



# Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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[www.denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk](http://www.denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk)

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Weekly Newsletter from the Head Teacher

First of all, welcome back Mexico class. It was lovely to see you all today and I know Mr Restall was also extremely delighted to see you too. It's been a happy day for both Chile and Morocco, who also welcomed back Mrs Marks and Miss Ayres from their self-isolation, which for anyone who has had to self-isolate, is no fun. All my staff who are self-isolating as a pre-cautionary measure, are working hard behind the scenes, preparing work, making phone calls, conducting MS Teams meetings, keeping in contact with the supply teachers covering their classes and being beamed into class on a daily basis through the wonders of modern technology. In the case of Mr Goodens and Austria class, he has even been taking the class virtually with the physical help of Mrs Harvey and Miss Norton.

Monaco, we miss you but we hope you have still felt part of our school this last week. I think we can definitely say, we are a 'connected' school!

I am pleased to say, that we have only one supply teacher in today and she has been in school throughout the whole week and so feels almost like one of the staff – thank you Miss Brigg!

I know it's not ideal to have supply teachers, and nothing beats the importance of a child's class teacher, but I am proud of the lengths we have gone to, to make sure the school stays open, the school remains a safe environment for all, that it remains a happy and purposeful place and that those who are unable to be in school, for whatever reason, continue to feel a 'connected' part of our school... that said, I'm definitely ready for the weekend!

Despite wearing many hats this week (you know I like to wear a hat!), I think I've been gatekeeper, learning support assistant, one-to-one helper, IT facilitator, mover and shifter, office boy assistant, home learning deliverer ... oh, and Head Teacher, I have still been able to move forward in a couple of exciting areas which I will tease you with now.

We had one of our monthly 'virtual' governor's meetings yesterday, where I was able to share with them the school's plans to develop the library and the forest school area. We will be meeting again shortly to go through the fine details of these plans, at which point I will share them also with you but I can say they are very exciting! It's another strong signal that even during this difficult period of Covid, we can still look forward, we can still look up and we can still take strides to move toward a better, brighter future.

Talking of which, Estonia class had a moment of awe and wonder this week which cost absolutely nothing, which would've been missed if it weren't for an observant Henry who spotted the most magical cloud formation that I think I've ever seen. It looked like an artist had created a work of art or a famous chef had whisked layers of white meringue over the rooftops – it was really quite spectacular. There is beauty all around us, if only we take the time to look and see...

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV7w5TaYjRA&ab\\_channel=KateBushMusic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV7w5TaYjRA&ab_channel=KateBushMusic)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcVpIR4CP7I&ab\\_channel=MixedBagMusic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcVpIR4CP7I&ab_channel=MixedBagMusic)



Wishing you all a great weekend,

*A. Clarke.*

**Mr Andy Clarke**  
**Head Teacher**

*PS. I mentioned in my newsletter last week, if you would be happy to give us some feedback on how we are doing. I will be shortly sending out a survey monkey questionnaire which I would encourage you to fill in and return, adding comments where you feel able.*

### **REMINDERS THIS WEEK:**

- Please remember, suggestions for home learning and other resources are available on the website, to cover the first couple of days in the event of your child needing to self-isolate, here: <https://www.denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=HOME+LEARNING&pid=71>
- Although every child should now have received a personalised login letter (paper for most) for MS Teams, please remember this should ONLY be accessed in the event of a full class bubble lockdown. If you have not received this yet, please contact Mrs Burton in the office.

### **KEY DATES THIS HALF TERM:**

- **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December** – home learning deadline for the second piece for upper and lower school.
- **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas lunch day.
- **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** – last day of term – finish times:  
Yr6 1.30pm \* Y5 1.35pm \* **Austria/Estonia/Ireland** - 1.40pm \* **Andorra/Malta/Monaco** - 1.45pm

