

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 Autumn Term 2024 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

Our new academic year started with our annual Head Teachers' Away Day. We used this valuable time together to plan, in detail, our responses to increased SEND needs and the new arrangements for Attendance. We also reviewed and updated our yearly action plans. We have 3 working parties having kept Wellbeing we now have Enrichment and Closing the Gap. It seemed a good time to refocus our priorities. We reviewed our peer review processes to ensure our schools are all getting support they need at a time they need and finalised our planning for our annual staff event in October - see article below. In October we held our Trust Board meeting where our plans were discussed and approved by our stakeholders. These were also shared with our union colleagues at our termly JCNC meeting.

The partnership has also developed a full list of enrichment activities ranging from sports activities, business enterprise, the annual spelling bee, music festival and there will be a world book challenge and a math competition. Watch this space for reports as each event takes place!

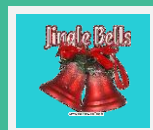
Other areas of our work include discussion around our data and how that helps form our partnership priorities and our networks have begun again after the summer break.

Finally, the schools' choirs have been busy recording a special treat. See below for our festive present to you all. Enjoy!



Please click the link below to view our 2024 DLP Christmas Song

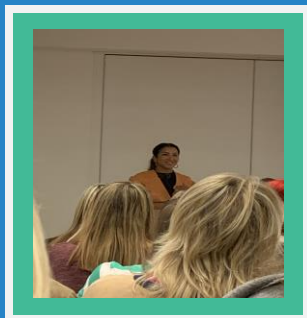
[DLP Choir Christmas Video 2024.mp4](#)



Annual Staff Event: Closing the Gap

Each year we plan a staff event where the majority of staff across our schools come together to hear from key note speakers around a theme that is important to all our schools. In October we were lucky to have two fabulous speakers come along to Saddleworth School to spend a morning with us.

We began with Navdeep Sanghara who is the CEO of Woodlands Trust. Nav started her career in education as a Teaching Assistant and so had a unique viewpoint across all aspects of education. Her particular passion is ***Building Compassionate and Inclusive Learning Communities***.



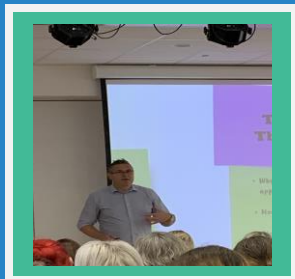
We learnt:

To look at ourselves first. To empower us to use the tools and mindset needed to foster a sense of belonging, inclusion, and safety within schools.

To explore the role of relationships and values in building deeply inclusive communities and become curious about how these align with decision-making.



Next on the agenda was Mark Wrangles, Director of Close the Gaps who spoke to us about ***The Importance of a Therapeutic Approach***.



We learnt:

Why learners need a therapeutic approach'.
What is meant by adverse childhood experiences.
How the brain responds.
Regulate, Relate, Reason, Repair
How to build a sense of security for our pupils.



Following the input staff went back to their individual schools to discuss the content and how it applied to their setting and context.

All agreed it had been a useful informative day which would influence our practice in the future.

Pastoral Network

Our Pastoral Leads met this term for some CPD on 'Wellbeing Conversations' led by one of Oldham's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Advisors. The principles focus on the better staff know their pupils, the more they are likely to be able to support them and get them the help they may need. A wellbeing conversation is just a conversation - It's asking someone if they're ok and not being afraid of the answer. The CPD focused on the importance of wellbeing conversations between staff and pupils and, when to have a 'wellbeing conversation'. Staff practised the skills taught with each other before taking back to their own settings.

DLP Nursery Provision

Did you know that two of our DLP schools offer Pre-School/Nursery places? Contact Diggle or Delph if you are interested in a place.



Come and join Delph Pre-school!

Offering 2, 3 & 4yr-old places for September 2024

Full and half-day sessions

Monday-Friday: 8:45am-3:15pm

(term-time only, no holiday retention fees)

Visit www.delphprimary.co.uk/delph_pre_school
or arrange a visit to come and see us for yourselves!

Contact: info@delph.oldham.sch.uk
0161 770 7603 / 7600














'A community for your child'

INTRODUCING... DIGGLE SCHOOL NURSERY

Diggle School Nursery is a new venture providing a nurturing, friendly pre-school environment. Our qualified staff are passionate about supporting each child through engaging play-based learning - not just preparing them for today, but for their transition into school and beyond.

Why Choose Diggle?

