



# Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well on this wet and windy Friday. We can't seem to win at the moment; it's either too hot or like this. Still, it's very good for our Forest Garden Area which, as you can see from the photos, are quite simply burgeoning with vegetables, not long away from being harvested and then hopefully consumed by both your children and your good-selves! You could find yourself sampling anything from an artichoke to a zucchini!



There has been much in the press regarding schools' catch-up programmes and recovery from potential lost learning during this prolonged pandemic. Whilst there has been a need for schools to think carefully about their curriculum, much of our approach has been based on meeting the needs of our children, as they present themselves and from our own, informal assessments.

We have also been influenced by evidence based research, that has helped us focus on the most important aspects of teaching and learning that will make a difference for your children moving forwards. One of the main influences for us has been the work carried out by the Education Endowment Foundation and their work on analysing a range of different research pieces internationally that then summarises the most effective approaches that schools should be taking to enable children to make the most progress.

Some of the most effective approaches centre around the importance of collaborative learning; pupils working together on activities or learning tasks in a group small enough for everyone to participate on a collective task that has been clearly assigned. Or on the promotion of metacognition and self-regulation; which aims to help pupils think about their own learning more explicitly, often by teaching them specific strategies for planning, monitoring and evaluating their learning. Reading comprehension strategies were also highlighted; which focus on the learners' understanding of written text. Pupils are taught a range of techniques which enable them to comprehend the meaning of what they read. But by far the most effective approach to enable progress is feedback. Feedback is information given to the learner or teacher about the learner's performance relative to learning goals or outcomes. It should aim towards (and be capable of producing) improvement in children's learning. Feedback redirects or refocuses either the teacher's or the learner's actions to achieve a goal, by aligning effort and activity with an outcome.



We have and continue to focus on the feedback that your children give us about their learning to help shape our interventions or their future learning. We also give clear and concise feedback to let children know how they are doing in their learning and what they need to do differently to be more successful. Feedback is vitally important for both children and teachers.

Similarly, we feel it is really important to give you feedback on your child's learning so that you know how they are getting on and also for you to be able to support your children at home. I have been enjoying recently, reading the reports that will be making their way home in July. Hopefully, you will find this feedback very useful.

What I find really useful is your feedback on our performance. I am always keen to find out how we are doing. Thank you to those of you who have given us feedback both in the past and more recently, to enable us to reflect, change and improve. Just like your children, we want to be the best that we can be and your feedback really help us to achieve that.

For your information, because of Covid and its impact on secondary transition arrangements, we will have two transition days; one for the year 2's and the other for our current year 3, 4 and 5s.

Our internal transition day for our year 3, 4 and 5s will be on Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. The plan is for them to have a really positive day, where they will be introduced to their new teacher in their new classroom. I will write to you on that Wednesday, to inform you of these details for your own information. This year, we are intending to have as little disruption as possible to current classes to help secure a smooth transition in what has been another challenging year for all of us.

Then, the following week, we will hold our year 2 transition day on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July. This is when our year 6s will be on their residential trip and so we will have 3 unoccupied classrooms to help with having the year 2s over for a welcoming start to their junior school experience.

I did say I would update you with further information about our lower school Stemazing project. Mr Stapleton has provided the following, including testimonials from Joshua and Sienna.

*"STEMAZING has been a six week programme promoting the role of women in science, technology, engineering and maths. Every week we have a virtual session where a fully qualified engineer (there are five linked to our school in total) takes the pupils through a scientific concept and supports the pupils while they build or create items that they can then test. So far we have learnt about forces and gravity, the importance of shape in design, forces and inertia with Newton's Laws of Motion and have energy transfer and density left to complete. We've been told that session may get messy!" - Mr Stapleton*

*"We've made balloon cars, we've investigated aerodynamics and are learning about density next week. It's been really fun making things and then testing them out scientifically. We've been able to ask Victoria questions about science and engineering and she answers them in the next session." - Joshua*

*"It's been great to meet Victoria and I liked learning about different engineering themes. Victoria answered our questions while we were building our mini projects. The spinners were really fun as we got to stand on our chairs and drop them!" - Sienna*

Hopefully, you will have enjoyed this feedback as much as the children have enjoyed engaging with this fantastic STEM project.

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards,



**Mr Andy Clarke**  
**Head Teacher**



## KEY COMMUNICATIONS SENT THIS WEEK:

- Monaco class update (15.6.21)
- Y6 residential update (15.6.21)
- Sports Day – no spectators allowed announcement (15.6.21)
- Join schools update (15.6.21)
- Lower school Egyptian Day information (18.6.21)

## ADDITIONAL REMINDERS THIS WEEK:

- If your child or anyone in the household needs to take a PCR test meaning they need to be absent while self-isolating, we kindly ask that you telephone or email us with the result as soon as possible. Tel 02392 252735 – there is an answerphone available at all times or E: [admin.office@denmead-jun.hant.sch.uk](mailto:admin.office@denmead-jun.hant.sch.uk) so we can update our records.
- If your child requires medicine to be administered at school, please complete our permission form when you bring this in. This is accessible on the website for you to complete in advance if preferred, along with more information and guidance here: <https://www.denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Attendance&pid=51>

## RESIDENTIAL TRIPS STATUS:

- Current Yr3** – Calshot April 2022. Letter sent 14/5/21. **Deposits of £55 due by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021.**
- Current Yr6** – Tregoyd July 2021. Places fully booked now. **Balance due by end of this month.**  
Pocket money due in the week before the trip.

## DIARY DATES:

- **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June:** Year 6 group photo
- **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June:** SPORTS DAY (no spectators, sadly)
- **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June:** **INSET DAY**
- **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July:** Enterprise Day – *details to follow*
- **5<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> July:** Yr 6 Residential visit
- **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July:** Lower school – EGYPTIAN DAY
- **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July:** School reports sent home
- **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July:** Y6 Leavers afternoon – *details to follow*
- **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July:** Last day of term – 1.30pm finish for all classes

