



# Dowson Primary Academy

## PROUD PRINCIPAL'S POST

### KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

Our year has got off to a flying start, as always, with some amazing learning and messages about the power of learning and knowledge and how we can build our learning power—grow our brains! I hope that you have been able to come along and see your children's beautiful work at our Exhibition and allow them to share the 'power' they have gained this half term.

Across school we have discussed how learning from history is powerful for planning for the future; how learning about the world around us and understanding different cultures helps us to live more harmoniously and have respect for others and we have looked at great people who used their learning, knowledge and understanding to make a difference to the world by changing laws or inventing things or even achieving things we never believed possible.



We hope these messages strengthen the children's understanding of why learning and working hard is so important as well as inspiring them for their own future and aspirations.

### BIG FRIENDS

Our new children in Nursery and Reception have settled well and are already developing and learning at a rapid speed, as I am sure their adults have noticed!

Reception children are already well on their way with their reading and writing of sounds and their understanding of numbers is growing too. They got chance to show some of their new reading and writing skills when their parents were also introduced to their 'Big Friends' from year 5 who are going to be around as a friendly face,

a support and a champion for their little friends over the course of the year. It's so lovely to see our older pupils taking good care of the younger ones and I know Reception have enjoyed their meetings so far.



### PUPIL POWER!

Speaking of the great things our pupils do, we announced our first group of Great Citizens today and it was lovely to hear the staff share the reasons for their choices and how our pupils show the value of Citizenship in so many ways. I was also proud to hear of how many children each teacher felt they had to choose from. Well done to our winners this term who were chosen for things such as kindness and compassion to others, being respectful of differences, keeping our school and environment tidy and always being helpful. What great examples you all are!

We also have a new team of Year 6 Prefects as ambassadors for school. They were voted for as always by their peers and the staff who chose those they felt would best inspire our other children to live by our PACT because they are such good examples. We have a bigger team than ever this year—another testament to just how many there are to choose from! Congratulations to them all!

### JEANS FOR GENES

Thank you for supporting another worthy cause this year with our first ever Jeans for Genes day, which raised a whopping £410. The children really enjoyed being in school in their jeans and learning about their genes, the 'recipe' that makes them who they are and how the 'ingredients'



come together to make them individual and unique. They were fascinated to learn about how genetic disorders happen and talked compassionately about how they can be kind and support others who may need it.

### ANTI-BULLYING



This year the anti-bullying week theme is 'Change starts with us' and we couldn't think of a better fit in terms

of how this matches our school motto, ethos and values. With this in mind and with all the things we want to do in school in relation to anti-bullying, we will be having a two week focus instead of one and have lots of great things planned already, including an odd socks day and a rainbow—be you, be kind—day. More details of what we will be covering across the fortnight and the special days will be sent out when we return!



### CHRISTMAS IS COMING

I hope you all have a happy, safe and restful half term and look forward to seeing you all at the start of Autumn 2.

It's set to be another busy one and, of course, includes all our Christmas events: the usual productions, fair, jumper day and santa bus as well as the annual Panto trip for Years 1-6 which is open to pay now on Parent Pay so you don't feel the extra 'pinch' at Christmas! There is a list of 'Dates for the Fridge' on the back of this newsletter to help you plan your time. More details will be communicated about each event closer to the time. I hope this is useful.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Mrs. Kathryn Thornburn

Principal



## Dates for the Fridge

- 4th November—Return to school!
- 8th November—Individual Photo Day
- 11th November — Starts a 2 week focus on Anti-Bullying
- 11th November— Parent Consultation day. (Appointment slots will come out when we return.)
- 12th November—Odd Socks day (details in letter)
- 15th November—Open Day for prospective parents—tours at 9:30am and 2pm
- 20th November—Year 5 parent showing of year group assembly
- 22nd November— Rainbow—be you, be kind—day (details in letter)
- 22nd November —Year 3 Cake Sale
- 25th November—Nasal Flu vaccinations
- 28th November—Year 4 Romans Trip
- 29th November—Dress down day for Christmas Fair contributions
- 6th December—Christmas Fair
- 9th December—Lower School afternoon production
- 10th and 11th December—Lower School morning productions
- 11th December—Christmas Community Tea afternoon
- 12th December—Years 1-6 Panto Visit
- 13th December—Santa Bus, Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day
- 13th December— Choir singing at the Hyde Chapel Christmas Tree festival
- 16th December—Upper School Carol Concert at Hyde Chapel. (morning and afternoon productions)
- 17th and 18th—Reception productions
- 18th and 19th—Nursery Productions
- Week beginning 16th —Christmas Parties (year group dates to follow)
- 20th December—Children finish **at 2pm** for the Christmas Break