

Dean Valley Community Primary School



Prospectus



"At Dean Valley, our vision for the children in our care is to enable them to become confident and independent learners, who are resilient and respectful of others and accepting of all in our diverse world."

The Dean Valley Team work hard to create an environment where our children are inspired to learn, feel safe and are able to grow into proud, supportive and tolerant citizens of the community they are a part of. We are committed to developing a love of learning in our pupils by creating experiences within a broad and balanced curriculum. One which allows children to understand the world around them, living in dignity as global citizens and growing up with freedom of expression and plentiful opportunities to discover their social, physical, moral, spiritual and intellectual viewpoints.



I am delighted to welcome you to Dean Valley Community Primary School, we are a one form entry thriving school in the community of Bollington.

Our aim as a Unicef Rights Respecting School is to develop every child's individual talent - whether academic, artistic or sporting. Our curriculum is diverse and offers our learners the chance to flourish in a safe, stimulating and exciting environment. We encourage our children to be active in their learning, voicing their thoughts and opinions with confidence and developing their skills to be independent learners from an early age.

Dean Valley are a team, with the children at the very heart of our school community and all that we do. The staff and governors work with parents to ensure that each child receives a rounded education where their mental and physical well being is nurtured carefully alongside their academic, arts and sporting needs.

We encourage children to have high standards of behaviour showing respect to all. We are incredibly proud of our children who respond with enthusiasm and understand and live by values which mean a lot to them such as generosity, tolerance, kindness, non-discrimination and honesty.

Our grounds include an outdoor forest school area, pond, outdoor gym, challenging climbing frames and amphitheatre, which allow children to enjoy outdoor learning - including our all weather daily mile track which means we can complete the run no matter the weather!

Our committed staff run a wide range of extra curricular school activities and clubs including football, cross country, rounders, netball, Warhammer and art to name but a few. TheClub@DV offers wrap around care, both before and after school where our staff take care to make activities fun and to encourage play whilst creating a relaxed atmosphere.

The support, enthusiasm and drive of all our committed staff mean that our children receive the best possible start to education and are prepared to face challenges ahead with a positive mindset.

If you would like to know more, or would like a guided tour around the school, please contact the school office - we would be delighted to hear from you,

V. McPherson

Nurturing begins...

Our large Reception classroom allows for a creative approach to our continuous provision both inside and outside. This is an environment in which children develop their curiosity of learning; they explore what makes things work, are encouraged to express themselves and develop their talents. As their confidence grows so does their love of learning.

"As a family we feel incredibly lucky to be part of the Dean Valley Community. Our children love going to school and both have had wonderful teachers who genuinely care about their well being and development".

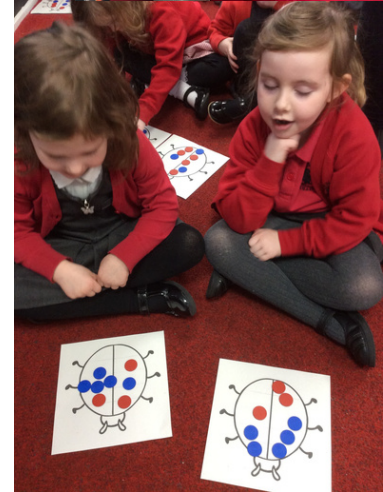
Learning is based around areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Profile and fall into two sections: The Prime Areas: Communication and Language Development, Physical Development, Personal Social and Emotional Development and the Specific Areas: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts and Design and then the Characteristics of effective learning: Playing and Exploring (engagement), Active learning (Motivation) and Creating and Thinking Critically. Learning is initiated by and follows the interests and ideas of the children. Individual, group and class sessions are taught to enable the children to work towards achieving their early learning goals.

Communication with and involvement of parents plays a large part in helping all children achieve their full potential. At Dean Valley we offer parents an online learning journey, using Class Dojo. This gives parents and grandparents an insight into what happens in the classroom and allows them to share with school activities, likes, dislikes and the love of learning they are developing at home.

