



Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

Bere Road
Denmead
Waterlooville
Hampshire
PO7 6PH

Tel: 02392 252735

Mr A Clarke
Head Teacher

www.denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk

Friday 5th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I was saying to the children as they entered school today, "Do you know how it feels to stand in a cloud? Because that's what you are doing right now!" It can be all too easy, not to see the obvious or to not see the positives in everyday things.

How are you all this week? I know this is rhetorical, but I can imagine many of your responses! No matter how many times I tell you that you're doing a great job, it doesn't stop it from being tough, tough, tough!

I hope you feel supported by us. All my staff are working exceptionally hard to lead online learning, teach their class, provide high quality learning packs, make phone calls, send emails, cover for each other and provide support to all and sundry. We are in contact with all 330 of you on a weekly basis and according to my records, everyone is both able and has been accessing MS Teams, when not in school. If you feel this is not the case, please let me know so that I can rectify this. I am very proud though, of our efforts to reach out to you all and ensure that everyone is receiving an equitable access to education in these challenging times.

Please bear with us if your Teams meetings have been affected by staff illness. We will always do our best to try and cover these as much as possible, but we are working at times with quite a limited capacity – trust me, there is not one member of staff who is sitting in the staffroom, swigging coffee, with their hands behind their heads. If anything, I'm rushing around propping people up!

We also know, this is how many of you are feeling too. The thought of the weekend or the thought of half-term, has far different connotations in this current climate. I feel, especially with the efforts of those of you home-schooling, that you are an extended part of my staff. When all this is over, and it will be, when we have our next staff do, we will have to find a venue for 400+ to accommodate my new staff team!

I am still hopeful that for those children not currently in-school, that they will be returning sooner, rather than later, but I have no more information than you and I don't receive advance information either, much to my own disappointment.

I do know however, that despite how you might be feeling, your children continue to amaze and inspire. They are incredible in so many ways, and I love hearing how they are doing through the PRIDE nominations that I receive in abundance each week. This is what gives me hope; your children embody the hope that I have ... they are so resilient and positive thinking (despite the very acceptable blips that we all have as human beings).

After reading this newsletter, look at your children carefully and recognise how amazing they are. Tell them how brilliant they are, how proud you are of them and how much you love them (I know you probably all do anyway). Some of them will pretend not to care, but they do and they need to be told!



Remember to recognise those 'standing in a cloud' moments and be mindful to take joy from what seems on the surface, just the everyday or ordinary. As I've said before, beauty and joy is all around, just be ready to see it!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gti4JFwP_o&ab_channel=PalouseMindfulness

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards,

A. Clarke.

Mr Andy Clarke

Head Teacher

