



# Mary Dean's CE Primary School and Nursery



## Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2024. Once again, it has been a very busy term and September seems such a long time ago! We have celebrated so many children for their achievements, whether academic, sporting or simply good manners and kindness towards others. The children have performed their Nativity services and carol concerts, and Christmas parties have been enjoyed by all. It must be time for a well-deserved holiday for all!



## Community News

We received a special invitation from Cann House to help one of their residents, Monica who will turn 102 years old in a few days' time. Pupils from KS1 all made a birthday card for Monica in support of her receiving 102 cards on her birthday. Mrs Gill took some children down to visit Monica and she was thrilled to receive her cards, as well as to meet some of our kind children. We were delighted to take part in this celebration, and we wish Monica a very happy 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.



## Christingle Service

The Christingle service was held at St Mary's church on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Mrs Dove took the choir down to the event where they sang 'Little Donkey'. Then the Christingles were lit and everybody joined in with 'Away in a Manger'. Mrs Dove said it was lovely to see so many families attending and making lovely memories.



## Staff Changes

Mr Peters will be leaving us at the end of this term and starting a new role in a local Primary School. We wish to thank him for his hard work at Mary Dean's and especially for his passion for all things sporty and his support with clubs. He brought 'Field Gun' to the school, which he will pass onto another enthusiast, next term. Thank you, Mr Peters and good luck in your new job!

## Save the Date!

- \*Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Children return to school
- \*Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January – no after school club due to whole staff training



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

*John 10:10*



## A Safe Environment

Our school site must be a safe space for our children at all times. We ask the children to not play ball games before or after school when the playgrounds are busy, nor ride bikes or scooters around before or after school. We have had a couple of parental disputes on the playground this term and these have been witnessed by our children. This is not acceptable, and I ask that any issues are dealt with respectfully, with the support of the school, where necessary. Thank you.

### Vacancies:

We currently have 2 vacancies at the school.

\*Mealtime Assistant

\*Cleaner

Please see our school website for further details.

## PTFA

I would like to give a special mention to the PTFA for their many fundraising ideas and successes this term. They work tirelessly for the school and the children. We will be meeting next term to discuss spending plans, so your children benefit from all the contributions you have so kindly given.

## Uniform Reminder

Near the end of a term, children grow out of clothing and shoes, and we have a bit of slippage while we make do to get to the holiday. Before the Spring term starts, please would you ensure your child has the correct school uniform, please. This can be found on the school website. Please, no jewellery (necklaces, rings bracelets); no make up (lipstick, mascara) and wear shoes, not trainers or boots. Sports clothing is only for P.E so boys need to wear school trousers or school shorts. P.E kit must be in school for all P.E lessons. It may be left in the cloakroom. Thank you.

**Our Achievers last week.**

**Well done!**



## Attendance

Please remember to ring the office before 8:50am if your child is unwell and not in school. Also, to send your child into school before 8:40am so that they are not marked as 'late'. Holidays cannot be authorised during term time.

Thank you for your continued support and we wish you a very merry Christmas!

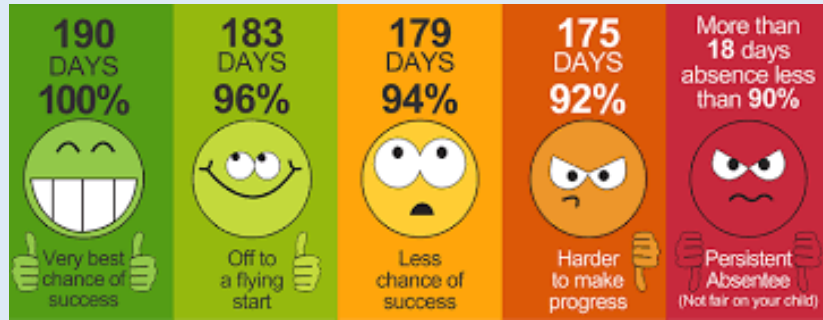
Donna Wilson  
Head Teacher



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*John 10:10*





## Thinking of giving your child a phone for Christmas?

The smartphone is the gift that keeps giving! What are the risks?

A smartphone and social media may **NOT** be the best Christmas present! Make sure you understand the risks as well as the benefits.

**30%** of children aged 8-12 have reported receiving messages from people they don't know.

Children aged 8-12 spend an average of **3 hours and 20 minutes** per day on screens, with usage increasing on weekends. Excessive screen time can impact a child's physical and mental well-being.

Online bullying remains a significant issue among young internet users. **21%** of children in this age group have experienced online bullying, with platforms like TikTok and Snapchat being the most commonly cited.

Exposure to inappropriate content is a serious risk for young internet users. **28%** of children aged 8-12 have encountered adult content online, often through video-sharing platforms and social media.

Sourced from the Ofcom 2024 Children's Media Literacy Report

If you give your child a smartphone, please ensure you set up parental controls and add restrictions to what they can do.



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