



# Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Weekly Newsletter from the Head Teacher

Christmas is definitely coming to Denmead! We only have good, kind-hearted elves at our school, many in the form of our lovely PTA, who have kindly donated class festive bags of cheer to brighten up the classrooms with Christmas decorations. They have also arranged for Parkers to provide us with a real Christmas tree to display the children's decorations, which is very exciting. I know, like yourselves, the PTA have been disappointed not to be able to support the school in the many ways that they have in the past, and I know they have been really keen to try and give the children a lift in this Christmas period. Thank you ladies for all your hard work behind the scenes – we and the children, really appreciate it!

The kind and helpful elves don't only stop with our PTA. Some of the more observant of you this morning will have noticed workmen on-site measuring out dimensions over on the grassy area outside of the Forest School. From Monday, over the next 8-10 days, they will be busy constructing our new Outdoor Classroom! This is part of an ambitious plan to deliver a structured 4-year Outdoor Learning programme for all children. Miss Halford and Mrs Painting will be busy in the Spring term thinking of new, exciting and innovative ways of delivering an outdoor curriculum that will give children the opportunity to work and learn outdoors on a weekly basis.

We are passionate about making the most of our learning environment, making the most of encouraging children to be active and making the most of connecting children with nature in a positive and inclusive way, which will benefit ALL of them. In the coming weeks and months, you will see further developments in this area, ready for the programme to begin in earnest from September. That said, I hope classes will be using this wonderful resource as soon after Christmas as possible.

We have two other very busy and very important staff elves, in the form of Mrs Jones and Mrs Bizley, who are our resident ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants). They are teaching assistants who have had special training from educational psychologists to support the emotional development of children and young people in school. They provide opportunities for children who are experiencing difficulties in helping them understand their emotions, begin to take control of them and as a consequence, help them to become more independent and happier young people. Both ladies do a great job for our school and your children. You can see in this picture, Mrs Jones in our newly created 'Sunshine Nook' where many of the ELSA sessions now take place.



Our ELSA programme is just one part of how we support your children in school. Other ways, include our PDL (Personal Development Learning) programme of lessons, which have been rolled out with greater regularity since we returned in September. We have our Worry Boxes, which are located in every classroom and are responded to each week. We have also invested in a super set of online resources from HeartSmart. This resource will help us build resilience in our young people and ensure a proportionate focus on mental well-being, which is so important at this moment in time. See their website at <https://uk.heartsmart.school/>



A massive thank you to all of you generous elves too. The recent Poppy Appeal raised a massive £433 which I'm sure will be put to excellent use by the British Legion.

Thanks to the scientific elves around the world, there is light at the end of the tunnel. In the meantime, we will continue to be vigilant in making Denmead Junior School a safe and happy place to learn and grow.

Finally, I am also sending you a short, but important, parent questionnaire in the form of Survey Monkey. Please fill it in and let us know how we're doing at the moment. Be encouraged to fill in any comments, as they will help us better understand the statements that you make about our school. Please look for the link in the covering email from Mrs Burton.

Regardless of how you feel about the school at this moment in time, rest assured, we are all working tirelessly for your children and are trying our best to make the school a better place to learn and grow, despite the many difficulties and obstacles in our way.

Enjoy your weekend ... the Clarke boys are all off the get haircuts tomorrow!

*A. Clarke*

**Mr Andy Clarke**  
Head Teacher

### COMMUNICATIONS SENT OUT THIS WEEK:

- **2/12/20** - Car park system changes email
- **2/12/20** - PTA newsletter – key dates and contact information
- **3/12/20** - Upper school SRE letter

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- **Monday 7<sup>th</sup>:** Deadline for PTA decoration entries & **home learning due in**. Remember, please email it (or send picture of it to your class teacher via email: either [djslowerschool@denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:djslowerschool@denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk) or [djsupperschool@denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:djsupperschool@denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk))
  - **Monday 14<sup>th</sup>:** Deadline for Christmas cards to be posted.
  - **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas lunch and Jumper Day
  - **Friday 18<sup>th</sup>:** House cup winner non-uniform & staggered finish times as follows
    - **Yr6** 1.30pm
    - **Y5** 1.35pm
    - **Austria/Estonia/Ireland** - 1.40pm
    - **Andorra/Malta/Monaco** - 1.45pm.
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- **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021** – INSET day @ DJS – *children expected back in on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021*

