



Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Mr A Clarke
Head Teacher

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Friday 26th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

How are you all? I hope you and your families are all well and feeling happy and positive about the changes that have happened already and might follow in the future at Denmead Junior School.

Thank you to all of you who were able to attend our virtual parent's evenings this week. I hope you found them both useful and informative. If you were not able to make either evening, then please do still get in contact and we will try and facilitate a meeting.

The deadline for completing the parental questionnaire was earlier today and I am busy looking carefully at the results and your comments. I really appreciate all your comments, both complimentary and constructively critical. All the points you have raised are valid and deserve thorough consideration. They will certainly help steer us into streamlining and improving our provision should we ever need to in the future.

Three of the key points for consideration, raised by a small number of you, would be around the following:

- Increasing the length of MS Teams sessions
- Introducing a social/well-being session for the online children to attend
- Continuing to focus on the equitability of our offer for all children and their families

There were many more constructive comments that we will also reflect on, so thank you for taking the time to let us know how we did. Broadly speaking, many of you felt we did a good job overall in challenging and exceptional circumstances.

1. My child's year group is

Year 3	38
Year 4	34
Year 5	25
Year 6	22



2. My child and I/we felt connected with school during the lockdown

Agree strongly	72
Agree moderately	42
Disagree moderately	3
Disagree strongly	2
Do not know / NA	0



3. Communication from the school was useful and frequent

● Agree strongly	71
● Agree moderately	44
● Disagree moderately	2
● Disagree strongly	2
● Do not know / NA	0



4. The quality of the online learning packs was good

● Agree strongly	48
● Agree moderately	40
● Disagree moderately	11
● Disagree strongly	1
● Do not know / NA	19



5. The MS Teams sessions were well delivered

● Agree strongly	52
● Agree moderately	34
● Disagree moderately	4
● Disagree strongly	3
● Do not know / NA	26



6. Any issues I had regarding online learning were dealt with quickly and effectively

● Agree strongly	50
● Agree moderately	23
● Disagree moderately	3
● Disagree strongly	1
● Do not know / NA	42



7. The in-school provision was good

● Agree strongly	40
● Agree moderately	15
● Disagree moderately	3
● Disagree strongly	0
● Do not know / NA	61



8. The offer to all pupils was broadly equitable and fair

● Agree strongly	45
● Agree moderately	35
● Disagree moderately	8
● Disagree strongly	4
● Do not know / NA	27



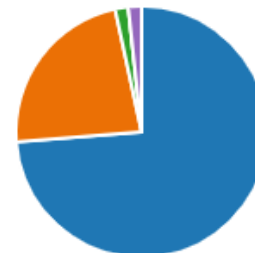
9. I think the school did a good job overall

● Agree strongly	86
● Agree moderately	25
● Disagree moderately	5
● Disagree strongly	3
● Do not know / NA	0



10. My child has transitioned back into school well

● Agree strongly	87
● Agree moderately	27
● Disagree moderately	2
● Disagree strongly	0
● Do not know / NA	2



When looking at our 'lockdown' offer overall, almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of you strongly felt we did a good job, with over 93% agreeing that we did indeed do a good job overall.

The other re-assuring statistic is that concerning how well the children have transitioned back into school, with over 98% of you that responded, telling us that your child transitioned back into school well.



That said, any percentage that is not 100% means that we have let some families down. For those parents and children, I am personally very sorry if we have not delivered well enough. I take full responsibility for this, in that my staff have delivered a programme that I have set them – and they did this to the letter and some. I am personally very proud of my staff, who worked tirelessly during this period, in sometimes, very difficult and challenging circumstances.

I have also had the opportunity to look at the various offers from other schools using different models and I still firmly believe that our model stacks up very strongly when looking at our offer as a whole.

Please do get in contact with me if you wish to discuss our lockdown provision further – I am always pleased to hear from you.

I will update parents next week as to the status of the residential trip programme, but there is positive news on this front to, in terms of our ability to provide an offer that hopefully, many of you will want to take up on behalf of your children.

We have lots to look forward to in the coming summer term and hopefully this will coincide with the better weather and greater opportunity to learn outdoors. Mrs Marks and Mr Stapleton will be writing to you all next week, outlining the curriculum, key dates and ways in which you can help support your child at home.

In this week's PRIDE assembly, (viewable on the school website under SCHOOL LIFE > ASSEMBLIES) we looked at the inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi and his pivotal influence to bring about peaceful change in India, more than 70 years ago. He wisely said, "Be the change you want to see in the world". Change is an inevitable part of life and although we can sometimes be both fearful and reluctant to embrace change, it can also be something that is both positive and necessary. Life has changed considerably in this last year of lockdown and it has bound to have also changed us in some ways too – some barely noticeable and others, far more profound. In that context, I am determined to make sure that any changes at Denmead Junior School are positive ones, where children are at the heart of any major decision – please continue to let me know how I/we are doing.

The one area of our school that seems to be constantly evolving, is our outdoor learning area or Forest Garden. The more eagle-eyed of you will have seen the 12 raised planters gradually filling up over the week with lovely compost/topsoil.

You might be surprised to hear that we have had almost 10 tonnes of soil delivered in the last week alone, all of which has been donated to the school free of charge!

The lovely thing about this very kind donation, is that it has been donated by a local gardening company for whom the owners are both former pupils, Chris Mundy and Luke Millard, co-owners of Mundy Gardening Services and MGM landscaping LTD. Chris and Luke attended Denmead Juniors 14 years ago and wanted give something back to the school. A massive thank you to them for their kind and generous gesture, helping us to change the futures and life experiences of all our pupils.

We can all be the change we want to see in the world. And at Denmead Junior School, our actions and changes epitomise this belief.

Stay safe and have a great weekend.

A. Clarke

Mr Andy Clarke

Head Teacher



KEY COMMUNICATIONS SENT OUT THIS WEEK:

- Reminder about contacting staff via admin.office@denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk
- Easter art competition entry form & poster
- Year 5 – Bikeability registration letter – to be completed online by Monday 19th April please

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Thursday 1st April – Last day of spring term (Friday 2nd – Bank Holiday Monday)
- Holiday club running with ABC during the Easter holidays: Contact Ashley for further information via ashleybarkercoaching1@gmail.com

AFTER EASTER BREAK:

- Monday 19th April – First day back
- Year 5 Bikeability – Book online by 19th April (course begins in school on Monday 26th April)

