

# Deans Primary School November 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to our November Newsletter. I am delighted to share with you some of the amazing things that will be going on in our school over the next month as well as share some really important dates for events coming up.

## Support Squad



I would like to take this opportunity to say a **MASSIVE THANK YOU** to all members of our wonderful Support Squad who organised our Halloween Disco for our children. The event was very well attended and the children all had a fabulous time. Our Support Squad are now in the process of organising our annual Christmas Fayre which will take place on Friday 14th November, we hope you can come along and join us. Please bring small change (50p/£1/£2 coins) rather than large notes - your children will be selling their lovely festive makes on this day.

## Participatory Budget Consultation

After consulting with pupils, parents and staff we have decided that our Participatory Budget will be used to fund a whole school trip to the Pantomime in December. We will attend The Wizard of Oz Panto at Howden Park Centre, Livingston

## School News & Updates

### **Safeguarding**

I understand that at times parents need to speak to their child's class teacher, however could I please ask that you do not approach the teacher at the beginning or end of the school day when they are admitting or dismissing the class. At this time, the teachers need to ensure that all children are handed over safely to their parents/carers. Messages can be passed on to the teacher by calling or emailing the office, if you do need to speak to the teacher please contact the office to make an appointment. Thank you for your understanding. A gentle reminder that in the morning parents should drop children at the school gates, they should not be in the playground, again this is important to ensure the safeguarding of all children.

### **Dogs in the Playground.**

Just a reminder that it is West Lothian Council Policy that dogs should not be brought into the school playground at any time.

### **Absences/Lates**

If your child is ill or unable to come to school, please contact the school before 9.30am. If we have no communication on the reason your child is absent, we will commence our Safe Arrivals Procedure.

Unfortunately, the high number of children being late in our school continues to have a negative impact on children, how they settle in the morning as well as how they are accessing their learning. As previously stated, every class teacher has learning set up from 8.55am. The minute the children are in class, they are engaged in a range of learning. From 8.55am, our pupil support team also start their targeted interventions to work on spelling, reading and numeracy skills. If your child is late, they are missing out on all of this. The impact this has on the operational parts of the school is also huge, kitchen staff need numbers for school dinners at 9.15am so they can cook and prepare for the day and Mrs Fowley has safe arrivals checks to complete by 9:30am. When children arrive after this time, it also puts them under significant pressure. As always, if you wish to discuss your child's lateness or feel we can support in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### **Snacks/Water**

We encourage children to bring a small healthy snack each day to have during our morning break. This is a short break and children do not have long to eat more than one snack. We also encourage all children to bring a reusable water bottle to school each day filled with water. In line with guidance we ask that only water is brought to drink throughout the day.

### **Wider Achievements**

At Deans Primary School we want to celebrate all achievements both in and out of school. If your child has an achievement out with school that they would like to celebrate we would love to hear all about it. If they have received a certificate, medal or have a photo of their achievement they can bring this to school on Fridays and we will share it at assembly.

### **Sport Events**

Our Primary 5 pupils will be taking part in the Handball Festivals at Deans CHS and some of our Primary 6 and 7 pupils will be representing the school at the Football Festival.

### **School Fund**

Thank you to everyone who has donated to school fund for dress down days and throughout the session so far. Our school fund is used to directly benefit the children in our school e.g. subsidising school trips, paying for school events and activities etc.

## School Uniform



We are very proud of our school uniform at Deans Primary School. We ask that all pupils wear their uniform every day. If you do need access to school uniform there is a supply of items available at the Sharing Shed or from the school, please ask.

If your child does not wish to change for PE, they should come dressed in joggers or leggings and a polo or T-Shirt, with their school jumper over it. It is West Lothian Council policy that **NO FOOTBALL STRIPS** should be worn to school.

