

Welcome back

It has been lovely to see the children make such a great start in their new classes. As always, they have shown a real commitment to their learning with lots of enthusiasm. We have high expectations for all children and will continually support them to take on new challenges. The main theme of our assemblies this week was taken from the incredible advert for the Paralympics. We all marvelled at the skills and talent shown and focused on the 'yes I can' attitude – an attitude that we advocate in school. The new foundation stage children clearly displayed this positive attitude as they started their primary school journey this week. They are settling well and seem to be happy in their new environment.

We are extremely grateful to the volunteers that have helped the foundation stage outside area the amazing space that it is. Our grateful thanks extend to several parents and volunteers including the generous and hardworking Santander staff and Joe from the Co-op. The Co-op have been extremely supportive of our updates and have even helped us set up a mini Co-op in the foundation stage garden!

All peripatetic music lessons start next week except guitar lessons, these will start the following week i.e., week beginning 19th September. We look forward to sharing the growing skills and talents of the children during the school year.



We were delighted to welcome new staff members to the team this week. Mrs Tapp and Miss Sole joined Foundation Stage, Miss Peers -Year 2, Miss Cookson Year 3, Mrs Boddington Year 4 and Mrs Archer working across the school as Artist-in-residence.



We will shortly be giving you the opportunity to secure your child's place (via ParentMail) for our optional annual trip to the pantomime at Milton Keynes theatre on **Thursday 8th December**.

Tickets are £18—first come first served

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Friday 30th September

9.30am—11.00am

Please come and join us for a cake, coffee and chat. Please bring a cake (if possible) and a donation for this very worthwhile cancer support charity .

**'LAUGHING.
YUMMY CUPCAKES.
GETTING TOGETHER...
AND HELPING FAMILIES
AFFECTED BY CANCER.'**

New drop off arrangements — Please read very carefully

We have recently been considering drop off and pick up times and how we can ensure the highest levels of safety and security. We will continue to deliberate the road outside the school as congestion levels are high, but our main focus area, for now, has been the KS1 courtyard. We would like to trial the following plan until the end of term i.e., 20th December. Whilst appreciating that we might initially experience some teething problems, we would like the opportunity to work through these with you so that the new plan, if viable, ultimately ensures that the school is a safer place for everyone in it and hopefully less stressful for some of our younger children.

Morning drop-off

The regular blue gate into the courtyard will remain closed and locked each morning.

FS children will come into school each morning (with their parent/carer) via the wooden gate to the right of the regular blue one, the gate that leads to the mud kitchen - this will be labelled so that it is very clear. The teachers and LSAs will open the gate at 8.50am and welcome the children in from their outside door. If it is a wet morning, the gate will be opened at 8.40am and the children will come straight into class slightly earlier.

Year 1 children will come in via the exterior door to the Rainbow classroom - this will be labelled so that it is very clear. The teachers and LSAs will 'meet and greet' the children each morning. Parents and carers can wait under the entrance area shelter until the door is opened at 8.50am. If it is a wet morning, the door will be opened at 8.40am and the children will come straight into class slightly earlier.

Year 2 children have possibly got the biggest change but recognising this, we will fully support the change and have a transitional time for them to get used to the new routine. Year 2 will enter the school via the 'KS2' gate and go up on to the top playground in the morning, as they do at lunchtimes before the whistle is blown at 8.50am and their teacher or LSA collects them and escorts them down to the classroom. Parents and carers will be encouraged to drop them at the KS2 gate where I stand on a daily basis. Time will be given for families to get used to this and some children may require a modified plan. Teachers will come out to the gate at home time to ensure all children can easily find their families.

Year 3 – 6 children will continue to enter and exit from the KS2 gate. This will be unlocked daily at 8.40am unless it is raining, in which case it will be opened at 8.30am. On Mondays and Fridays, when we will restart 'Run a Mile in Style', the gate will be open at 8.30am for year 2 – 6 runners only. The gate that leads from the courtyard to the area heading up to the top playground will be locked each morning to ensure that all children and adults are outside the courtyard area. Parents that drop off younger siblings at Willow Tree are requested to leave through the Willow Tree side gate and then drop off in the appropriate area as outlined above. Families and child-minders with children in multiple classes will have time to drop off at either the new FS gate, year 1 door or KS2 gate, as now.

Pick up at 3.15pm will continue to be exactly the same as now using the courtyard for FS, Year 1 and Year 2 and the KS2 gate for year 3 – 6. At this time, we feel more comfortable since the children are leaving the school site.

This new arrangement will start from Monday 19th September. If you have any questions about this arrangement, please raise them as soon as possible. We recognise that change is hard and we are all used to the current routines, but in the interest of safety, we thank you in advance for your patience and support as we trial this new plan.

