



Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Head Teacher

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Friday 7th February 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Weekly news update

A warm welcome to our three new families who have joined the school this week; their children are Ed and Sidney in year 6 and 3, and Bobby and Layton, also in year 3. Please say hello to their parents on the playground and help them out with all things new to them.

On Wednesday after school, the teachers rushed off to a curriculum training event with our School Partnership group of schools which include Padnell Junior, Purbrook Junior, Clanfield Junior and St Albans Primary. The focus was on addressing the huge vocabulary gap in education between those that grow up in word-rich environments and those that don't have access to this. Our children at Denmead have got much better at asking adults what unfamiliar words mean, because we are encouraging them to be curious!

Today the upper school is enjoying Greek day, with lots of fun activities taking place. Many of the children have joined staff in dressing up to reflect the theme of the day and I've even spotted a Minotaur! Later some of our tour guides will be taking around 6 more candidates for my role in September.

Next week on Tuesday 11th it's World Internet Safety day and Mr Goodens led the assembly this week to remind children of staying safe online. This year the motto is #freetobe which focuses on how we can use the internet positively and how avatars and usernames can help keep our identities safe. It also highlights the impact of not knowing who is behind a username or avatar, so vigilance and information is key. The following websites have lots of useful information: www.internetmatters.org, www.nspcc.org.uk and www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Wishing you a good weekend,

Elaine Viner
Head Teacher



Key information sent out this week:

- Metacognition morning event

Key information coming out shortly:

- Home learning policy update
- PTA updates

Attendance data:

Year 3	95.61%
Year 4	95.11%
Year 5	96.13%
Year 6	96.26%
Whole school	95.75%

Reminders this week:

- **LOWER SCHOOL HOME LEARNING DEADLINE:** A reminder that lower school's home learning is due in on Monday.
- **Pupil Absence:** If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please call the school to let us know on each day of absence. You can leave a message on the school answerphone whenever convenient to you, as this is available 24/7. Unexplained absences will be recorded as unauthorised.
- **Office Hours:** The office is staffed from 8.30am - 4.30pm however we close to non-urgent enquiries between 9.30-11am & 1.30-2.30pm. The answerphone is checked during these times.

Events Next Week:

- **Monday 10th** Lower school extended learning deadline
FIJI CLASS: school performance 3pm
- **Tuesday 11th** FIJI CLASS: Parent assembly & class activity 9am
- **Wednesday 12th** Year 4 Calshot parent information evening - 6pm

February key dates:

- **Monday 17th** HALF TERM WEEK
- **Monday 24th** First day back after half term
Deadline for payment for lower school Kew Garden trip
- **Thursday 27th** Metacognition morning 9-10am (letter to follow)

March key dates:

- **Tuesday 3rd** NETHERLANDS CLASS: Parent assembly & class activity 9am + school performance 3pm
- **Thursday 5th** World Book Day
- **Friday 6th** Lower school Kew Gardens trip
- **Saturday 7th** Grounds Day 10am
- **Tuesday 10th** ICELAND CLASS: Parent assembly & class activity 9am + school performance 3pm
Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm
- **Thursday 12th** Parents' evening 5-7.30pm
- **Friday 13th** Sports Relief
- **Tuesday 17th** SWITZERLAND CLASS: Parent assembly & class activity 9am + school performance 3pm
- **Friday 20th** Upper school Winchester trip
- **Tuesday 24th** ITALY CLASS: Parent assembly & class activity 9am + school performance 3pm
- **Wednesday 25th** Class photos & whole Y6 group
- **Friday 27th** PTA QUIZ – held at Infant school 7pm for 7.30pm start
- **Monday 30th** SWEDEN CLASS: School rehearsal performance 3pm

