DEANS PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ELC

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be writing this as the newly appointed permanent Head Teacher of Deans Primary School and ELC. I feel privileged each day I come to work and have the opportunity to work with our fabulous families and wonderful staff. I look forward to continuing building positive relationships with all our families and school community.
I cannot believe that we are already in November, the year is flying past so quickly. Please take time to read the newsletter and the important dates that are attached.

Mrs E Butcher
Head Teacher

Staffing Update

We are delighted that Miss Ross will be covering Miss Taylor's absence. She will be in P5/4 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
We welcome our student teachers in Primary 7 (Miss Timmons) and Primary 1 (Miss Millar). They are working closely with Mrs Stevenson and Mrs Moyes.

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!

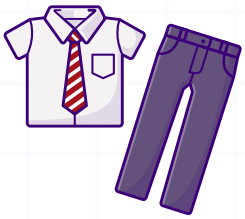
Parents' Portal – This is an important resource and it is therefore vital that all parents are signed up to use this. Our school calendar is here.

School Website – Our school website contains key information, such as staff, school procedures and upcoming diary 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 Eduspot 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.
With the winter weather on its way, please ensure children come suitably dressed with appropriate footwear and a warm jacket as they will be outside in all weathers.



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 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.

Our Positive Relationships Policy has been attached to this email.



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) where you can leave all absence messages. 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 have seen an increase 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.



BUILDING OUR HOUSE COMMUNITY

We are delighted to announce we have appointed our school House Captains and Vice Captains. They now have the responsibility of leading their houses in a range of challenges that we have planned for them.

NORVELL

House Captain
Jack Scobbie

Vice Captain
Krystle Gwagwadza

SCOULAR

House Captain
Lilly Hope

Vice Captain
Scott Ellis

YOUNG

House Captain
Holly Dickson

Vice Captain
Amelia-Rose Smillie

MURRAY

House Captain
Olivia Scales

Vice Captain
Finlay Crease

Deans Christmas Fair

Our annual Christmas Fair will be held on Friday 27th November at 12.30pm until 2:30pm. The Support Squad are looking for donations for the tombola and raffle.
All items should be new and in the original packaging i.e. we cannot accept toys, games and cuddly toys that are not in original packaging/do not have original tags attached even if they have not been used.

The Support Squad very much appreciate any donations you can give to help make our Christmas Fayre a success!





Early pupil pick ups

Recently there has been an increased number of pupils being collected early from school. We understand there are circumstances that require pupils to be collected early, however, we would appreciate if appointments could me made outwith the school day to reduce the disruption this has on the classroom. If your child has to leave early for an appointment, please let the office know in advance. Thank you.

After School Clubs

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff who give up there own time to run our after school clubs. We are very lucky at Deans to have such dedicated staff.

Homework

You will have received copies of our termly homework grids form early level through to 2nd level. We have also recently subscribed to a new online maths platform with pupils having access to Times Tables Rockstars and Numbots to improve their mental maths.

SLT Surgery

In response to parental feedback, we would like to offer weekly drop in sessions with the Senior Leadership Team to discuss any issues or concerns you would like to raise with us. These will take place each Friday morning between 9am and 10am.

School Improvement

As part of our ongoing self evaluation work, we would like to hear about any ideas or suggestions you have that may help improve our school community. These can be shared using the form accessed through the link below (please complete by the end of November).

School Improvement Questionnaire – Fill in form

Support Squad Meeting

The next Support Sqaud meeting will take place on Wednesday 11th November at 6pm in the school. The Support Squad would welcome new members, especially if you are able to help with any upcoming events for the benefit of our pupils. There is no obligation to take on a role. All are welcome, including our nursery parents/carers.

Smoking and Vaping

Please note that smoking and vaping are strictly prohibited on school grounds. This includes the playground and access paths to the school building. It also sends the wrong message to our children. Please refrain from doing so.

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.









A 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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