



Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Mr A Clarke
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Friday 9th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Weekly news update

Where is the time going? I can't believe we're already into October! That said, looking into the eyes of some of the children and staff, I can sense that will be, for some, a long term!

Thank you so much for your Harvest donations. They are all very gratefully received and will be going to a very worthy cause in the Waterlooville Food Bank. The difference they will almost certainly make to families and children cannot be underestimated.

Also, thank you also for supporting our Home Learning, especially with helping, supporting and encouraging your children to read regularly at home. Once again, the impact that regular and routine reading can have on a child's development is huge. And just as important, fostering a love of reading and having the opportunity to share a book with your child is something that will have deep and lasting effects. My two boys are enjoying sharing the book, 'Dave the Pigeon' which I can definitely recommend for younger readers!

Mr Stapleton has been busy organising a number of book focussed events with an opportunity later this month to virtually interview the real-life author, Tom Palmer, who many of our children are already familiar with. Nearer Christmas, we are also looking at organising further virtual workshops which focus on Charles Dicken's A Christmas Carol and will see the children engaging in a dramatic response to this wonderful and iconic Christmas story. Your children will definitely have the opportunity of experiencing one of the above.

We are also in the process of looking at further developing our library area to once again provide a further focus on promoting reading within school. I will share with you details of this in the near future but I am very excited about this possible project and the positive impact it can have on all our children.

I have just undertaken the first part of my MIDAS training that will allow me to safely drive a minibus in the future. Although we can use this training in a variety of different ways, one of the ways would be to arrange some visits to the local library which is just out of range if we were to walk. Getting children in to early habits of using their local library is another way of embedding reading for pleasure as well as supporting an amazing local resource ... so watch this space!

We are hoping to hold a virtual Parents Evening on the first week after half term using our MS Teams platform to enable this to happen. The staff have just received some initial MS Teams training and Mr Goodens has been developing a user guide to enable you to use this platform also. You will be able to sign up for a parents evening slot in much the same way as in the past, with the addition of providing the email address you would like us to send the invite link to.

We have had a few queries regarding lost property and the toileting arrangements for children throughout the school day which I'm happy to share to allay any concerns and to provide further clarification.

With regard to Lost Property, because we are trying to things in bubbles as much as possible and because property tends to become 'lost' at lunchtimes, all items are currently being placed back into that bubble's playtime box allowing children the opportunity to look in that box the following day. Occasionally, there is lost property which we cannot be sure which bubble it is from, so we keep it in a more central location. If a piece of clothing has either just been lost or has been lost for a period time, please alert me on the playground and I would be happy to have look for you. Similarly, at the end of each half term, we will bring all 5 boxes to the front of school so that you can look for missing items yourself.



Toileting is currently under review. We have been encouraging children to go during lesson time to prevent large numbers using the toilets at breaktime and lunchtime. The children are definitely using this system but we are finding that because they are going more frequently and in greater numbers during the lesson, that this is having an adverse effect on the learning. We will shortly be moving to a more controlled system at breaktime and lunchtimes whereby children would collect a token so that we can limit and spread the need to use the toilets at any one time. We will still be allowing children to go during lesson time but opening the toilets more fully at breaktime and lunchtime should help on all fronts. There will never be an occasion when a child who needs the loo is denied the opportunity.

Please see below for further information from the office and PTA, together with this week's PRIDE certificate winners.

Enjoy your weekend, the weather looks much better than last weekend so hopefully you can enjoy the outdoors and the beautiful Autumn colours.

A. Clarke.

Mr Andy Clarke
Head Teacher

Lower School Winners	Reason
Lucy	<i>For sharing excellent ideas when writing her time slip narrative in English.</i>
Lauren	<i>For having a positive and determined attitude towards all of her learning.</i>
Kai	<i>For having a positive attitude by supporting and encouraging a friend in need.</i>
Sienna	<i>For being quietly determined to make her voice heard.</i>
Harvey	<i>Positivity - he always has a beaming smile and is willing to try new vocabulary in his writing and to push himself in his maths. Even when he makes a mistake, he carries on smiling and tries again.</i>
Kobi	<i>For being an inspiration in PE by listening to feedback and for being a real team player!</i>
Year 5 Winners	Reason
Lily	<i>For showing positivity when joining a new school and showing respect towards everyone.</i>
Freddie	<i>For positivity and respect. Nominated by his friends for always being kind and showing respect to everyone.</i>
Henry	<i>For being a positive influence in PE, supporting all members of the class with accuracy practice.</i>
Year 6 Winners	Reason
Harry	<i>For participating and working extremely hard in all areas, especially RE and Science.</i>
Rory	<i>For always working with determination, taking great pride in his learning and asking for support when it is needed.</i>
Olivia	<i>For always being determined to do her best and show excellence. She is an inspiration to others.</i>

COMMUNICATIONS OUT THIS WEEK:

- Photo proofs sent home
- **Next week:** Home learning for upper and lower school and updates on the Bushcraft and Y4 & Y6 school residential trips already booked.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- **Wednesday 20th October** – photo order deadline
- **Friday 23rd October** – INSET DAY followed by half term week
- **Monday 2nd November** – First day back/flu immunisation day/meal prices increase to £2.50



REMINDERS THIS WEEK:

Share your healthy activity: Thank you to those of you who have supported Walk to School Week. Hopefully you've enjoyed some of the lovely autumnal mornings. Thank you also to those of you who have emailed the school with pictures and stories of all of the fun and healthy activities you've been enjoying outside of school. It's not too late to get more in though – so if you've been for a bike ride, explored the local area by foot or maybe built a den in the woods, do email in details of your adventures to us via s.burton@denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk

Hot dinners: It's been great to see more children enjoying school dinners this week. If your child would like to try one, they simply order a red or green option on the board when they arrive in class. Payment for lunches (currently £2.40 per meal) can be done on the SCOPAY App or online easily. You can top up or check account balances anytime on the go.

HELLO FROM THE PTA!



We'd like to extend a warm welcome particularly to all the new families who have joined this lovely school this autumn and do hope you and your children are settling into your new routines at DJS well.

Although we won't be able to run our usual big Christmas fundraising events this term, the PTA are hoping to come up one or two smaller scale Christmas activities then be more active later in the Spring.

In the meantime, we are planning to hold our AGM remotely to elect a new PTA committee for the year ahead. We would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in getting involved with the PTA, suggesting ideas, joining the committee in a role. If you'd like to find out more then please email the PTA djs_pta@hotmail.com or find out more about us and what we do on our Facebook page: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/Denmead-Junior-School-PTA-452577551520068/>

All staff DBS checked, first aid trained
and fully safeguarded



26th - 30th October 2020!



A fun, dynamic and exciting holiday club for
children aged 5-11.

From just £19 for core hours (10am - 4pm)
£3.50ph for additional hours

Denmead junior School
8:00- 18:00

**Special
Offers
Available!**

With games such as Dodgeball,
Ultimate Tag and the much loved
Chicken, Hero, Pair!

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HOLIDAY CLUB OFFERED – OCTOBER HALF TERM

ABC coaching will be in school during half term, observing DJS's established bubbles.

Do get in touch directly with them to book a place for your child or if you have any queries.