We would also ask as the winter approaches that all children have a **change of shoes that they can wear inside.**

## Learning and Teaching

This includes the curriculum, the quality of learning experiences, the range of teaching approaches and access to high quality resources for learning

## Literacy

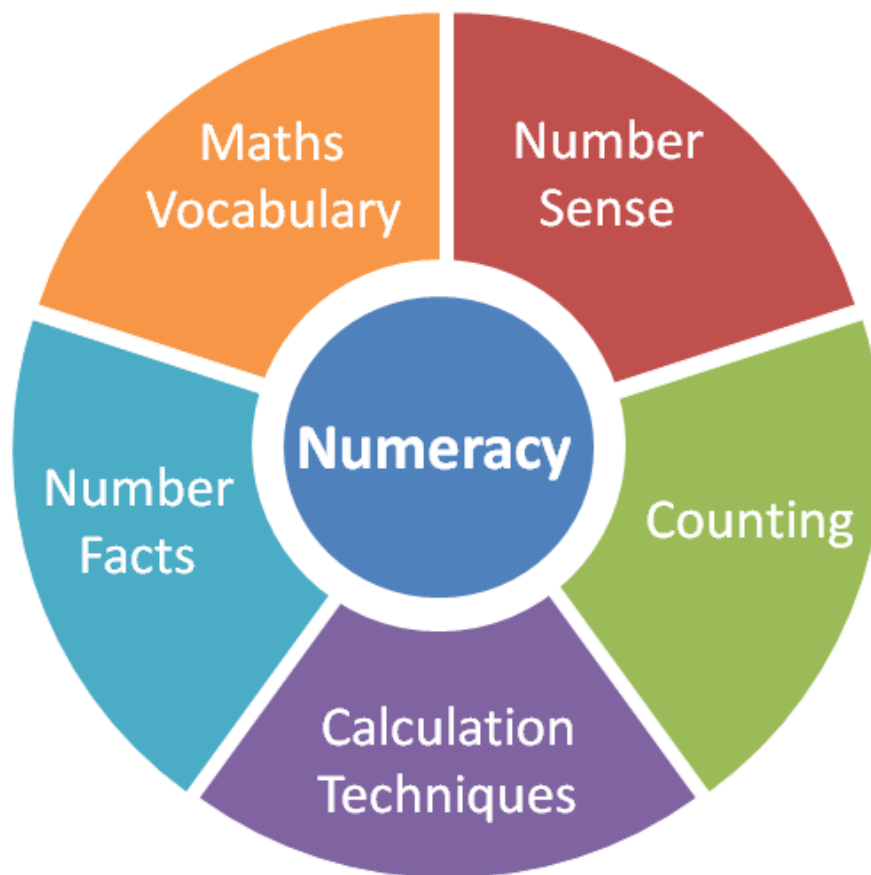


In reading we will be concentrating on Prosody and Fluency as well as developing our skills in Clarifying, Summarising and Questioning.

We will be developing our Listening and Talking Skills through finding and using information, and using the information to create texts.

This term in writing the pupils will be focussing on Information Writing, as well as Narrative and Poetry.

## Numeracy & Maths



The focus in numeracy and maths this term will be:

Place Value and Number Structure

Counting, Addition and Subtraction

Fractions, Decimals and Percentages

Symmetry, Angles and Transformation

Expressions and Equations

## Health & Wellbeing



Health & Wellbeing this term will have a focus on **Dreams & Goals** and, throughout the month of November, the children will also focus on the Wellbeing Indicator '**Achieving**'.

## Cost of the School Day

West Lothian Council will provide free school meals and milk, clothing grants and Education Maintenance Allowance to all eligible children and young people. Breakfast Club is available for everyone every morning from 8.10am.

It is very important that you register for these benefits if you are entitled to them.