School results

We were thrilled with the achievements of all children in the last school year and had our strong results compared with national this week and are pleased to announce that we met the floor standards set. In a year of change and increased expectations, we were very proud of the children and their hard work to make strong improvement. I am also very appreciative of an amazing staff team.

Our full results are on the school website (on the statutory information page), but in summary -

Year 6

Reading: National 66% DPS 76%, Spelling and grammar: National 72% DPS 80%,
Maths: National 70% DPS 74% Writing National 74% DPS 90%

You can also find the results of July's parent survey on the website. The information given will be fed into our next school improvement plan.

Deanshanger Feast—Saturday October 8th

The annual Deanshanger Feast is a very special event for the village and one that the school enjoys being part of. This year we will be contributing in three ways -

1. All children will be invited to join us for a 'performance' of harvest songs. This will be at approximately 1.30pm, but we will confirm nearer the time. It would be lovely for as many families as possible to attend.
2. All families are invited to bring a store cupboard item for our collection for Towcester Food Bank. We will start collecting from Monday 26th September up until the event itself.
3. In class, children will be making a class harvest loaf in true Bake Off style! These will be displayed at the Feast and our very own culinary expert, Mrs Gordon, will 'judge' them.

We also encourages families to get involved with the fun by baking a harvest or Deanshanger inspired loaf for the event. These will all be displayed with photographs hidden, for a fun tasting and judging session. Whether you are Paul Hollywood or a complete novice, we think it would be a fun family baking experience.

Due to strict health standards, we wouldn't be able to pass the loaves on to the Food Bank or sell them but will enjoy them at the event before they go home. More information to follow in the coming days.



Your support and encouragement with reading is extremely important, even for children that are reading fluently. In all classes, reading is a prominent feature of the timetable and we would like your continued support at home too.

To support this, reading mornings are held every Tuesday for children in FS to Year 4. Please come in and share books from 8.40am.

Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer in class, please make contact. We are always keen to have adults to hear readers and/or help with class activities. All volunteers would need to be DBS checked by school.

We are currently putting together our clubs lists for the term ahead and will be sharing this very soon. If you would like to run a club, support a club or have contacts for a great club, please let us know.

We are keen to set up table tennis groups—if anyone has an unused or old one that would like a new home, please let us know.

There is a Zoons free dance taster session on Tuesday 13th September from 3.20pm—4.25pm. All children from year 1—6 are welcome to come and join in. They should wear comfy clothes and bring their water bottle.

'Meet the Teacher' evening
Monday 19th September
3.30pm—5.00pm

Informal drop ins— no appointments necessary. Please try to come along if you can to talk to the teachers about how your child is settling in and how we can work together to provide the very best for your child.

We received a beautiful letter and card from the Queen this week to thank us for the class birthday cards that we sent for her 90th birthday. Both special items will be framed and displayed for us all to enjoy.

We have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of Fresh Start to cook tasty home style lunches and have not been disappointed. The team are working brilliantly and delivering delicious food that appears to be enjoyed. All KS1 and FS children are entitled to free meals, so don't miss out on these healthy meals.

In order to apply for Free School Meals for a child/children in Year 3 and above, please collect a Free School Meals application form from the school office or via this link - <http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/Pages/free-school-meals.aspx>

Who is eligible? To be eligible for Free School Meals you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits - Income Support, Employment & Support Allowance – Income related, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (not Contribution Based JSA), Child Tax Credit only (with a combined family income of less than £16,190 per annum as assessed by HM Revenues & Customs).

If you are entitled please notify the school office, as not only does this benefit you but it also releases additional grant funding to the school which means that we can then support your child in additional activities.



Please be reminded that all children are encouraged to eat healthy snacks and

lunchboxes, where chosen, should not contain lot of sugary snacks and chocolate bars please.

We continue to work with the Healthier Child Programme—advice about lunch box choices can be found on the school website. We will shortly be setting up a student led school nutrition actions group (SNAG) to help support healthy eating and life styles in school.

Supporting fitness, 'Run a Mile in Style' will be coming back soon for Y2 to 6 children, watch this space.

Deanshanger Brownies will be holding a 'bring and buy' sale on Monday 26th September from 6.00pm—7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church room. Funds raised will support local charities. Refreshments will be available.

Mr Dudden is now fully trained as a crossing patroller. Please encourage children that walk to school alone, to cross with him. Please also be very careful when driving in the area and avoid parking in front of driveways and The Green.

Donate your foreign and British stamps to us to support Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB). A collection box is in the admin area. Please ensure you leave approx. 1cm of envelope around each stamp. Thank you

Deanshanger Primary School

The Green

Deanshanger

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