



# Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to a summer term that will be unlike any other we have experienced before! There is much speculation about schools and when and how they will return. I decided not to watch the news yesterday, only to discover today that it was all about schools, so I felt a little on the back foot this morning! Schools don't hear in advance about any government announcements so we will begin to plan now for a variety of different returning scenarios.

I really hope that you and your family are all well and staying safe. At least the weather has been lovely and many of us have been able to get out for 'exercise', or to sit by an open window. The grounds at DJS are looking beautiful currently as the picture below shows.

So it's back to operating 'DJS-at-home' and 'DJS-at-school' for who knows how long? School activities will be posted up on Mondays and Wednesdays as normal and we will be checking out any free resources that are being offered before signposting them to you. We don't know the quality of the two announced yesterday – from BBC Bitesize (but usually very good!) and from 'Oak National Academy'. Please don't feel under pressure to access this - as you know - ***if we can all keep children practising their reading, writing and maths little and often then that's just fine.***

Resources that I do want to pass onto you today, are the free materials from the ELSA support organisation. An 'ELSA' in a school is an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. There is a recognised ELSA training course aimed specifically at Teaching Assistants in schools, and we are fortunate at DJS to have two trained staff members. Examples of things covered include social skills, emotions, bereavement, social and therapeutic stories, anger management, self-esteem, and counselling skills such as solution focus and friendship. They have produced many free and excellent resources to help manage worries and concerns around the coronavirus and this extraordinary time. Please visit <https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/category/free-resources/coronavirus-support/>

I also attach a useful guide sent to schools regarding children's illnesses and when to seek medical help. Despite the virus, hospitals are still the very best place to be if you are very ill. We have a staff member who is undergoing weekly cancer treatment and they are very impressed with how the local hospital is segregating their service and keeping everyone as safe as possible.

Best wishes from us all at DJS,

Elaine Viner  
Head Teacher

