



DEDWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Newsletter

23rd October 2020

Headteacher's News

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are almost there after a very long and exciting eight weeks in school! From me, a personal thank you to every single one of you for supporting me in my new role and choosing to be part of the Dedworth Middle School culture. I have honestly enjoyed every day, whatever challenge it may have brought, and I look forward excitedly knowing the journey has begun....

I have had the privilege of being invited into every teacher's classroom this half term and observing our learners in their rooms and am impressed with the quality of education going on. Feedback has been given and we have also had a Twilight session and full staff meetings collaborating together on ensuring our curriculum and delivery provides all pupils with a good education. We are really focusing on feedback next half term and embedding the use of the purple pen in the childrens' books. This will make their progress clear to see and we will expect them to look through their books correcting sums and spellings, expanding sentences, writing more or adding detail with their purple pens. Teachers may feedback to them orally as a class, in groups, walking around the room or by writing comments but this is then to be acted upon by the pupil who will be able to improve their work. This will happen across all year groups in all subjects so you also can see this when looking through your child's books.

Another big focus for me, which is part of Dedworth's School Development Plan this year, is to create and embed our unique DMS culture. Windsor Learning Partnership is a big part of this and the Trust have agreed to support me in this drive. We are investing in Pivotal Education who have exactly the same vision as myself: Learners are at the heart of everything we do! They will be delivering a whole day session for all staff on our upcoming Inset day about the five pillars of pivotal practice that underpins all their work and have many innovative approaches to ensure our approach going forward will help to dramatically reduce detentions, segregation rooms, physical restraints or punitive sanctions. We have staff going out on training, including myself, and a whole year of interaction with them to reform and reshape the behaviour management at Dedworth. I am genuinely really passionate about the ethos and culture of a school and with the support of Pivotal and the consistency and training this package will offer, I know this is going to be a massive uplift to our journey. Exciting times ahead!

It has also been a pleasure just walking in and out of rooms and communicating with our pupils; it is a different school with the Covid-19 pandemic shaping our daily lives but the children have adapted brilliantly and I am really proud of their efforts. Having had no full time education since last March, this term must have seemed a very long one! Their routines include hand sanitising, cleaning their tables, putting on masks, keeping their distance, staying in certain buildings but they really have done themselves proud. We have spent considerable time, as a senior leadership team, monitoring our practices and procedures and have adjusted accordingly. After the half term break we are still keeping in year group bubbles but have decided the children will move to their specialist teacher in their specialist room at Key stage 3 to ensure they receive the best learning. Teaching Science, DT, Art and some other foundation subjects in a normal classroom has proven quite difficult so we will be trialling this on our return to school. Masks will be compulsory for years 7 and 8 as they move around and through communal areas but this is only to keep themselves and their peers safe and well. We have also improved the entrance and exit to school as this has been our only concern

regarding social distancing. The children do seem to interact quite closely at these times so we have made some adjustments to this as well as potentially using another gate to filter Year 7 through in the morning and afternoon. WE will keep you informed!

Highlights for me have been the pupils' warm welcome and the staff's overwhelmingly positive attitudes and receptiveness of change – it has been such a lovely introduction to my new role. Every Friday afternoon I have enjoyed chatting to my hot chocolate winners as well as hearing their voices and opinions when on playground duty at breaktime and lunch. I have also talked to them about their learning, their experiences at school and ways we can improve things and that has also been a real strength. I do hope to start a parent forum at some stage but this is proving difficult in the current climate where we cannot have visitors on site. We will get there I am sure, but in the meantime we will all continue to communicate as much as we can through email, telephone calls and the class dojo. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

I would like to finish by thanking everyone at DMS for navigating through this first half term, post-lockdown, it has definitely been a challenge! I cannot say that it has always been easy but the amazing mutual support, dedication to the school, passion and kindness towards each other, is what makes our campus and all our staff so great. I have certainly been on the receiving end of that support and I know just how much it matters. Kindness is one of our three school rules and is a quality that is so powerful, does not cost, and is probably the most underrated agent of human change. Thank you all for showing kindness in your own ways. I hope you all have a restful, safe and enjoyable half term and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back at the usual time on Monday 2nd November. Please do feel free to contact the school office by email if any personal circumstances change and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as we can.

