



Mary Dean's CE Primary School Newsletter

Friday 23rd October 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

Harvest donations



Firstly, an enormous thank you to everyone who donated food this week for our Harvest collection. The huge pile of food was a testament to your generosity. The Food Bank were delighted with everything they received.

Thank you to Mrs Ketley for organising this important donation.

The food bank are already preparing for Christmas and they would like to offer families small treats for the festive season. Mrs Ketley feels we could help by collecting selection boxes that could then be added to a family's parcel. **We intend to collect selection boxes throughout December** – so please pick up a bargain if you see one and help make another family's Christmas even more special. Thank you.

Medicine in School



Does your child have any medicine held in school?
An asthma pump? Anti-Histamine?

Any medication needs to be accompanied by an up to date health care plan for your child. We have a number of children whose medicine is now out of date and would not be able to be administered. Please urgently contact Mrs Jane if you have not yet updated your plan this term. Thank you.



As you are all aware, we are getting close to Remembrance time.

Things will be different this year with less people out selling poppies due to the current restrictions on us all.

The Royal British Legion would like everyone to display a poppy in their home or work place to ensure this important work is kept at the forefront of everyone's minds.

Please follow the link below to download a poster or colouring sheet – or let us know if you would like a colouring sheet to complete.

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/donate>



New books

We have received a superb selection of books from Bridge Books in Exeter.



These beautiful works will be distributed across the school for all our children to enjoy and benefit from. A huge thank you to Bridge Books.

Vandalism

Many of you will be aware that earlier this week we experienced some unwelcome visitors on our site late in the evening. I am deeply unimpressed that anyone would come into a school and deliberately cause damage to equipment and storage. Sadly, our youngest children are the most affected with a new storage unit broken, scooters and bikes damaged and thrown on the roof, large wooden oars simply broken in two and resources from the outdoor storage shed strewn about.

It isn't simply the damage, it is the fact that these are resources for very young children, provided for their learning, development and enjoyment. Staff are now having to spend additional time clearing, tidying and mending when we are already stretched. It is soul destroying.

I am delighted that a neighbour – in every sense of the word - was brave enough to challenge these people and thus encourage them to leave the site.

We have informed the police and given them the image that we were able to glean from our CCTV. As we approach the half term break, I would

encourage anyone who lives locally to immediately inform the police if they notice anything untoward happening on the school site. *But, please, do not put yourselves at risk.*

A number of parents have approached me and offered support, donations and resources. This is truly wonderful and has gone some way to restoring my faith in human nature and reminded me of the strong community we are in.



We truly appreciate all your kind offers of toys and resources, but please check with us before you bring large items to school. I am sure you will all appreciate we have to fulfil certain safety requirements with all our equipment and things that are great at home are not always suited to the more 'industrial' use they get at school. Thank you.

Finances...



As we know, many families are struggling financially in these uncertain times.

If you are experiencing real hardship, there is a grant for which you can apply through Tamerton Foliot United Charities. (TFUC)

Grants are usually awarded once per year, in December, but applications can be made throughout the year.

If you think you or someone you know might qualify, please contact the TFUC Chairman.

By phone on: 01752 300758

By text or call on 07708590704

By email: andy@stmarys.org.uk

Or write to: c/o 4 Drake's Close, Derriford, Plymouth. PL6 5XL

All applications are treated in the strictest confidence.





Forms to return

Thank you to everyone who has returned their data sheets.

It is hugely important that we always have the right contact details for you, especially if we need to get hold of you urgently.

If you have not yet returned your form, please try to do this straight after the break. Thank you.



Children.

Many of you who know me well, know that I have always been led by the belief that 'Schools are for children'. This has never been more true – or more difficult to implement! As we approach the end of the first term of the year, I want to say to all of you how impressed I am with how your children have managed new routines and simply settling back down into school life.



We had no idea what life post-lockdown would be like, but reviewing the progress made by the children this term has made me incredibly proud. Most children have remembered lots, worked hard and made excellent progress over the last few weeks. Gaps are being plugged and



opportunities are being taken to continue to expand the knowledge and skills that all the children have.



I have seen superb writing, and fantastic science. I have observed careful artwork and staff have commented on the children's super maths

skills. Reading continues to be a focus and this expands the children's horizons and vocabulary – so keep on doing it!

Throughout the term, staff have been exemplary in their work ethic, resilience and resourcefulness at a challenging time and I thank them all. We have all had to adapt to new ways of working and everyone is being flexible with their time, and their commitment to our children is unflinching.



After the break, we will be sending you all a brief interim report to show you how your child is doing at this early point and how they have settled into their new school year.

These are strange and uncertain times, but school endeavours to remain constant. We still expect children to behave well and use good manners – both to staff and to each other. Thank you for your support in this area; it makes an enormous difference.

Thank you all for your support. Thank you for following the procedures we have in place and helping each other through these interesting times.

I hope you all enjoy the break next week will offer and look forward to seeing everyone on 2nd November.

Mrs J Jones

Head Teacher



A school family, learning for life in all its fullness