- **Purpose-Built Facility:** Our beautiful, purpose-built nursery is set in stunning grounds, allowing children to flourish and feel safe.
- **Learning Through Play:** We believe that play is the best way to develop early skills, spark creativity and build a lifelong love of learning.
- **Wraparound Care:** We offer flexible wraparound care to support families, with extended hours that work around busy lives.
- **Hot School Meals:** Healthy, nutritious meals are served daily.
- **Government Funding:** We accept children from age 3 and offer government funding options.
- **Open to All:** We accept children from any area.

Call: 01457 601970. Email: enquiries@diggleschool.co.uk
www.diggleschool.co.uk

Meet the DLPers!

As part of our regular feature of introducing you to people in the DLP. Today is the turn of Julie Bowdidge, the DLP Facilitator



Hello everyone I'm delighted to introduce myself. My name is Julie Bowdidge and I have the pleasure of being the DLP Trust Facilitator. I spent over 25 years working for a Local Authority as a senior officer in Education Services before taking early retirement. I then set up my own consultancy business with a colleague working with schools across all sectors and in a number of areas across the north of England. We also did on-line training with British schools abroad. As well as this work I also worked with the Co-operative College supporting schools to become Co-operative Trusts. This is where I first came into contact with a number of schools in the Saddleworth and Lees area who were looking to form a Trust to support the work they were doing together. This is where the Dovestone Learning Partnership was formed. After a great deal of consultation and consideration the Co-operative model was chosen as the way forward. At that time I supported the schools through the processes to establish the Trust.

My role now is to co-ordinate the activities of the DLP. This can include arranging training and events, sorting out the calendar, arranging all the meetings – monthly heads' meetings, the Trust Board and unions – ensuring the Trust remains compliant with Companies House and the Charities Commission, making sure our plans are up to date and actions undertaken. This can mean quite a lot of nagging though I have yet to resort to threats! I really enjoy working with the staff across the DLP. The heads are a fab bunch of people who are immensely committed to their schools and communities. All do their very best to meet the needs of their pupils- It is great to be a very small part of that. And, despite being from the 'other side of the Pennines', I enjoy my trips over the M62 (on the days the motorway is actually moving)!

DLP Super Council Update

This academic year, Knowsley Junior School are hosting the DLP School Council (also known as the Super Council). The first meeting was held in November and addressed British Values and was well attended by the DLP schools. The pupils who attended the meeting were well behaved, contributed to discussions, remained engaged and worked well as a group. In March the topic will be, Wellness and Mental Health Awareness and our final meeting will be in June to discuss Transitions. We look forward to hearing how our School Council pupils raise awareness of these topics in their individual schools.



DLP Sport

This term, our DLP primary schools have been competing against one another in a range of football fixtures. Each week, St Thomas' Leesfield has hosted friendly matches at Saddleworth Pool and Leisure Centre's 3G surface, creating opportunities for children in years 5 and 6 to test themselves against their DLP peers.

To conclude the term, there was a 7-a-side competition, featuring two groups and then a third-placed playoff and final. Congratulations to Friezland, who were the overall winners, beating a resilient Knowsley, on penalties, in the final, to secure victory. In the third-placed playoff St Thomas' Leesfield edged out Greenfield St Mary's.

A big thank you to the children for showing great spirit, sporting attitudes and respect. A special thank you to parents and families for their positive support and the staff for organising such a well-run event.



Flying Felstead's Fantastic Fundraiser

Congratulations to Jane Felstead from the DLP's Christ Church, CE Primary School at Denshaw. Jane conquered her fears by completing a novel fundraiser. Jane, a class 3/4 teacher at Christ Church Primary School, pushed out of her comfort zone by completing a ride on Velocity, the world's fastest zip wire, which reaches speeds of 100mph on its 1,555 metre route over Snowdonia. So far, her personal bravery has raised more than £1,000 towards improving school grounds for the 58 pupils. Supported by admiring staff, pupils, family and friends, Mrs Felstead successfully completed Velocity during the school's half term break.

She said, "With budget constraints high on the agenda in most schools, I thought what better way to help my school than to push myself out of my comfort zone by completing Velocity to gather some much-needed school funds.

"It was a huge triumph for me"

And it was for those who donated. Anyone who would like to donate can go to Jane's GoFundMe page.

Well done Jane from everyone at the Dovestone Learning Partnership



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 Christmas break and here's to a fabulous 2025!