

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 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 for the Partnership.

We started the term with lots of planning - for the Trust Board meeting, our Heads' Away Day, the music festival and the staff training day. The Board meeting was held in May and we reported back on DLP developments over the school year. Directors received reports on attendance, support provided by our schools to our schools, and a financial update. We also had a discussion on the recently published White Paper and what impacts/implications this could have for the DLP.

The TT Rock Stars competition has continued with the children getting competitive with other schools! Winners for the Spring Term were 1st St Agnes, 2nd Diggle and 3rd Friezland. Summer Term results just in are 1st (Year 4) AND 2nd (Year 3) St Agnes and 3rd Diggle. The competition will continue next year. Let's see if St Agnes can be beaten. On a positive note all schools state that this has shown an impact on the children's learning.

We finalised our budget for 2026-27 and agreed our schools' allocations. This was approved by the Trust Board. School budgets are very tight so a lot of careful thought is given to what we spend and we always look for the best deals. This is one advantage of working together we can pool resources.

Heads have been working on a paper to support our pupils and families as they transition on to High School (see below for more information). This will be sent to Year 6 parents and will be on our website.

We have a few goodbyes to say at this end of this term (see below) and also an hello to the new head of Friezland Primary School. Spencer introduces himself in our Meet the DLP section.

Have a lovely summer break. Stay safe and we look forward to seeing everyone in September.

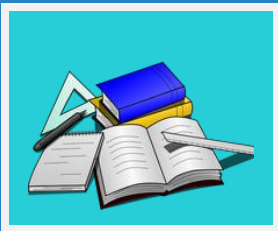
DLP: Supporting a Successful Transition to Secondary School

This year, staff across the Dovestone Learning Partnership have worked closely together to support our Year 6 pupils as they prepare for the exciting move to secondary school. As part of this work, we gathered pupil voice and spoke with several receiving secondary schools to identify the key life skills and qualities that help young people make a successful transition. These conversations have helped us develop a shared understanding of what being "secondary ready" looks like.

Families should look out for our **'Secondary School Ready' Checklist**, which has been sent home to all Year 6 families. The checklist provides practical guidance and ideas to help children build confidence and independence ahead of September.



We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils and all they have achieved during their time in our schools.



We wish all our Year 6 leavers every success and happiness as they move on to their respective secondary schools and begin the next stage of their educational journey. We hope they will be back to visit at some point to let us know how they are getting on!

DLP Does Junior Parkrun Again!

Once again, we encouraged our pupils to take part in a Parkrun. This time it was the turn of Alexandra Park in Oldham. Parkrun is FREE and encourages children aged 4-14 to get active, build confidence and experience the joy of movement in a fun, inclusive way. It is available every Sunday at parks across the country, even the world!

Staff, families and the amazing Parkrun volunteers came together to support our children, meeting at the start line at The Dragon's Den! For some pupils, it was their first experience of a Parkrun and it was wonderful to see so many smiling faces crossing the finish line with pride. We had some pupils finishing in top 10 positions and everyone who started, finished, not letting the steep incline before the finishing straight, defeat them! 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!

If you have participated in a Parkrun event a little further afield, perhaps whilst on a holiday with family, write a little about it and pass it on with a photo to your Headteacher, if you would like to feature in a future newsletter!

You can find more about Junior Parkrun by visiting their website.
<https://www.parkrun.com/about/join-us/junior-parkrun/>



DLP and Oldham Athletic FC: Inspiring Active Learners Through Sport

This year, several of the Dovestone Learning Partnership (DLP) schools have been proud to work alongside Oldham Athletic Football Club (O AFC) to provide exciting sporting opportunities for our children and families.

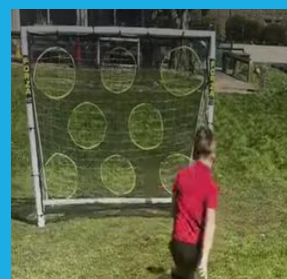
A highlight of the year has been the sponsored penalty shoot-outs, which have raised valuable funds for individual schools, helping to purchase new sports equipment, while also supporting O AFC's charitable work within the local community. Thank you to all the children who took part and families that contributed.

Children have also enjoyed the fantastic opportunity to play at Boundary Park in 'Play on the Pitch' half time match experiences and the Year 1–2 and Year 5–6 World Cup-style tournaments.

