



# Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## September full re-opening of DJS

This letter is to outline our plans for the complete full time opening of DJS in September 2020. There has been a lot to think about, within the constraints of the existing building and staffing, and there will still be many social distancing and increased hygiene measures in place. Whilst it will be so lovely to be fully open, school will not be the quite the same as it was in March.

Our full re-opening plan has been shared with the school's governing body and the Local Authority, both of whom feel that it meets the needs of the school community as well as ensuring that measures are in place to keep us all safe.

The purpose of this letter is to outline some of the key measures. The full plan will be published on our website by the end of this week.

### **Children to be in consistent groups:**

Keeping children in consistent groups to minimise their contacts across the school day is one of the key parts of the government guidance. This term, children have been in bubbles of 15. With the decrease of the transmission of the virus in the community, the government guidance now gives schools flexibility to determine the size of their bubbles.

Our plan is to organise the school into four, year group sized bubbles: year 6; year 5 and two bubbles comprising three of lower school classes in year 3/4. Children will spend the vast majority of the school day within their smaller class group, but the above bubbles will be outside together at playtime and lunchtime, and arrive and leave at the same time. We know that the spread of the virus diminishes outdoors, which is where children will mix in the largest groups. We are also very lucky to have such well-ventilated rooms, which also act as a protective factor. If it is a wet play, then the children will remain within their class bubble.

The advantage of having four year group sized bubbles is that we only need to have four drop off times, four pick up times, and two lunchtime slots as we are fortunate to have a large playground which we will divide into two areas so we can keep the bubbles separate. It will also enable us to permit some after school clubs, provided these are offered to each bubble group individually. (Please note that Denmead Day Care has access to only one space at DJS, so will be operating their own bubble of KS2 children, and this will no longer contain siblings from the Infant school.)

If we were to put in place class sized bubbles there would be twelve of these. However, should there be an increase in the spread of the virus in the local community we would move to twelve class bubbles and re-organise pick up, drop off, and lunchtime etc. to match. Where ever possible, consistent teachers will cover the class teachers' PPA time. There will however be some members of staff who will cross bubbles within school.

### Limit the number of adults on site at any time:

The greatest risk continues to be that of adult to adult transmission. Therefore, there will be significant changes to the ways in which parents/carers can access the school site and much reduced face to face contact between staff and parents/carers.

There will be a staggered start and finish time and a managed system of drop-off, entry and exit in place in both the mornings and the afternoons. Our year 6, 5 and key worker parents and carers have managed this very well this term so I am confident we can make it work for the whole school in September.

### Drop off and collection times:

Who	In at	Break	Lunch	Out
Y6 (3 classes)	8.40	10.45-11 (the lower playgrounds)	12-12.45 (first 15mins in class eating lunch)	3.00
Y5 (3 classes)	8.50	10.45-11 (the upper playground and quiet garden)	12-12.45 (first 15mins in class eating lunch)	3.10
Y 3/4 (3 classes: Estonia, Austria and Ireland)	9.00	11-11.15 (the upper playground and quiet garden)	12.30-1.15 (first 15mins in class eating lunch)	3.20
Y3/4 (3 classes: Monaco, Andorra and Malta)	9.10	11-11.15 (the lower playgrounds)	12.30-1.15 (first 15mins in class eating lunch)	3.30

**It is vital that you keep to the above times** in order for the area about the car park to be managed safely and well. The government guidance also asks all those children who can to walk to school, to do so, rather than causing congestion by the school gates. If we have any adults congregating at the gates or inconsiderate parking, we will contact the PCSO. We have a child with significantly reduced walking capacity coming into school in September and that family must be able to access the disabled car parking bay freely.

**For children in year 6 and 5** please enter the school using the main school entrance gate and go through the field gates to the back doors of your class rooms, as you did on transition day. For Mexico classroom, they will need to enter into the back door of the shared area just after Morocco class and walk along the one-way corridor to their classroom. Exit for all will be via the same gates.

**For children in year 3 and 4** please enter the school using the single side gate on the footpath, and exit using the gates onto the car park, (the opposite direction of what you all did on the transition days), and do the same at collection time.

