



# DEDWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Newsletter

**9<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

### **Headteacher's News**

Dear parents and carers,

Another week has flown past and we are now almost on the countdown to half term – where does time go? I hope you are all managing to keep safe and well and are satisfied with all the things in place here at DMS to keep our families safe. We re-visit our risk assessment weekly and update it regularly with the ever-changing government guidance so are up to date with everything and adjust accordingly. Therefore, we would like to promote the use of masks on the pupil's route into school and out of school as it does get congested at times; as well as stating that they are encouraged to wear masks when walking through communal areas of their bubble. This of course is not compulsory but we highly recommend it with the local figures rising daily. We would also politely remind you to ensure all children have two water bottles daily and that they stick to their staggered start and end time as these have been worked out deliberately counting surnames. We will always accommodate personal requests where possible but please do ask you to support us with this in these testing times. Thank you.

Away from Covid-19 and anxieties, I have to say what an absolute pleasure it has been visiting all our learners in their classrooms. I really want to ensure I have seen every teacher teach by half term so my diary has been full, going in and out of lessons, and I am delighted with the quality of education going on behind our doors. The passion for specialist teaching is evident to see and the thirst for learning in some of our pupils is really exciting. This is exactly what I want to see. It is our job to ignite the curiosity so children want to learn more; to engage them in a way they want to be challenged further and so when they leave the classroom they are almost disappointed the lesson is over. I have seen that across the school so many times this month and this inspires me...I really believe Dedworth Middle School is on the start of a very exciting journey and I look forward to continue updating you on all our successes.

The Year 5 baseline tests are almost done and Year 6 have been busy working their way through a variety of Sats and Pixl tests but it is not all doom and gloom – I am thrilled to have invites to see Year 5 in competitions and I watched Year 6 perform cross country this morning. Year 7 are coping well with their new Key Stage having missed so much of their final weeks in Key Stage 2 and I am delighted that Year 8 are top of the school and so many of them are taking the leadership roles that are being offered to them. I met with the JLT and Tirion and the girls explained all their ideas about fund raising and how to make the school even better from a pupil's perspective and it was great listening to the maturity and passion in their voices. I am sure we all have an exciting year ahead!

My main focus in the coming weeks and months is all around our ethos; our Dedworth culture. We will absolutely not tolerate any physical behaviour and this sadly will lead to external exclusions. We are talking about being kind which is one of our school values too so any bullying, altercations or physical fighting will be taken seriously. I am absolutely determined to ensure all our learners are happy and feel safe – when this happens, the learning in the classroom is at its best. School becomes an enjoyable place to be and somewhere they are excited to attend. This is my mission! I have some exciting plans in the next half term which I will update you on in the next newsletter and am certain this will all lead to more and more success.

I hope you have also managed to find the time to log on to our website – there have been many updates and we are currently uploading all our home learning and curriculum as well. Please do view our Open Evening video presentation where staff, children and myself talk about different aspects of our school (click [HERE](#)). You can also see the amazing virtual tour that was put together for us from a Year 5 parent – Mr and Mrs Hussein. They kindly spent 2-3 whole days with us (away from their own work and business) filming, taking photos and putting all the information together as well as endless hours at home compiling the tour. Please do feel free to contact me via the school office if this is something you need for your own business. I cannot recommend them highly enough.

I will write again on the final day of our first half term but in the mean time I wish you all an enjoyable and restful weekend. Make the most of these dry days before Winter starts to set in and most importantly, keep yourselves and your families safe and well.

With very best wishes,  
Mrs Nicola Chandler  
Executive Headteacher

## **Hot Chocolate Friday**

Our Hot Chocolate Friday winners were:

### **KS2 (last week)**

**Adam Eckles (6BM)** for writing a fantastic story book showing his real passion for writing.

**Aisha Khan (6TA)** for doing extra work at home on the WW2 topic, including bringing in posters and putting together a Powerpoint presentation. She has demonstrated a brilliant work ethic and determination to do well at school.

### **KS3 (this week)**

**Kaitlyn Hawksworth (7SC)** for putting in super effort in all that she does and being an excellent role model for the rest of the class.

**Haadiya Ahsan (8LR)** for being proactive and producing a Powerpoint quiz for tutor time.

**Sean Bannon (8ML)** for always doing the right thing and always ready to learn and for excellent participation in lessons.

They enjoyed a hot chocolate and a chat with Mrs Chandler in her office.

## **Junior Leadership Team**

The Junior Leadership Team are desperate to start their new role across the school. Head Girl of 2020-21, Tirion Watkins, and her three deputies, Milly Armiger, Freya Burton and Eden Crossley met with Mrs Chandler to discuss their plans and their enthusiasm and commitment to Dedworth Middle School shone through.

The four leaders told Mrs Chandler how excited and proud they were to have been selected for the JLT this year. They want to inject more creativity and have so many exciting ideas to add to the already brilliant framework of DMS. They would like to hold more fundraising events with the money going, not only to the school to improve games and activities, but also to charities. As well as this they would like to support younger children's learning and well being, just like they were supported when they were in year five. They really look forward to leaving a lasting



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impression on the school for its current pupils and the young people yet to join the school in the future.

## **Staff Training Day**

There will be a staff training day on Friday 27th November and Dedworth Middle School will be closed to pupils on that day.

## **Parking Reminder**

We have had complaints from our neighbours in Smiths Lane. Please can we ask that you do not block residents' driveways when you are dropping off or collecting your child.

Please could we also remind you that the school car park is for staff only. For the safety of the children, do not drive onto the school grounds. Thank you for your support.

## **Twitter Account**



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

## **Applying for free school meals is fast and easy.**

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](http://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/mwschools)

If you need some help to do this, contact Mrs Lindsay on 01753 376166

## **Year 8's**

Please remember to apply for a year 9 school place for your child. You must apply to your local authority and you can find out more about the application process on the RBWM website [HERE](#).

## **Covid-19**



With local levels of infections rising, please ensure your families keep safe by following government guidelines:

Wash your hands regularly, use a face covering where appropriate and RBWM has recommended to keep 2 metre distance from those not in your household.

## **Sport4Kids Half-Term Holiday Club**

Sport4Kids run a holiday camp at Dedworth First School for 4-13 year olds. Please see their website for further information: [Sport4kids](#)

### **Finally ...**

<b>Diary Dates</b>	
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	HPV Vaccinations (Yr 8)
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Flu Nasal Spray (Yrs 5-7)
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Last day of term. Normal finish time.
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Deadline for upper school applications.
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Back to school
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Staff training – school closed to pupils.