



Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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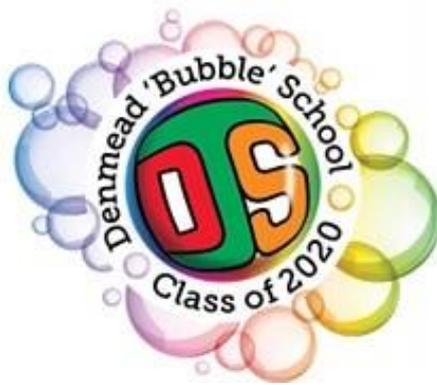
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Friday 5th June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Weekly news update

And so we come to the end of our first week of DJS 'Bubble' school. Who would have thought that those lovely bubbles that we all came together and blew back in January and the lovely displays that the children created, would take on another meaning.



We have over 70% of our year 6 children back and our key worker children have risen to 52. It is lovely to see our classrooms with little people back in them and I have been waving to them from a distance. The year 6 children have clearly missed not being able to have constant access to food as they have been complaining about being hungry!

Please remember that all children will still need sun cream and a hat when it's sunny and a coat too. All bubble groups spend a lot of time outside and with all windows and doors open throughout the school, the inside has been a little chilly since the weather turned this week, so layers are very useful. As the children remain in their bubble to eat, please ensure they have all they need for break and lunchtimes – spoons for yogurt, for example – and their own water bottle, as these things cannot be provided by school now.

We have been reviewing all our procedures this week to make improvements. Year 6 parents will have noticed that we are now opening the field gates so that you can wait in a socially-distanced way on the field. If a year 6 child is here before 9 we are allowing them in however, please don't encourage early arrival, as this clashes with the key worker drop off times!

In addition, we have now decided that if a teacher calls in sick, we will close that bubble for the duration of the teacher sickness. If the Learning Support Assistant calls in sick, we will keep the bubble open and provide cover from a social distance to allow the teacher to take a break during the day.

From the staff phone calls home meanwhile, it is lovely to hear how everyone is doing and the different ways that different families have settled (or sometimes not quite) into 'home school'. It is clear that we are



all having good days and bad days and I'd like to share with you an excellent resource for those not-so-good days. It's called 'When the Tension Goes' (see <https://whenthetensiongoes.com/>) and there are a huge number of suggestions to help you out of different moods and feelings. Maureen Bowes, whose resources these are, works extensively to provide support for leaders across many fields and is well known to the local authority and Head Teachers in Hampshire.

We do miss you all and are thinking hard about how we can prepare for wider opening (if this is allowed over the next few weeks), plus of course how we are going to organise transition.

Enjoy the weekend and thank you for your continued support.

Elaine Viner
Head Teacher