With very best wishes,
Mrs Nicola Chandler
Executive Headteacher

Hot Chocolate Friday

Our Hot Chocolate Friday winners were:

KS2 (last week)

Simi Kanwar (6CBO) for a fantastic and detailed project on WW2, always working exceptionally hard and giving everything her best effort.

Tara Karambakhsh (6CBO) for winning the class speech competition with a fantastic speech on WW2.

Cerys Watkins (6BM) for leading a team of litter pickers every day and helping a classmate in every PE lesson.

KS3 (this week)

Ella Playle (7EOD) has made excellent progress in maths and her confidence has increased.

Caitlin Commerford (7AI) is a positive role model for other students, an excellent student and always works to a high standard in all subjects.

Callum Miles (7AI) has made a fantastic start to Year 7 and is an excellent role model to others in his tutor group.

Enzo Gonzalez (8LR) has increased motivation, is massively positive and been very helpful in DT and PE

Freya Burton (8ML) has planned and presented a fantastic introduction to the PiXL Edge Primary Scheme. Mrs O'Donnell was really impressed!



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!

Parent phone consultations

We would like to offer all parents the opportunity to take part in a phone consultation with their child's tutor/class teacher. This will replace the pastoral parents' evenings that are normally held in school during the second half of the Autumn term. We will be emailing a letter to all parents with more details after half term.

New Staff

We are pleased to welcome a few new members of staff to Dedworth Middle School after half term.

Mrs Neal and Miss Quinn join us as Teaching Assistants and Miss Dhariwal joins us as an English teacher in KS3. Ms Scholz, who will be familiar to some of you, is also re-joining us. We thank Mr Beattie and Ms Martin who have come back to help us this term and wish them well for the future.



Mrs Neal



Miss Quinn



Miss Dhariwal

Year 5 – Tudors Topic



In Year 5 this term we have been learning about The Tudors in Topic. Through this topic, we have looked at crime and punishment, including the judicial system and how it has changed. This week, Year 5 took part in seeing if the verdict of Anne Boleyn being guilty would have changed if she was tried in our courts instead of the courts



500 years ago where the phrase 'innocent till proven guilty' did not exist.

Each class created a script to perform 'The Trial of Anne Boleyn' where we had the prosecution and defence teams argue their cases. They showed evidence of Anne's guilt and innocence. We even had a special guest come in as our judge from the Senior Leadership Team. The students had a great time seeing how the verdict went in favour for Anne Boleyn with 'not guilty', due to insufficient evidence.



It was a wonderful lesson to see the whole class take part with such enthusiasm and confidence!



On Wednesday, Year 5 children gathered in the old gym for the 'Strictly Come Tudor Dancing' final. There was an air of excitement as the children and teachers were eager to watch one group from every class competing against each other.

With confidence and pride, the children took centre-stage with their choreographed dances - an eclectic mix of twirls, footwork, snapping, clapping and even some sophisticated lifts - all to the sound of Tudor music! Despite a few technical issues, the teams remained calm and composed. The panel of judges commented on each dance and gave each group a score out of 10. They were hugely impressed by the creativity and effort put in by all teams.

At the end of the competition, all the Year 5s voted for which team they thought performed the best dance. Clinching third place was 5AL and in second place was 5DM. The winning team was from 5HB, consisting of Kirstie, Masie, Anna and Grace R and Ellouise. Even though the girls only choreographed their dance the very morning of the competition, their performance was incredibly impressive.



The exhilarating competition closed with other teams showcasing their dances - it was clear that everyone enjoyed the afternoon. Well done to the Year 5s for putting on a fantastic show!

French Department News

European Day of Languages poster competition/Virtual Bake-off: I have been delighted by both the quantity and quality of posters submitted. Likewise, the range of cakes has been a pleasure to see - merci et bien fait 😊 Winners will be announced after the half term break.

Y5 and Y6 French: a reminder that all students know how to access the Linguascope website to boost their learning of French topic vocabulary – little and often is key to confidence and success in mastering a foreign language. The website is: www.linguascope.com and the login details are: dedworth / middlesch

Y7 and Y8 French: all KS3 classes have been issued with a small green vocabulary notebook which they should keep at home. After the half term break, I will be posting a list of topic vocabulary each week (on Class Dojo and on the Student Pickup folder) which students must copy down in their notebook and learn by heart. There will be a weekly vocabulary test to ensure that students are learning topic vocabulary and key phrases each week. This constitutes the home learning task for French and students should spend no more than 20 minutes on this. Please check that your son/daughter is learning their weekly spellings.

