



Mary Dean's CE Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to



A whole new year lies ahead, full of possibilities. Let's hope we get off to a great start and make the most of it.

Thank you for sending the children back to school so well-prepared. They are buzzing with the fun of the last few weeks and appear pleased to be here and to share with their friends.

The spectre of COVID still hangs over us, but we have very few infections reported at this time. I am truly grateful to all of you for ensuring your child is symptom free before sending them to school. I also know many of you are administering lateral flow tests at home so again, thank you for this.

Now we are back at school, we are retaining the same procedures as we had in place last term. We are staying in our separate key stages and the children mix largely within their own year group teams. It appears inevitable that infections will rise, but we will continue as best we can and keep you posted about any changes or difficulties. If things become more challenging, we may have to revert to the more fixed 'bubble' processes we had in place previously, but we will wait to see how things change over the next days and weeks.

Welcome

We welcome Mr Paul Rickard as our new Caretaker. Please say hello if you see him around - we want him to become an integral part of our school community.

We also welcome Miss Foster. Miss Foster takes the place of Mrs Lennox following her retirement at the end of last term.

We also welcome the new Mrs Baker – formerly Miss Horwell – after her wedding in December.

I am sure you will all help to make these staff members feel welcome and support them in their early days.



Bring a Bear to School Day

As you know, we support Jeremiah's Journey and their work with bereaved children. We will be encouraging the children to bring their teddy bears to school on **Thursday 27th January**, in return for a small donation. We will also be having a special visit from Jeremiah himself on the day so that will make it extra-special.

Tamerton Foliot May Carnival

Organisers are making their annual search for the May Queen or Princess and Flower Girls.

Entrants must either live in Tamerton Foliot, or be a pupil or past pupil of our school.

Entries (available from the office) need to be returned by Thursday 10th February with the selection taking place on Saturday 12th February.



A school family, learning for life in all its fullness



Entrants must be available for the Carnival on **Saturday 7th May** and the Carnival Service on **Sunday 8th May**. They are also expected to attend the Strawberry Fair, usually held in mid-June.

Flu Vaccinations

All children in school are eligible for a free flu nasal vaccination. The vaccination is in the form of drops which are put into the nose.

The date for the vaccination is **Tuesday 25th January**. You will need to give your consent in order for your child to have the vaccination.

You have been sent an email with the information, along with a leaflet about the importance of getting your child vaccinated.

Click on the link below to give your consent for your child to have their vaccination.

<https://schoolimms.virgincare.co.uk/flu/2021/devon>

Consent must be given by midnight on 19th January in order for your child to be included.

Thank you.

Armed Forces Heroes

We are seeking pictures and information about any past pupils of our school who have gone on to undertake roles in any of the armed forces.

If you know of anyone, we would love to know so we can celebrate them within school.

If you have any suggestions, please email Mrs Deakin via the school office.
office@marydeans.plymouth.sch.uk

Thank you!

Reception Children Eye Tests

Details will have come directly to parents about having their child's eyes checked in school.

The eye test is due to take place on **Tuesday 1st February**. Don't miss out!

And finally

*Step lightly through the coming year
Whatever it may bring,
Have courage in the winter storms
And reach out to the spring.
Catch the sunshine when you can,
It lifts the heart and mind.
Be cheerful in the darker days
Though life may seem unkind
Step bravely when the road is steep
And climb the highest hill,
Then looking up towards the stars
Your hopes and dreams fulfil.
Still cherish faith and love and joy,
Dispelling doubt and fear
Tomorrow beckons, look ahead
Step lightly through the year!*

Iris Hesselden

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs T Jones Head Teacher