



18th October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

How are we a half term into the year already – and what a busy one it has been!

First and foremost, I wish to thank all of you who took the time to respond to our Ofsted Parent Survey with such short notice – we had 166 responses – or chat to the inspectors at drop off on the Wednesday morning. The inspection team couldn't believe the response and had never had such a high return. As always, the overwhelming majority of responses – 97-99% across all questions – were highly positive and made a significant contribution to our inspection. Thank you!

Our wonderful pupils were shining stars throughout the two days, showing the inspection team exactly what it is like to be a pupil in our school. I couldn't be any prouder of them and the Dowson ambassadors they proved to be.

Of course, we now wait for the report to be published and shared with you all. I look forward to being able to share all of the positive feedback we were given, particularly in light of the turbulent recent years we have all had.

As a thank you and treat to our staff and pupils on Friday, we will finish our half term with a non-uniform day. Please make sure children are still in suitable own clothing and footwear for the weather and remember their coats!

As always, I also want to thank the whole of Team Dowson for their continued commitment, and the extra mile they go to for our school and families, not just during an inspection but each and every day: it doesn't go unnoticed by me, or you I am sure. The inspection team were impressed by the collegiate responsibility and dedication they experienced during their time here. I know you will join me in wishing all staff a good rest this holiday!

Jeans for Genes

Another big thank you to you all; this time for the money raised on our Jeans for Genes day, which totalled £382. As promised, this will be split between the Jeans for Genes charity and the Wiedemann-Steiner Syndrome (WSS) Foundation which supports one of our own pupils. Our pupils really enjoyed learning about children with different genetic conditions and how their lives might be different to theirs and showed great empathy.

Our next focus day will be Monday 14th November when we all wear our odd socks (with our uniform) to launch Anti-bullying week. This year the theme is 'Reach Out'.

The 18th November is also Children in Need where we will join in the great SPOTacular and wear anything spotty / pyjamas or our own clothes to raise money for this great cause.

Remember that dates like these for your diary were sent earlier in the year and can be found on our website at the link here: <https://www.dowson.tameside.sch.uk/parents/dates-for-parents-2022-2023>





A Few Other Reminders:

- ✓ If your child is on school dinners, please make sure their menu choices are selected. Any changes to these or orders for dinners within MCAS must be done before 8am on the day the dinner will be taken.
- ✓ Please ensure as the colder weather draws in that your child has a suitable coat to stay warm and dry.
- ✓ Most trips and visits for the year are now available within your MCAS to be able to pay in smaller instalments over a longer period of time to try and support family finances in these challenging times. This includes the panto trip for years 1-6.
- ✓ YEAR 6 Parents, don't forget applications for High School need to be in by 31st October which is during the holidays.

Operation Christmas Child

We are excited to once again be taking part in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox appeal this year and are hoping our families will support us by either filling a shoebox or providing items for our donation boxes which school will then use to fill shoeboxes. You can even just donate us the empty shoe box to fill!

Half term is just the time to have a sort out! Good quality, clean, second hand gloves, scarves, hats are all welcome and unbroken, clean second-hand toys and small teddies can also be used. Ideas for the boxes are in the link below and the OCC leaflets will be available from each office - plus gift aid envelopes for the £5 transport cost if you are able to help with this. All donations, however small will go towards the making up of a box that will make a big difference.

Boxes will be accepted from Monday 31st October 2022 until Friday 11th November 2022 when we will then take them to the drop off point so they can start their journey to bring smiles to the faces of many children this Christmas.

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox/>

Great Citizens

Our assembly on Friday will be a delight to say the least. Each teacher will announce their Great Citizen award to someone in their class who demonstrates all the values and traits we would expect to see for this. As always, it will be a hard decision because we have so many to choose from but look out on Class Dojo and our social media to see who our class winners are!

Wishing you a restful, happy and safe half term break.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Kathryn Thornburn
Principal