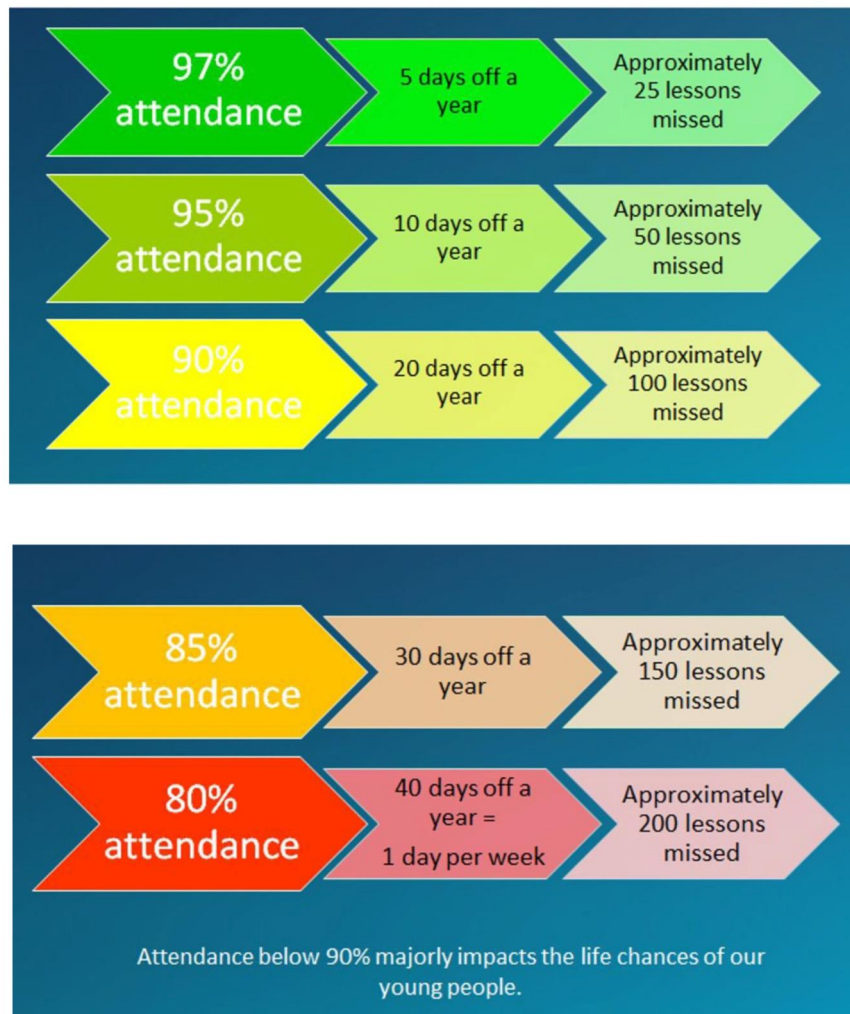
We are in the process of creating a Cost of The School Day calendar that we will distribute to all parents.

## Attendance

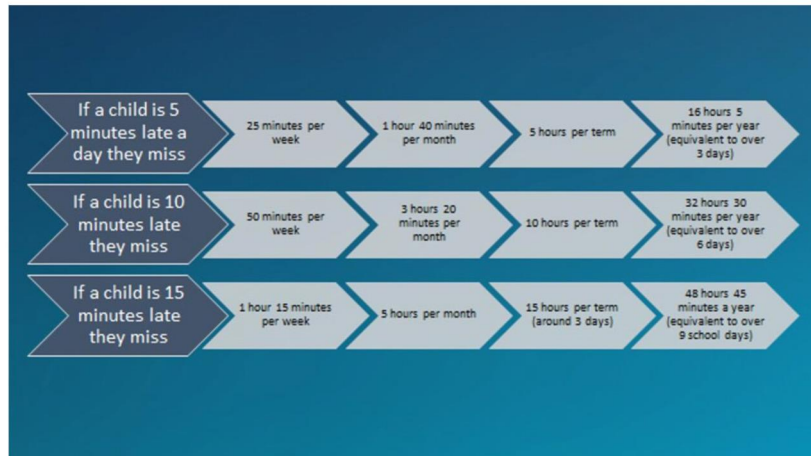


Deans Primary school and ELC are committed to working with parents, children and other stakeholders to ensure that, wherever possible, all children enrolled receive an education that maximises the opportunity for every child to achieve their full potential.

