



Dame Ellen Pinsent School - Summer Term Newsletter 2023

Where children are happy; developing independence and confidence, so that they can be their very best.



Summer Term Newsletter - 11th July 2023

Head Teacher Updates

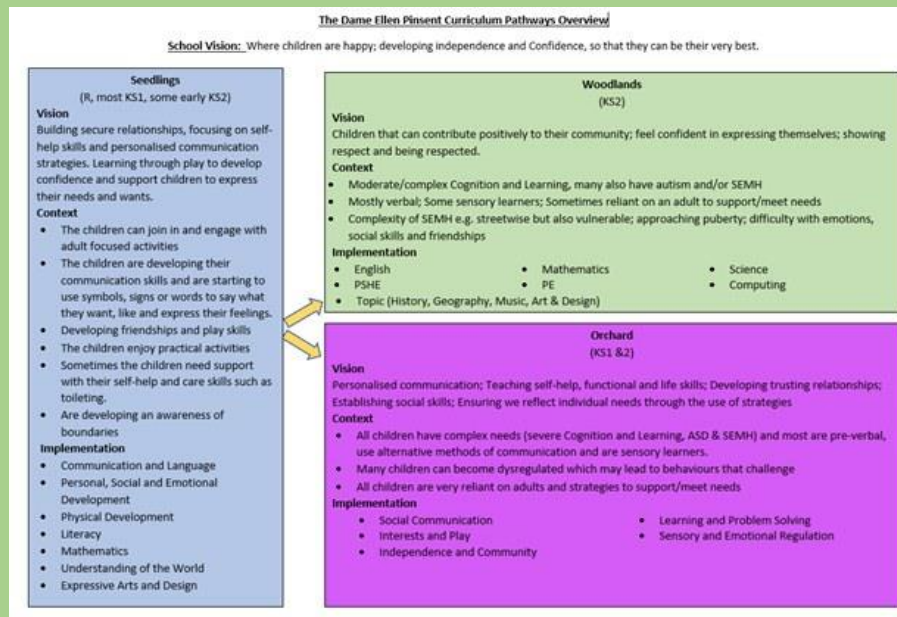


Dame Ellen Pinsent School

It has been another incredible year here at Dame Ellen Pinsent School. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the children, staff and families for their hard work and commitment to our wonderful school. I hope you enjoy our last newsletter of the year, celebrating all the brilliant achievements.

Curriculum and class groups

Over this academic year we have been embedding our new curriculum. Over the year we have been reviewing, monitoring and tweaking our curriculum to continue to ensure we meet all our children's needs. We have also worked with our colleagues in our Cooperative Trust (Birmingham Special School Cooperative Trust) to review our curriculum and support further development of it. As a result of this work we now have a curriculum which consists of 3 pathways.



The diagram above gives you an idea of what the curriculum looks like for each pathway. Your class teacher will explain more about your child's curriculum during parents evening on Wednesday 12th July.

Attendance



We are pleased to announce that certificates of attendance have been given out to 13 pupils who have all achieved 98%+ attendance (05/09/23 - 30/06/23).

We have 3 pupils receiving a special prize and certificate each for 100% attendance (05/09/23 - 30/06/23). Well done to Beth, Devon and Charlie S!

We strive to have every child in school every day, but we do understand that sometimes that children are not well enough to attend. However, this year our overall attendance is at 92%, below where we would normally expect it to be and we have also seen higher persistent absence levels (that's children who have missed 10% or more of school). We will continue to work with individual families to support them to get their child into school every day and hope that you will work with us on this.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that requests for leave during term time are not agreed unless in exceptional circumstances. Any such requests must be applied for before any

leave is taken. Unfortunately, the Local Authority has taken one family to court this academic year and they were fined £433 for taking unauthorised holiday leave during term time.

Staffing Updates



It is at this time of year we often have to say goodbye to some staff, I would personally like to thank each of the members of staff who are moving on and wish them all the very best in their new roles. At the end of this academic year we say goodbye to:



1 - Miss Burden

Miss Burden who has been at Dame Ellen for 6 ½ years and has recently been the school SENCo, the lead for Early Years and Head of Lower school. She is now going to use her fabulous knowledge and skills working for the Communication and Autism Team in Birmingham



2 - Mr Wilson

Mr Wilson who has been at Dame Ellen for 3 years and superbly organised great Do and Discover weeks, Blackwell and led PE. We wish him all the best as he leaves us to take on a leadership and SENCO position in a mainstream school.



