



# Mary Dean's CE Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,



Spring has certainly been in the air this week – let's hope it continues.

## COVID

I am sure you will be aware that school has been hit hard by COVID this term: predominantly staff. We have had staff off every day since the half term break, and we still have three teachers away. This has meant we have been short-staffed on a daily basis and your child may not always have had the consistency of their regular staff members. However, we have managed not to close any classes or year groups or switch to online learning – largely due to staff flexibility and good humour! My thanks go to everyone who has kept everything going in the face of great difficulty.

I hope the up-coming Easter break gives the opportunity for everyone to get well and back to full strength ready for the summer term.

We are aware that restrictions have now all but been removed. School staff are not a group that are provided with tests. We are now entirely dependent on parents and carers keeping children at home if they are unwell. As with all illnesses, if your child is symptomatic, please keep them at home until they are well and please keep us informed.

We have always had excellent attendance at school and I hope that we will soon be back to the levels previously recorded.



## Easter Performances

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April:** Key Stage Two – 9.15

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April:** 9.15 Foundation Stage

1.30 Key Stage One

We hope you will be able to come and join us. A maximum of two adults per child can be accommodated, and please wear a mask due to continued high rates of COVID amongst staff. Thank you.

## Sports Stars



Martial arts, football and swimming – there is no end to our talents!



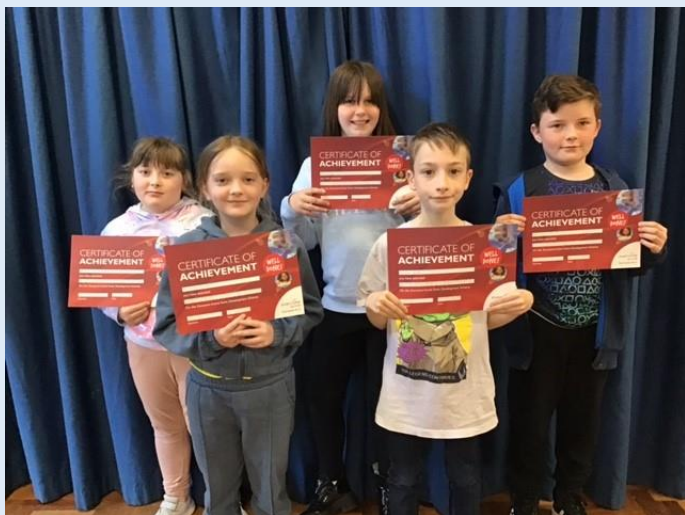
*A school family, learning for life in all its fullness*



## Year 5 Swimming

Recently, our Year 5 children have been able to go swimming. For some of them, this has been a time to really develop their confidence as well as their new-found independent swimming skills.

Some of the children have been singled out by the instructors for particular progress.



Well done to all of Year 5 who had a super time improving this crucial life skill.

## Military family awareness

Thank you to everyone who took part today and wore purple in recognition of military families everywhere.

We have a number of families and staff with either serving military members or links to the armed services and is something very dear to the heart of our school.

## Term Dates Reminder

**Last day of Spring Term:** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April

**First day of Summer Term:** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April

**May Day Bank Holiday:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

**Year 6 SATS Tests:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May

**Year 2 Assessments:** Throughout May.

**Mid Term Break:** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June

**Year 1 Phonics Tests:** From 9<sup>th</sup> June

**Sports Week:** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June

***NB: No absence will be authorised during SATS periods.***

## Holiday Club

Reminder: Plymouth Argyle will be holding a holiday club here throughout the Easter Break. The club is exclusively for those families in receipt of Free School Meals.

Please click the link to access the letter on the website.

<https://www.marydeansprimaryschool.co.uk/newsletters>

Thank you.

**Have a lovely weekend**

**Mrs T Jones**

**Head Teacher**