



Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Mr A Clarke
Head Teacher

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Friday 14th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As some of you may be aware, this week is 'National Mental Health Awareness Week'. The link below is to the Mental Health Foundation website that can give advice and as a charity, does a great deal of work nationally, to help us all develop strategies and a mindset that promotes our internal resilience when life becomes somewhat challenging and, on occasion, over-whelming.

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week>

One of their top-tips for coping with life's difficulties is to connect with nature. If you have a moment to read, it details all the reasons why a connection with nature can have such positive benefits on our well-being, but the one I like most is this:

"People with good nature connectedness tend to be happier."

I, and all my staff, are very ambitious for your children. We want them to do well, to be themselves 'ambitious', to develop a love and thirst for knowledge and understanding ... to be the best that they can be! But more than that, we want them to be happy. The two are not mutually exclusive; you can be hard-working, feel challenged by your learning and be happy. Sometimes there can be no happier feeling than from over-coming some adversity by sticking at it and then eventually succeeding.

I also think that there are so many things that we do at Denmead Junior School, in a planned and explicit way, to help promote good mental and physical well-being. But there are also a number of things that are not planned, that are not explicitly thought about, but are, nevertheless, just as important ... sometimes even more important. And these are the relationships that we cultivate with each other, the language that we use, the tone that we set and the way in which the school as a whole feels.

I hope you feel, and more importantly your child feels, that Denmead Juniors is a happy place, where they feel confident to both express themselves for who they are but can also grow and develop into new versions of themselves, with much love and encouragement.

There is such a positive buzz about the place with so many children enjoying our Forest Garden area and also our new library. I was told of one child who is so excited about growing his own radish as he has never tasted a radish before. And of another child, who ran up to me outside at lunch to tell me how excited they were at visiting the library after lunch for the 2nd time!

A huge thank you to the many of you who continue to donate to our school – whether it be books for our library or trees for our Forest Garden; they are very much welcomed and appreciated.

Speaking of books and our new library, we are just in the process of resurrecting our Reading Raffle. I shall be doing the first draw in my PRIDE assembly on Monday. In order to get a raffle ticket, your child needs to read at least 5 times a week, so please can you help them by both encouraging them to read and by filling in their Reading Record.



I am passionate about trying to inspire children to want to read; for them to want to pick up a book and immerse themselves in a different world. I know we live such busy and active lives that sometimes sitting for a good read is the furthest thing from our minds. But I've never regretted getting into a book. My only regret is often when I finish a book, which is sometimes like saying goodbye to an old friend. Our children are so excited about our new library that this feels like the time for you to capitalise by maybe visiting your local library or book shop.

I am hoping, as things become safer, that it won't be too long before we can invite live authors into school (so much better than dead ones! William Shakespeare apart!), so watch this space!

And finally, as we slowly and cautiously emerge from the pandemic, in conjunction with Denmead Infant School, who I meet with regularly – Ms Clabon is great ... I would like to announce that the wearing of masks, before and after school will no longer be mandatory outside. Please, continue to social distance and by all means, please feel free to continue to wear a mask if you feel more comfortable, but from Monday, you may enter the playground without a mask if you so choose ... hooray!!!

And on that positive note, I wish you all a very happy weekend, where I would encourage you all to connect with nature or, if the weather is inclement (good word on a Friday evening), then connect with a good book instead.

Kind regards,

Mr Andy Clarke
Head Teacher

For children who attend Denmead Juniors + siblings

1st June - 4th June!

Ashley Barker Coaching
A B C

A fun, dynamic and exciting holiday club for children aged 5-11.
From just £19 for core hours (10am - 4pm)
£3.50ph for additional hours

Denmead Junior School
8:00- 18:00

With games such as Dodgeball, Ultimate Tag and the much loved Chicken, Hero, Fair!

Special Offers Available!

07870971600
@ashleybarkercoaching
ashleybarkercoaching1@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS SENT THIS WEEK:

Year 3:

Paper & e-copy sent regarding Y4 Calshot (APRIL 2022) Residential Trip

Year 5:

Paper & e-copy sent regarding Y6 Wales (JULY 2022) Residential Trip
SRE letter

Year 6: PTA-funded hoodies order form

Whole School: NSPCC Campaign letter

As always, all these are available under the letters sections of our website.

DIARY DATES:

- **30th May:** Deadline for deposits for Year 4 Calshot (October 2021) residential trip
- **31st May:** Half Term week
- **Friday 25th June:** Sports Day
- **Monday 28th June:** INSET DAY
- **4th-9th July:** Y6 Tregoyd Residential visit.
- **Friday 9th July:** School reports
- **Friday 23rd July:** Last day of term – time TBC

ALSO COMING... Lower school Egyptian Day, Enterprise Day, Y6 group photo & leavers' event (dates tbc)

