



Mary Dean's CE Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy week – I think we are all glad to see the weekend arrive.

Absence

As I am sure you can imagine, we have had more children than usual absent from school recently. Due to the pandemic, we are currently having to report to the Department for Education on a daily basis to let them know how many children are in school and why children are absent. Because of this, it is even more crucial that you let the office know why your child is away from school. Please make sure you keep us informed – no matter what the reason. Thank you.

Fund Raising

Our recent MacMillan coffee morning raised a super **£177**. Thank you to Year 6 in particular, and to everyone who supported the cause by baking or sending in cakes and biscuits.

Last weekend, a group of staff, (plus partners, dogs and children) headed to the moors and set out on a 5 mile walk to support the Countryfile Ramble, in aid of Children in Need.



We chose the right day and our sun-filled exploits raised **£100** for this super charity.

We will be taking part in the full Children in Need day on Friday 19th November.



Meal Time Assistants

We are seeking someone who is interested in either a full time or cover role for this important post. If this is something that interests you, please let the school office know.

Footballs in the Playgrounds

As we all know, the playgrounds are incredibly busy in the mornings. Children should not be playing with a ball when they are waiting for school to start. There are simply too many people, pushchairs and young children to make it safe to play with a ball. We will remind the children in school, but please could you ensure your child does not bring a football to school? Thank you.



A school family, learning for life in all its fullness





Tips and ideas for encouraging reading.

(Taken from booktrust.org)

- Read yourself! It doesn't matter what it is – pick up a newspaper or magazine, take a look at a cookery book, read a computer manual, enjoy some poetry or dive into a romance or detective novel. And get your children to join in – if you're cooking, could they read the recipe? If you're watching TV, can they read out the listings?
- Give books as presents. And encourage your children and their friends to swap books with each other – it'll give them a chance to read new stories, and get them all talking about what they're reading.
- Visit the local library together. It's always fun choosing new books to read, and keep an eye out for special author events at the library or local bookshops – children love meeting their favourite authors. Jacqueline Wilson and Anthony Horowitz always have signing queues that are miles long!
- Encourage children to carry a book at all times. That way, they'll never be bored (this is something you can do, too!)
- Have a family bookshelf. If you can, have bookshelves in your children's bedrooms, too.
- Keep reading together. Just because your children are older, it doesn't mean you have to stop sharing stories – perhaps you could try the Harry Potter series or *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.
- Don't panic if your child reads the same book over and over again. Let's be honest - we've all done it!

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs T Jones **Head Teacher**

Plymouth's Engines Off Campaign

We are delighted to have been included in Plymouth's campaign for cleaner air. Children were encouraged to design a poster for a competition – and we had a winner! Lincoln's slogan was chosen as the strapline for the whole campaign.

“Don't pollute on your commute”.



Some of our children unveiled the sign a few weeks ago and yesterday, were filmed by Spotlight to be shown on TV.

A video for the scheme was produced and can be found by following the link below.

<https://youtu.be/0SV0VPmpeLk>

Later in November, we will continue to show our support of this project by having a road closure day when there will be no access to cars on Mary Dean Avenue. We will give further details nearer the time and hope you will all support this important campaign to keep the air cleaner for your children.