Thank you for your continued support! / Bonnes vacances 😊
Madame Stratton

Year 7 News

Bronze Award for reaching 100 Achievement Points!

A huge congratulations to Caitlyn in 7AI. She is the first student in Year 7 to reach this milestone!



Congratulations to the following students who have made a fantastic start to Year 7 during this half term:

- 7AI – Caitlyn C, Tia Jane, Callum
- 7SC – Conni, Izabela, Kaitlyn H
- 7KPE – Hana, Koli, Celyn
- 7KPA – Jabin, Zahratun, Dylan K, Raima
- 7EOD – Ruby, Hashim, Tasmin

Term 2 Sports Clubs

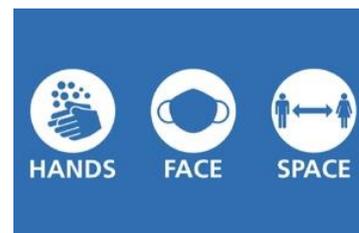
The clubs offered for Term 2 are:

Day	Club	Year Group	Time	Start Date
Monday	Dance	8	3.15-4.30pm	Mon 16 th Nov
Monday	Cross Country	5	3.15-4.10pm	Mon 2 nd Nov
Wednesday	Cross Country	6, 7, 8 (separate clubs)	3.15-4.10pm	Mon 2 nd Nov
Wednesday	Basketball	8	3.15-4.30pm	Mon 2 nd Nov
Thursday	Football	5	3.15-4.30pm	Mon 2 nd Nov
Thursday	Netball	6	3.15-4.30pm	Mon 2 nd Nov
Thursday	Basketball	7	3.15-4.30pm	Mon 2 nd Nov
Friday	Basketball	6	3.15-4.30pm	Mon 2 nd Nov

Miss Lim is also starting a Travel Club for Yr5 on a Thursday 3.15-4.30pm starting on 12th November in room 12. Please ask your child to see Miss Lim if they are interested in joining.

Face Coverings

We appreciate that we cannot make this compulsory for our younger children, but we would like to really encourage **all** pupils to wear a face covering when moving through communal areas in the school building. Although we already have measures in place to keep our community safe, we now believe the requirement to wear a mask for staff and pupils when moving between zones, is an appropriate response to the increase in community transmission. It is through all our collective efforts that we are playing our part, not only defeating this virus but also keeping our pupils as healthy and happy as they can be.



Thank you to those who have supported us in this matter. Any personal issues relating to your son or daughter should be directed to your child's form tutor via the school office of your class dojo. Thank you all very much for your continuing support of the school and your child through this very challenging time.

Reminders

If your child is absent from school with vomiting or diarrhoea, please ensure they are kept at home for 48 hours after the last episode.

Please remember that this is a nut free school and we also do not allow pupils to have energy drinks in school.

With the winter fast approaching, please can you ensure your child has a waterproof, warm coat, sensible shoes and wears a school jumper with their uniform or a PE sweatshirt with their PE kit. Most students are wearing the correct uniform however, we are starting to see trainers being worn on days when there is no PE lesson. Unless there is a medical reason and your child has brought in a note to support this, students must come to school wearing sensible black shoes.

Please ensure that pencil cases are re-stocked ready for a smooth start for next half term: pencils, pens, purple pen, glue stick, ruler, protractor, and for KS3, maths calculator (Casio fx-85GTX).

Do you have the Schoolcomms app?

This is a friendly reminder to ask you to download the **free School Gateway (Schoolcomms) app**

Using the app should make the following processes easier and less time consuming:

Reporting Absences: We ask that you report absences using the in app free message by sending your text message stating the reason for the absence; ideally before 9am. This is our preferred route to reporting an absence as the phone lines are very busy in the morning.

Making Payments: Any school activity which requires a payment, such as a school trip, will be set up on Schoolcomms via the School Gateway. Payment can then be made by using a credit/debit card or by bank transfer. Your card details are not visible or stored in the Schoolcomms and all card information is processed by Barclaycard.

