



# Denton West End School

## Newsletter

February 2020

Welcome to the February newsletter. We have already had a busy few weeks in school with lots of children enjoying fun activities.

We welcome back Jonah McAllister into our reception class.

### Explore Learning

Several of our Y6 children entered the Young Mathematicians competition recently.

On Thursday 16th January, Aston, Kameron, Anna and myself went to Explore Learning competition in the base at Sainsbury's.

There were two other schools there. After we'd finished eating, the manager, Vicky, gathered all of the groups together to tell us the rules. Each team had two questions to complete then we made a mini presentation to show Vicky how we solved the different problems. We will find out on the 22nd January how we did. This was so much fun and a great experience.

By Romi Everett

Unfortunately, the team didn't get through, however Molly from Explore Learning had this to say:

It was great to have the team from Denton West End in the centre with us last week to compete in our Mathematicians' Award and we hope they enjoyed the experience. The team scored highly with the points available for teamwork (13/15!). It was great to see that everyone within the team had a role and that they drew back together to find a joint solution. Each team member was observed both sharing their thinking to their team members and listening to one another's explanations.

In the challenges, the team showed evidence of working systematically and in challenge one were able to provide reasoning to prove a mathematical generalisation. Whilst the team persevered well, they ran out of time to find all the solutions but it was good to see them acknowledge the fact that there 'could be more' during their presentation.

Well done on your team's performance in the competition and we would love to come and develop some of their mathematical problem solving skills further through one of our free school workshops.



### Online Safety

We are often reminding the children about online safety. There is a great deal of information now on the website as guides for parents. We have now added a link to CEOP on our website homepage if children or parents have any concerns and wish to report them.



We will be looking further at online safety on the 11th February as this is Safer Internet Day.

### Raise free donations for school when shopping online

By logging onto [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and selecting a cause, every time you shop, a donation will be made to school. There are over 1000 different retailers that subscribe to the scheme. It is very easy to create an account or download the App. We would be grateful for any donations that come to school this way. It has been a great and easy way of fundraising for many schools.

Many thanks in advance.

### Events this term

Healthy eating assembly from Mellors who provide our school meals.

Conrad Burdekin, the poet visited school over two days to create and perform poems with each class.

Knife crime workshop for Y5 and Y6.

Y4 dress up day as Aliens as part of their literacy topic.

Little Lions Open Afternoon for new nursery intake 2020.

Y5 trip to Bramhall Hall.

Y1 Victorian Day workshops.

Y4 trip to MOSI.

The choir performed at Young Voices.



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### Mini Whistlers

Over a number of weeks the children in Y6 have enjoyed lessons teaching them about respect. This was done through football and teaching the children how to referee.

The enthusiasm of the children has meant that the organiser, Trevor, has come back to do extra sessions with some children. He has written a lovely response about the children and I felt this should be shared with you so you can feel as proud of the pupils as we are:

The children have been superb, and Tuesday's session was 'The Best'. The children played football, obviously enjoying themselves, smiling and laughing throughout.

The atmosphere was brilliant, and not one child argued over the odd dodgy refereeing decision. The children have taken on board their roles and responsibilities as a referee very well and improved in confidence week on week.

Each week I have seen a marked improvement in the way they have put on the Referee's shirt and facilitated a small sided football match. They have communicated, instructed, and advised, shown empathy, diffused potential problematic scenarios and shown respect. They have been a credit to your school.

To see a massive positive difference in ALL the children just made all my time coming into school very, very rewarding!



### School Uniform Reminder

Please could parents ensure children with long hair tie it back to prevent any accidents?

Also, children should not wear jewellery to school. We allow them to wear a watch and small stud earrings. Lately there have been a few children with hooped earrings and these are not safe in school especially during PE and play times.

### Appropriate Conduct in School

May I remind parents of the correct procedure for contacting staff? Staff will not usually be available first thing in the morning as they have class responsibilities. Parents should put a note in their child's planner for the attention of the teacher. Emailing staff is not appropriate. Staff remind children everyday to show their planner to the teacher but it would help if you also reminded your child, especially if the note was written the night before.

Additionally, I would add that the tone of some notes, emails or the way parents speak to staff is not appropriate and is sometimes threatening; at times even inappropriate language has been used. The staff at this school do a wonderful job, sometimes in very difficult circumstances and often have to give difficult messages. Please respect this in your interactions with staff.

Thankfully this is the minority of parents and we are grateful for the fantastic support we receive from the vast majority of our parents. Thank you for your continued support.

### Hungry Little Minds

The Government has launched a new website to encourage children to talk and interact. This is because of a pledge by the Government to half, within ten years, the number of children who finish reception without the communication, language and literacy skills they need to thrive. The website suggests activities which are banded into various age groups and recommends age appropriate activities such as sharing rhymes or telling stories.

It can be found at:

<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

There are also suggestions for Apps which are appropriate for young children.

### Forthcoming Events:

Tuesday 11th February-Safer Internet Day

Friday 14th February-Charity Event. Children may come to school in green clothes, green faces, socks or hair to support Manchester Children's Hospital for a donation. We recommend £1.

Thursday 5th March-World Book Day-a letter will follow nearer the time.