



DEDWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Newsletter

13th November 2020

Headteacher's News

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of Autumn Term 2 and hoping you are all staying safe at the end of our first week of the national lockdown. A more positive week with exciting news about the potential of the Covid-19 vaccine so fingers crossed this will help us all resume in the future to some normality. The pupils have been absolutely fantastic getting used to wearing masks into school – we thank you all for your support. We are a school with 500 pupils and we are deemed Secondary as the children move around, across and between buildings so face coverings are an important part of this new routine. I have to admit though as I stand there greeting all the pupils in the morning at the gate, how surreal it is watching hundreds of young people wearing masks coming into school – it certainly was never something we would have thought of this time last year! We do also have vulnerable children and staff in school so this is allowing us to keep everyone as safe as we can whilst in school. Everyone has adapted to the handwashing and sanitising; it is part of all our lives now!

Pupils are busy though as soon as they come into school and lessons are unaffected. I love hearing for myself the buzz as you enter different classrooms and questions being asked from curious learners and inquiring minds. Discussions around controversial topics; groups debating different answers; ticking brains working out where they have gone wrong or the passionate shout outs from the 4G pitch and sports hall – it is what makes Dedworth a great place to be! It was also a really special moment on Wednesday when we marked the two minute silence. Children stood respectfully behind their chairs whilst support staff members and office workers marked the corridors with their presence; I felt proud of them all. Our Year 5 pupils have just completed work on the World Wars too so a really poignant moment. What has also really stood out this week to me are pupils asking for litter pickers to help pick up litter around their 'bubble area'. We obviously have to sanitise them in between 'shifts' but their enthusiasm to do this has really touched me.

This time of the year we are usually busy planning lots of Christmas events for the pupils to enjoy so we have had to think a little harder this year to ensure we can still enjoy the festivities but also stick to all the government guidelines. You will read more in the newsletter but believe me we will do our best to ensure there is some fun amongst all these extra rules to follow! We will also do a tutor-based event in the classroom following their Christmas lunch and these details will follow nearer the time. Mr O'Donnell will also liaise with the Junior Leadership Team to hear the views of our young people too! We can't do a disco or a fair but there are events we can plan!

A shorter introduction from me as there are more articles from different staff this time so I hope you enjoy reading our news and successes. I will update you again in two weeks time – probably on the Thursday afternoon as it is our Inset day on Friday 27th and we have a very busy day planned with Pivotal Education delivering all day. I look forward to filling you in on what we have learnt and what we hope to implement at DMS in the very near future.

Wishing you all a restful weekend. Stay safe and enjoy any dry weather that comes our way.

With very best wishes,
Mrs Nicola Chandler
Executive Headteacher

Hot Chocolate Friday

Our Hot Chocolate Friday winners were:



KS2 (last week)

Carys Marsh Mallick (5HB) as she offers to help others with their work and explains the task if they have missed the input. She is always paying attention and is willing to help others.

Hesam Ahmed (5DM) as he had the initiative to find a piece of paper and, unprompted, make notes during the lesson to help him with his learning.

Isabella Hudson (6NP) as she has been extremely studious, doing TTRS every day, using Linguascope and reading Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix to Mr Parkin!



KS3 (this week)

Eden Crossley (8LR) as she always demonstrates exemplary behaviour, is a fantastic role model and also created an amazing set of labels for each class set of books for DT.

Saarim Ali (8ML) as he shows amazing effort in all subjects, particularly in English.

They enjoyed a hot chocolate and a chat with Mrs Chandler in her office. We would love to know about any successes outside of school – sport, music, cookery, youth group etc. Get in touch via Class Dojo and tell us about your accomplishment!

Year 6 WW2 Topic

In Term 1, Year 6 studied World War 2 as their topic. As part of this, they read the excellent book by Michelle Magorian called, 'Goodnight Mister Tom'. An important part of their work was to research into significant events and aspects of the war such as: rationing, contemporary games, The Blitz, the evacuation of children from cities to safer places in the country and the VE Day celebrations. In order to recreate the VE Day celebrations, many of the children dressed up as historical characters.

Mr Parkin, Head of Year 6



Design & Technology

Year 7 and 8 have started making their face masks in D&T, we have been talking about sustainability and they will be making their product from an old item of clothing. Well done to all those students that have already bought in their old t-shirts, we are just waiting for a few more to bring theirs 😊.