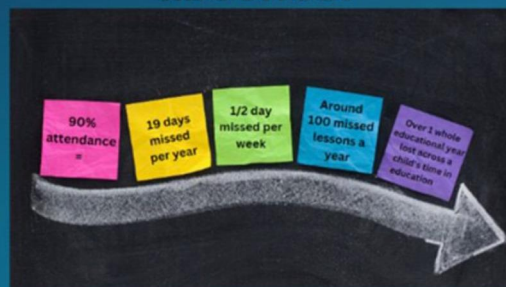
Please see below a reminder of our Supporting Attendance Overview.





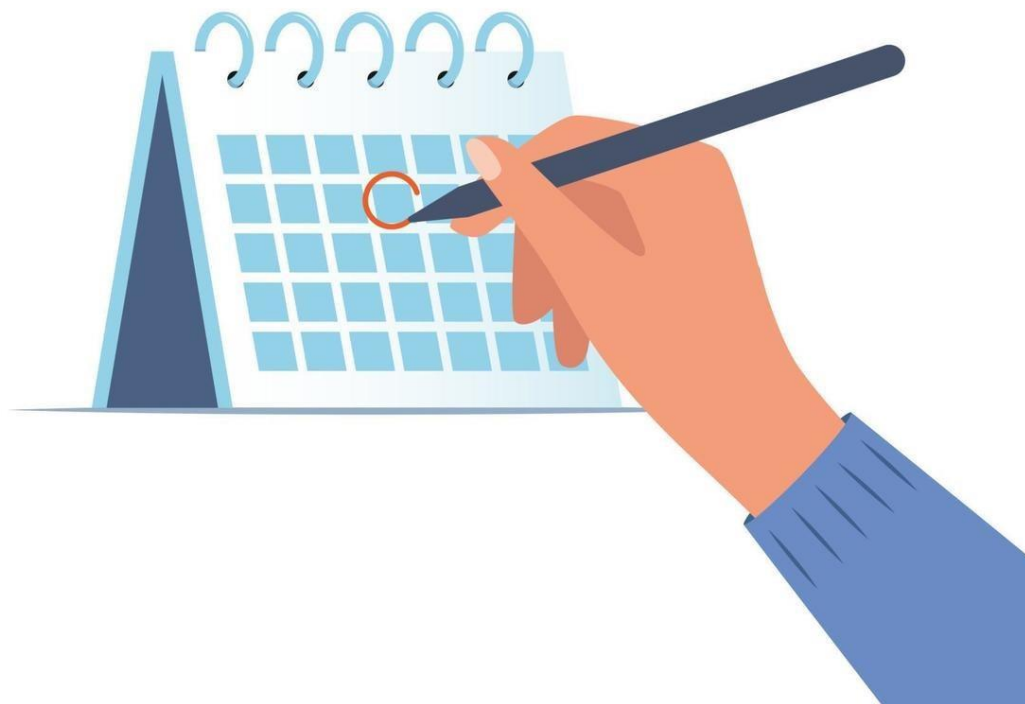


**There is no 'safe' threshold for absence.**





## Important Dates (Also available on our Parents Portal Calendar)



Friday 14 November from 12:30pm to 2:30pm - Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 2 December - P1-P7 attend Panto (Wizard of Oz) at Howden Park Centre

Wednesday 10 December (am) and Thursday 11 December (pm) - P1-P3 Christmas Shows (information to follow nearer the time)

Wednesday 10 December - Christmas Lunch

Thursday 11 December - Community Carol Event (6pm to 7pm)

Friday 12 December - Christmas Jumper Day (in aid of Save the Children - information to follow)

Tuesday 20 January - Sharing the Learning P5 and P6/5

Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 January - Childsmile in school for P1 to P4 Fluoride Varnishing

Wednesday 25 February - Sharing the Learning P4 and P4/3

Tuesday 17 March - Sharing the Learning P7 and P7/6

Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 March - Parent/Carer Session 2 (booking information will be issued nearer the time)

Tuesday 21 April - Sharing the Learning P1, P2/1 and P3/2

Monday 22 June - Deans Awards Ceremony

Thursday 25 June - P7 Leavers' Prom (6pm to 8pm)