Transition into school can sometimes be a big change for children and parents alike. We recognise the importance of children feeling safe, familiar and happy within our school. Before starting in September children will attend story sessions, stay and play mornings and try our delicious school lunches. Parents and children are also invited to an activity morning, which is always run at the weekend, so that they can come and explore our learning environment together. Our Reception teacher also visits all children in their current Nursery or Preschool to support them with their transition to a new setting. Once they start in school they will gain a Year 5 buddy who will support them around school too.

"Thank you all for all the little touches that have helped our son with his transition to school he is clearly really happy!"

"The classroom is a visual feast! Such an inspiring learning environment!"





KS1

Year 1 follows on from Reception with emphasis in the autumn term on continuous provision being part of their day in order to allow them to develop their understanding of new concepts. Children benefit from working both in their classroom setting and that of our school grounds. We ensure planning addresses the needs of all our learners so that every child reaches their full potential.

Our broad and balanced curriculum in Year 1 and 2 offers a wide variety of opportunities and experiences for our learners. Our dedicated staff use a range of teaching and learning strategies within their lessons as all learners benefit from different approaches. We aim to promote co-operation and communication in the classroom, to boost confidence, develop perseverance and embed a growth mindset.

Trips are a wonderful way to excite and ignite learning and these are undertaken every term. Children visit places such as Nantwich Museum, Sudbury Hall, Eureka, Manchester Airport as well as learning in the local environment by walking to the Rec, Tinkers Clough and Bollington library.



KS2

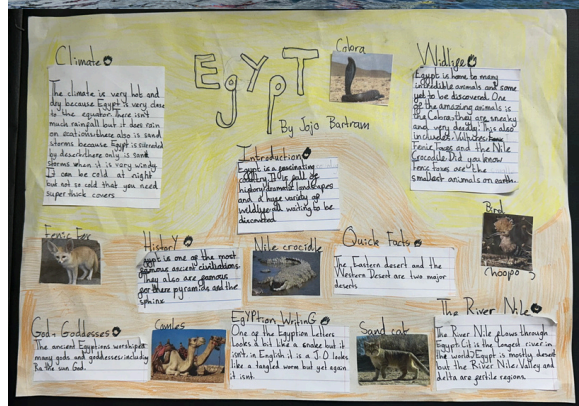
As a school, we are proud of the love of learning instilled in our children from the very beginning of their learning journey in Reception through KS1 and KS2.

Our innovative staff offer opportunities and experiences which continue to develop our children so that they can reach their true potential developing their talents in a range of areas. Our learners are exposed to a diverse curriculum - Literacy, Maths, Science, DT, Art, Science, PE, Humanities, PSHE, Spanish, Swimming, Forest Schools and more. Our children use a range of Kagan strategies which they enjoy to develop their social skills. Our KS2 staff team work together to create the innovative rolling program of learning - their enthusiasm and drive for learning is infectious.

Academic learning goes hand in hand with the arts, sport, first aid and learning about the global goals which will affect our future. We aim to arm our children with the tools to approach the wider world, demonstrating determination, perseverance, creative thought and respect for all as well as building empathy, trust, resilience, teamwork and confidence. As a Unicef Rights Respecting school, emphasis is placed upon how we can develop ourselves and the lives of others and our children have been part of actively making change for other children both in our own country and globally.

Children in KS2 enjoy working with younger children, they are incredible role models and new friends who share their learning and knowledge with their buddies.

*"I am delighted with both my children's development at Dean Valley over the past year!
Not only have my children's academic reports improved but their social maturity has come on in leaps and bounds! I believe this is down to two main things: Rights respecting ethos, which ensures the children's well being and gives a clear pathway to develop relationships positively and the excellent standard of teaching within the school." (A Dean Valley parent)*



