

Headteacher's Reflections

As we draw close to what has been a very long, cold and hard term, I wanted to focus using 'positive words of affirmation' with everyone. How we speak to one another is very important, as this will determine the desired outcome. For example, if we speak with love and kindness, the outcome will also be successful. Our children learn from us as adults, so the role modelling starts with us. In today's every changing digital world, the channels of communication are vast, and it is very easy to say how we feel on a variety of platforms such as Facebook, text, what app and status updates. All of these we are accountable for and so we need to reflect on how we convey messages and feelings.

In school we have been encouraging children to express themselves in a positive and kind manner, even when they are angry or upset. We are promoting that you can be heard and obtain positive results when you speak in a calm and loving manner.

As always, the lessons we can learn come from our faith, and it can provide the direction we all need. I hope I have been able to encapsulate this below:

Abu Shurayh reported: He said, "O Messenger of Allah, tell me something that will guarantee Paradise for me."

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Speak kind words, offer peace, and feed the hungry."

So, I urge you all to talk to your family members and children about this and work together to fill our school with love, care and kind words. Let's remind everyone of how when you are approached with good speech, you automatically feel compelled to oblige.

Let us make a difference and start this within our school by using this in our homes, with friends, family, neighbours, children and teachers.

Date Valley School Autumn Term Newsletter



Whole School Focus

Spelling and Reading

This term we are really trying to raise the profile of these two areas. Our teachers are working hard to read with the children, conducting shared or guided reading sessions throughout the week. Each class also has spelling champions of the week, which we are trying to promote. Please ensure your child completes their reading and spellings. These two areas work together and if both areas are strong, your child will progress further in writing too.

Recently we have provided tasks online as well as releasing our recommended reading lists. These can be found in the online folders as well as on our website. Please ensure that reading and spelling becomes a habit in your household.

We will be having a spelling workshop, which will be great to attend. It will promote fun ways to implement spellings and make the learning process interactive.

In year 3 – 6 we are also conducted daily precision spelling for selected children and this is also proving to be a great support. I am hoping to share this method with parents so that the technique can also be used at home.



"At Date Valley, we are respectful, resilient and reflective learners."

Positive words used with children

Following on from the headteacher's reflection, our teachers have been refreshing themselves on the training received on positive behaviour management and using positive language. Research show that children respond well to praise, respect and positive language.

At school we have adopted the 5 :1 Rule! This is where a teacher has to say 5 positive comments to every 1 negative comment. At school children need the confidence to learn and grow, which stems from the relationships we build upon as adults. A healthy teacher and child relationship provides progress and stability.

Here are 10 things to say to encourage your child, with words of positivity and encouragement when they need that support. Try these at home

1. *I am proud of you*
2. *Look at what you have accomplished*
3. *I'd love to hear about it*
4. *One step at a time ... you're doing well*
5. *You have figured it out, you are awesome*
6. *Fabulous job you are really listening*
7. *That's very kind of you*
8. *I love you*
9. *I appreciate what you just did*
10. *What a great decision you just made*

Headteacher Focus

My focus is ensuring that all lessons have key ingredients to a 'GOOD' lesson. These have been developed within our training days for two years now. Teachers are using peer observations, sharing good practice and self-reflection to support this process of change.

I conduct drop-in sessions every day, to ensure that the training implemented around a GOOD lesson is present in all classes. The lessons are containing elements of a GOOD lesson and we are on the journey of being consistent in this process.

Here are some of the areas I am looking at within lessons this term:

- Pre lesson starters mini task
- Celebration of a learning objective
- Clear understanding of the success criteria
- Mini tasks that are engaging and fun
- Teacher talk is at a minimum
- Good discussion and group work

Dates for the Diary

16th December – Woolly Winter Wednesday

16th December – Last day of term for Primary

18th December – Last day of term for Early Years

4th January- School begins for Early Years

5th January – School begins for Primary

Attendance

Class	Attendance
Reception	97.7%
<u>An-Nur - Y1</u>	<u>98.2%</u>
Ad-Duha -Y2	<u>98.4%</u>
AL-Fajr - Y3	<u>98.1%</u>
At-Tariq - Y4	<u>98.1%</u>
AL-Buruj -Y5	<u>98.3%</u>
AL-Buruj - Y6	<u>97.4%</u>

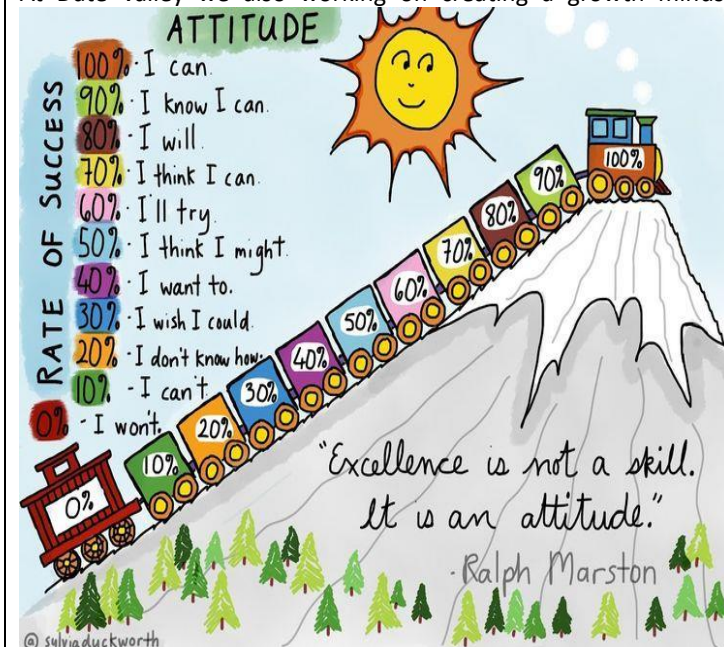
Ad-Duha has been awarded the best attendance this term. Well Done!

The class are rewarded a Movie Afternoon and Pop Corn for their best attendance. They will have a fun last day of term to reward their achievement.

Good attendance is an excellent achievement; this can only contribute to their progress and success at Date Valley.

Growth Mindset

At Date Valley we also working on creating a growth mindset



as opposed to a fixed mind set, as this will support a child when they are learning.

Discuss this picture with your child. Decide on the type of language of learning your child should say and feel as a child's attitude is key to success. This is a good starting point for understanding a growth mindset.

Odd Socks Day



Anti-Bullying Week 16th – 20th November

The children took part in a really important week and gained a greater understanding of the effects of bullying and how to stop it. This year's theme was 'United against Bullying'. The children know that if we unite and come together to tackle a common challenge, then change is possible. Bullying has a long-lasting effect on those who experience and witness it. But by channelling our collective power, through shared efforts and shared ambitions, we can reduce bullying together. The children now know that by coming together we can make a difference. We are all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we are united against bullying. Understanding that power is when we all work together. When we do so, we can ensure that no child ever has to experience bullying again. We can feel empowered by everyone playing a part in combating bullying, no matter who you are or where you're from - you can make a difference to someone's life. It should be seen as our collective responsibility.



Ad-Duha watching NSPCC video and understanding the importance of speaking out.



AnNur making eye contact and speaking confidently (Stop I don't like it)

Drama Workshop



An-Nur acting out different emotions for others to guess (sad, angry, etc.)

Stop It Sign

At Date Valley children have been taught how to be assertive and stand up for themselves. These signs are placed around the school so children can be reminded of what to say. Ask your child about it and what it means.



