



DEANS PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ELC



AUGUST NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! It has been a very busy start to the term and It has been lovely to see our pupils back, ready to go. Our staff have been working hard to get things up and running! This is not always an easy task, and we appreciate your patience as we work through everything, while also managing the day itself! We always wish there were more hours in the day! We have aimed to provide a lot of information in this newsletter so please, take some time to read through it.

Mrs Butcher and Mr Weir



Staffing Update

We have welcomed new staff to Deans PS this year. Mr Green will be teaching Primary 2, Mr Condie will be teaching P6/5 and Mrs Sampson will be teaching P2/1 every Thursday and Primary 1 every Friday. We are delighted to have them as part of our Deans team.



School Website



Our school website contains lots of information about our school. To find us, use the following link :

<https://deansprimary.westlothian.org.uk>

COMMUNICATION



Please see below all the ways we will use to communicate key messages and information with you.

Newsletters – Our School Newsletters are packed full of information and the best place to go if you are unsure about a date or need to find a link to something! Please do take time to read these – they are a vital part of sharing information with you!

Parents' Portal – This is an important resource, and it is therefore vital that all parents are signed up to use this.

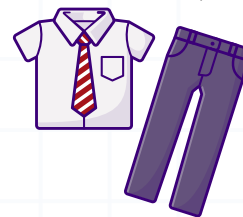


School Website – Our school website contains key information, such as staff, school procedures and upcoming dates. Please consider saving this as a 'favourite' in your browser! The link is provided for you to the left.

Groupcall/Eduspot - Information and reminders will be sent via this platform and we encourage you download the Edusport app.

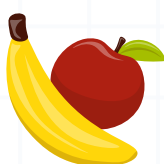
SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is lovely to see so many of our children looking incredibly smart in their new school uniforms. We will continue to enforce our uniform policy over the session. Children have the option of a white shirt and tie or white/yellow/red polo shirts. We would encourage these to be worn every day.



Please write your child's name on ALL items.

WATER AND SNACKS



WLC policy specifies that children should only bring water to school, to drink during class time. We can provide 'top-up' water throughout the day. Water is also available for all children at lunchtime.

For lunch, children can bring their own drink, such as a carton of juice. Please note, **we do not allow fizzy juice, sports drinks or energy drinks (including Lucozade).**

Children only require a small snack such as a packet of crisps or an item of fruit. We do not allow **lollipops or brain licker** type sweets.



IMPORTANT ALLERGY INFORMATION



In Deans Primary School, we try to remain a nut free environment as we have pupils and staff who are seriously allergic to various nuts and seeds.

No pupil or adult should bring nuts into the school, even if it is part of their own packed lunch or snack!

This includes **Nutella and Kinder Bueno chocolate bars.**



P.E. KIT

All pupils will receive 2 sessions of P.E. each week. A Groupcall was sent last week confirming the timetable for this term. A P.E. kit should include:

- Shorts, leggings or jogging trousers (Plain coloured only).
- T-shirt.
- School jumper/sweatshirt
- Gym shoes/trainers.

No football strips are permitted.

We know that for some children, P.E. participation can be a challenge, but it is a compulsory part of our curriculum. Please talk to your child about how important (and fun) P.E. can be!



POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS POLICY



To support and promote positive behaviour in our school, we take a whole school approach based on the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This ensures dignity for all of our pupils as they learn to make positive choices to help them access their rights to learn and play, be safe and healthy.

Pupils are encouraged to think about these rights when they reflect on how their choices or actions affect others or limit the rights of others.

We will be launching our new Positive Relationships Policy soon.



ABSENCE NOTIFICATION

A reminder that if your child is going to be absent from school, you must let us know by telephoning the office as soon as you can. We have an answering machine (option 1) to take this message if you call before the office is manned. If we have not heard from you by 9.30am, we will send a text to alert you to the fact that your child is not in school. If your child has an appointment, let us know so we can mark this on our registration system. If we do not hear from you, we need to initiate our late arrivals procedures.



