



Dowson Primary Academy

PROUD PRINCIPAL'S POST

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS

I can't believe that we are a whole term into the year already and what a term it has been! Our new parent consultation day was a great success with over 90% of you attending! We will be doing the same format for the day in March but in response to your feedback, running this until the slightly later time of 7pm. I know many of you appreciated the longer slot and written report format to take away from this day also, including your child's views, which help you to hold valuable conversations at home and support your child's attitudes to learning and academic achievements. Thank you for this continued support.

I'm also really pleased to see that the vast majority of you are now signed up to Class Dojo so that you can receive lots of positive feedback about your child's learning and progress and reinforce the positive praise from the point system at home. If you're not already signed up - jump on board by asking your child's class teacher for your log in information again.

WHAT A PERFORMANCE!

Despite an incredible amount of sickness in school over the last month - both for pupils and staff - the shows all went on and were a resounding success! Carols around the tree in Nursery, A Miracle in Town in Reception and Children of the World in Lower School were, I'm sure you'll agree if you saw them, a wonderful celebration of the Christmas story and a fantastic opportunity for children to show off their talents and grow in confidence as performers, not to mention getting us all into the Christmas spirit. Thank you for your attendance at these events - I'm sure you thoroughly enjoyed them.



WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!

Those of you who came to the performances heard me talk about the difference your support of our causes this term has made to children around the world. As well as the huge success of Big Me for Action Aid and the Polio awareness work mentioned in my Autumn 1 newsletter, we have since raised over £400 for Children in Need, sent 85 shoeboxes around the world with Operation Christmas, raised over £300 for Royal Manchester Children's Hospital on our Christmas jumper day and, from the donations at performances and the raffle from our community Frosty Tea, raised £401.46 to split between Willow Wood, a charity close to many of our hearts, and Big Change Manchester which is a charity supporting homeless people to get off the streets of our city through such things as paying for a deposit on a home or helping to furnish it, or even something as simple as bus fare to a job interview. I'm sure you'll agree that through these amazing causes, together, we are showing our children what a difference they can make but also raising their awareness of just how lucky they are! Thank you for your contributions and support

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TODAY TO MAKE YOU FEEL PROUD?

As if those amazing achievements weren't enough to be proud of, I must tell you that our children's enterprise for the Christmas Market in Hyde, raised over £550 for school. This will be added to the incredible fundraising the PTA continue to do for school and begin to work towards our target for an exciting project in school that will be revealed in the new year! Our next PTA meeting is in the dates for the fridge section - everybody is welcome to join us; please come along and see what we are doing and what you can do to support this fantastic group in a time when school funding needs them more than ever before!

Additional achievements this term include, our volleyball team winning the Tameside championship, the hockey team getting all the way to the finals in the Hyde tournament and the Chess team is going from strength to strength and will be entering the first round of a national competition in the new year - well done to all of these teams.



The pupil leadership teams have been busy planning, developing and improving aspects of school - some of you will have received a letter regarding the tuck shop for Upper School, written by the Health and Safety team; the School Council are working on improving the playgrounds, the Learning Council are looking at further ways to develop Dowson as a reading school and the Eco team have written off to companies asking if we can have various recycling bins to improve our carbon footprint. The leaders of these teams and I, couldn't be prouder of the way the children are engaging with their roles and taking them so seriously. The Pupil Leadership teams will write to you before half term to tell you about their work and plans for the second half of the year—watch this space!



PEACE AND GOOD WILL TO ALL MEN

Today, in our final assembly of the term, our Peace Prize winners chosen in each class were all awarded a certificate and a book in keeping with the theme of the award, which is given to those children in class that teachers feel promote positive friendships, keep the peace, are kind and caring and try to resolve conflict in calm and peaceful ways. Well done to our winners and keep doing your great work as ambassadors of peace.

That just leaves me on behalf of myself and all the staff at Dowson to send warm wishes for a very peaceful and magical Merry Christmas with your families and loved ones and that 2018 brings you much health and happiness.

With Kind Regards,

Mrs K L Thornburn

Principal



**Dowson
Primary Academy**

Dates for the Fridge

8th January—Return to School

15th January—PTA meeting (time tbc)

22nd January—Young Voices for School Choir

25th January—Launch of Parent Forum

2nd February—Year 3 Stone Age Trip

12th February—Year 6 Eden Camp Trip

16th February—Break for Half Term

**More information about the above events will be sent towards the times. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us!*