3 - Mr James

Mr James who has only been with us for 1 ½ years but is taking up an amazing opportunity to teach and move out to Malaysia with his family. We thank him for his work in school and his role in leading computing.



4 - Sofina

Sofina who has been a Teaching Assistant with us for just over 3 years and has made wonderful contributions to the many children and classes she has worked in. I am delighted that she is going on to complete her teacher training.

In September I am very excited to be welcoming some fabulous new teachers and introducing Pathway Leads. Our new teachers are

- Miss Thornton.
- Ms Hassan.
- Ms Prottey.

Our Pathway Leads (will be overseeing the curriculum for their pathways) are:

- Mrs Maleady – Seedlings (Bunnies, Ladybirds, Squirrels and Woodpeckers)
- Miss Guest – Orchard (Otters, Deers and Crickets)
- Miss Prottey – Woodlands (Bumblebees, Wildcats, Chipmunk, Badgers, Robins, Grasshoppers).

Birmingham Schools Cooperative Trust Arts Project



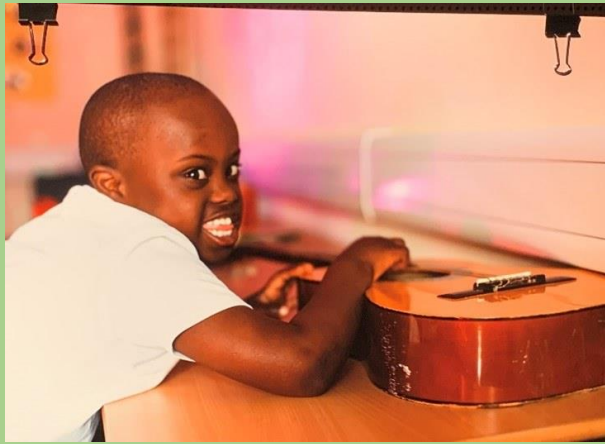
This has been the most wonderful collaborative project across our schools which has culminated in an inclusive arts exhibition from all our children at MAC Theatre from 27th – 30th June. The programme brought together high-quality artist residencies to the seven schools and created meaningful arts access for these students with SEN, who experience significant barriers to mainstream arts curriculum opportunities, organisations and events. Well done and thank you to Miss Eaton, who has done an incredible job coordinating the Dame Ellen part of the project.

You can see a lot more about the project at the following website: [Birmingham Schools Cooperative Trust Arts Project](#)

Select the link to view the project video: [Common ground arts video link](#)









And finally...

May I wish all of our Year 6 leavers the very best as they move to their secondary schools in September. Have a wonderful and safe summer holiday and I look forward to seeing all the children returning to us in September. The children return to school on Wednesday 6th September.

Year 6 Leavers Event

On Wednesday 19th July we will have our year 6 leavers event and I would like to thank the following for supporting the evening:

- Zen Education, who have paid for the Photoboth
- Academics who have paid for the red carpet
- **Solihull Radio and Royal Limos for providing the Hummer for the event**
(Paul this is TBC so please check with me before putting in final version)

Mrs Fountain

Blackwell Adventure Residential Trip



At the beginning of May, 36 pupils from Years 5 and 6 (and 14 members of staff) had the opportunity of staying in the Manor House at Blackwell Adventure Centre. They had an amazing time developing their independence skills and participating in some adventurous activities. For 2 ½ days they explored lots of climbing activities, where they had to face any fear of heights, so that they could complete the Tree Trek obstacle course up 4 metres high, or get as high as they could by stacking and standing on bottle crates. If they were feeling brave, they were able to go to the top of a giant 3G swing to be launched out like a rocket or jump off a platform to experience a 150 metre zipline.

For those who preferred the more sedate, there was archery, grass sledges, go karts and outdoor swimming in the rain! The food was excellent and the children made the most of their time away; making memories that will stay with them for many years come. Blackwell is so popular but we are pleased to report we have booked already for May 2024!









