



# Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Mr A Clarke  
Head Teacher

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Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Weekly news update

This is my final newsletter of the half-term, which is written with mixed emotions. Yesterday, we responded to our first positive Covid case within school. Decisions involving closing any part of the school and disrupting your children's learning are never taken lightly and are done so to protect everyone both within and beyond our school.

Whilst there was a sense of inevitability about a positive case occurring in our school community, it still was a bit of a shock. On reflection, I think the school responded both in a timely and appropriate way, following both our risk assessment and then the guidance from Public Health England.

I know the decision by Public Health England to send all the children from the Year 5 bubble home and self-isolate, rather than just the class, has caused some consternation and we are in the process of reviewing our break and lunchtime arrangements to see if there is a reasonable response to consider moving forward. One thing we are considering is zoning the children into class groups out on the playground, in the last 2 weeks leading up to the Christmas holidays.

The two downsides to this will be less space for the children to play in and eliminating the opportunity for the children to play with their friends beyond the class. The one big upside would be that, should we experience another positive case in this time window, we would likely only be advised to send the class home and not the year group bubble. But that is a matter of conjecture rather than fact, especially as government guidance is often changing on a daily basis. I will keep you updated on this and may even canvas your views next half-term.

On a more positive note, I can confirm that the child in question has only experienced mild symptoms and is already feeling much better. I have received no other reports of children or adults feeling unwell and exhibiting Covid symptoms.

If you need to contact the school over the half-term break, to update us on any developments, please use the school office email, which will be checked throughout the holiday period: [admin.office@denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin.office@denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk)

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support with your children's reading. We are monitoring this each week and collecting whole school data to help us measure how successful we all are in encouraging reading in our children. I am very pleased to report that each week has seen a steady increase in the percentage of children reading; thank you and well done ... keep it up!

**As a reminder, the deadline for making an appointment for Parents Evening is noon tomorrow.**

I have really enjoyed my first half-term as Headteacher of Denmead Junior School. I think we have all worked hard to make Denmead Junior School a safe, happy and productive place to continue to learn and grow.



I wish you all a safe and happy holiday and look forward to seeing you all on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Kind regards,



Mr Andy Clarke  
Head Teacher

**DJS – PRIDE CERTIFICATE – WEEKLY AWARDS**  
**(Which will be presented to the children after half term)**

<b>Lower School Winners</b>	
<b>Joshua</b>	<i>For showing excellence in his attitude to all of his learning.</i>
<b>Imogen</b>	<i>For inspiring others with her sense of curiosity and wonder during our lessons.</i>
<b>Macey</b>	<i>For showing positivity and determination in her maths learning. Always a smile on her face, which is lovely to see.</i>
<b>Joshua</b>	<i>For showing respect when helping others on learning they find tricky.</i>
<b>Tessa</b>	<i>For inspiring others by always sharing her ideas with the class and having a go at answering questions. She also tries hard in all her lessons and her art work was particularly well done. She has also helped the new students to settle in.</i>
<b>Mia</b>	<i>For showing respect to all adults and her classmates by always saying please and thank you as well as demonstrating excellent listening skills. She has also been nominated for always being determined to complete her work to the best of her ability.</i>
<b>Year 5 Winners</b>	
<b>Stanley</b>	<i>for being determined to create a fantastic piece of art work and for inspiring others with his ideas and skill.</i>
<b>Ella</b>	<i>Ella has been nominated every week this term and for good reason. She shows respect to everyone she comes into contact with and exhibits excellence in her attitude and approach to work.</i>
<b>Henry</b>	<i>Spreading positivity and inspiring others to follow his lead.</i>
<b>Year 6 Winners</b>	
<b>Oscar</b>	<i>For knocking his English work out of the park! Oscar has shared excellent ideas and inspired others with his excellent use of powerful, descriptive vocabulary. Well done.</i>
<b>Reggie</b>	<i>For showing great determination when mastering long multiplications. Demonstrating that if at first you don't succeed, try, try and try again.</i>
<b>Harry</b>	<i>For showing self-improvement and positivity in all his lessons.</i>

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

- **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** – INSET DAY followed by half term week
- **Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October** – Y6 application deadline for Y7 place next September
- **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** – First day back/flu immunisation day/meal prices increase to £2.50
- **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November** – Remembrance Sunday
- **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November** – Remembrance Day (*more details to follow in due course*)
- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup>** – Children In Need (*more details to following in due course*)

**COMMUNICATIONS OUT THIS WEEK:**

- Covid information
- Residential trip letters – due out by the end of Friday

