



Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Friday 25th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a disappointment! Now I know that Sports Day is not everyone's favourite day, despite the support that we give everyone in the form of copious amounts of cheering and clapping, but it still has left us all a little deflated towards the end of a historic but challenging school year.

There are certain days and events that are rites of passage, that are memorable throughout our lives, that leave an indelible mark on our memories. For many, these are often days like sports day, or the school production, a school trip or a special visitor to school. Without these important markers, time at school is less exciting and prevents children from looking forward with optimism.

That is why I am determined that we do find another time to hold our sports day. That is why we have spent much time recently booking, re-booking, organising and finalising details around our residential trip programme that will see trips being undertaken by ALL our children in school within the next year, with the first being this July!

That is why we have already begun forward planning and thinking about how we can increase our residential trip programme, whilst reducing the overall cost so that this aspect of school is even more inclusive and cohesive.

We have also been looking at how we can, in the fullness of time, get more visiting speakers into school, to think once again about school productions and to begin giving thought to future day trips to exciting places.

School should be about many things, all of which should be positive and associated with personal growth. I often talk about 'firsts' and 'onlys'. What experiences can we provide for your children that might be their first experience or even their only experience? I still remember with much fondness even now, my own school residential, when, as a Year 6 child in London, getting my passport and visiting the Isle of Wight! We visited Black Gang Chine and locked our teacher in the Wild West jail and then took a trip to Alum Bay, where I collected a glass bell and filled with their famous coloured sands. I've not been back to either of those two places but my memories are still vivid and still make me grin from ear to ear – of such things are lasting memories made.

Monday is our final INSET day of the year, whereas a staff we will be focussing on 'transition'. The morning will be split into several sessions where existing class teachers will be having detailed discussions with the new, receiving teacher and LSA. These discussions are vitally important in making sure that transition is both smooth and successful for your children. In the afternoon, we will be getting into new year teams to plan for the internal transition days that will take place for our current year 3, 4 and 5 next Wednesday, 30th June. And for the current year 2, the following Wednesday, 7th July.

You will find out on the day (30th June), who your child's new class teacher will be and which classroom they will be in but I can remind you that Year 5 will be staying in their current classes as they transition up to Year 6.



Each of the new year 4 classes will be made up of the following current year 3 classes:

½ of Ireland + ½ of Monaco

½ of Estonia + ½ of Malta

½ of Andorra + ½ of Austria

The new year 5 classes will be made up of the following current year 4 classes:

½ of Andorra + ½ of Estonia

½ of Ireland + ½ of Malta

½ of Monaco + ½ of Austria

Although we missed out on Sports Day today, we have been taking part in the Hampshire Games activities that has seen our children remain fit and active. Across the school this week, we have been exploring healthier lifestyles through Hampshire School Games: A series of challenges covering multiple aspects of life that encourage pupils to lead more healthy and active lifestyles. The pupils have enjoyed designing their own healthy lunches, creating new and exciting games for others to play and exploring different cultures that have taken part in previous Olympics. All of the challenges have pushed pupils to cooperate and engage their curiosity as they try to succeed in every challenge thrown at them. We know that these challenges will help them to develop healthier habits that will stay with them as they grow up. With sports day still on the horizon, we hope to see their leadership and sportsmanship skills in action in the near future.

On a completely separate note before I sign off for the weekend, I had the privilege of meeting Margaret, our wonderful Lollipop Lady. What an amazing person, who makes such an important contribution to our school community. I chatted with her about a number of things but the one thing I forgot to ask was whether or not she still remembers any of her school trips – I bet she does!

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards,

Mr Andy Clarke
Head Teacher

DIARY DATES:

- **Monday 28th June:** **INSET DAY**
- **5th - 9th July:** Yr 6 Residential visit
- **Friday 9th July:** Lower school – EGYPTIAN DAY
- **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

