Mary Dean's CE Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 27th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

There is much to keep you up to date with this week and time is rushing past.

Parking

Parking and cars on Mary Dean Avenue are a huge problem. Too many people are driving up the road knowing there is nowhere to park and precious little space in which to turn. I have watched with dismay this week as cars are driven at often great speed and then lurch to a halt outside the gates.

Looking at the attitude of some to driving and parking, I genuinely think it is only a matter of time before one of our children is hurt if things do not change.

If you have to drive to school, please consider the following:

- SLOW DOWN when approaching the school
- Park considerately. You may not park on yellow lines or in front of residents' driveways.
- Do not park in front of or block the residents' garages. This is private property.
- If your child is in Year 5 or 6, can they walk up to school allowing them to be dropped off further away?

Thank you to all those parents who are always considerate and help our children to stay safe on this dangerous road.

Class Dojo

As the vast majority of you are aware, Class Dojo provides a super vehicle for communication between home and school. However, as with all written communication, it can be easy to be misinterpreted or for a message to be misconstrued. Please may I suggest that if you have anything you would like clarified by your child's teacher, you request a telephone conversation. All teachers have a planned session away from their class each week and I am certain that any of them would be happy to call you during this time to help find a solution to any problem. Thank you.

Laptop Loan

Over the next months, it is almost inevitable that some children will have to self-isolate at home at some point. If your child has to be at home and you do not have suitable IT equipment for them to access remote learning, there is the facility for you to be able to borrow a laptop from school.

In order to borrow a laptop, there is an agreement that has to be signed by the parent who is taking responsibility for the device. If you don't have suitable IT kit at home, it may be worth getting this done so, should your child need to isolate, we can get equipment to you as soon as possible.

The form can be downloaded from the remote learning page on the school website or a copy can be requested from the school office.

Message from Dr Bike

Dear Parent/Carer,

sustrans
JOIN THE MOVEMENT

This is a great time to get cycling, and with restrictions on public transport because of COVID-19 and the need to travel in a socially distanced way, bikes are more in demand than ever!

We will be having a fully socially distanced Dr Bike day at Mary Dean's school on

Thursday 3rd December to make sure that pupils have a roadworthy bike. I will be at school all day to do safety checks, basic servicing and minor repairs on bikes. If there are any major repairs that need doing, I will attach a note to the bike so you can take it to a bike shop for repair and tell them exactly what needs doing – this saves time and money!

All bikes will be cleaned and disinfected before and after any work is done, which means there is a limited number that can be seen on the day – please let the office have your name as it is first come, first served.

Bikes **must** have the owners name clearly marked (on a sticker or label), as well as a contact email address if possible. This is because the usual bike check sheets won't be attached to the bikes, but will be emailed to you instead, or sent via the school office if you don't have access to email. **I will not be able to work on any bikes that have no name attached.** This Dr Bike service is available to children currently attending school only.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Ryan Evans, Sustrans Bike It Plus officer Plymouth

Christmas Arrangements

We are making plans for a different (but still festive) Christmas in school.

Staff have worked together and have agreed the following for their year groups.

Year group	Arrangements
Nursery	Party – Friday 18th December. AM Donations requested and Staff will provide food.
Reception	Party – Thursday 17th December. PM Children will be provided with a party lunch by the school kitchen on request, or provide their own party packed lunch from home. **Story Teller** in school Wednesday 16th December AM.
Years 1 and 2	Party – Tuesday 15th December. PM. School kitchen to provide a party packed lunch on request or provide party packed lunch from home. **Story Teller** in school Wednesday 16th December AM.
Years 3 and 4	Party – Monday 14th December. PM. Children to bring their own party food for their own consumption. **Story Teller** in school Tuesday 15th December AM.
Years 5 and 6	Party – Wednesday 16th December PM. Children to bring their own party food for their own consumption. **Story Teller** in school Tuesday 15th December AM

All children should wear appropriate party clothes to school on the day of their party.

The PTFA have also arranged for the whole school to be able to stream a pantomime performance. This sounds like a fabulous treat – Thank you!

Thank you

Thank you to our grounds maintenance company – Arborcure for our lovely Christmas Tree.

We will be putting it up next week where it can be seen by everyone.

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing help and support in these unusual times.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs J Jones Head Teacher

See website for PTFA Raffle and Christmas Card Competition information!