



Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

Bere Road
Denmead
Waterlooville
Hampshire
PO7 6PH

Tel: 023 9225 2735

Mr A Clarke
Head Teacher

www.denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk

Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Weekly news update

To say each week has been eventful one feels a bit of an understatement at the moment!

I'd like to start by thanking all of you for your understanding and compliance in following our new Covid rules. Your support in this has not only made our school that much safer but just as important, helps people feel safer too. For those of you not able to wear a mask for medical reasons, I hope you didn't mind us asking. For those of you who fall into this category or if you have forgotten your mask but still wish to come on to the playground to collect your child/ren, could I ask that you socially distance from others whilst you wait.

Playtimes have proven to be generally successful, having moved into class zones. I am acutely aware that this arrangement is not ideal, but feels the right decision to be making at this time. I do understand that many children enjoyed playing with others from their wider year group bubble and so for whom, this new arrangement is particularly difficult. **Please let us know if your child is finding the new playtime arrangements tricky so that we can try and resolve any difficulties.**

I have to say, your children have been brilliant in understanding why the school has made the decision to move to these new arrangements and have responded extremely positively and maturely.

Thank you also for supporting us with our new Parents Evening arrangements. Apart from a couple of minor technical glitches the two evenings have gone very smoothly. The feedback that I have received from both parents and staff is one of broad satisfaction. As I've said before, our focus has been on safety and happiness and from that, learning and progress will flow. Please be reassured though, my staff have been working diligently to design and prepare a curriculum that is both engaging and appropriately challenging. I am always very reassured that when I visit classrooms the children not only seem to be enjoying their learning but what they are learning always seems pleasingly diverse and of a high quality.

If you have any further concerns about your child's education, please do let me know as I am genuinely passionate about making sure every child has the opportunity to thrive.

This Remembrance Sunday, I hope to be able to lay a poppy wreath produced by some of our year 6 service children on behalf of our school, at the memorial on the green. You will have received an email earlier this week with details of the planned virtual service this year. We shall be marking Remembrance Day itself next Wednesday 11th at 11am in classrooms. I will prepare a special virtual assembly that will be followed by the 'Last Post' which all children will be able to hear from their classrooms.

On that Wednesday, children who attend cubs, scouts, guides, rainbows or boys/girls brigade, will be encouraged to wear that uniform if they would like to, out of respect. If they have PE that day, they may bring in their PE kit in separately.



For those of you who are in our armed services or whom have family members, past and present, who have served or who are actively serving, can I thank you for your service – you are all heroes.

Well done to Anthill who won last half-term's House Cup and who today are enjoying a well-deserved non-uniform day. Speaking of non-uniform days, **next Friday is Children in Need Day, where we ask, if children would like, to come in non-school uniform with a Pudsey theme.** As we did with #HelloYellow day, **if you are able to make £1 donation, please do so via Scopay.** We hope to be linking in with Joe Wicks as he nears the end of his 24-hour PE challenge.

And finally, my recent PRIDE assembly focussed on the story of Robert the Bruce and the spider ... 'If at first you don't succeed, try, try again'. Imparting upon children (and us adults) the importance of not being put off by failure or difficulty is a vital life lesson and one that does not diminish when you leave school. At Denmead Junior School we are determined to get things right for your children and where we fail it is not for the want of trying and trust me, we will definitely try and try again.

Have a 'great!?!' lockdown weekend.

A. Clarke

Mr Andy Clarke
Head Teacher

KEY NOTICES THIS WEEK:

- **Calshot residential for current year 4:** Deposit due today (can be paid online over the weekend/brought in for next Monday 9th November).
- **Flu vaccine:** If you have any queries about the immunisation which took place on Monday this week, please contact the nursing team directly on 0300 003 0323.
- **School photos:** should be arriving early next week – look for these coming home.
- **School menu:** a tweaked version of the school menu with a 2-week rolling programme will begin next week. Dated copies will be emailed home this afternoon and available in class. A reminder the cost is now £2.50 per meal.
- **PE days have changed just for the following classes from next week:**
 - Estonia now **Monday** and Thursday
 - Ethiopia now **Tuesday** and Wednesday
 - Mexico now Monday and **Thursday**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- **Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday**
- **Wednesday 11th November:** Remembrance Day observed in school with optional club uniform (as referred to above by Mr Clarke)
- **Friday 13th – Children In Need:** Pudsey theme non uniform. No cash please – donations via SCOPAY