Each child should be accompanied by **ONE ADULT ONLY**. **Younger siblings who cannot be safely cared for at home may be brought onto the school site, preferably in a pushchair, but if not they must hold an adult's hand. Parents/carers MUST collect their child and leave the school site immediately. Children must remain with an adult at all times. They must not run around the playground or play on any of the outside equipment.**

We will keep these arrangements under review as it is very hard to predict how quickly we can get 325 children into school and 325 adults onto and off the site safely, not just for us but also for our neighbours and our local community.

If you have siblings in different year groups please do contact us so that we can consider whether we can accommodate one time for you.

### **Contact with school staff:**

We will be closing these temporary email accounts today 21<sup>st</sup> July: [djshomelearning@gmail.com](mailto:djshomelearning@gmail.com) and [djstransitionyr3Sept20@gmail.com](mailto:djstransitionyr3Sept20@gmail.com)

Should you need to contact the school over the summer holidays, please email Mrs Sherry Rogers via: [s.rogers@denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:s.rogers@denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk) who is a member of our Senior Leadership Team.

From Thursday September 3<sup>rd</sup> September when the school office re-opens, please use the normal email address for any queries: [admin.office@denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin.office@denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk) Office staff will pick these up and forward them to the relevant staff member within the school.

If your child forgets to bring in their coat or water bottle, there will be a box placed on a table outside the front door for you to leave this in. It will be vital that it is named so that we can reunite it with the rightful owner!

### **Reduce the number of items transferring between home and school:**

In order to reduce the transmission of the virus, we are asking that all families limit the number of items that come in from home and we will also be limiting the items which are sent home from school. Our ideal would be for each child to walk through the school gate with one small school bag containing their named water bottle, their break-time snack of fruit or vegetable, and their packed lunch (if they are not having a school dinner).

Initially the school hall will not be used for children to eat their dinners, and we won't be running the break time snack shop either. Children will eat in their classrooms, with the school dinners being initially packed lunches which will be delivered to their classrooms.

**When it is the children's PE days (timetable to follow in September) we ask that the children come to school in their PE kits so that we do not have cloakrooms full of PE kits in school.**

Children will however be able to bring home library books, which will be set to one side when they come back into school, before being sent home with another child. This will mean that your child keeps a book for longer than usual.

All lunches please must be paid for via Scopay in advance so that multiple people are not handling cash.

### **Increased hygiene:**

One of the most important measures is that of increased hygiene. Children will be washing their hands and/or using hand sanitizer many times during the school day.

We will talk to the children about the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' message for tissues, for when children need to sneeze or cough, or for when they have a cold.

Each classroom will have its own supply of cleaning materials. Classroom furniture and frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned at the end of every day, and additional resources e.g. i-pads, computers, PE equipment will be wiped down before and after use.

There will be a strict procedure for children to follow when using the school toilets (and they will be taught this in September) which will continue to be divided into upper school and lower school toilets. We do not have enough toilets to allocate to each bubble.

### **Importance of self-isolation and engagement with NHS Test and Trace:**

All members of the school community are expected to comply with the government self-isolation and NHS Test and Trace guidelines. These may well change as the status of the pandemic changes. The school will at all times follow the latest Public Health guidance and all our families are expected to do the same. This may include the school being directed, by Public Health England, to close one or more year group bubbles to prevent the spread of any confirmed cases. If your child becomes ill at school with possible COVID symptoms, i.e. has a temperature and a persistent cough we will ask that you collect them immediately and arrange for a test to be taken. **The school bubble will NOT close until we have heard if it is a confirmed case.**

### **Attendance at school:**

From September attendance at school will again become compulsory for all children. If you have any concerns about your child returning at the beginning of the new term then please do get in touch so that we can seek to reassure you.

### **Children will be expected to wear school uniform and school PE kits on the days of their PE lessons.**

I am aware that this is quite a lot of information to take on board. Do take time to read it all carefully and to get in touch if you have any questions. It is also worth remembering that between now and the start of the school year on 7<sup>th</sup> September that some things might change. Please check your emails carefully prior to the return to school. Any reminders will be sent out by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

Thank you all for your continuing support through what is an extraordinary time.

Best wishes

Elaine Viner  
Head Teacher