

Newsletter 14:

Autumn Term 2021



**A Message from Susannah Connell,
CEO, The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust**

Our last newsletter of the year is all about celebrating the amazing things we've achieved TOGETHER. As you are all only too aware, it has been yet another unusual and challenging term, which I had hoped we would not have to experience again. Despite the world around us feeling very different at present, our pupils and staff have worked incredibly hard this term. Our pupils have demonstrated huge resilience in an ever-changing environment, and continued to make great strides in their learning in spite of the challenges. I want to thank parents and carers for your continued support and encouragement. Staff have again worked tirelessly to support and inspire your children, and their hard work has not gone unnoticed - we have had some wonderful messages that have lifted our spirits.

I hope you enjoy reading about all the wonderful achievements and adventures in our Trust schools. As ever this newsletter presents just a small snapshot from each school. Sharing ideas and good practice is an important part of our work and I am proud of all the trainees, mentors and senior leaders involved in our professional development department, Diamond Education and Professional Learning.

I am sure that, like me, you are all looking forward to some very well-deserved rest and relaxation in the festive season ahead, whatever this may look like! Everyone at The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards

Susannah Connell, CEO

- ◇ Continuous Professional & Leadership Development
- ◇ Initial Teacher Training
- ◇ School to School Support

'Discover', the new DLPT staff portal, has been launched.



Discover contains a collection of resources, ideas and links to blogs by well-known and respected educators beyond the Trust.

The aim is to provide staff with information and resources relevant to their everyday practice, and to support them in being more research informed. Content is updated regularly. Thank you to SLEs and senior leaders for providing this.

A wide range of Continuous Professional Development is available to all staff.



We work hard to provide a range of professional development opportunities for staff at all stages of their career, ranging from apprenticeships to National Professional Qualifications for middle and senior leaders and aspiring heads. Teachers in the Trust who are new to the profession are following the new national Early Career Professional Development Programme, as well as attending additional DLPT sessions to support them in further developing their teaching skills.

We continue to write and deliver a range of training courses, which are open to all DLPT schools as well as schools in the locality. We have delivered a mixture of face-to-face and online courses, welcoming 220 people so far this term. Evaluations continue to show high satisfaction. Thank you to everyone who has written and facilitated courses.

Trainee teachers are enjoying their first placement and potential trainees are applying for positions for September 2022.

Our trainee teachers have been developing their confidence and teaching skills this term, receiving excellent support and advice from their mentors. They are looking forward to a second placement in another of our schools next term.

We are recruiting trainee teachers for next academic year. If you are interested or know someone who would be, please contact us.



Braybrook



Gem Class enjoyed a visit to Flag Fen Archaeology Park in November to explore how prehistoric people of the fen lived over 3000 years ago. They have been learning all about the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages in their Imaginative Learning Project and this was a great opportunity to wander through a Bronze Age village, sit within roundhouses and stand where our ancestors once stood, all very close to home! The children got to make their own pottery to take home. It really helped Year 3 to consolidate their learning and bring it to life!

In the Times Table Rock Stars 'England Rocks' annual competition, Year 6 finished 7th out of 83,097 classes!

Children were talking strategies in the dinner queue, teachers were geeing children up on the playground and children were entering daily both at home and at school. As a school, our average score per child placed us 9th out of 3,793 schools! Shu Wei in Year 6 finished an amazing 39th out of 778,137 children across England. We are so proud of all the children who took part. We hope that Year 6 and especially Shu Wei will be something to aspire to for next year's competition!



Our Year One and Year Two classes had a virtual visit from the Geo Bus. Amy the Scientist was able to talk each class through 3D images of the solar system, Mars, rocks, volcanoes and craters. They really loved wearing the special 3D glasses! Children learnt a lot about space during the session and particularly the planet Mars, including why it is red. They got to ask Amy plenty of questions at the end of the session and many of them left wanting to become an astronaut!



Glebelands



What a busy term we have had here at Glebelands! It was great to have everyone back after a lovely summer, and the children returned full of energy and enthusiasm to get going. We spent the first few weeks of September focusing on poetry, giving children a chance to find their feet in their new classes and show what they were capable of. Presentation is a key focus for us this year and so we began the year as we meant to go on. The children selected poems to write up and illustrate. The children produced some beautiful pieces of work and it has been pleasing to see this high standard continue throughout the term. The school really has been a hive of activity.



It has been great to be able to welcome visitors, go out for trips and explore our local area again - it is clear that these experiences really help children to learn more about the topic and remember it! We have been able to have some exciting and immersive learning experiences. Stone Age Day was the most recent of these, with the children in year 3 spending the day outside taking part in all things stone age.

