezland families have been as I learn the 'Delph Ways' and establish myself as part of the Delph community.

Rebecca Hill, soon to be Acting Headteacher Friezland Primary School

My teaching journey began in Central London, working in large and diverse schools in Greenwich and Lewisham. As I progressed to Assistant Headteacher, I gained invaluable experience of leading a wide range of teams and curriculum areas, and becoming a skilled practitioner in all Key Stages. I returned to Oldham in 2016 and, in an unusual twist of fate, I found myself back in the school that I had attended as a child, as Assistant Headteacher at Friezland School. As our Mission statement explains, we are 'A Family Committed to Making a Difference' and I am honoured and excited to take on the role of Acting Headteacher at Friezland from September.



Over the past 7 years, it has been a privilege to work alongside Rachael Swaby, who has led the school on an exciting journey to where we are today. As she moves to Delph and I take the step into Headship, I am excited to continue driving Friezland forward. Together with staff, Governors and within the partnership of the DLP, we will continue to strive to develop well-rounded, resilient individuals who demonstrate mutual respect and tolerance, and who will have a positive impact on their community and the wider world.

Goodbye message

We would like to wish all of our Y6 and Y11 leavers all the best in the next steps of their learning journey. This is an exciting time filled with, not only endings, but new beginnings.

Whether it is a new high school, college or the world of work - use everything you have learned to be resilient, hardworking and kind. We can't wait to hear about all the amazing things you achieve, you can do it!



Keep UpToDate with the DLP

You can keep up to date 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 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

To contact the DLP, either email your school's headteacher

or the DLP Facilitator at juliebowdidge@googlemail.com

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 Summer Break.

See you in September!

Keep safe and well everyone.