



Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Friday 13th March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Weekly news update

What a wonderful trip to Kew Gardens for the lower school this time last week – the sun shone and I have had some lovely feedback from parents that supported the children on the trip. Iceland's assembly this week told parents and the school more about rainforests based on what they had learned there.

As you will see from the playground, last Saturday we managed to clear about half of the raised bed next to the quiet garden (well done Mr Marley, Mrs Burton and me!). We are really keen to complete this before Easter so that the brambles don't come back. As weekends are so busy for everyone, we thought we would offer a gardening session next Thursday 19th March from 4.30-5.30 for any parents/families who would be willing to do some clearing for a short period of time.

If you recall, we asked for your views on Home Learning last term and we have now produced our new Home Learning Policy which is attached. Basically we have tried to simplify and streamline if so that we reduce the stress, and also see the benefits! Our Home Learning club for those that need a quiet space with adult support, will start on Wednesday and for this first period of this, priority will be given to children from the Upper School. A copy of the letter sent home today is also attached. Working in partnership with you is very important to support your children's learning, so it was great to see so many of you at the parents' evenings this week.

Today is Sports Relief, and as well as the children dressing in their sporty clothes to raise money for the cause – over £260 - Miss Shute has prepared an afternoon of sports activities for the whole school, so once again we are grateful for the good timing for some dry weather! The playground, trim trail, running track and part of the field are absolutely buzzing with netball, football and team challenge activities. It's been something of a sporty week, with our netball team enjoying terrific success at their first matches on Monday, winning 7-0 and 7-1 and we currently have a lower school team taking part in a schools swimming event at the Mountbatten centre.

Finally, be assured that we are continuing to monitor the Coronavirus updates from the relevant authorities and following their advice. We are encouraging everyone to wash their hands well and our site staff are focusing on cleaning shared surfaces, such as door handles. Please see the attached letter for more details. In yesterday's celebration assembly we elbow-bumped instead of shaking hands. We are also preparing our plans for how to keep education going if schools are asked to close.

In the meantime, we wish you a great weekend and enjoy the sunshine!

Elaine Viner
Head Teacher



Key information sent out this week:

- PTA Disco letter
- PTA Quiz night
- Y5 Bikeability booking forms
- Denmead chicken run colouring sheet
- Home learning policy (by email)
- Homework club letter
- Coronavirus guidance information – updated (by email)

REMINDERS & NOTICES

- **BUSHCRAFT RESIDENTIAL PAYMENT:** The full payment for this should be received by end of April.
- **HEAD LICE:** A reminder please for all parents and carers to be vigilant with regular checks of childrens' hair.
- **OFFICE HOURS:** Please note although the office is staffed between 8.30am – 4.30pm, we do close the office to non-urgent enquiries between 9.30-11am and 1.30-2.30pm. **There is an answerphone available at all times** (02392 252735), so please do leave a message any time if you cannot get through. This is checked regularly throughout the day. Please bear with us during this particularly busy period with the current reduced staff team.
- **CALSHOT 2021:** (For current year 3 parents) we anticipate sending more details for booking a place next week.

What's coming up:

- **Tuesday 17th** SWITZERLAND CLASS: Parent assembly & class activity 9am + school performance 3pm
- **Friday 20th** Upper school Winchester trip

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- **Tuesday 24th** ITALY CLASS: Parent assembly & class activity 9am + school performance 3pm
 - **Wednesday 25th** Class & whole Y6 group photos
 - **Friday 27th** **PTA QUIZ – held at Infant school 7pm for 7.30pm start**
 - **Monday 30th** SWEDEN CLASS: School rehearsal performance 3pm
 - **Monday 30th** Upper school Easter service @ All Saints Church – *letter to follow*
 - **Tuesday 31st** SWEDEN CLASS: Parent assembly & class activity 9am

APRIL:

- **Thursday 2nd** PTA Disco: Lower school 5.30-6.45pm & Upper school 7-8.15pm
- **Friday 3rd April** Last day of term: Easter holidays 4th – 19th April (children back on Monday 20th April)