Year 5 have been practicing their cutting skills and have now completed their very first D&T project, their Tudor bookmarks and what a great job they have done, well done year 5!

Miss Raz – Teacher of Design & Technology



French Department News

Merci et bravo to all the students in KS3 who managed to achieve 7+ out of 10 in their vocabulary tests this week. I am pleased to report that there were students in **ALL** classes who scored full marks. Please could parents continue to support learning key vocabulary at home as this boosts confidence and progress in learning French. Vocabulary lists are posted each Tuesday to be tested during the following week. *Merci beaucoup!*

Yr 7 News

It has been a pleasure to see students achieving their Bronze certificate when they have reached 100 Achievement Points. The Form Tutors have been encouraging students to reach that milestone and we hope to include names of those students in the next newsletter.

A reminder to all students that they must bring a fully stocked pencil case to school, as well as a reading book. Thank you for your support, *Mrs Stratton*.



Yr 7 & 8 English



KS3 English team would like to announce that we will be setting regular homework tasks every Friday that will be collected in the following Friday. Completion of homework of a strong standard will get achievement points! The tasks are all designed to compliment what we are doing in class or to prepare students for upcoming learning. Homework will be posts on clasdojo but can also be found on the pupil pickup drive accessible through our school website and following the Foldr link: look for "KS3 English HW 2020-2021" and then your child's year group folder. Work can be submitted either in hard copy and handed in or electronically on dojo.

Finally, now that pupils have got their Accelerated Reader logins and have done their STAR reader test, we would like pupils to start doing quizzes on Accelerated Reader as well. The expectation is that pupils read for 20 minutes a day, ideally every day. As much as possible, we would also like pupils to read with an adult for 10 minutes as often as they can too so that reading can be talked

about and shared. Rather than have a “Reading Record” book to sign, we thought it would be better for parents just to dojo their child’s English teacher when they read so we can give achievement points and sing their praises! Here at Dedworth Middle School, we want reading to be something pupils do for pleasure and do regularly so that they can be opened up to the joys and opportunities reading can give and we are always grateful for parental support in this!

Mr Pearce, Head of English

Homework

Homework is an important extension of classroom learning. It helps to cement the ideas of what children are learning at school, helps build responsibility and develops work ethic from an early age. We would like all pupils to complete their homework at DMS and would like parents/carers to support by checking that homework is completed on time to help develop good habits.

Please see below a summary of the homework schedule for DMS:

KS2

Year 5: Letter has been sent explaining the structure for homework

Year 6: Homework booklet sent out termly

KS3

Subject	Frequency	Activity types	Weblinks
Maths	Weekly 40 minutes to 1 hour	Hegarty Maths (online system) and other ad hoc tasks	https://hegartymaths.com/
English	Every day for 20 minutes and a weekly task	Reading 20 minutes every day: 3 times (minimum) to an adult 2 times independently Complete reading practise quizzes on AR when book has been read Weekly task will be linked to school work	Weekly task will be either paper based or posted on Class dojo
Science	Every week	Weekly quiz on BBC Bitesize	Link for quiz will be posted on Class Dojo each week
Languages	Every week	Vocabulary and ad hoc using Linguascope (online system)	https://www.linguascope.com/
Art	Every couple of weeks	Collection of resources; researching an artist or movement; completing a task	
Humanities (Geography, History, RE, PSHE)	Termly, or every other term	Project based	
Computing	Every other term	Project based	

Children will be given their homework in their lesson and it will be due the following week in the same lesson unless they are told otherwise. Further subject specific guidance will be on Class Dojo.

Christmas Countdown

Term 2 is usually a busy term with preparations for Christmas and this term is no exception apart from some slight adjustments to be made so the festivities can still go ahead within the restrictions of the current climate.

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner

As usual we will be having these events on the same day but in order to ensure smooth running we will be having KS2 on Tuesday 15th December and KS3 Wednesday 16th December, within their normal lunch times. We will soon be sending out details of how to secure your child's Christmas meal. In order to accommodate the amount of children who will require a hot meal on both days we are suggesting that anyone not having a hot meal will need to bring a packed lunch or order a grab bag from Wilson Jones.

