



Mary Dean Avenue

Tamerton Foliot

Plymouth

PL5 4LS

01752 773521

Head Teacher: Mrs Tracey Jones B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

office@marydeans.plymouth.sch.uk

August 23rd 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new Academic Year. We all hope that this will be the start of us returning to business as usual after eighteen months of restrictions and change.

Due to the messy end of the summer term, children will **return to their current classes on 2nd September** and they will then transfer to their new class in the afternoon.

From Friday 3rd September, all children should go to their new classrooms.

We will be keeping some now-familiar routines in place – for example, hand washing on arrival will be mandatory for all children. This will help us to keep all manner of bugs and viruses at bay so will be continued.

The following information should help you to plan for the children's return on **Thursday 2nd September 2021**.

Arrival time

From September, ALL children will be expected to arrive at school at 08.30. The children should line up as they have been and classroom staff will collect them when the bell goes at 8.30.

The end of the school day will be 15.15 for all children. Children should be collected from the same place they are dropped off in the morning.

Breakfast and After School Club

Clubs will run as normal from September on every school day.

Breakfast Club – 07.45-08.30 in the hall

After School Club – 15.15-16.30 Or 15.15-18.00 in the After School Club building.

Please register your child online using Teachers to Parents in the usual way. If you have any issues with bookings, office staff will be back in school from 2nd September.

Please remember, all children must be registered with the club *before* they can attend.

Uniform

Governors have agreed that pupils at Mary Dean's should wear uniform. Wearing uniform ensures all the children look smart and ready to learn and should be worn every day.

A list of uniform items can be found on the school website. Our supplier is The Schoolwear Shop.

<https://www.marydeansprimaryschool.co.uk/school-uniform>

Children are expected to wear sensible school shoes, not trainers of any kind and jewellery should be restricted to a single pair of stud earrings and/or a watch or Fitbit. Any sandals worn must have a secure ankle strap. Flip flops should never be worn in school.

PE kit is part of school uniform and should be just as smart as other uniform items.

Children should come to school in their PE kit on the days they have PE or games. This is largely to reduce the time taken to change, but also helps to reduce the amount of clutter we have in school.

PE kit consists of:

Plain navy shorts or jogging bottoms (dependent on the weather)

School PE t-shirt

School sweatshirt.

Plimsolls or trainers

Please avoid any branding or logos on the shorts and jogging bottoms; plain navy is ideal.

Asda do a 2 pack of navy shorts from £3 and a 2 pack of navy joggers from £8.

<https://direct.asda.com/george/school/sports-swimwear/D10M1G1C8,default,sc.html>

All items of clothing and possessions such as packed lunch boxes should be clearly labelled with your child's name. Please encourage your child to take care of their things and ensure they all return home.

Nail varnish and any kind of make-up is not permitted for school. Hairstyles should not be extreme, eg shaved sections or patterns, and gel should not be used.

Attendance and punctuality

All children are expected to come to school daily unless they are too unwell. The law states that holiday from school should not be taken during term time.

At Mary Dean's we expect children to attend for at least 97% of the time. Every school day is of value and children who do not attend regularly frequently fall behind in their learning.

We are obliged to report children who are persistently absent (here for less than 90% of the time) to the Local Authority as part of our regular statutory reviews of attendance.

If you require leave for your child, a form is available from the school office. This form should be completed in the case of any request for leave during school time.

It is equally important that children are in school on time. School starts at **08.30 am**. The register is taken at 08.40 am and any child arriving after this time is recorded as late.

Children who arrive after registers have closed (09.20) are recorded as an unauthorised late.

Contacting school

We are always pleased to hear from any parent or carer. If it is an issue with your child, please speak to the class teacher in the first instance. Class Dojo is in place for you to contact your child's teacher if you cannot get into school. Please remember that this system is aimed to improve communication between home and school, but that teachers do have time off during evenings and weekends.

If your problem is more serious or persistent, please come to the school office and arrange to see the Team Leader, Mrs Wilson or myself. If you are unable to get into school, a telephone call to 01752 773521 or an email to office@marydeans.plymouth.sch.uk can be a good alternative to get you in contact with the right person swiftly. Email is monitored during holiday periods, but please be patient.

Knowing what's happening

The school publishes a newsletter every Friday. This is put onto the school website and sent out by email. <https://www.marydeansprimaryschool.co.uk/newsletters>

We also send out text messages and emails about up-coming events in school. Please make sure we have up to date phone details and email addresses for you so you don't miss out. If you find you are not receiving messages, please contact the school office and they will be able to help you.

Supporting your child's learning

We work hard in school, but your support makes a crucial difference to your child's learning and attainment. It is vital that all children read at home, work on their spellings and continue with their basic maths skills such as number bonds and tables. These form a vital part of their development and quick recall of facts is a huge advantage.

You can support your child's learning by reading regularly with them, looking at their Knowledge Organiser and helping your them with the vocabulary or by further exploring the topic at home.

I look forward to seeing everyone return on Thursday 2nd September

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Jones

Head Teacher