We could not let Christmas pass us by without sharing in the festivities and so found a way to continue to share Christmas performances virtually allowing the wider audience to capture these special moments. We hope that everyone will have a wonderful Christmas and we are sure that the children will return in January ready for another jam-packed term!

Gorefield



We have had a busy term – all our classes have settled in well and have been renamed after a famous scientist. We now have Goodall, Eva Garrett Anderson and Lovelace classes, and the children are able to tell each other all about their scientist. Garrett Anderson class had a wonderful science lesson where they explored the workings, feel, and smell of real organs – livers, hearts, lungs etc. There were a few squeamish moments! We have newly appointed librarians who work during break time to ensure the books are neatly ordered, and can recommend books too. Each class now has a vibrant display where children record the book they are currently enjoying.

For Remembrance, Year 6 made a wreath and took it to the war cemetery next to the school. They read a famous poem called In Flanders Fields, and found a number of names of relatives of children who are currently at our school.



Our football team represented the school at the POSH competition in Peterborough and loved getting back to doing what we love - we all did our best and had fun. Commando Matt has been coming every week to work with our Year 5 and 6 children - we are looking forward to cooking s'mores on our campfire this week.

In Goodall class some wonderful art is being produced. The children created representations of landscapes by David Hockney and then screen printed their final piece. They are also taking part in an exciting new project, *My Smile*. Daily brushing of teeth is carried out and they are learning to brush their teeth very effectively. Weekly yoga lessons are also keeping them healthy.

In the choir we are preparing for Young Voices, and have been learning songs for Christmas. We are all getting excited about Christmas and have already had a Bedtime reading session at school. We have all brought in a bauble for our Christmas tree that is at the front of school, this year it was joined by some snowmen.

Great Staughton



This term our children have been as busy as ever, with lots of great learning and some amazing efforts for charity. These included collecting and send off over 40 shoeboxes between us and Kimbolton Primary Academy for the Operation Christmas Child scheme, which ensures children less fortunate than us receive some gifts during the festive period. We also arranged a fabulous day supporting Children in Need – the children looked amazing in their brightly coloured, spotty, crazy tops! The school playground reverberated with music in the morning whilst we had non-

stop-music and dancing for 15 minutes - everyone had lots of fun. We were grateful to staff from the Halifax for their visit during the day and for their support, with all funds raised by our school being matched by them. A huge thank you to all our parents in supporting such a worthwhile cause. Including Halifax's donation, we raised a total of £554.00!



On Remembrance Day we paused to reflect and remember the people who have served in war and continue to do so today. This year we included the purple poppies to remember the animals that served as well.

We were so pleased to be able to present our Christmas nativity and carol singing tableau as a live performance this month. This has been the first time this term that we have been able to invite parents to school to watch an event, and although it was still held outside and we had to battle with storm Barra, the children were all amazing!



Kimbolton



At the beginning of term we concentrated on a whole school mental health and well-being project which led to a community garden project. The children showed so much determination, enthusiasm, resilience and teamwork. We were pleased to see the return of our buddy system with our Year 6 buddies looking after our new reception children, and our Year 1 children enjoying their first balance ability lessons to develop their early cycling skills.



We also welcomed our PTA back into school with "The Great KPA PTA Bake off Competition". We had lots of incredibly creative and tasty entries which the judges thoroughly enjoyed sampling. Just before we broke up for the half term we had lots of spooky fun at our PTA Halloween party.

We are very proud to announce this term that we have been awarded our bronze Rights Respecting Schools Award and we are also delighted to announce that we have a published author in our school – so well done Bella!



As part of our RE enrichment, we enjoyed a visit to our village church where the children got to experience what it's like being in church, including ringing the bells and taking part in role plays of church services like a wedding and a baptism. It was a fascinating experience and allowed them to experience in real life what we've been learning about in the classroom this term.

Our school took part in our local community Christmas Tree Festival where our KPA/GS choir did a wonderful job singing to the community. We even won first place in our category with our decorated Christmas tree: "Our wishes for the future"!



Leverington

What a busy term we have had at Leverington – lots of exciting things going on and many challenges too!

In November, the whole school spent a week of their Maths lessons taking part in a variety of activities to inspire and engage the pupils with Maths around them: we learnt times tables, Maths around a story, nature and the outdoors, maths in art and maths in the real world.



We were delighted to be able to take our School Council representatives this year to observe a 2-minute silence at the village war memorial on Remembrance Day. They heard the names of those who had lost their lives fighting for their country in the war, and how these family names are still in Leverington today. All children also contributed a piece of poppy art to create our whole school Remembrance display.



We inspired a love of writing this term through our 'Villains Day', where both children and staff enjoyed dressing up as their favourite villain from a story and taking part in a range of writing activities based around the theme, with amazing writing being produced throughout school. We

also had a 'Poetry Day' where all classes chose their favourite rhyme or poem which they learnt by heart, performed and then wrote their own versions, from 'The Wise Old Owl' to 'On the Ning Nang Nong'.



