



Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Mr A Clarke
Head Teacher

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Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

CONGRATULATIONS! This is, for many of you, the final day of 'home-schooling'! I'd say go out and celebrate but you will have to interpret that as jumping for joy in your own back garden!

A massive well done to you all – and I do mean ALL! Many of you are critical workers and have had to place your children in school, regardless of any reservations you may have had. Too many of you have had to juggle the pressures of working from home AND home-schooling as well. It may well have felt intolerable at times, but you have all made it!

Despite all that you and your families have been through, you have come out the other side and I'm sure you are all the stronger for it. Your children in particular, will have proved themselves to be more resilient, adaptable and mature than they once were, in their bid to not only learn but help around the house too! The amount of new 'hooverers' and 'dishwasher-emptiers' is incredible – I hope they keep on practising their new found skills in this new, back-to-school, era!?!

I am hopeful, that in their tremendous response to home-learning, supported in no small part by my awesome staff team, that 'the Return' may be less about 'recovery' and more about 'transition' back into school and to the next stage, whether that be the next year with DJS or their next school. The challenge for us will be to focus on work that draws attention to making connections, both in curriculum and human terms; children are remarkably resilient and capable of surprising us with the energy of their responses when in an environment where they feel welcomed, supported and are challenged and excited in equal measure. We will do our best to create that environment!

There will be a focus and an energy placed around several key aspects of school and learning:

- Safety; we will endeavour to keep your child/ren as safe as possible whilst in our care
- Well-being; we will provide regular PSHE opportunities to provide that conduit to allow children to discuss and share their thoughts, feelings and concerns
- Learning Behaviours; we will introduce and re-highlight all things to do with our Learning Powers and the associated animals that reflect those important learning behaviours and attitudes
- Exercise & the outdoors; we will be providing all children with opportunities for daily exercise. We will also be getting to use our new outdoor learning zone, 'The Forest Garden' – see details below
- Praise & Reward; we will be introducing and highlighting existing ways in which we recognise the many and varied ways in which our children excel – including new Learning Behaviour stickers, postcards home, more regular phone calls and emails, building on the relationships that we've been able to foster with yourselves, so that you can share in your child's success. We will also continue with uploading the weekly PRIDE assembly onto the school website.

All that said, the biggest impact upon your children, in terms of their learning and development, is the receiving of high quality teaching. I am absolutely confident, that my staff team will be 100% committed to delivering the very best of themselves to ensure that ALL children continue to receive the best educational experience.



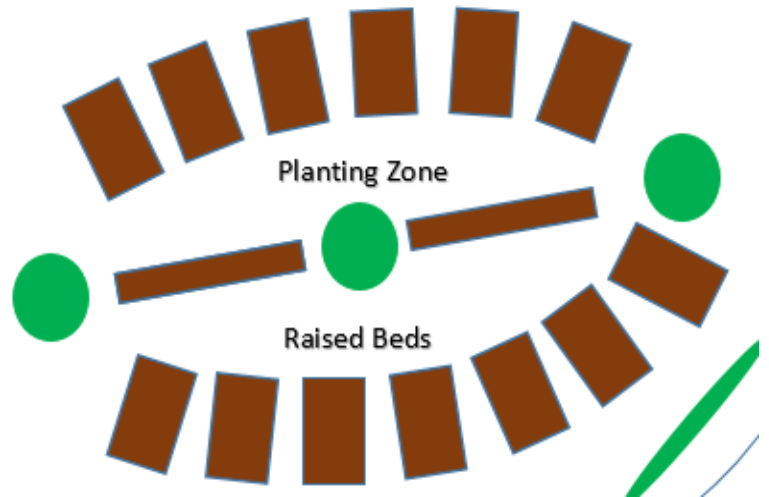
I hope that you were able to take part in some small way, in our various book readings this morning. If your child was in school, they definitely enjoyed the chance to listen to my staff read from their favourite books. Remember, next Friday is our World Book Day, where not only can the children dress up, but they will also be engaging in a variety of fun, book-themed activities.

The Forest Garden continues to develop. Mr Marley is just now putting the finishing touches to 12 raised beds, which will be one of the central parts of this exciting new area. To mark this, we have set up a class competition, to see who can grow the most abundant and imaginative plants by July. We hope this be an exciting way to engage our children in the joys of growing your own food, as well as an introduction to sustainable living.

As ever, I am after favours, does anyone have any contacts who could provide us with soil to fill our planters? We are also looking for some more plants and flowers to fill the various smaller planters around the outdoor classroom.

Finally, where the raised beds will be, we are after 3 more trees (represented by the 3 green ovals below) – possibly some lovely blossom trees?

I know some of you were disappointed to miss out on being able to sponsor a fruit tree, so maybe this might interest you? If you have any suggestions for this, please do email us with details via admin.office@denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk



Finally, we are really looking forward to having your child/ren back in school from Monday. I know many will be excited but I'm also sure that there will also be some trepidation, as it has been almost 3 months out of school and away from friends and the busy school environment. Rest assured, we will look after everybody.

Can you help us look after everyone too, by wearing your mask whilst on the school site, by being prompt but not too early when arriving for school and upon collection and by maintaining your 2m distances, despite your excitement at seeing real people for the first time in ages!

Have a great weekend and roll on Monday!

A. Clarke.

Mr Andy Clarke

Head Teacher



PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK:

School day timings: Start & end times (to work with the infant school for our families) are now:

- **Year 5, Austria, Estonia and Monaco** START: 8.45am FINISH: 3.05pm
- **Year 6, Ireland, Andorra and Malta** START: 8.55am FINISH: 3.15pm

Lower school children should arrive through the playground gate entrance.

Upper school are to line up in their classes in the staff car park area, as per the Autumn term.

P.E: All classes will now have a daily exercise session, so please send your child in wearing suitable sports clothing **with their normal uniform on the top half every day.**

Reading records: We will be giving out new reading records from next week. As before, house points will be given for reading entries and please use the left hand side each week.

Clubs & activities: After school clubs and activities will not resume before the Easter holidays. We will notify you of any changes that are planned as soon as we are able to.

REMINDERS FOR NEXT WEEK:

Staying in touch: Please ensure you keep us updated with all contact details for you. If you need to contact us please use the admin.office@denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk email or telephone 02392 252735 for urgent queries.

Attendance & Absences: Attendance in school from Monday 8th March is compulsory again and now more than ever, the routine and structure from prompt, regular attendance in school will help support children with their learning and development. Please contact us by 9.30am to notify us of an absence (option 1 on the phone line).

Uniform orders: Orders placed via SCOPAY will be processed and sent home with your child asap. Please label everything clearly, including lunch boxes and water bottles.

P.E: All classes will now take part in a daily exercise slot, so please send your child in wearing suitable sports clothing with their uniform top half every day.

Parking: A polite reminder to please drive and park carefully around the school car park and local roads as we will inevitably see an increase in traffic in these areas from next week. Do please consider walking to and from school where possible.

MARCH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- **Friday 12th** – World Book Day (deferred from Thursday 4th March)
- **Friday 19th** – Comic Relief (suggested donation of £1 via SCOPAY available on the day)
- **Tuesday 23rd 4-6.30pm & Thursday 25th 5-7.30pm** – Parents Evenings via MS Teams (*letter to follow next week*)
- **Wednesday 24th** – Class group school photos

