

Deans Primary School December 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to our last newsletter of 2025, I am amazed at how quickly this year has flown in. Our pupils and staff have been working very hard this term and they are all looking forward to a lovely break.

Support Squad



I would like to thank our wonderful Support Squad for all the financial and practical support they provide for our school community. They organised snacks and drinks for each child to have at the pantomime, purchased all the gifts for Santa, as well as supplying the whole school with selection boxes. They have also purchased all the prizes and party food for our Christmas parties, and have donated to us a speaker which we are all very excited to use. Without their generosity, we would not be able to provide the same experiences that we currently can for all our pupils. If you would like to be part of the Support Squad please come along to our next meeting in the New Year, date TBC.

Participatory Budget Consultation - Pantomime

Oh my goodness! I cannot tell you how excited we all were when we went to The Wizard of Oz Panto last week. It was lovely to see how excited and happy the children were, they all had an absolute ball of a time and loved the Panto. As always the children were a credit to our school community, we are all incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

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.

Safe Parking

When dropping off or picking up can I please ask you to be considerate of other road users and pedestrians. I understand it can become very busy, however the safety of our children is of the utmost importance. The school car park should not be used to drop off or pick up children, this car park is for staff and visitors only. Please also avoid walking through the car park, please use the path.

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**.

We are still amassing lost property! Please name all your child's belongings so items can be easily returned should anything be found/handed in from around the school.

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

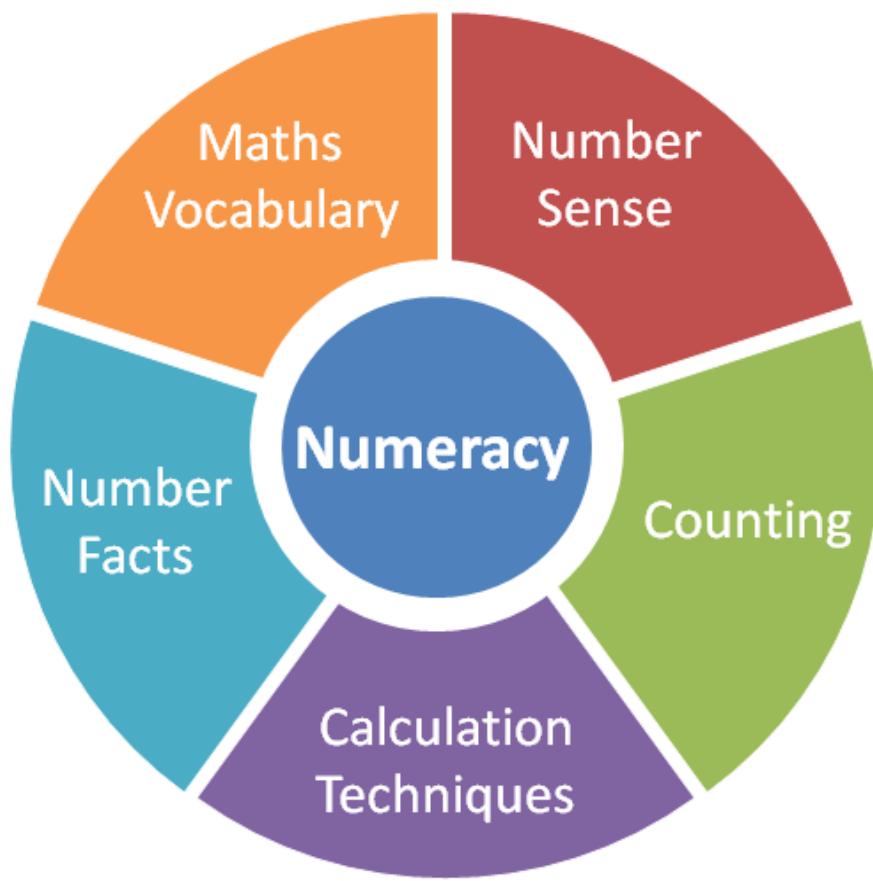


In reading we will be concentrating on Prosody and Fluency as well as developing our skills in Clarifying, Summarising and Questioning.

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

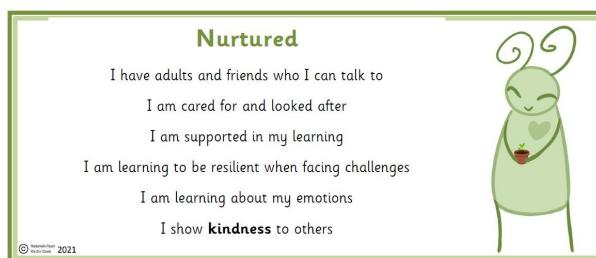
Symmetry, Angles and Transformation

Expressions and Equations

Health & Wellbeing



We have been exploring the wellbeing indicator 'Nurtured' throughout December.



Deans Primary School Positive Relationship Policy



Next term we will be updating our Positive Relationship Policy, we will be asking all pupils, parents, staff and the wider community to contribute to our consultation

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.

