

Mary Dean's CE Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 11th September 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

We live in strange times – the new normal - and we have all become used to additional hand-washing and even the wearing of masks. Most public places limit the number of people able to access them at any one time, and remember, school is a public place.

I have noticed that some people have started to stay and chat before or after drop-off, and need to remind you of the following things.

The playground is busy and in danger of being too congested. A number of parents have shared their concerns this week that there are too many people in the playgrounds.

We have staggered the start of the day in the simplest way, but if it continues to be too busy, we may have to re-think and increase this stagger. Clearly, this could impact people getting to work and so is not something I am keen to do.

Please try to arrive at 08.30 or 08.40, drop off your child and leave.

Remember, children should not play on the adventure playground before or after school. During the school day, we are working hard to keep children in their separate bubbles so your support is appreciated.

Please ensure you continue to observe social distancing on the school site. You are all aware that changes are coming into force next week that mean no more than 6 people may gather in one place. Please apply this to the school grounds as well.

Please do not allow your child to bring any unnecessary items to school.

Children may bring only:

A packed lunch in a container

A drinks bottle

A coat

A reading book (KS2 children should have a wallet, KS1 and Reception children should have a book bag)

A snack for break time. (KS2)

Children should wear school PE kit on PE days. Please make sure this follows the uniform of navy shorts/joggers, school PE t-shirt and school sweatshirt. Thank you.

All of these things are designed to reduce the risks in school during this pandemic situation. Thank you to everyone that is continuing to support all the measures.

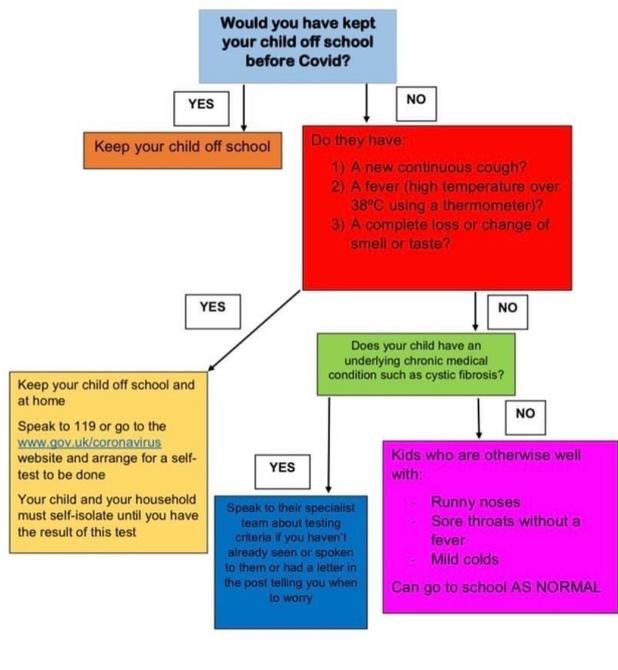
Inevitably, some children are developing coughs and colds and there is raised anxiety around this. I appreciate that COVID-19 testing is more difficult to obtain than previously and some families are expecting to travel some distance before being able to have a test.

It is possible for families to get a home-test kit. Please follow the link below for further information.

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

The school does have access to a small number of testing kits, but these would only be offered to a family if a child develops symptoms in school and a family member is vulnerable and at greater risk if they go out to get an arranged test. School cannot be a centre for testing.

If your child does develop a cold, please use your parental common sense and make your own decision about your child's health. You are best-placed to know if your child is unwell. On the next sheet is a diagram (designed by a nurse parent from another school!) to help you decide whether or not your child should stay at home.



Secondary school transfer

If your child is in Year 6, I am sure you will already have begun to think about which school you wish them to go to in Year 7.

Information is available from Plymouth City Council about applying for a secondary school place. Please go to

www.plymouth.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

The deadline for applications is **31st October 2020**

If you need any help, please contact Mrs Jane in the school office.

Thank you all

Have a great weekend.

Mrs J Jones

Head Teacher.

Thank you for your help and support in keeping school safe.



A school family, learning for life in all its fullness