GETTING IN TOUCH WITH US

The best way to get in touch with us is by calling or emailing our school office. The office can be emailed at any time, though please note that it will only be manned between the hours of 8am and 3:30pm. We aim to respond to all enquiries or concerns within 2 working days.

The Senior Leadership team are also planning to operate a monthly drop-in community surgery where you will be able to discuss any matters arising during this time. Dates for these will be published in the parental calendar.



LATE ARRIVALS

We are hoping to see an improvement in the number of pupils arriving late to school each day. Although we prefer our children to arrive late than not at all, this can lead to pupils becoming unsettled and anxious as they miss the morning classroom routines to settle into their day of learning. We all know what it feels like to be chasing your tail all day due to running late. As well as the impact on our children, it also adds extra pressure on an already very busy school office. If we notice a pattern of lateness, we will be in touch to discuss this with you and offer support.





INTRODUCING OUR NEW SCHOOL HOUSES



We are delighted to introduce our four new school houses: **Norvell**, **Scoular**, **Young** and **Murray**.

Each house has been carefully chosen to reflect the rich history and heritage of Deans, helping our pupils build a stronger connection with the local community while celebrating the people and stories that have shaped our area.

BUILDING OUR HOUSE COMMUNITY

Our new house system will encourage teamwork, leadership, respect and school pride. Through competitions, celebrations and shared achievements, pupils will work together within their houses while learning about the people and events that helped shape Deans and Livingston. We look forward to seeing **Norvell**, **Scoular**, **Young** and **Murray** become an important part of our school community and inspiring our pupils for years to come.

Pupils are now all aware of which house they have been allocated, with siblings being allocated to the same house team. We will be organising a launch day where pupils can come to school dressed wearing their house colour. This date has yet to be confirmed but will be communicated shortly.

Below you will find information which led to the selection of our house team names.



NORVELL

Norvell House is named after the Norvell family, who owned Deans House and the surrounding lands centuries ago. The area of Deans is believed to take its name from this historic estate, making the Norvells an important part of our local story.



SCoulAR

Scoular House honours Jimmy Scoular, the famous footballer who was born in Livingston Station, now part of modern-day Deans. Scoular went on to enjoy a distinguished career in Scottish and English football, providing an inspiring example of local achievement and determination.



YOUNG

Young House celebrates James "Paraffin" Young, whose pioneering work in extracting oil from shale helped create the industry that transformed West Lothian. The shale oil industry led to the growth of communities such as Livingston Station and Deans, leaving a lasting impact that can still be seen across the area today.



MURRAY

Murray House takes its name from Lord George Murray, one of the leading figures of the Jacobite movement. Local tradition tells us that Lord George Murray and Bonnie Prince Charlie spent a night at Deans House during the Jacobite campaign of 1745, linking the area to a fascinating chapter of Scottish history.



SCHOOL DROP OFF AND PICK UP

All children start school at 8.55am and finish at 3.15pm (Mon-Thu), 12.30pm (Fri).

We have tried to put arrangements in place to ensure increased safety for all pupils and ask you to always adhere to these.

One again, we encourage you to 'park and stride'.

The school car park is for staff and school visitors only; **it should not be used by parents during drop off and pick up times.** Please help us to keep our children safe!



MOBILE PHONES

You may be aware of the issue of mobile telephones in schools being discussed by the Scottish Government and, with this in mind, we are in the process of updating our mobile phones guidelines in line with national and local policy. We are now a mobile free school and ask that children do not bring mobile phones to school. If they do need to bring a phone, it must be handed to the class teacher each morning and locked away until the end of the day.



PLEASE
THANK
YOU

A FINAL PLEA...

We would also like to ask that pupils do not come to school wearing make-up, false eyelashes or false nails/acrylics. We have had frequent accidents with nails being caught or ripped off while children are playing, which can be very distressing to manage.

Finally, we also ask that children do not bring footballs/toys/games or squishies to school. We have plenty to entertain them. This avoids us having children upset over lost/broken items, which can take up a significant amount of teaching time. If a child requires a fidget toy in class, this should be small and cause minimal distraction to other learners in class. Thank you for your cooperation.



DEANS PRIMARY CONTACT DETAILS

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