



Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The 'I' in PRIDE stands for inspiration. There are many people who influence our lives; some local and others further afield and some even historical. Through their inspiration we aspire to be better than our current selves. The recent Queen's Birthday Honours list contains many people both famous and otherwise, who have had a profound effect on others over the course of this last year. It made me reflect on those people who have inspired me and the lessons that I have learned as a consequence.

One such inspirational, historical figure is described as a 'polymath', which sounds both unusual and not particularly positive. 'Polymath' simply means 'a person of wide knowledge or learning'. Probably the most famous 'polymath' is Leonardo Da Vinci, who was born all the way back in 1452 in Tuscany, Italy. He was a genius in many areas, most notably art and science. But he was also an engineer, sculptor and architect. His creative mind dreamed up the ideas of the parachute, the bicycle and even the helicopter long before science could actually catch up and make these clear ideas a reality.

One of my favourite children's books, which I have on a book shelf in my office is, 'Rosie Revere, Engineer'. Rosie Revere dreams of becoming a great engineer. She creates wonderful gadgets and gizmos - but only when no one is watching. She's kept her inventions a secret ever since, when she was very small, her uncle Zookeeper Fred laughed at the special cheese hat she designed him to keep snakes at bay. But then great-great-great aunt Rosie, in her red-and-white spotted headscarf, appears on the scene, and helps Rosie to understand that sometimes you've got to risk failure before you can find success.

This beautifully illustrated picture book captures the importance of following your dreams - however eccentric or unlikely they may be.

I would think that Rosie might be an even greater inspiration to our children today, even more so than Da Vinci. I also think that our role models should reflect who we are now and what we can achieve with the right mindset.

Our Year 3 and 4 children have been taking part in some Stemazing activities over these last few weeks. We have enlisted the support of the Stemazing team of engineers, who have been beaming into our lower school classrooms, inspiring our children with fun challenges that involve Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), not to mention a big dose of problem solving.

I was drawn to the Stemazing team because their vision to inspire young minds to think big! To be curious, creative and courageous – just like Rosie. On their website they talk about their passion about STEM and it's ability to tackle our current and future global challenges where we will need a bigger, stronger and a more diverse STEM workforce. They are dedicated to inspiration and inclusion in STEM.

"Our mission is to empower women in STEM to shine and inspire young people to become our next generation of innovators and problem-solvers."



Let's create a movement and make a difference through STEM."

Approach life with curiosity.

Approach challenges with creativity.

Approach opportunities with courage.

Our children are learning many things through an exciting programme of weekly STEM activities, led by a number of different female engineers who are all passionate about children embracing the challenge of STEM and becoming confident in their own ability to solve problems that are real and potentially life-changing.

I hope that STEM becomes a central part of our curriculum offer over the coming weeks, months and years. I will update you next week with some more detail around the activities that the children are engaging in, with also a few words from the children themselves.

In other news, I am sorry to say that although we will still be holding our Sports Day on Friday 25th June (weather permitting), after much soul-searching and thought, we will not be inviting parents to this important day. Although these days are a right-of-passage, the most important thing is that the children experience it, having missed out on one last year. And that we remain vigilant in keeping our school, our families and our community safe as we emerge slowly and carefully from this pandemic.

I will be keen to update you on how the Sports Day goes, so that you can at least get a flavour for the day itself, as it happened.

Teachers are busy in many ways during this final half-term. I am currently receiving school reports in from class teachers, which I am enjoying reading. These will be coming out in July and there will be the option of having an online parents meeting should you wish to discuss the report further following the release of these reports.

Transition arrangements continue at both ends of the school, which we will endeavour to keep you posted on. The Year 2's are very much enjoying the process that we have arranged for them to date, which have involved a series of playground visits and Mrs Marks special reading of Dewey, the library cat.

In these busy and difficult times, I never fail to be inspired and impressed by my staff who work so tirelessly for the benefit of your children and by the children themselves, whose resilience and positivity always makes me feel proud and puts a spring in my step. They continue to be a credit to you as they learn like Leonardo and Rosie, by trying always, sometimes failing and succeeding eventually in all areas of school life – they are the next generation of polymaths!

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards,



Mr Andy Clarke
Head Teacher



DIARY DATES:

- **14th & 15th June:** Upper school local Denmead visit
- **Monday 21st June:** Year 6 group photo (afternoon)
- **Friday 25th June:** SPORTS DAY
- **Monday 28th June:** **INSET DAY**
- **Friday 2nd July:** Enterprise Day – *details to follow*
- **5th- 9th July:** Yr 6 Tregoyd Residential visit
- **Friday 9th July:** **Lower school – EGYPTIAN DAY** – *details to follow*
- **Friday 9th July:** School reports sent home
- **Thursday 22nd July:** Y6 Leavers afternoon – *details to follow*
- **Friday 23rd July:** Last day of term – 1.30pm finish for all classes

COMMUNICATIONS SENT THIS WEEK:

- Year 6 – SRE programme for next week
- Upper school – local Denmead visit next week
- September 2021 start and finish times
- Email re Covid vigilance & testing
- Rocksteady vacancies

RESIDENTIAL TRIPS STATUS:

Current Yr3 – Calshot April 2022. Letter sent 14/5/21. **Deposits of £55 due by Friday 2nd July 2021.**

Current Yr4 – Calshot October 2021. Places fully booked now. **Balance due by end of August 2021.**

Current Yr5 – Tregoyd July 2022. Letter sent 14/5/21. **Deposits of £45 due by 23rd June 2021.**

Current Yr6 – Tregoyd July 2021. Places fully booked now. **Balance due by end of this month.**
Additional permission/health form to be returned by next Friday 18th June.
Pocket money due in the week before the trip.

