



Deanshanger Primary School

Deanshanger Primary School, The Green, Deanshanger, Milton Keynes, MK19 6HJ.

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Chief Executive – Mr Webster

Executive Head Teacher – Miss K Morris

Monday 1st September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and enjoyed some quality time with your families. We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday and beginning a new term together.

We understand that the start of the school year can be a time of adjustment for everyone. New routines, unfamiliar classroom environments, and building relationships with new teachers can feel challenging at first, for both children and parents. Please be reassured that this is a normal part of the transition and an important opportunity for children to develop resilience, confidence, and personal growth as they settle into their new classes.

Celebrating Progress – 2024 Results

We are proud to share that last year's Year 6 pupils achieved a combined score of 57% in reading, writing, and maths in the 2024 SATs. This represents a significant improvement from the previous year and is considered broadly in line with national expectations. This achievement reflects the dedication of our staff, the resilience of our pupils, and the support of the parent community. It also highlights the positive impact of some of the changes we introduced last year, such as the new maths mastery approach, a revised writing curriculum, and a sharper focus on high-quality teaching and learning across the school.

While we know there is still more to do, this progress is a clear sign that we are moving in the right direction. We are excited to build on this momentum as we continue our improvement journey. We are also awaiting the final draft of our recent Ofsted inspection report, and we will share this with all parents as soon as we receive it.

Communication

While Class Dojo will still be used for children to collect points and for teachers to share classroom learning, it will no longer be used for messaging between parents and teachers. We know that many messages were being missed because teachers are unable to check Class Dojo regularly during the school day, as their focus must remain on teaching. To ensure important information reaches the right people promptly, we ask that all messages to staff now be sent via email to the school office, clearly labelled **FAO (Staff member's name)**. This will help us direct messages appropriately and ensure you receive a response, if needed, via the school office email.

Please note that individual staff emails will no longer be in use, so we kindly ask that you do not try to contact teachers directly via previous emails.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

We want to improve face-to-face communication between parents and teachers and believe a more personal approach will help build strong, supportive relationships between home and school.

From Wednesday 3rd September:

- **Morning Drop-Off for Years 4, 5 and 6:** Instead of dropping your child at the gate at 8:40 am, you are now welcome to come onto the school grounds and take your child to their classroom's external door. Teachers will be supervising the door, so if you need to speak to the teacher, this is a great opportunity for a quick

catch-up. Children in Year 4 can be dropped off at the external door by the hall steps. We do ask, however, that all children be dropped off promptly so that learning can begin by 8:50 am.

- **Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3:** Children in these year groups will be dropped off in their usual way using the courtyard entrance. Your child's teacher or teaching assistant will be supervising the door, ready to welcome the children from 8.40 am.
- **Afternoon Pick-Up for Years 4, 5 and 6:** Parents will also be invited onto the school grounds at the end of the day to collect their children from the classroom door. To ensure this runs smoothly and safely, for those parents picking up or dropping off from the classroom door, we will be operating a one-way system.
 - Enter the school from the main gate as normal
 - Drop off/pick up at your child's classroom
 - Exit through the Willow Tree Gate, which will be supervised by staff.

To maintain our safeguarding standards, we kindly ask that parents do not enter the school building at drop-off or pick-up times. If you have arranged to meet with a teacher, please come to the main office, where you will be asked to sign in.

For any lengthier or more sensitive messages, we ask that you use the email system rather than trying to speak to the teacher at the door.

Dates for Your Diary

To help reduce the need for last-minute changes and to support family planning, we will now send out important dates half-termly. These dates will be included with the newsletter, which will also be issued at the end of every half term.

In addition, the calendar on the school website will be updated each half term to reflect all key dates and events.

Wraparound Care

Wraparound care is available for families who need it and is managed by Lisa Gordan.

- Morning sessions begin at 7.45 am, and breakfast is provided for children attending at this time.
- A second session is available from 8.15 am, without breakfast.
- After-school care (Wrap Club) runs until 6.00 pm each evening.
- Fees and additional information can be found on our school website:
<https://www.deanshangerprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Wrap+Club+%26%23160%3B+%26%23160%3B&pid=15>

If you would like your child to attend Wrap Club, booking is essential. Unfortunately, we are not able to accept ad hoc bookings due to the need to stay within statutory staffing ratios. We really don't want to turn children away, but if the club is full or your child has not been booked in, they will not be able to stay and you will need to collect them at the end of the school day.

Raising a Concern

If you are concerned about something, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance via the office email clearly labelled **FAO (Teacher's name)**. This is in line with our complaints policy.

If you feel your concern has not been resolved, you are welcome to contact the appropriate team leader:

- Mrs Watson – Reception and Year 1
- Miss Peers – Years 2, 3 and 4
- Mr Bunting – Years 5 and 6

If the matter still isn't resolved, you may contact Mr Bolton. Please note that if a concern has not followed this process, you will be directed back to the class teacher in the first instance.

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

Mrs Burnside and Mrs Mildren will be working together this year to coordinate interventions for children with additional needs. Mrs Burnside will continue to strengthen our internal systems to ensure timely and appropriate input for children who require additional support. Our aim is to build an evidence-rich profile for any child identified with SEND so that we can secure appropriate help, particularly before transition to secondary school.

Whether or not your child has a diagnosis, our provision will remain consistent. We are focused on inclusive classroom practice and ensuring that every child receives the support they need through high-quality teaching and adaptation. Children will only be added to the SEND register if they require support beyond quality first teaching.

Our classrooms are dyslexia and ADHD friendly, and we are continuing to train and support staff in inclusive practice. Where needed, children may be placed on the SEND register to ensure appropriate planning is in place for secondary transition.

Class teachers will lead IEP (Individual Education Plan) meetings with parents once a term, in addition to parents' evenings. These meetings are an important opportunity to review progress and raise any concerns you may have about your child.

If you are contacting the class teacher about a concern related to your child's SEND needs and would like Mrs Burnside to be aware, please do feel free to copy her or Mrs Mildren into your email. This allows her to remain informed and to offer support and guidance to the teacher where needed.

Mrs Burnside's primary role will be to work with families of children with EHCPs (Education, Health and Care Plans) and to coordinate any necessary external provision. She is also available to support staff with advice and guidance across the school.

If you have a concern about your child's additional needs, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Leadership and Curriculum Updates

To continue driving improvement and raising standards, I will be based at Deanshanger twice a week – normally on a Monday and Tuesday during the initial part of the term. This will ensure that I can work closely with staff and children to support ongoing development.

As part of our curriculum improvement, we will also be moving away from the IPC (International Primary Curriculum) model this year. Instead of teaching through topic-based blocks, children will now be taught discrete subjects throughout the year. This change will help pupils to retain knowledge more effectively and build on key skills progressively over time.

We believe this shift will result in deeper subject understanding and more consistent learning across all year groups.

Thank you for your support with these arrangements. We're looking forward to another successful year and working to support your children in every aspect of their learning and development.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Morris'.

Miss Morris