



# Deal Parochial Primary School Education Award

## *Education Award - Regional Winner*

Deal Parochial Primary School have added tennis into its PE Curriculum and offers a full tennis programme for years 1-6. Pupils of all abilities can participate in weekly tennis sessions making use of the fantastic all-year round facility at the Deal Indoor Tennis Centre. Fully inclusive tennis, delivered by accredited coaches enables all pupils to experience tennis in a positive, structured environment with a professional delivery ensuring their first experience of tennis is a positive one. Coach led after-school clubs three times a week with five ability-based sections. Chance to filter into the Centre's tennis academy and performance programme. Opportunity to play on teams in county leagues, enter local/county LTA graded tournaments, disabled pupils attend tennis mainstream sessions. The school also provides daily supervised lunchtime tennis, attracting Reception children, extra sessions for children with additional needs and a before-school tennis session for girls.



DPPS recognise the extra benefits of self-confidence and improved concentration skills that tennis can bring to their children (including 3 disability players) and consequently provide healthy living which will form a pathway they will need for later life. They strive to provide competitive opportunities by arranging an inter-team tournament for less experienced players and a one-day event against other schools. They entered and won the Dover School Games event, participated with twenty entries spanning eight categories in the Kent LTA Primary Schools Competition. Older Pupils help at events, being part of a team, promoting their teamwork and leadership skills.

DPPS have a strong link with the Deal Indoor Tennis Centre, benefitting from expert coaching at special rates, allowing tennis to be accessible across the school's demographic. DITCs coaching team visit the school and attend their assemblies. The school encourages their players to take their individual tennis further with DITC. The Tennis Manager meets termly with the Head Mistress and head of PE. The school is now part of the LTA's 'Transforming British Tennis Together' partnership scheme joining DITC and Dover District Council. Through junior team tennis fixtures DPPS have secured school links with Wingham Primary School and Sevenoaks school.

## *Education Award - Regional Winner (Continued)*

During 2018, over 100 pupils played extracurricular tennis regularly. Outstanding achievement, improvement, commitment and sportsmanship were embraced with 14 tennis awards honouring Reception to Year 5. Players with cerebral palsy and visual-impairment were deservedly among tennis award winners. A hearing-impaired player represented the school at external, main-stream tournaments. Through the school's Duke of Edinburgh scheme, students are encouraged to volunteer across local tennis initiatives. Mentoring from the DITC team for school staff towards their coaching qualifications. School trips to Eastbourne and Wimbledon have provided inspiration; one girl referred to her Wimbledon experience as "Best day ever".

DPPS joined the LTA's school's tennis membership scheme and successfully obtained a small grant of £500 to enhance their sporting provision by adding three permanently marked out mini tennis courts on their school playground, to further develop their programme to accommodate players of all abilities, making tennis accessible for everyone. They are fortunate to benefit from experienced former/current pupils assisting them voluntarily to help achieve this.

