Dovelands Primary School

Newsletter

November 2026

Headteacher: Jenny Slinger

Deputy Head: Ama McKenley Ballantyne

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A note from the headteacher:

Hello all,

It has been a busy few weeks since our last newsletter and we have a few more busy weeks ahead before a well-deserved break over Christmas. The festive rehearsals have begun and we are looking forward to welcoming families in for a range of activities across December. A quick thank you too as the family engagement with both ClassDojo and iAntz is exceptionally high which means we can ensure efficient, accurate and consistent communication with everyone in our school community.

We have had some brilliant class assemblies, I have enjoyed more Friday lunches with groups of Y6, Y5 have had Bikability, various trips and visits have happened including Y4 doing a litter audit in the local area, some Y6 children represented us at The Grove community hub during their remembrance service, we raised a whopping £858.99 for Children in Need and even had Pudsey Bear visit us from the BBC! Thank you for your support and engagement with these events, I have included some photos below.

The brilliant kitchen team at Dovelands received an unannounced visit from the Food Hygiene Agency last week and we owe them a big congratulations for receiving a 5 star rating for the third time in a row.

I wanted to say a quick thank you for your patience with the Microsoft related issues on Friday 13th November and to reassure you that we are in ongoing dialogue with our IT provider in regards to cyber security in school. All precautions are taken and regularly reviewed.

Finally, a quick reminder about arrangements for the end of the school day. In order for staff to clearly see that children are dismissed safely to their correct adult, please ensure that you come in to the playground and as close to the line/ teacher/ classroom door as possible so that handover is robust. If adults wait nearer to the gate, or even outside the gate, risk is added to the process and staff may feel it is not safe to release the child until you are closer.

A heartfelt thank you as always for your continued support and enjoy the last few weeks of term!

Miss Slinger

Dovelands Primary School

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Winter HAF Bookings Are Now Open!

Eligible families can now book FREE activities for children and young people aged 5 up to 16 who receive **Targeted Free School Meals**.

There is something for everyone this winter, with opportunities including:
- Trips to the Panto at De Montfort Hall - Beauty & the Beast
- The New Year Family Extravaganza at Leicester Outdoor Pursuits
- A wide range of holiday clubs, sports, creative activities and exciting experiences

To explore all available sessions and make a booking, please visit: **Winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2026 (Winter HAF)**
Please note - For children who do not meet the Targeted FSM criteria but would benefit from attending, professional referrals for discretionary places may be submitted. Please provide the child's full name, date of birth, school attended, and a brief explanation outlining the need for the placement. Emails must be sent to haf-professionals@leicester.gov.uk

HAF Applications for 2027 Are Now Open
Interested in becoming a HAF provider or offering your venue as a host site?
Funding is available for Easter, Summer and Winter 2027 delivery. If you would like to find out more about joining the programme, please contact a member of the HAF Team.

Application deadline: Monday 4 January 2027 at 1:00pm.
For more information, visit HAF for professionals

Lost Property

We have a large amount of lost property in the reception area, including water bottles, jumpers/ cardigans/coats and other items.

We will be putting the lost property out on a table every Friday morning in the Key Stage Two playground up until the last day of term (weather dependent).

Any items leftover will be donated to charity on the last day of term.

The majority of items aren't labelled, so please can we remind you to label your child's belongings so that they can be returned easily.

Thank you.

Staff embodying Dovelands' Values

- We are kind - Mr Cross for rearranging our reading books and creating new bookshelves throughout school.

- We are kind– Ms Munshi for consistently having the most wonderful, friendly and welcoming disposition; the nursery children's faces light up when they see her!

- We are respectful - Mr Newcombe for his moving performance on the cornet for our remembrance day event - it was so poignant that a member of the community stopped to listen at the Key Stage 2 gates. All of our Dovelands staff were so proud of the way that the whole school respected the ceremony.

- We are brave - UNICEF ambassadors for preparing answers for our BBC radio interview for Children in Need - a shout out to Troy, Jude and Miss Slinger who were on BBC Leicester at 2hrs and 52 minutes - https://shorturl.at/m0wBs

- We are aspirational - Mrs Odedra for organising our Children in Need activities and arranging for a special yellow visitor to come to our school.

- We belong - we have welcomed many new children this half term and it has been a joy to see how our children have made them feel part of our community.



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Bilingual Buddies

At Dovelands, we are proud to be a wonderfully diverse school where more than one-third of our pupils speak English as an additional language. Together, our children represent over 50 different languages, bringing a rich variety of cultures and experiences to our community.

This month, we were delighted to train 30 pupils as ***Bilingual Buddies***. These children were paired with pupils from different classes and year groups. Throughout the training, the children demonstrated exceptional care, patience, and respect for one another. This is reflective of the values of inclusion and belonging that we strive to nurture at Dovelands.

We are incredibly proud of the positive impact this initiative is already having, and we look forward to seeing our Bilingual Buddies continue to shine!

What is the role of a 'Bilingual Buddy'?

1. Help new or younger pupils who speak another language
2. Support them in class and around school
3. Make new friends and build confidence
4. Use language skills in a positive and helpful way

We talked about the benefits of being bilingual.



The children wanted to be a Bilingual Buddy because…

I want to make new children feel like they **belong**.

I want them to **feel good** about themselves.

I want to help build their **confidence**.

To show **kindness**.

Speaking another language is something **special**…like a **superpower**!

To make new **friends**.


Dovelands
Primary School
Foundation 1 (Nursery) Places
for the 2027 – 2028 academic year
Join our
Owlets
Nursery Provision
For children born between 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2024.
15-Hour Places
Monday to Friday
09:00 – 12:00
30-Hour Places
Monday to Friday
09:00 – 15:00
Collect an application form from the school office.


Dovelands
Primary School
Foundation 2 (Reception) Places
for the 2027 – 2028 academic year
For children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023.
You must apply for a place via Leicester City Council by
15th January.

Free School Meals

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 already get Free School Meals at school. Did you know, more children throughout all school years, may be able to get Free School Meals.

The Government has also changed the rules for Free School Meals. This means that more families can now get help. If you receive Universal Credit, your children may be able to get Free School Meals.

Free school meals can:

- Give your child a healthy meal every school day.

- Save your family more than £500 each year.

- Help your child access extra support at school.

There are now two types of Free School Meals.

1. Targeted Free School Meals

Your child can get Targeted Free School Meals if: you receive Universal Credit, and your household income is £7,400 a year or less.

2. Expanded Free School Meals

Your child can get Expanded Free School Meals if: you receive Universal Credit, and your household income is more than £7,400 a year.

Please check if your child can get Free School Meals. You may be able to get support for your family.

If your child was previously refused Free School Meals, you can now reapply.

To apply and for more information, scan the QR code below, or visit:

https://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals

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Class	Assembly date
Doves	3rd December
Bluejays	17th December
Owls	7th January
Swans	14th January
Kingfishers	4th February
Nightingales	11th February
Magpies	18th March
Hummingbirds	15th April
Puffins	22nd April
Ducklings	20th May
Toucans	27th May
Robins	10th June
Wrens	17th June
Sparrows	24th June
Owlets	1st July

Dates for your Diary

INSET Day– School closed to pupils

Friday 27th November

Non-uniform day for donations to Winter Fair

(More info will be posted on class dojo)

Tuesday 8th December

PTFA Winter Fair

Thursday 10th December

Festive Jumper & Christmas Dinner Day

Wednesday 16th December

Christmas Break

Monday 21st December– Monday 4th January

(return to school Tuesday 5th January)