



Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

Bere Road
Denmead
Waterlooville
Hampshire
PO7 6PH

Tel: 023 9225 2735

Mrs E S Viner, BSc, PGCE, NPQH
Head Teacher

www.denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk

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Dear families of DJS,

It's another glorious day weather-wise; the cherry blossom is starting to fall and carpet the grass outside the school entrance and I have a lovely memory of some year 6 children last year running out of school at the end of the day, lying on the grass trying to make 'blossom' angels! There's not quite enough on the ground at the moment for this to be very successful, but there will be next week...

This week at 'DJS-at-school' the children have been getting back into the routine here. I know that some have found getting back 'into it' a bit tricky, and that is completely understandable in the circumstances – both at school and at 'DJS-at-home' too!

So, I am very pleased to announce that on Monday afternoon we will be launching a platform called SeeSaw which will enable children to post information about their home learning/learning news to their class teacher and we think that this will really help to re-inforce the school connections and relationships again with all the children at home. All the instructions for this will come out to you on Monday afternoon. This is the platform for children to share their book reviews and suggestions; their Spirit of the Community project work; the new skill they have been learning and any other learning experiences (cooking, gardening etc).

Teachers are also now making a few phone calls when they are on the rota to be in school to touch base with some of you just to make 'voice to voice' contact. In addition, teachers are in the process of writing the children's annual (well not quite - up until the 20th March!) school reports. We will send these out electronically towards the end of next week. I have taken that decision because what teachers are writing now is based on how your child was developing up until last month, and I think it would be strange for us to write them now but send them out at the end of the year, when your child may be quite different!

We are very much hoping that schools will be able to re-open later this term so that we will be able to see everyone again soon, but we must wait to see whether that will be possible and indeed what schooling will look like when you are trying to socially distance.

Please note our 'Useful links & resources' section under the Home Learning page on the school website, where we are putting up information/resources/guidance that is coming into schools from many different sources. Hampshire music department have sent us information on what they are offering with regard to music lessons along with general music resources, along with other information e.g. those links collated together by the police regarding general safety and also on-line safeguarding (the resources within their parent zone from the 'digital family experts' look particularly useful).

Finally, please see the attached letter from Glenn Taylor our Chair of Governors regarding Head Teacher recruitment – and I am very pleased (and somewhat relieved!) with his news.

Enjoy the weekend and stay safe.

Elaine Viner

P.S. Please do take a look at the attached lovely letter exchange between Oliver in year 5 and Daphne who is living in the new care home, Denmead Grange.

