DALLAM C P SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
Friday 11th October 2026

School Vision: **Success at the Heart of the Community**
We: **Nurture…..Inspire……Achieve**

School value: **respect**

This week's newsletter has been so hard to write. After much reflection, I have made the very difficult decision to retire from my role as Headteacher of this amazing school at the end of December.

Having been part of the Dallam community for almost 30 years, this has not been an easy decision. Dallam has been such an important part of my life and it has been a privilege to work alongside generations of children, families, staff and governors. I am incredibly proud of all that we have achieved together and grateful for the support, kindness and trust that the community has shown me over the years.

As some eagle-eyed members of our community may have guessed, the recruitment process for my successor is well underway. There has been a great deal of interest in the position and prospective candidates have been visiting the school over the past couple of weeks. We have a strong field of applicants and an appointment is expected to be made next week following a rigorous process in which our children will play an important part.

I leave knowing that the school is in a very strong position. Our children continue to thrive, our staff are highly committed and talented, and we have the support of a strong Trust. I am confident that Dallam will continue to go from strength to strength in the years ahead.

Alongside my own retirement, we will also be saying farewell to two other long-serving members of staff as they too start their retirement journey. Mrs Harrison will retire after an incredible 32 years of service to Dallam. Renowned for her expertise in SEND, patience, kindness and humour, she has transformed the lives of countless children and families. Her passion for ensuring that every child receives the support they need led to the development of our highly regarded Designated Provision, an outstanding resource that supports children from across Warrington. We are delighted that Mrs Rich will continue this work as Designated Provision Lead.

Mrs Kendal will also be retiring after just over 13 years as our School Business Manager. Working tirelessly behind the scenes, she has consistently gone above and beyond to ensure Dallam's children have the resources and opportunities they deserve. Her commitment, professionalism and dedication to securing the very best outcomes for our children have been invaluable. She will leave a very big hole to fill, but the Trust and school are working closely together to ensure a smooth transition.

Although there are changes ahead, I know that Dallam remains in very capable hands. Over the coming weeks there will be opportunities to celebrate the contributions of those retiring and to welcome the next chapter in the school's journey.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your children's lives and for making Dallam such a special place to belong.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.
Mrs Downey

If you enjoyed Josie's podcast last week, the next instalment can be found here: Week 5: Cousins, Haircuts and Hedgehogs! - School Holiday Radio - Podcast.co

Attendance – In School – On Time – Every Day
Last week 6 classes topped 96% attendance - Well Done Holly, Acorns, Maple, Ash, Olive and Willow Classes. As always, the 4 green boxes show improved attendance from last week and the blue shows classes that have maintained from last week.

Class	Attendance Last week
Seedlings	93
Acorns	98
Ash	97
Cedar	95
Holly	97
Hazel	95
Rowan	95
Maple	99
Sycamore	87
Willow	97
Olive	96
Oak	87
Cherry	80

This week statutory school age attendance is 95.2% which falls below national average. I know that there have been a few winter bugs starting. Remember – if your child is a little unwell, they may still be able to attend school. Contact the office and we will share NHS advice.
Mrs Ritchie has taken over the attendance lead role from Mrs Wood following her retirement in July. If you need support with attendance, talk to us and we will work together to improve outcomes for our children.

Parent Governor Vacancies

We currently have two Parent Governor vacancies and would be delighted to hear from anyone who may be interested in getting involved. Being a Parent Governor is a rewarding opportunity to play an active part in school life, helping to support and shape the strategic direction of the school while representing the views of our families. No previous experience is required, just an interest in helping Dallam continue to provide the very best for our children. If you would like to find out more about the role, please speak to Mrs Downey, Mrs Kendal or our Chair of Governors, Jenny Pirks. We would be happy to answer any questions and discuss what the role involves.



Lead Learners this week: a child who is making great progress in their science learning.

Acorns: Szonja for mixing different water and mud outside.

Seedlings: Daniel for recognising the life cycle of a butterfly whilst reading the hungry caterpillar.

Ash (Reception): Willow. When willow was playing in the puddles, she realised that if she jumped from a height, she got a bigger splash. She jumped from the tyres into the puddles she got a bigger splash.

Cedar – Year 1: Mia has been fantastic in science this week. She is confidently using scientific terms to describe materials such as 'absorbent' and 'transparent'.

Rowan – Year 2: Alice showed lots of interest in science this week when talking about how the human body grows as we get older.

Maple – Year 3: Alexandra for good ideas about how to protect our eyes from the sun.

Sycamore - Year 4: Mayia has developed great science knowledge of heating and cooling.

Olive – Year 5: Leo K for showing enthusiasm for his science learning.

Oak – Year 6: Emily for being an active learner when learning about microorganisms. She could remember the 3 types and examples for each.

Holly: Olivia for confidently learning and naming body parts.

Willow: Logan for telling us and understanding the difference between light and dark**.**

Cherry: Lucas for telling us about the planets and creating a fact file about the sea.

THIS WEEK'S PALS POINTS, READING CHAMPIONS AND MAD ABOUT MATHS AWARDS

PALS POINTS – Positive Attitude to Learning points:
100 PALS = Dallam YELLOW
200 PALS = Dallam GREEN
300 PALS = Dallam RED
400 PALS = Deputy Head's SILVER
500 PALS = Head Teacher's GOLD
600 PALS = Governor's 3 STAR

Reading Champions and Mad about Maths - For every 10 occasions your child reads or does maths at home it will be celebrated in our Monday assembly.
This week's awards go to:

	READING CHAMPIONS	MAD ABOUT MATHS	PALS Points
Ash			
Cedar	Felicity, Heidi E, Heidi M, Oscar x 2	Reggie, Heidi E, Felicity	
Rowan			
Maple	Josie, Ivan, Jack, Sinead, David, Lavin, Harper, Matilda		**PALS – Jack 200**
Sycamore	Luna x 2, Alice x 2, Louie x 2, Lauren x 2, Wissam x 2 Tayla x 2, Rajmond x 2, Teddy x 2, Lewis x 2, Mayia x 2, Lira x 2, Alan x 2, Majka x 2, Al-Mubarak, Jimmy, Khloe, Matilda, Naveah,	The whole class	
Olive	Israel, Amelia, Omari, Harry, Ronan, Max, Jayden, Lily R, Shana, Skye, Cleo, Lily F	Thomas, Adam, Lewis	
Oak	Emily, Darcy, Sidar, Rosa, Paiveen, Summer, Izabella, Lennox, Olivia, Zack, Archie, Hina, Sophia M, Sofia C, Isabelle	Emily, Darcy, Sidar, Rosa, Paiveen, Summer, Izabella Lennox, Olivia, Zack, Archie Hina, Sophia M, Sofia C, Isabelle	
Holly			



Dates for your diary

Friday 23rd October	End of term	Collection normal time
Monday 2nd November	Return to school	