



Mary Dean's CE Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 4th September 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be able to say "Welcome back"!

It has been a long five months and it is wonderful to have the children back together.

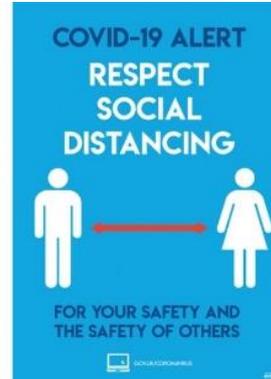
So far, the children have been exceptional. There is a real buzz around the classrooms and playgrounds as the children get back into routine and refresh their friendships. Everyone has adapted to the new routines and ways of working and I am very proud of the way things have been managed.

Hopefully, you all managed a break over the summer period and are now able to return to the new normal in your family. No doubt many of you continue to work at home – at least you can now have some peaceful hours in which to focus more fully on your own tasks.

Thank you for helping us by bringing your children to school on time. We are committed to providing the safest possible environment for your children so your help is invaluable. For the time being, children will continue to be collected from the playground in the mornings and brought back at the end of the day. This helps to reduce the congestion at the doorways, so please continue as you have today.

From Monday, children will be in their new year groups. For those who will be the new Y1 or Y5, it means a change to their drop-off and collection times (Y1 08.30, Y5 08.40). I am sure this will soon become a smooth process – and we will always help direct you to the right place if needed.

Thank you for not congregating on the site at the start or end of the day – again, this is helping us to keep the environment as safe as possible for everyone.



When moving around the site, please remain conscious of others and observe social distancing. We are trying to keep our staggered start as simple as possible, but if we are unable to

maintain social distancing, we may need to consider a change. As ever, please be courteous towards each other and give each other space, especially around steps and entrances.

Joining the team

We are seeking a person to come and work alongside our Meal Time Assistants, initially on a temporary basis. If you are available and feel this is a route you would like to take, please enquire via the school office or email office@marydeans.plymouth.sch.uk

If you or someone you know is seeking a school-based placement, again, please enquire via the school office. We are happy to help where we can.

Thank you.



Children requiring medicine in school

If your child requires medicine in school - eg an inhaler or an epi-pen, please contact Mrs Jane in the school office and arrange to update your care plan for your child.

Please remember that any medicine required by a child must be given in at the school office, not brought to school by the child. Thank you.



A school family, learning for life in all its fullness



School Meals

CaterEd are continuing to provide our school meals. They are providing a hot main meal, vegetarian choice, jacket potatoes and a sandwich option on a daily basis.

Please remember, children in years Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can all have a school meal free of charge under the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme.

Some children are entitled to free school meals due to the benefits their parents are able to claim. It is definitely worth checking to see if you qualify, especially if your work situation has changed over the last months.

Follow the link below to see if you might be able to claim this important benefit.

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/schoolseducationchildcareskillsandemployability/freeschoolmeals>

Children who are in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 are required to pay for their school meals unless they are entitled to free school meals. This catches some parents out each year, so if you need help with paying for your child's school meals, please contact the school office and Mrs Jane and Miss Lewis will be happy to help you with School Money.



After School Club

After School Club is running as usual, but with limited numbers of children attending. If you would like your child to attend, please ensure you have completed the registration form, available from the school website and book them in via the School Money system. Office staff will be happy to help if you have any difficulties.

After School Club is being held in the hall for the time being. When you collect your child, please come to the main entrance and ring the bell.

Thank you.

Blog page

It has been a joy and a pleasure to see everyone with friendships renewed and tales to tell over the last two days. I'd like to remind everyone that we have the perfect place to share your individual experiences of the summer holidays; the '**Our Children's Voices**' blog is there waiting to share all your 'Staycations', your trips to visit Grandparents, Uncles, Aunties, Cousins or if you were very lucky a flight abroad. Pictures, Poems and Stories are all welcome.

Please email your contributions to: voices@marydeansprimaryschool.co.uk and soon you will see your words on '**Our Children's Voices**' on the Mary Dean's Website. Click on **Children** and the drop down tab will reveal the page.

We are excited to see and hear all about your adventures.

New classes

Children have visited their new classes this afternoon. I have been to every class and all children look settled and happy already. I am sure they will be able to show you where they need to be at drop off time from Monday morning.

Don't forget, children should come to school in their PE kit on PE days – this information should come home with your child today, but please ask if you are unsure. Please make sure your child has the correct PE kit and looks smart and ready to learn on those days.

Thank you for getting your children prepared and ready for returning to school. They look so smart and keen and we have had a super first two days. I am sure we will all be back in the swing of school very soon and I look forward to many successes.

Have a good weekend.

Mrs J Jones

Head Teacher