

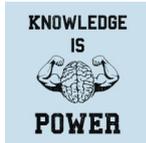


Dowson Primary Academy

PROUD PRINCIPAL'S POST

DOING IT THE DOWSON WAY!

Our year has got off to a flying start, as always, with some amazing learning and messages about the power of learning and knowledge and how we can build our learning power—grow our brains! After such turbulent times, we decided to make our whole year theme 'We are Dowson!' and spend some time on refreshing all of our values and expectations with the children. They have certainly risen to the challenge of demonstrating their 'wonderful walking', 'marvellous manners' and 'lovely line ups' in and around the school and have demonstrated a great attitude towards their learning too. We are very proud of the start they have made to the year.



We have celebrated Black History Month and looked at people who have helped to change the world by standing up for what they believe in. We reflected on how lucky we are to live in a time and community where people live happily together as equals.

YOUR HELP

Thank you for supporting two worthy causes already this year. Our annual Jeans for Genes day, raised a whopping £508.50. The children really enjoyed being in school in their jeans and learning about their genes—the 'recipe' that makes them who they are and how the 'ingredients' come together to make them individual and unique. They were fascinated to learn about how genetic disorders happen and talked compassionately about how they can be kind and support others who may need it.



We have also been overwhelmed by your generosity in donations to the Tameside Afghanistan Refugee appeal. The appeal have picked up a huge amount in two visits to school since we launched the appeal. They wish to pass on their sincere thank you for your help.

PUPIL POWER!

We announced our first group of Great Citizens today and it was lovely to hear the staff share the reasons for their choices and how our pupils show the value of Citizenship in so many ways. I was also proud to hear of how many children each teacher felt they had to choose from. Well done to our winners this term who were chosen for things such as kindness and compassion to others, being respectful of differences, keeping our school and environment tidy and always being helpful. What great examples you all are!

We are also heading towards the time when we will elect a new team of Year 6 Prefects as ambassadors for school. Applications are in and staff will vote for who they know will best inspire our other children to live by our PACT because they are such good examples.

We will also be able to get our pupil leadership teams back up and running this year and will be running elections during 'Parliament week' upon our return.

BIG FRIENDS

Our new children in Nursery and Reception have settled well and are already developing and learning at a rapid speed, as I am sure their adults have noticed!



Reception children are already well on their way with their reading

and writing of sounds and their understanding of numbers is growing too. They got chance to show some of their new reading and writing skills when their parents were also introduced to their 'Big Friends' from year 5 who are going to be around as a friendly face, a support and a champion for their little friends over the course of the year. It's so lovely to see our older pupils taking good care of the younger ones and I know Reception have enjoyed their meetings so far.

ANTI-BULLYING



This year the anti-bullying week theme is 'One Kind Word' and we couldn't think of a better fit in terms of

how this matches our school ethos and values. Launching the week will be our annual odd socks day



on Monday 15th November. We will focus on the theme for the year as well as renewing our pupil-led anti-bullying policy and signing our class pledges. Our learning will include e-safety messages, work on friendships and conflict resolution and we will enjoy performances from the theatre company 'Two Boards and a Passion'.

KEEPING SAFE

Please may I remind you of a few things about our school grounds that are in place to keep our pupils safe.



You can help us to do this by remembering to drive and park safely around the school grounds—park away from school and stride if you can. Be respectful of the neighbours in our community by not blocking driveways and do not park on the yellow zig zags on Gloucester Road or on the school driveway off Marlborough Road.

We are also operate a 'smoke free gates' policy which means there is no smoking anywhere on our school grounds, including the pathways between buildings and we politely request that you wait until you are out of view of our pupils before you 'light up' - this includes vaping.



Finally, a reminder that dogs are not to be brought onto the school grounds, even being carried. They must not be tied to school railings either. Thank you for your cooperation in all of these matters.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Along with this newsletter, we are publishing the key dates that parents need to have 'on the fridge'. They include events such as parent consultation day and, excitingly, Christmas production dates!

We are really hoping that the guidance and restrictions remain such that events in school can once again go ahead and so have shared the dates in our calendar with you tentatively. If they are able to go ahead, more information will come closer to the time about how these events will need to run. Keep your fingers crossed!



I am also excited to announce that we have booked the annual trip to the pantomime for years 1-6! Details for this will follow soon so that parents can begin to pay the balance in time to not 'feel the pinch' at Christmas time.

I hope that you all have a happy, safe and restful half term and look forward to seeing you all at the start of Autumn 2.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Thornburn".

Mrs Kathryn Thornburn

Principal



**Dowson
Primary Academy**