Topic



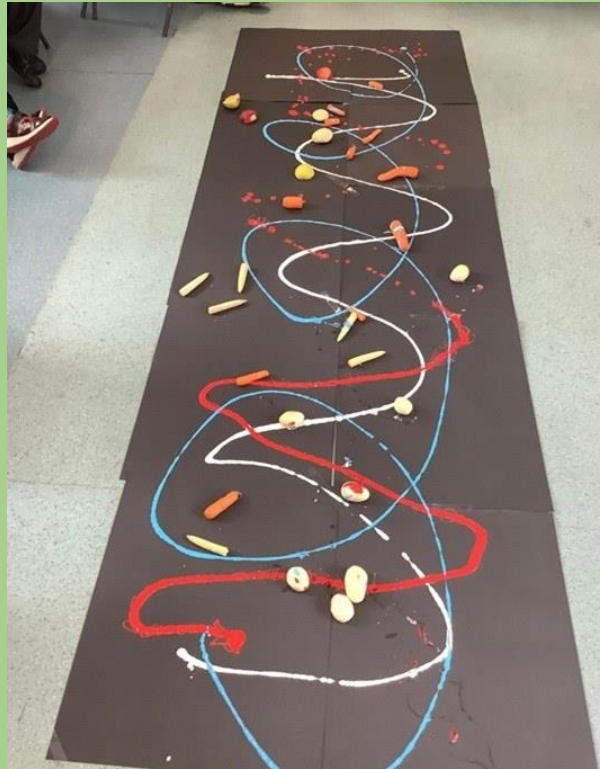


Bunnies learnt about caterpillars and butterflies and watched their own caterpillars turn into a chrysalis before transforming into beautiful butterflies and being released into nature.

Many classes also enjoyed Forest school where they took part in bug-hunting, habitat building and making wildlife feeders.



Ladybirds explored animals and their habitats throughout their curriculum this term, grouping animals and building them homes; role-play forms an important part of our Seedlings pathway in helping children to make sense of the world around them.



Chipmunks and Wildcats learnt about Impressionism and created some beautiful pieces of art, including this Picasso masterpiece made with food during a 'Fun with Food' session. Using food in fun and creative ways in our curriculum helps children to feel more comfortable with foods that they dislike or are unfamiliar with.



Otters class had 'Holidays' as their summer topic and provided many sensory experiences to replicate the beach, including sand and water play, as well as selecting ice-cream toppings!



We were lucky enough to have 'Riverside Performing Arts Company' come and perform outdoors for us, the children loved watching the musical rendition of 'Elmer' and completed one of their 'Do & Discover' tasks in doing so.





We were also able to enjoy a 'Royal' themed week to learn about and celebrate the King's Coronation this year. Classes all made crowns to wear at our whole-school banquet and each class set up a game outdoors for other classes to enjoy. It was wonderful to see children and staff dressed up as Royalty!



We pride ourselves on a creative and engaging curriculum at Dame Ellen and we are looking forward to introducing our 6-year Topic cycle in September. The whole school will be doing the same topic each half term but it will be delivered in a way that is accessible and meaningful to each pathway and class. Our first whole-school topic in September will be 'Painters', each class will have a story book in English that will link to the theme and each child will produce a piece of artwork on canvas that will be displayed in our school Art Gallery: we look forward to sharing more details on this in the Autumn term.

Miss Parker & Mrs Gray

PE Multiskills



In

In addition to the PE Curriculum, all our pupils have access to a range of activities for physical development, alongside our wonderful facilities such as the MUGA (AstroTurf playing area), outdoor gym, trim trail, climbing frames, soft play, Forest School and the track around our field. Squirrels class have enjoyed golf lessons at Shirley Golf Club and many classes in the Woodlands pathways have had great fun playing cricket with Warwickshire Cricket Board coaches, on a weekly basis. More recently some of our older pupils have attended football tournaments at Aston Villa FC. Throughout the year our pupils benefit from attending competitions and festivals.

On Thursday 20th April, Bumblebees, Chipmunks, Wildcats and a combined team from Squirrels and Ladybirds, attended a Multiskills Festival at the Billesley Indoor Tennis Centre. The festival incorporated a range of athletic activities that included baton, basketball and obstacle relays as well as throwing events that even involved a snowball fight! The featured photographs show these children having a great time at an event that saw over 2,000 children from local primary schools participating.











