



Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Dear Parents and Carers,

20th March 2020

Arrangements from Monday 23rd March 2020

This is a strange letter to be writing. Today in school we will close down normal Denmead Junior School as we know it, and we will take on a different form for the foreseeable future. We will be running as 'DJS at home' for those children at home, and a 'DJS at school' for those children of the key workers.

'DJS at home'

On Monday the school will post onto the website lots of short suggested tasks to do at home. This will cover reading, writing and maths activities, focusing on pupils using the knowledge and skills that they had already learned. In addition, we have created a new home learning topic called 'The Spirit of the Community' where children will be able to choose from a range of different project ideas (just like our normal home learning arrangement). Later in the week we will post up some more short suggested tasks in reading, writing and maths. These posts will happen twice weekly for as long as necessary.

We want to find a way to stay connected, so we are also launching a 'reading for pleasure' drive, because at the end of the day, *'reading gives us some place to go when we have to stay where we are'*. Details of this will be on the website. Please join in as parents, as the staff will also be taking part. There is also our Easter reading challenge tasks and details of this will be on the website on Monday.

One of the positives of all this time to fill, is to use it to try to master a new skill e.g. ventriloquism, magic tricks, origami or knitting etc. Details of this project will be on the website on Monday.

We have set up a new email account for when the school is closed from Monday. If you have any questions about all the above home learning tasks, please use this email. This will be checked every day, starting from Monday. The tasks we put up, we believe your children can do without any 'teacher' input – none of it will be new learning. Above all else, if your child gets stuck, or upset, focus on reading, learning number facts, such as times tables and division facts and learn to tell the time. Writing a diary every day would be a fascinating reminder of these extraordinary times.

For year 6, in order to prepare for their future schooling, there is an additional take home pack with a covering letter.

All children present today will be given a blank exercise book to help them record any of the above tasks. This is purely for their use at home.

The email address is: djshomelearning@gmail.com

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'DJS at school' (8.45-3.30)

For the children of key workers, they will be doing exactly the same as above, only in the school building. Please arrive from 8.45 at the front door. Registration will take place at 9.00. Children do not need to wear school uniform (but clothing needs to be appropriate, e.g. no crop tops) and we will be putting together a 'Code of Conduct' in terms of hygiene and cleanliness to guard against infection. Children will need to bring a packed lunch, and a break time snack and drink. No lunches or snacks will be available. For children receiving free school meals a packed lunch will be provided.

Arrangements for collecting items left at school

If your child is currently at home ill, or self-isolating and you have not yet collected their belongings, we have bagged up these items by class, in preparation for our deep clean. Please email the school to arrange for collection as the office will be shut and no visitors will be allowed in.

Arrangements for contacting the school from Monday

By phone: please leave a message as the phone will not be answered.

By email: djshomelearning@gmail.com

The other email address for the school admin.office@denmead-jun.sch.uk will be monitored periodically.

I hope that this answers some of your immediate questions about arrangements for Monday. It is really important that we look out for each other and stay connected when we are all having to distance ourselves and self isolate. The school website will become our method for sending out communications, so please check in with that daily.

Best wishes,

Elaine Viner
Head Teacher