The whole school took part in a sponsored Rudolph Run to raise money for the Alan Hudson Day Treatment Centre in Wisbech, who provide support for people living with life-limiting illnesses. The children really enjoyed running 10 laps of the school field with the charity mascot, Arthur Bear, and we were so proud to raise an incredible £2336 for this wonderful charity!

Middlefield



It's been a fantastic term at MPA! We raised nearly £1000 with our Readathon. It was lovely seeing the children reading in different areas all around the school – the staffroom was a firm favourite place to read! Our wonderful PTA have supported in many ways this term with improvements to the school. They funded a new peaceful play area designed by last year's year 6 children, who came back to school for the grand opening of the area. The area is now used at break times for reading and playing board games.



The PTA also funded a new mural for the school walls. Following a design competition, a child's design was chosen from each class and artist Tim Shucker-Yates did his own interpretation of the winning designs. It makes such a difference and the children absolutely love it!

Year 6 had an unforgettable day out watching the ballet 'Giselle' at the Royal Opera House. It was an amazing experience, and we were proud that members of the public commented on the wonderful behaviour and attitudes of the children.



Parents wanted more music in school according to a recent parent survey – so that is what we gave them! The Rock Steady Music crew joined us in October. All the children and staff dressed up as rock stars, and the whole school enjoyed a day of learning what it's like to be a part of a rock band. Tommy from RSMC was incredible! We had 50 children sign up to the programme after the event. Every week, these children are taught how to play different instruments and learn how to be a part of a band. It's had a huge impact on self-esteem and confidence building!



Murrow

We have had busy term at Murrow. The children settled well and have been loving learning about Explorers, Kings and Queens and the ancient Egyptians. Pippin has been in school a lot and has shown us all how fast she can run; we have also been able to read to her. Our new reading club is now happening every Friday. A group of children get to read a high-quality text and discuss it with Ms Cunningham. Our early morning wake-up club has about forty children attending every day - this is when we all get a chance to warm up, meet our friends and get ready to learn.

Our younger children have loved working in our woodland area - making bird feeders, wind chimes, taking part in the RSPB Bird watch and much more besides.

We took part in the 11th November Remembrance Day ceremony in the village and two of our children laid a wreath on Remembrance Sunday.



Our Lego League Competition team entered the annual Lego League challenge. As well as designing a solution to reduce the carbon footprint of large delivery vans, they also designed a robot to compete in the robot challenge. Our team came second overall in the robot part of the competitions which was an amazing feat.

Our football team also represented the school at the POSH competition in Peterborough - they showed excellent teamwork and had lots of fun too!

Roman Way

Our Early Years Foundation classes were very excited to have visits from both the police and fire station staff. A fire engine arrived on site and the children were able to look at it. They had lots of questions to ask the fire fighters. The police officer visited the children's classrooms and explained to them about his role. The children enjoyed asking him questions too.



One Tuesday, the children from Squirrels and Starlings classes arrived to find a mysterious crash site in their outdoor area! The children collected evidence and wrote their predictions about what had happened and what had caused the crash. Maybe they were toys that had fallen out of Santa's sled? Maybe a meteor had struck the aeroplane? The children came up with lots of imaginative and creative ideas.



Key Stage 2 had a wonderful day out at Flag Fen. They enjoyed finding out about the Bronze Age treasures that have been unearthed at Flag Fen and seeing the remains of the causeway, which was a wooden bridge over 1km long, built 3,500 years ago! They made prehistoric style clay pots and decorated them, using sticks and pinecones. They enjoyed handling the various artefacts from the museum and thinking about what they could have been used for. They saw the remains of real Bronze Age log boats and enjoyed seeing the ancient breed sheep. At the end of the day, they warmed up in the replica Bronze Age roundhouse with a story time around a real fire! They all made a special wish on the dragon sword!

The Round House



KS1 started the school year with a History Off the Page Great Fire of London Day. They baked bread, wrote with a quill, made perfume bags sewing their initials onto them, made candles and learnt a lot about this period of history. Years 3 and 4 enjoyed their History off the Page Roman Day, completing lots of fun and engaging activities, including creating mosaics and learning about medicine used during Roman times. The procurator also took them onto the field and they practised marching like soldiers.



Our Year 6 English team progressed all the way to the regional finals of the Cambridgeshire English Challenge, which was held over Zoom with a range of other schools. They worked well together, demonstrating good communication skills and teamwork. Although some of the questions were tricky, the team used their understanding of literature, grammar and other English skills to find the answers.

Our Year 6 children thoroughly enjoyed their visit to The Royal Opera House in London to see the ballet, Giselle. They were amazed to witness the incredible athleticism of the dancers and the phenomenal staging of each act.