For many pupils, stepping onto the pitch has been a memorable experience, promoting teamwork, resilience, confidence and a love of physical activity. Sport and outdoor learning play a vital role in children's development, supporting both physical and mental wellbeing, encouraging healthy lifestyles, building social skills and helping children learn through challenge, exploration and collaboration.



The DLP is delighted with the success of our partnership with O AFC this year and look forward to continuing to work together next year to create even more opportunities for our pupils.



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 Spencer Carver, the new Head of Friezland Primary School We look forward to working with you Spencer.

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Friezland Primary School and to be joining the Dovestone Learning Partnership community.

Having worked in education for over 21 years, I am proud to be beginning my headship journey at such a special school. I have taught across the full primary phase, from Early Years to Year 6, and have been fortunate to hold a range of leadership roles, including Acting Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher and Deputy Trust Principal. These experiences have shaped my understanding of school improvement and strengthened my belief that the best schools are built on strong relationships, high expectations and a deep commitment to doing what is right for children.

At the heart of my leadership is a strong moral purpose. I believe every child should feel safe, valued and inspired, and that every member of staff should feel trusted, supported and empowered to make a difference. For me, effective leadership is about creating the conditions where both children and adults can thrive.

My vision for Friezland is to build on the school's warmth, character and strong sense of community, while continuing to strengthen the quality of education for all pupils. I want Friezland to be a school where children develop confidence, curiosity and independence; where they are challenged to achieve their very best; and where they are supported to grow as kind, capable and resilient individuals.

I am particularly passionate about high-quality teaching and learning, strong foundations in reading and writing, and creating an inclusive curriculum that enables all children to succeed. I believe in doing the simple things exceptionally well, securing consistency across school, and ensuring that every child, including those with SEND, receives the support and challenge they need to thrive.

Throughout my career, I have seen the power of collaboration, professional trust and shared expertise in moving schools forward. Whether leading school improvement, developing curriculum provision, strengthening early reading, or supporting inclusive practice, I have always believed that sustainable improvement comes from working with people, not simply putting systems in place.

Being part of the Dovestone Learning Partnership offers a valuable opportunity to work collaboratively, learn from colleagues and contribute to a supportive network of schools. I am looking forward to sharing practice, building strong professional relationships and working together to secure the very best outcomes for all our children.

It is a privilege to be joining Friezland Primary School and the wider DLP community, and I am excited about the journey ahead.

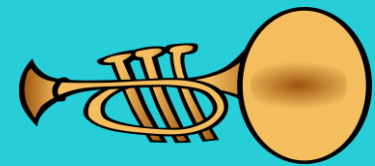
Congratulations to Diggle School Brass Band



Diggle School was very proud to receive the Martyn Evans Award for the best school brass band at the music festival. We are very proud of all the band and their achievement.

The trophy will have pride of place in our entrance hall so if you are ever in our school be sure to check it out.

Well done to all involved



Farewell

Two of our DLP Headteacher are leaving at the end of this academic year.

Suzanne Hall from Greenfield St Mary's CE Primary School and Rebecca Hammond from Friezland Primary School have both taken the difficult decision to leave headship.

Both have been tremendous supporters of the DLP so it is a huge loss to the partnership. We wish them all the very best for the future.

Spencer Carver is taking over as Head at Friezland and at St Mary's Rebecca Hunter will be Executive Head for 2.5 days a week with Ryan Selby, Head of School for the other 2.5 days. We look forward to working with you.

DLP Spelling Bee 2026

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 once again very high,



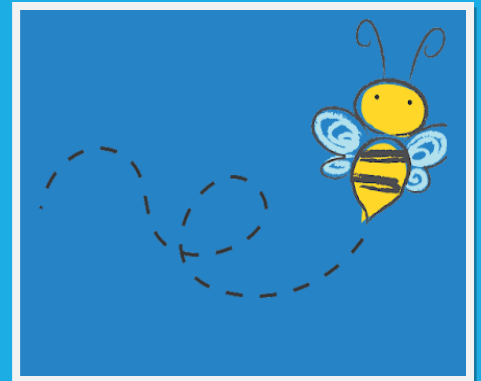
with children from Years 4 – 6 competing. The children had to spell words such as rhythm, competence, parliament, magnificence and ambitious, all in front of a live audience.

The final two children from St Thomas' Leesfield and St Agne's School, went head-to-head before the winner was declared. Imogen from St Thomas' Leesfield was the overall winner.



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 2027!



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 wish you all a lovely summer break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.