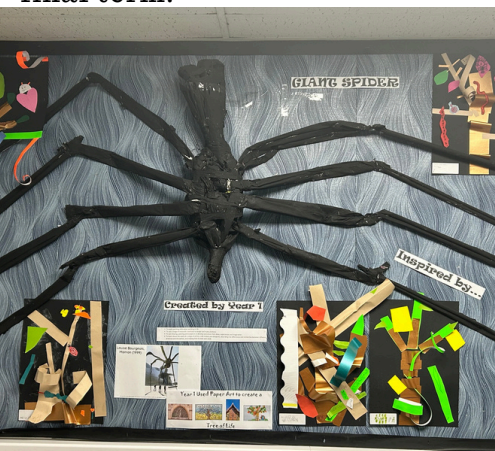


Teaching & Learning

At Dean Valley Community Primary School, we believe in the concept of lifelong learning, and in the idea that both adults and children learn new things every day. Our dedicated and talented staff offer a curriculum which is extensive, ambitious and exciting with a wealth of unique learning opportunities for all of our pupils. These opportunities are guided by our curriculum drivers of Possibilities, Diversity and Community. Through our teaching, we equip children with the knowledge and understanding necessary to be able to make informed choices about the important things in their lives.

Our teachers make learning exciting, practical, and engaging. Our aim is for every child to build a love of learning which will go with them as they move through their educational journey. The basic primary curriculum requirement is used as the starting point for our staff to build upon, their innovative approach and careful thought allow for a varied, rich and broad programme of lessons. As a school we teach phonics through Read, Write Inc and our Maths curriculum is taught using the White Rose Scheme. Dean Valley staff teach through a two year rolling program which allows children to build upon their knowledge over time - more detail about the curriculum be found on our website.

We are always keen to find new ways to inspire learners. As a school we plan a range of trips to engage our children within the topic they are learning about. Children visit places such as the theatre, art galleries, farms, museums, castles and go as far afield as the Yorvik Viking Centre to immerse them in knowledge and skills around their topic. They also enjoy visitors who come into school to share experiences and enrich their learning and take part in Super Learning Days to immerse children in a subject or topic. Visitors to Dean Valley have included an Orangutan, My Bnk - teaching children about bank accounts, savings and mortgages, a dinosaur, Rock Kidz and our own parents to inspire children about the world of possibilities open to them when choosing careers. During their time at Dean Valley children have the opportunity to attend two residential trips, one in Year 4 and one in Year 6 during their final term.



Enrichment

We offer a fantastic variety of extra-curricular clubs during the school year. These may be run by teachers or external coaches and artists and can include sport, music, creative arts, gardening, science, Warhammer and computing. Sports clubs include activities such as football, netball, rounders, swimming and cross country. There are also a range of clubs run by external coaches these include rugby, football, lacrosse, cricket, gymnastics and multi-sports. These clubs are paid for by parents on a half-termly basis.

We believe all children can develop team work and build resilience by leading clubs and organising sports events in and around the school day: therefore, all children will have led and organised an event by the time they leave Dean Valley.

We are extremely proud of our orchestra which performs every week for school and wherever possible during the school year. There are a number of instruments played including drums, violins, percussion instruments, flute, clarinet, guitar and trumpet. Children have access to peripatetic music lessons weekly during the school day (paid for by parents) whilst every Year 3 child has recorder lessons for the year as part of their music curriculum culminating in a trip to the Halle.

Children have access to Forest School all year round. This allows for them to learn in the outdoors being stimulated by the outdoors and typically take part in activities which increase their self-belief, confidence, learning capacity, enthusiasm, communication and problem-solving skills and emotional well-being.

There are plenty of opportunities for our children to shine on stage too during the year. KS1 in a nativity at Christmas, Year 3 and 4 with Carols by Candlelight at the Christmas Fair alongside a class assembly to share their learning in the Spring term and an all singing all dancing production for Year 5 and 6 in the summer.





Happy, healthy and safe...

Thriving children who are safe and happy at school is the ultimate goal for all staff at Dean Valley. We firmly believe by building resilience, respect and independence that our children become resourceful and reflective learners.

Our approach to healthy mind and healthy body includes every child taking part in 'Fit in 15', mindfulness, brain breaks, daily mile running sessions and growth mindset teaching.