In September some of the children in Years 5 and 6 completed their Bikeability training which is designed to help them be safe and confident on their bikes. Well done to everyone who completed the course.

The children in Reception have been busy learning their songs and words for their first ever Christmas production 'The Nativity'. Mrs Bryden was very proud of them all.

Thomas Eaton

We have had an incredibly busy start to the year at Thomas Eaton. We have welcomed lots of new children and families and are excited that our school community continues to grow.



We were overwhelmed by the response to our harvest collection for the March foodbank. The school council decided to support the March foodbank as it benefits a number of families in the area.

The school council organised a range of activities for Children in Need. At break and lunch time, Pudsey Bear biscuits were sold and there were a range of stalls including 'hook a Pudsey', 'pin a patch on Pudsey' and 'drop a coin on Pudsey's patch'. It was a fun filled day which raised £300 for a wonderful cause.



The children enjoyed a magic themed writing day where both children and staff came to school dressed in magical costumes. Each class took part in writing activities based around a magical theme. Some of our youngest children were writing potions and spells and our older children were writing about Harry Potter.

Our term has ended with lots of festive fun and the children have enjoyed making Christmas cards and crafts. KS1 performed their nativity and KS2 filmed their Christmas sing along which was shared with parents and carers on Showbie. All the children have worked extremely hard and are looking forward to Christmas!

Winhills

We welcomed 'Block Builders' into school, who work in collaboration with the Highways Agency. They did some exciting work with the children about the building of the A428 and used Minecraft to replicate the construction, with a focus on looking after the habitats of animals in the local area.



Our sports teams took part in lots of matches this term. In football, both the girls and boys were fantastic - they loved representing the school, and cannot wait for the next game. We also took eight children to the Panathlon event in St Ives. With a focus on inclusive sport, the children competed in eight sports including football and basketball. The children thoroughly enjoyed their day and were delighted to finish third and get a bronze medal! Some of our Year 2 cricketers took part in a tournament at Eaton Socon Cricket club. This was the first time they had represented the school. The children were amazing and loved it.



We welcomed in Bikeability to work with our Year 3 and 4 children. They got the opportunity to reinforce road safety as well as learn to stay safe on their bikes on the local roads.

The children have loved the last week of school. We had Christmas lunch where the children got to have a traditional lunch and pull crackers - there were some fantastic jokes in there! The children also got to have Reward Day to celebrate their wonderful behaviour over the year. The EYFS and KS1 children loved the magician. In their classes, the KS2 children got to have a silent disco. It was fantastic to see the children dancing with smiles on their faces.

Wintringham



Wintringham's Pre-school has finally opened after many delays due to Covid. The children are really enjoying all the exciting activities and exploring the outside areas. We are excited that the numbers are due to double in the new year which will be great for the children too.

During this half term, the children have been preparing for their Christmas play called 'The Inn-Spectors'. The children have rehearsed the songs and practised their lines with tremendous enthusiasm and excitement. It has been recorded for parents to watch. The children looked amazing in their costumes!

Year 2 had a lovely time at the KS1 Multi-skills Festival this term. They took part in activities such as cricket, football and tri-golf. Fun was had by all and they were cheering on their classmates!



In Design and Technology, Wilson Class cooked a vegetable tart as part of their 'Eating Seasonally' topic. The children learnt how to handle kitchen equipment safely, and the importance of kitchen hygiene. The children enjoyed peeling and preparing the vegetables and ultimately taking a slice to eat!

Reception have been enjoying their outdoor learning this term. They were challenged to make an obstacle course for a car using anything they could find in the playground. They had to use their problem solving and teamwork skills to ensure they were successful.

King James Academy Royston



This term we proudly announced our Pupil Leadership Team, who serve as role models to all students. They are driven by the school's character values and are fully committed to the life and ethos of the school. Part of their roles include 'Student Voice', making sure everyone in the school is heard, and they also work on projects such as the environment, mental wellbeing and equality and diversity.

This term they have been working hard in organising fundraising events to raise money for Children in Need. These included 'Guess the number of sweets in a jar', a Penalty Shootout competition against the teachers and Non Uniform Day. They also received training in 'Active Listening' to be able to support and mentor the younger students.

Congratulations to our new 2021 Pupil Leadership Team!



Year 9 had an incredible time at the Obstacle Training Ground in Bassingbourn earlier in the term.

They were put through their paces by the expert trainers and encouraged to challenge themselves on all manner of obstacles, both wet and dry. It was superb to see so many of them pushing themselves outside of their comfort zone, supporting each other and working as a team.

Well done Year 9!



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from everyone at the
Diamond Learning Partnership Trust!



Reception children at The Round House proudly present their Nativity play