Christmas Jumper Day is a way of raising money for GOSH (Great Ormond Street Hospital) and a suggested £1 donation is requested.

Christmas Fundraising

At this time of year the FoDMS are normally busily planning our Annual Christmas Fayre; unfortunately due to current restrictions this is not possible as an event that you attend but we are working on ways to still have our very popular raffles and a couple of events that the children really enjoy such as a year group chocolate tombola. We will be having a Mufti Day Tuesday 1st December to collect donations.

If you have any raffle prizes to donate please contact our Receptionist and we will arrange how you can bring these in.

Christmas Cards

Once again we have been thinking of different ways to be able to include lovely traditions such as the sending and receiving of cards. Whilst in previous years we have encouraged the hand-delivering of these we are envisaging this year that each tutor group will make and design their own Post Boxes, and cards are 'posted' between 1st and 10th December. They will then be given out the following week.

FoDMS (Friends of Dedworth Middle School)

FoDMS is still active and funding raising for the school, if you would like to be involved please contact office@dedworthmiddle.co.uk addressed FAO: Mrs North.

Home Learning

A document containing all the details you need to know about home learning can be found on our website under the Curriculum tab <https://www.dedworthmiddle.co.uk/916/home-learning>

We Are Recruiting!

CATCH-UP TUTORS / IN CLASS SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Fixed Term Casual Contract

Hourly Rate: £11.54

Based at Dedworth Middle School

We are looking to appoint suitably qualified and capable people to work as catch-up tutors or in class support assistants to help provide support for students who may have fallen behind because of lockdown. The successful applicants will have a good knowledge of English and maths and possibly even other subjects, and will be very good with young people, especially being able to show an ability to explain carefully and be patient with a struggling learner.

The catch-up tutors will be employed on an hourly basis supporting individual children or small groups of three or four. The in-class support assistance will be allocated to a class on a daily basis and will be directed by the classroom teacher.

These positions would suit recent school leavers or graduates who are interested in pursuing a teaching career in the future.

The job description and application form can be found on our website www.dedworthmiddle.co.uk Please return the completed application form to Mrs Kelly Mealing via email kel.meal@dedworthmiddle.co.uk or drop into the school office.

The closing date for this position is Friday 20th November 2020 at noon but applications will be reviewed as received. This post is subject to an enhanced disclosure through the Disclosure and Barring Service. CVs will not be accepted in place of an application form.

Face Masks



Please ensure your child remembers to bring a face mask to school every day. Face masks are worn when arriving and leaving school and in all indoor areas, apart from classrooms. If your child forgets to bring in their mask, a parent will be contacted to bring it into school. To avoid this, please ensure your child keeps a spare one in their bag.

School Dinners.

Alongside the hot dinner menu, the catering team are also offering jacket potatoes, pizza and paninis every day at a lower price than the set meal.

In this current climate, some people may find their circumstances have changed. If you think you may be eligible for free school meals, our online application form is quick and easy to complete. You are advised straight away if you are eligible and the school is notified by email. No forms, phone calls or providing evidence. If you think you may be eligible for free school meals, you can apply from the privacy of your own home by logging onto: www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/mwschools If you need some help to do this, contact Mrs Lindsay on 01753 376166

Thames Valley Hospice Santa Dash

The Thames Valley Hospice Santa Dash this year is different to previous years....this year you can do it your way! All the information about the event and to book to take part can be found at <https://www.thameshospice.org.uk/santadash>

Join their community for a festive fun dash on Sunday 6 December 2020. Get sponsored to walk or run 3, 5 or 10k, whether it's at your local park, garden or even in your living room!! All adult entries will receive a Santa outfit and all Children will receive reindeer ears

All money raised through your sponsorship will help them to care you people in your community this Christmas and beyond.

The Thames Hospice are grateful for your support.

Finally ...

Diary Dates	
Friday 27 th November	Staff training – school closed to pupils.
Tuesday 1 st December	Mufti day – Non-uniform day and pupils to bring in chocolate for a Christmas tombola. (Please ask them to wear trainers if they have PE).
Tuesday 15 th December	KS2 Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas lunch.
Wednesday 16 th December	KS3 Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas lunch.
Wednesday 16 th December	PTA Virtual raffle.(tbc)
Friday 18 th December	Last day of term. 1pm finish.



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