Forest School



We have had a wonderful year in Forest School sometimes sunny and sometimes very muddy. We enjoyed our Forest School Day at Kings Heath Park with some of our friends from the Trust earlier in the year. Our children enjoy so many experiences during their time spent in Forest School, as they are encouraged to explore the environment throughout all the seasons. I hope you enjoy looking at a few of our forest school pictures.











SEN Primary school football festival at the Villa



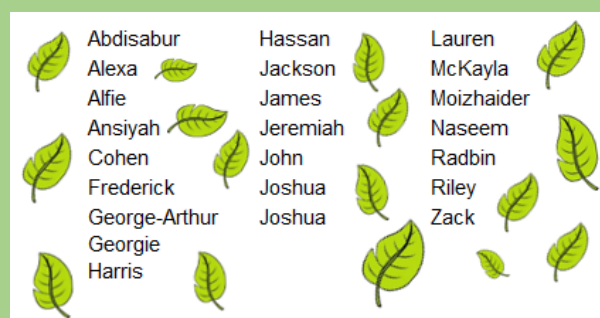
We attended the SEN Primary school football festival at the Villa on the 2nd of May. We played a round robin fun games! We played against Hallmoor, Dorrington, Langley, and Calthorpe. The games were 7-a-side, and 10mins straight through. The emphasis was on fun and involvement, but we did win every game played. Ethan Jackson scored a hat trick! Joshua and Jeremiah also scored goals.

We are returning this week with yr4 & 5 players , to get them used to hopefully the return of the SEN schools league in September.

Kindness Tree



We would like to give recognition to the following children who have shown special kindness to staff and / or their friends within the school. Details of the children's kindness are written onto a leaf and placed onto the Kindness Tree in reception.



"Kindness Is Showing Someone They Matter"

Parent Information

Dinner Money



- 6th September - 27th November 2023 - 38 days x £2.30 = £87.40
- 6th November - 22nd December 2023 - 35 days x £2.30 = £80.50

Total for Autumn term = £ 167.90

Home to School Transport



Home to School Transport applications are now completed online: [Link](#), (link on school website).

Please note that Dame Ellen Pinsent School does not manage the Home to School Transport agreements. This is done by the Local Authority.

It may be that your request for Transport is not approved by the Local Authority. If this is the case, you will need to raise your concerns to them through appeal.

Queries, Issues or Complaints

If you have any queries with regard to your child's transport these should be directed to Travel

Assist using either of the following contact methods:

Tel: 0121 303 4955, Option 3 then Option 2

Email: travelassist@birmingham.gov.uk

If transport is late to pick up or drop off your child please contact you transport contractor:

- **National Express Accessible Transport (NEAT)** on 0333 241 2745 Option 4
- **AFJ** on 0121 689 1000 Option 1
- **Solihull** on 07703470735
- **Worcester** on 0121 453 1234
- **Coventry** on 0121 770 7707

Please note that if the school is made aware of any delays to transport, a text message will be sent to parents/carers to keep them updated.

Transport Updates

Updates from Birmingham City Council regarding transport can be found here: [Link](#) (link on school website).

School uniform



Dame Ellen Pinsent School have signed up to a new uniform provider - MyClothing.

Please click [MyClothing](#) to access their website to order school uniform and other accessories.

Note parents / carers will order direct from the website and orders will be delivered to your home.

We have tried to source a reputable, reasonably priced provider of uniform and I hope that you will all find their website quick and easy to use.

Please contact the school office if you experience any difficulties. Many thanks.

Children can also wear plain red or royal blue sweatshirts / cardigans which can be purchased direct from your local supermarket or other retailer.

Key Dates - for your diary



- **Parents Evening** - Wednesday 12th July 2023 (4.15pm - 6.00pm)

- **Break up for the Summer** - Friday 21st July 2023
- **Autumn Term begins** - Monday 4th September 2023
- **Teacher Training Days** - Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th September 2023 (closed to pupils)
- **School opens to pupils** - Wednesday 6th September 2023
- **Break up for Half term** - Friday 27th October 2023 Back to school - Monday 6th November 2023
- **School breaks up for Christmas break** - Friday 22nd December 2023

School Governors



We have a strong Governing Body that represent and challenge the school well. They are immensely supportive, bringing a variety of skills and knowledge to further enhance our provision. To view the governors roles' please visit our school [website](#) for further details.



