



Mr A Clarke
 Head Teacher

www.denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk

Friday 2nd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Weekly news update

First of all, can I extend a warm welcome to all our new parents, whose children have started with us recently. I hope, even in these remote and distanced times, that you have found Denmead Junior School to be a friendly and welcoming place and that your children have settled in quickly and happily.

Thank you all again for both providing the school with constructive feedback on how we are doing and also for following the guidance we have put in place to keep you, your children and our community safe.

Pick-ups and drop-offs, whilst still I'm sure a logistical challenge, seem to be working relatively smoothly. The public car park use is still causing us some concern and we are still reviewing how we can make this a safe but usable space. Your continued patience and following of general car park protocol is still very much needed and appreciated. I will continue to do my best to monitor the situation and provide some friendly advice where needed.

I'm hoping that with this month being 'WALKTOBER' that maybe many more of you will choose to walk to school or take the decision to park further out to introduce a short walk into your daily routine. Next week, is WALK TO SCHOOL week, which I'm hoping will provide further encouragement to 'ditch' the car in preference of a healthier alternative.

In response to a parental request, Mr Marley - our Site Manager - has spoken to our neighbours, to ask to have the hedge alongside the main path into school, cut back.

For our upper school parents, we will now be using the staff car park area permanently for pick-up and drop-off as the field is likely to be too wet moving forward.

Speaking of wet weather, which certainly seems to be entrenched today, can I provide some clarity around what to do when it is raining at drop-off times. On rainy days, school will be open from 8.40am, when the gates open. If it is raining, we will send the children in to class. Please work with us and still try and ensure that you arrive at school for your child's drop-off time and not before if you can at all help it. On wet days we would encourage you to wait in the car or to set off from home to arrive at your allotted time.

As you will have seen from Mrs Burton's email earlier this morning, a new school menu will be available from Monday, that has some new and exciting dishes for the children to choose from. Pleasingly, as the colder weather draws in, there will be a choice of 2 hot options each day. Menus have been drawn up to include the popular but 'least messy' options. This will run until April 2021 but will be reviewed initially to see how the new menu is being received.

Yesterday, we marked National Poetry Day, by engaging in a range of poetic activities, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

Poetry, whether it be writing, listening to or performing, is a great way to get children interested in language.

Maybe share a poem or two this wet weekend with your children.

RAINY DAY

I do not like a rainy day.
 The road is wet, the sky is gray.
 They dress me up, from head to toes,
 In lots and lots of rubber clothes.
 I wish the sun would come and stay.
 I do not like a rainy day.

William Wise



We had our 2nd PRIDE assembly this week, and once again it was a thoroughly positive experience. It was great to share a 'real' assembly with Ethiopia class this week and, as we film all our assemblies, I know the rest of the school also enjoyed it too. I safely visit each of the classes, standing on the threshold, to present each winner with a certificate also. Below are the winners from last week and this week. I will share these with you each week from now on.

Lower School Winners	Reason
Lottie	<i>For being constantly positive and helping others through their challenges.</i>
Katie	<i>Showing inspiration in her attitude towards her work, her new surroundings and here care towards her friends.</i>
Dolly	<i>For showing determination to improve her throwing skills in PE and not ever giving up.</i>
Charlie	<i>For showing resilience when working on his spellings and handwriting after lockdown. He's made a superb effort and it is most definitely paying off!</i>
Alice	<i>Positive attitude at all times and showing pride in her work in all her books – excellent presentation</i>
Maisie	<i>For showing respect by linking and listening and for always taking interest in others ideas.</i>
Year 5 Winners	Reason
Isabelle	<i>Being determined to participate in class especially with PDL and maths.</i>
Ffion	<i>Positivity – always trying her hardest, engaging with lessons and having a smile on her face.</i>
Josh	<i>He embodies positivity. He's always smiling and kind to everyone.</i>
Year 6 Winners	Reason
Katherine	<i>For consistently excellent contributions in class and helping others around her</i>
Ruby	<i>For her determination to try her best all the time, even when she finds something challenging.</i>
Harry	<i>For showing positivity in lessons and determination to improve his addition and subtraction skills in maths.</i>

And for this week:

Lower School Winners	Reason
Alana	<i>For always sharing her excellent ideas with the class.</i>
Alex	<i>For showing respect to all those he works and plays with, supporting others and welcoming everyone.</i>
Emily	<i>For showing determination and resilience to not give up and overcome the learning pit (particularly in maths.) An inspiration to the class!</i>
Harry	<i>Inspiring others with a wonderful piece of descriptive writing using lots of powerful description and punctuation! An excellent effort Harry!</i>
Matilda	<i>Positivity when working with clay by helping others when it went wrong. Also showing respect by tidying away the wet play resources.</i>
Ellisen	<i>For showing determination when completing challenging word problems efficiently in maths.</i>
Year 5 Winners	Reason
Lily-May	<i>For showing respect towards everyone and helping a friend in need.</i>
Rubi	<i>Determination – Working extremely hard in English to produce a non-chronological report. Having a never give up attitude in all subjects even when she finds it hard.</i>
Phoebe	<i>For having a positive attitude and showing determination in her English work.</i>
Year 6 Winners	Reason
Rose	<i>For inspiring others with her non-chronological report, and overall positivity in class.</i>
Oliver	<i>For his amazing determination and resilience when completing our maths linked to perimeter.</i>
Alexis	<i>For showing determination during bikability and for being resilience when she fell off her bike.</i>

Please see below additional reminders and information from the office.
Have a great weekend.

A. Clarke.

Mr Andy Clarke
Head Teacher



REMINDERS THIS WEEK:

Keep warm and dry: Please bear in mind that the weather can turn quickly, so children should have a coat with them and layers for in class – school jumper or cardigan etc - as we do keep windows and doors open for the best ventilation.

Flu immunisation form: The Immunisation Team are in school on Monday 2nd November to vaccinate all children with a signed consent form, so please remember to complete and submit the online form (copy attached).

Year 7 Admissions: A reminder that the deadline for applying for a year 7 place is 31st October 2020. Different schools are offering different ways to offer tours to prospective parents, so do check their individual websites.

Illness advice: With ongoing Covid concerns and the cough and cold season upon us, we do understand that the decision to send your child to school if they are unwell can be difficult. Please do refer to the attached guidance to help determine when is appropriate to get a Covid test, and for advice to help inform your decision. If you remain unsure, you should contact your GP or ring 111 for further assistance.

WHAT'S ON NEXT WEEK

Walk to School Week: Many of us were reminded during lockdown just how valuable exercise and spending time outside enjoying our surroundings could be for our wellbeing. Although the weather may have turned, the benefits of walking should not be forgotten, so we'd like to encourage all our families to join in 'Walk to School Week' (postponed from May). As well as a healthy, free activity, it offers time to chat about the day, a chance to learn about the local environment, practice important road safety skills and reduce traffic and pollution in our community. Next week children will be able to add their journeys to a class running total. With free car parks around Denmead, there are definitely opportunities for those of you who live further afield to still join in.

Harvest collection: To support the local foodbank, we would appreciate any donations of tinned goods particularly (pies, vegetables, pasta) next week. Children can place items into the marked boxes by the upper and lower school entrances children as they come in to school. Items will be stored safely in quarantine over the weekend and passed to the charity the following week.

#HelloYellow – Friday 9th October: We round off the week with Friday's #HelloYellow day (along with the infant school) in support of the YoungMinds charity, to mark World Mental Health Day. We have all seen and felt the effects of isolation over the past few months and this charity supports young people and their families who have found it particularly tough. We would like to get everyone at school united to show our children that mental health matters and that they are not alone, by wearing something yellow on Friday 9th October. It could be a hat, a pair of socks, a hair accessory (no hair dye please) but as the children will still be going out for break and P.E. as normal, please ensure it is appropriate for the school day. Unfortunately we will NOT be able to collect cash on the day, so please donate to the charity directly at <https://youngminds.org.uk/get-involved/donate-to-youngminds/> where you can also find out more about their valuable work.

Key information sent out this week:

- Rotary box scheme
- Menu update email
- Car parking email
- Healthcare guidance
- Online assembly email

Key dates:

Monday 5th October – Walk to school week & Harvest Festival

Friday 9th October – #HelloYellow day

Friday 23rd October – INSET DAY followed by half term

Monday 2nd November – First day back & FLU immunisation day and meal prices increase to £2.50