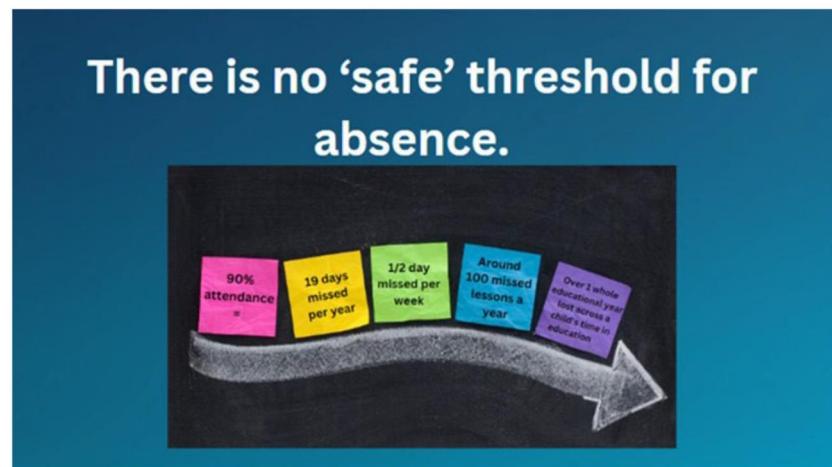
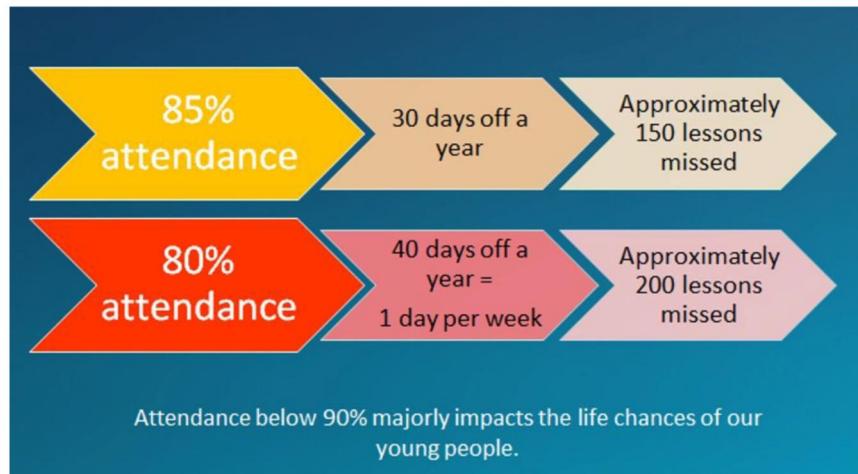
Attendance



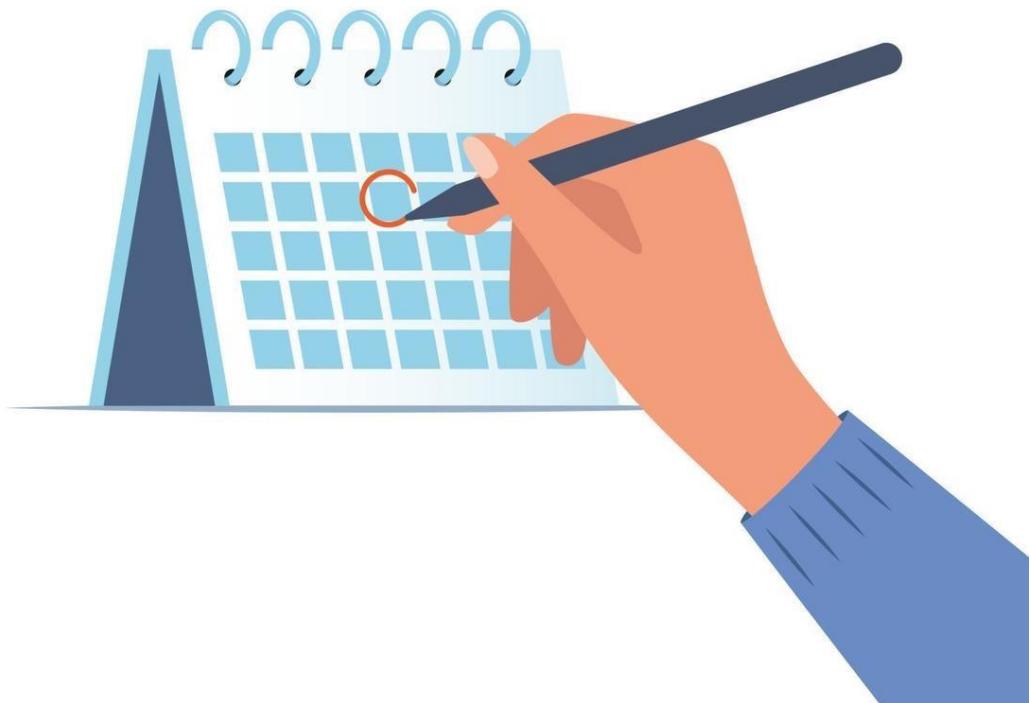
Deans Primary school and ELC are committed to working with parents, children and other stakeholders to ensure that, wherever possible, all children enrolled receive an education that maximises the opportunity for every child to achieve their full potential.

Please see below a reminder of our Supporting Attendance Overview.





Important Dates (Also available on our Parents Portal Calendar)



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)

Christmas Party Dates:

Monday 15th December - Primary 6s & Primary 7s

Tuesday 16th December - Primary 1s, Primary 2s & Primary 3s

Wednesday 17th December - ELC

Thursday 18th December - Primary 4s & Primary 5s

On behalf of the staff at Deans Primary School & Nursery, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and thank you for your continued support.