Well-being and nurture is promoted (most of the time, without acknowledgement) through every lesson that is taught and every opportunity that our children are given. From the moment that they walk through the doors in the morning to the moment their little feet leave the classroom door at the end of the day children are supported to build independent learning skills which allow them to develop in all areas of the curriculum. We have an ELSA in school who is trained to provide emotional and social skills support to children and our children have access to a school counsellor.

Children learn about the needs of their body not only through nutrition and exercise but also by learning about the importance of our mental health and how we can nurture that too. Our older children actively support our younger children, acting as role models and the successful buddy system we have in place ensures our youngest children have the support of an older child in their early years of school.

SEND at Dean Valley

We want all our children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to fulfil their potential academically, socially, emotionally and physically and to thrive within our setting and beyond. To achieve this goal we have worked hard to create an inclusive environment that meets the needs of all learners.

The knowledge and experience of our teaching staff is enhanced by specialists within the team. We also seek professional advice from a range of outside agencies when needed to make sure we provide children and their families with the best possible support for their area of need.

We are focused on the development of the whole child and neurodiversity is celebrated in our school. We spend time building knowledge, understanding and respect of different needs, both as a staff team and with all pupils to ensure each learner feels supported in a safe, accepting environment.

My Happy Mind

At Dean Valley, we believe that emotional wellbeing is the foundation for success—not just in the classroom, but in life. That's why we are proud to be a My Happy Mind accredited school, embedding a culture of positive mental health and resilience in everything we do.

My Happy Mind empowers our learners with the knowledge, skills, and habits they need to understand their emotions, build healthy relationships, and develop a strong sense of self-worth. Through weekly lessons, reflective activities, and consistent language across the school, pupils are supported to grow into confident, emotionally intelligent individuals.

This approach doesn't just benefit our children—it's embedded into our whole school community. Our staff are trained in My Happy Mind principles, enabling a unified and consistent environment where wellbeing is nurtured alongside academic achievement. As a result, classrooms are calmer, relationships stronger, and learning deeper.

Central to the success of the program are our Happiness Heroes—pupil ambassadors who take on the important responsibility of championing mental health and wellbeing throughout the school. These children lead by example, support their peers, and help organise activities and initiatives that promote kindness, gratitude, and a positive mindset. They play a key role in fostering a culture where everyone feels heard, valued, and happy.

My Happy Mind helps our children flourish emotionally and socially, equips staff with tools to nurture wellbeing, and encourages a shared language of positivity across our community. With everyone playing a part—from teachers to Happiness Heroes—we are creating a school where happiness is nurtured, mental health is prioritized, and every voice matters.



Sporting talents



Dean Valley Community Primary School holds the Sainsburys Platinum award 23-24, which is a strong accolade celebrating the effort and energy put into promoting a healthy lifestyle approach to our learners.

We are part of the Macclesfield Schools Sports Partnership which provides many opportunities for all groups of pupils to participate in a wide range of sporting activities and festivals within and outside the school day. All children have the opportunity to take part in local leagues and competitions these include netball, football, rounders, cross country, athletics and the swimming gala. Festivals and tournaments are part and parcel of our school life. We inspire all pupils to compete at competition level before they leave Dean Valley as we believe this builds on character and resilience.

Our PE leads work alongside the class teachers to select the children to attend and this completely depends on the type of festival it is. The festivals fall under three categories:

- Celebrate (engaging and motivating) - New audience to motivate all
- Aspire (non-competitive) - Develop different sports and specific skills
- Inspire (competitive) - Supporting individual development in sport

The school grounds are adapted to encourage and enrich physical and independent play outside of lessons, our developing forest schools link and accessibility to activities which include problem solving and team skills allows for further development of physical skills. Our fixed orienteering course in the school grounds allows pupils to develop outdoor pursuits whilst learning in a cross curricular approach.

We work with a wide range of local community clubs such as Cheshire Dance, Macclesfield Town Football Club, Sale Sharks Rugby Club, Macclesfield Town Boys coaching, Matthew Turnock - a professional golfer, Macclesfield Harriers through the park runs, Judo Education and Bollington Leisure centre Squash club.

