



Mary Dean's CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are again – Friday already. I hope you all remain safe and well.

Charity donations



Although most charity shops and donation centres are currently closed, donations can still be made to the British Heart Foundation via the post.

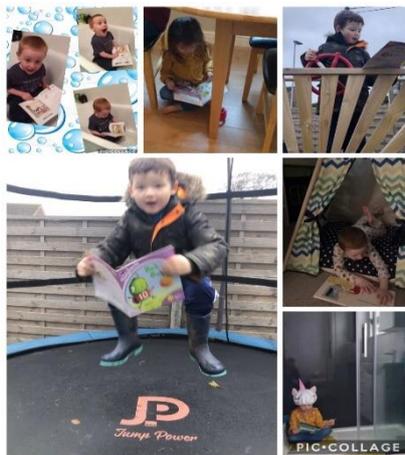
Simply follow the link to get your print-at-home label and drop your parcel off at any collect+ store when you are out on essential trips.

https://www.bhf.org.uk/shop/donating-goods/post-your-donations?mi_u=8-22646029#boost

Wacky Reading

Children in Reception have been showing just what lengths they will go to in order to carry on reading at this challenging time....

Can you find another way?



Children's Mental Health Week 1st-7th February

Follow the link below to see what is happening.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/about-the-week/>

If you have any ideas how you can **express yourself**, please let us know so we can all join in the fun. Exact date for a whole school event to be confirmed... watch this space.

School Staff Testing for Covid-19

From next week, school should be in receipt of Lateral Flow Tests for all staff members. Staff are expected to test twice per week and the aim is to identify those people who are asymptomatic – they show no symptoms.

As you will all appreciate, staff are stretched to capacity in school managing the children who are here. I need to warn all parents that, should we have staff testing positive, it may be that we need to close specific classes or groups as there is simply no additional capacity. All staff are already deployed through the school, allocated to specific bubbles, so we will not be able to move them around.



A school family, learning for life in all its fullness



I sincerely hope that the good of tests being made available is not undone by a huge impact on staff availability. We shall have to wait and see.



Cheerleading Opportunity

Plymouth Raiders' cheerleaders have been in contact with the following message.

Over the lockdown we have decided to not charge for any of our online dance classes in the hope this will help children at home participate in physical activity but more importantly, reap the benefits of social interaction whilst having fun.

There are two classes:

KIDS CHEER Age 10 and under: Saturday morning: 11am to 11.30am

TEEN CHEER Age 11-16: Wednesday evening: 5pm to 6pm

As a club we have seen an increase in enquiries for our online community classes for children over the lockdown period. Therefore, I would appreciate if you would please be able to distribute the above information to the parents/guardians of your pupils in the hope we can provide this free opportunity to as many children in the community.

To register we require an email from the parent/guardian to cheerleaders@plymouthraiders.com stating the class they wish to register for.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me

Sending our best wishes and to stay safe during this time

**Emilie Perring - Head Coach
Plymouth Raiders Cheerleaders**

Tough Times

We all know how hard it is for everyone right now. We are all restricted in where we can go and who we can see. Many families have not met in person for many weeks or even months and every time we switch on the TV the news seems to be even worse.

A number of teachers have noted that some families are finding this lockdown far harder than the last – it's almost a year now since we could all be 'normal' and we all agree it's tough.

The link below may bring you some cheer...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyVzjoj96vs&feature=youtu.be>

Or even just a smile to your face.

Communication with teaching staff

I am in awe of the amount of work being provided, the response from home and the level of engagement between staff and the children using the different platforms.

As you know, staff are all in school working a full school day. They still need to have their evenings and weekends to refresh themselves and plan for the next day or week's activities.

Please be aware, any messages sent via google classroom or class dojo after 5 pm may not be responded to until the next school day. Urgent queries should still come via the school office.

Thank you for your consideration.

And finally

Please, please, please **only** send your child into school if they are entirely well. Children who are clearly unwell or have a temperature will be sent home. We all have a responsibility towards every other member of our school community and need to look after each other. Thank you.

I hope you all have a restful weekend.

Mrs J Jones

Head Teacher