Communicating via Email: We currently email out information such as progress reports and school reports so it is essential that we hold an up to date email address for you so that you do not miss any important information. Please mark us as 'trusted senders' so that our messages do not end up in your junk folders.

Please could you download this app to your phone or tablet (it's free) as it will help us improve communication with parents and make contact with the School as convenient as possible for you

The set-up process is simple and will take no more than a couple of minutes:

1. Search for "School Gateway" in the Apple App Store/Google Play or on your phone go to www.schoolgateway.com/apple (Apple) or www.schoolgateway.com/android (Android)
2. Install the app and if you are asked then say yes to "Allow Push Notifications"
3. When you launch School Gateway for the first time, please select 'New User' and enter the email address and mobile telephone number you have registered with the school
4. The system will send a PIN code to your phone; please enter this PIN code and the app will be activated for you.

As soon as you've got the system set-up, all of the text messages we send you will appear in the app; you'll receive notifications/alerts as normal.

We will use the contact details we have for you. If you change your email address or mobile telephone number, please let us know as soon as possible so we can update our records. Thank you for your help.

RBWM Libraries



We are thrilled to announce that Windsor and Maidenhead libraries are open and are waiting to welcome you back for browsing and safe computer use.

Drop in to browse the latest published titles and bestsellers, or even the fantastic books you might have missed during the last few months. Whether it's fiction or non-fiction, for children or adults, there's something for everyone at the library!

The authors may have been locked down, but they certainly didn't stop writing! Computer use is available by booking a slot of 45 minutes a day. The library staff look forward to welcoming you back!

Design and Technology

The Head of Design and Technology at Lambrook has put together some STEM videos which we hope, may be of use to children should they be working at home. Each challenge can be completed using household items, and by following the easy step by step instructions:

Pencil catapult - <https://video.link/w/zDRL?src=syt>

Paddle boat - <https://video.link/w/huOK?src=syt>

Robotic hand - <https://video.link/w/v9yJ?src=syt>

Balloon powered Lego car - <https://video.link/w/EW2F?src=syt>

Rubberband powered car - <https://video.link/w/XQ6D?src=syt>

Tin foil boat - <https://video.link/w/n82B?src=syt>

Moving horse - <https://video.link/w/BC6A?src=syt>

Cotton ball shooter - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePaqGBGmThs&feature=youtu.be>

Finally ...

Diary Dates	
Friday 23 rd October	Last day of term. Normal finish time.
Saturday 31 st October	Deadline for upper and middle school applications.
Monday 2 nd November	Back to school
Friday 27 th November	Staff training – school closed to pupils.
Friday 18 th December	Last day of term. 1pm finish



If you are a Twitter user, please follow us @Dedworth_Middle where you will find all the latest news and information.

Back to school

...but not back to normal

PROJECT
CENTRE

part of Marston Holdings

www.rbwm.gov.uk



Let's get walking and scooting

The current pandemic has been a tough time for everyone, however one of the benefits has been the amount of families who have taken up more exercise.

To avoid congestion and keep up a healthy lifestyle, walking and scooting to school is a great way to start and end the school day.

Starting Out

Teaching your child basic road safety is key to keeping them safe on your journey to and from school. Repeating daily instructions on how to cross the road will eventually sink in and will mould the way they behave when they are older and start to travel independently.



- Plan ahead - Check your route to school and find the safest route for you and your child(ren). There may be short cuts and alleyways that you are unaware of if you normally travel by car.
- If possible find less trafficked routes and look for good crossing places; away from junctions, bends and obstacles that prevent you from having a clear view of the road for some distance.
- Remember, your children are like sponges, observing everything that you do. If you pay more attention to your phone than the road, they will learn that same behaviour. If you disregard safe crossing places and pay little attention to the road, so too will your child.
- Teach them well and show them how to behave around the roads and allow them to develop these essential life skills to keep them safe.

Essential road safety

The Green Cross Code is simple and effective. It can literally save lives. Follow the three rules of the Green Cross Code and it will help you across the road every time.

THINK: Find a safe place to cross

STOP: Behind the kerb

LOOK & LISTEN: All around



Take time to explain to your child why you have chosen a specific place to cross the road. Ask your child to help you decide when it is safe to cross. Always walk across the road.