Our Sports Ambassadors are chosen from Year 6 and spend time organising events for younger children to take part in such as inter-house games competitions, challenge days and they also run their own after school club (having had access to training) in order to be prepared and run Change 4 Life club and Festivals. Their aim is to enable all pupils to increase the amount of activity they complete each day in order to lead a healthy and positive lifestyle which develops both body and mind.



Parents, Community and Communication

We work hard to forge close relationships with all parents and carers maintaining regular communication to keep everyone informed about school life and how their children are getting on.

At Dean Valley we run an open door policy, we welcome feedback from all stakeholders and are always happy to talk about your child's education and well being.

Our Newsletter goes out to parents every other week through Sway to inform you of what is happening in school and events which are coming up. The Year 6 Media Team and children across school enjoy writing articles for each news letter about school events which range from sport, school trips, their learning in school or charity fundraising they have been involved in.

The Dean Valley Parent Teacher Association (PTA) works incredibly hard to raise funds to support the school further ensuring that we can remain a vibrant school with the equipment needed for our learners to thrive. Parents volunteer to be part of the PTA and work together to run events such as school fairs and discos. The money raised by the PTA supports our Forest School sessions, school trips, improving computing equipment, the daily mile track, adds to the Reception outdoor provision, improves resources across school and most recently has supported purchasing our new outdoor gym.

The Rights Respecting Rangers who stand as the pupils voice, work with their classes to find out children's views of what we can do to further improve our school. They meet several times during each term and discuss way to develop school and campaign to make a difference to others whilst supporting the understanding of the articles of the child across school. Y6 Rangers are also become part of Bollington Youth Council who meet regularly to discuss local matters.

We work hard to support our community - singing at care homes, sharing views with Bollington Town Council, performing at the Bollington Festival, parading for Remembrance Services remembering veterans, visiting Bollington library and taking part in the annual summer reading challenge. We work closely as a school with Tytherington School attending many events within the year - both sporting and academic. We run an extended transition from Year 5 on wards for Year 7 so that by the time our children move on to secondary school they are comfortable and familiar with their new environment.



Governors



Our Governors also engage with all aspects of school life attending events to celebrate children's learning, visiting their link classes and participating on school trips where they can. They also provide a steady and guiding hand whilst overseeing the schools strong journey.

Club at Dean Valley

The Club@DV before and after school provision is run in-house by the Dean Valley Team providing pastoral care for children out of school hours.

Club sessions give children access to a wide range of activities including crafting, baking, role play, construction, indoor and outdoor games, a chill out area, small world play and for KS2 children a homework club. Engaging activities are planned and delivered with care to make sure children enjoy their down time in a relaxed environment.

We pride ourselves on listening to our pupils voice and providing activities which have been requested by the children themselves.

Many of our Club@DV staff work across school during the day so are well known to our children which helps them to settle quickly on a longer day at school. It is really important that the children feel comfortable and safe within this provision, Mrs Mackenzie and her team work hard to ensure that the fun never ends and that children enjoy their sessions.

Club@Deanvalley is open from 7:45am to the 8:50 am and at the end of the day from 3:20pm- 6:00pm. Bookings are made by parents up to 8 days in advance through an online booking system or if emergency sessions are required by calling the school office.

"I like going outside on sunny days. we have lots of toys to play with and i enjoy playing with all the different children from different classes." Theo

I like playing with the blocks. I love the crafting. I like the grown ups they are kind." Jimmy

"I enjoy all the different craft activities. There are a good variety of toys. All the staff are kind and caring." Erica

Dean Valley Kitchen

The Dean Valley kitchen is also run and managed in-house which allows us to have our own say in the menu. Children share their thoughts and opinions making suggestions each term of ideas which could be included within the menu. The emphasis is upon each child having a home-made meal each day. We source meat from the local butcher, Smiths dairy deliver milk and we work hard to source local produce where possible. You will see our current menu on the school website.

Parents have the option to pay for snack for their children at playtime, this is at a small cost of £1.50 per week and consists of toast and fruit.



Dean Valley Community Primary School

Albert Road,
Bollington,
Cheshire,
SK10 5HS

01625 572767

admin@deanvalley.cheshire.sch.uk