



Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Friday 13th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Weekly news update

I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well. For those of you self-isolating, I hope you remain well and we look forward to having you back in school soon.

We have been working hard to make sure those children and families who are having to self-isolate feel well supported and well stocked with appropriate learning resources. We are determined to get this right for you and your child. Please let us know if there is anything we can do for you as a family and we will endeavour to help in any way we can.

I have heard that this morning's round of catch-up MS Teams meetings for those self-isolating has proven for some, rather challenging. Mr Goodens in particular, is working hard behind the scenes to address these technical issues. We hope that you never have need to use our lockdown provision but if you do, we want you to have a really positive experience. As of today, I am not aware of any further transmission within school but I am acutely aware that, whether we like it or not, Covid is around us as a community and we must continue to be proportionately vigilant, which I believe we are.

Thank you for supporting Children in Need Day today. Your children look great and you all know what a great cause it is and how the money raised makes a real difference to many children and families, especially in current circumstances. Some of you may have experienced the true joy of seeing 'Pudsey Clarke', as one gob-smacked child referred to me this morning. For those of you who missed this unusual phenomenon, count yourselves as extremely lucky! Hopefully it spread a little joy on a wet and miserable Friday morning! If you haven't got round to donating online yet, you can still do so on SCOPAY.



Thank you also for your support with the Rotary Shoeboxes which were collected recently. Your generosity and thoughtfulness will literally transform some child's Christmas this year.



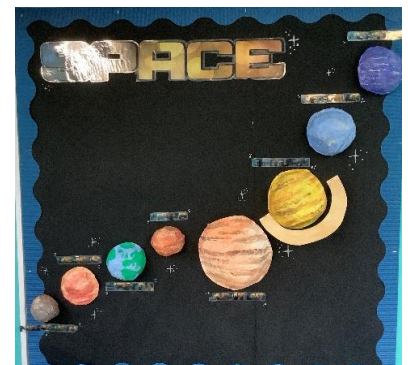
On Wednesday, we respectfully and collectively, marked Remembrance Day with a special virtual assembly and then with the Last Post being played throughout school at 11am for every child and adult to hear and observe. Thank you to all the children who were able to wear their uniforms – it made the moment even more special.

Shortly thereafter, I made my way down to the War Memorial to lay our wreath, which had been made by some of our service children last week. I then made a short visit to the church as a further mark of respect. It is important that we continue to share these traditions with our children so that future generations understand the sacrifices that past generations made on our behalf – Lest We Forget.



Although these are challenging times, I am still very much enjoying the opportunity and privilege of leading Denmead Junior School. Your children are doing phenomenally well, in difficult circumstances, to focus so well on their learning. I think in all honesty, it has had a galvanizing effect and the children seem really determined to prove both what fantastic learners they can be and also what great role models they can be too. I am very proud of them, especially those who may have been without their class teacher this week.

Despite the challenges, there are many things going on behind the scenes. As one child put it, “Mr Clarke must be very rich because the school looks so tidy and new around the place”. Now as much as I agree with this rather lovely and observant child, I can reassure you parents that I am not really rich (lost my fortune on Pudsey outfits!) and I can’t really take credit for how the school is looking. I have a tremendous staff, who take a real PRIDE in how their classrooms stimulate, engage and inspire their children. And I also have the most amazing site manager in Mr Marley, who can truly turn his hand to anything. But I would also like to make you aware of Mrs Blossom, who has been beaver away over weekends and after school, in creating some amazing displays for the children to enjoy.



I want the school to be a place where children feel a real sense of PRIDE and joy in being part of something very special.

I can’t wait for the time where you can, once again, see for yourselves, what a great school Denmead Junior School is.



I am very aware that our prospective parents in Year 2, who are at this moment in the throes of making a choice of where their child will go to junior school, like you, don't have the opportunity of visiting inside school. We also all know, that a school is far more than the building and its contents. It's about a feeling, an ethos, a clear set of values and a vision for the future. It's also very much a personal experience; one that both you and your children fully partake in, buy-in to and feel included in.

I was hoping, that you could help me convey this to our prospective parents in telling me what you think of our school, especially under my tenure. I would then use your comments to communicate to future parents what you and your children think of our school so they too can get a sense of what they can look forward to if they make the decision to send their children to our school.

If you do feel able to make comment, please email the school office – your comments will be gratefully received. Please also be reminded, that if we are falling short of your expectations, please also let me know, so that we can address any concerns swiftly and fully.

I wish you all a very happy, Pudsey filled weekend!

A. Clarke

Mr Andy Clarke
Head Teacher

REMINDERS THIS WEEK:

- **PE days have changed just for the following classes:**
 - Estonia now **Monday** and Thursday
 - Ethiopia now **Tuesday** and Wednesday
 - Mexico now Monday and **Thursday**
 - Morocco now Tuesday and **Friday**

A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE:

Our office team are working with a reduced number than normal currently and dealing with a wider remit of tasks in the current climate.

Your continued patience while we deal with queries and requests at this time is much appreciated – we are doing all we can to help inform, advise and support everyone in our school community.

KEY DATES THIS HALF TERM:

- **Thursday 17th December** – Christmas lunch day
- **Friday 18th December** – last day of term – finish times:
Yr6 1.30pm * Y5 1.35pm * **Austria/Estonia/Ireland** - 1.40pm * **Andorra/Malta/Monaco** - 1.45pm