I am a parent to a 6-year old child at Dame Ellen Pinsent School ("DEP"). My child was diagnosed with ASD at the age of 4 and it was a real struggle to get him into a school that was best suited to meet his needs. DEP was the only school that was able to offer a place to him starting in 2022.

Since being at DEP, my child has progressed so much. He is speaking more and when he comes home from school he is happy.

For this reason, I decided I wanted to give back to DEP and so became a Parent Governor in April 2023.

I was born and raised in West Yorkshire and I obtained a BA (HONS) in English Studies. I then undertook a conversion course in law via the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL). Finally, I studied for and completed the Legal Practice (LPC).

I worked as a Paralegal in Defendant Insurance Litigation for 18 years.

I moved to Birmingham in 2018 with my family and worked for a large commercial law firm in the city before moving on to my current job as receptionist at Dr Walji & Colleagues in Balsall Heath.

Since becoming a Parent Governor I have learned about the intricate workings of DEP.

I hope to be able to bring my life experiences to my role and make a positive contribution to the Whole Governing Board during my tenure.

Updated School Policies



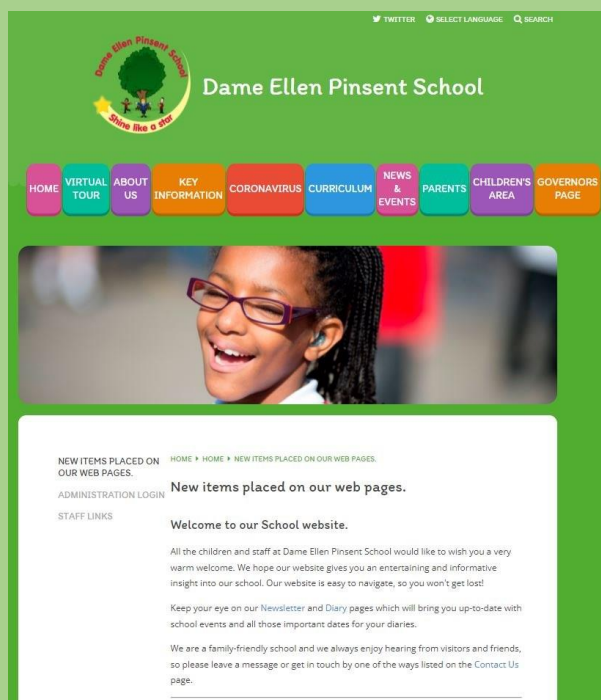
Homework Policy, Religious Education Policy, Special Educational Needs and Disability and Inclusion Policy, Attendance Policy, Secondary Transfer Policy, Publication Scheme Policy, Risk Assessment Policy, Information security Policy, Induction Policy, Freedom of Information Policy, GDPR Data Protection Policy, Infection Control - Communicable Diseases, Code of Conduct for Visitors to School, Code of Conduct for Visitors to School.

Visit our school website [here](#) to view our published school policies.

For further information or to request documents that are not on our web pages including documented information translated into a language of your choice, please contact the school office

School website

To keep up to date with school information, news & events visit our school website [here](#).



To keep up to to date with actives on our school website visit [DEPS website](#) - **HOME > New items placed on our web pages.**

We are a family-friendly school and we always enjoy hearing from visitors and friends, so please get in touch by one of the ways listed on our School Contact information page.

If you require any of our documented information translated, please contact the school office.

School contact information

Dame Ellen Pinsent School

Ardencote Road

Birmingham

B13 0RW

Office hours are 8:00 to 4.45pm, outside of these times the answering machine will be in operation.

For all enquiries, call or email Elaine Eustace (Senior Office Manager)

Telephone: 0121 675 2487

Email address: enquiry@deps.ac

Contacts

Headteacher - Mrs Denise Fountain

Chair of Governors – Mr Andy Punch

Should you wish to contact the Headteacher or Chair of Governors by mail or phone, please use the main school address and telephone number (above)

For all general enquiries please contact the school office on the main school number above, or email enquiry@deps.ac

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- Mrs Cater
- Mrs Fountain
- Miss Parker
- Mrs Gray
- Miss Whittaker

SENCO

- Mrs Cater
- Miss Guest (Assistant SENCO)

School parent apps

- [DEPS Twitter](#)
- [Class Dojo](#)
- [School Money / Teachers2Parents](#)

