



Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Friday 9th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today, Lower School have been enjoying their Egyptian Day and I have to say, they all looked absolutely fantastic. One parent commented that there were an awful lot of excited children at school this morning, to which I replied, that there were a lot of excited mummies too! A group of parents expressed their disappointment in my own outfit. I did explain that I had come as Lord Carnarvon, who had personally funded Howard Carter's expedition to find Tutankhamun's tomb, but it didn't seem to wash! And so, later in the day, I was helped into a new outfit by Monaco class, so I hope those particular parents are now much happier with!



I have been fortunate enough to visit our Year 6s in Osmington Bay, not once but twice this week. They are all having an amazing time; rising up to the challenge of being away from home and in the daily activities that they are presented with. I can say first-hand, those daily activities are particularly challenging. I thought, when I visited on Tuesday, that I would be supporting and encouraging the children to abseil down the 60ft tower. I was not prepared to be harnessed up and then expected to abseil down myself, as an example to all. I was anything but an example to all! Luckily, Ruby went up with me, and despite her being just as scared as me, she listened to the instructors and got on with the job at hand. I was slightly more problematic to my instructors... they were unable to provide me with all the answers to my numerous questions as to the make and model of the tower and the names of the companies used in the construction and anything else I could think of to delay my descent. What did however, make all the difference, was seeing Ruby



making her way down the tower. What an inspiration she was! It gave me my own courage to step off the edge and to achieve something I didn't think I could.

Then on the following day, I found myself at the base of the same tower. I watched many a child, successfully abseiling their way down and passing on to the next. To one side was Reggie. Now I recognised the look on his face from that of my own the previous day. But before I knew it, he had been sensitively persuaded to give it a go by his class teacher Mr Proctor.

Reggie was at the top for a long while, and the doubters among us thought he would not be able to go through it. From below, his class mates began chanting, "Reggie, Reggie, Reggie". Then another chant began, based on the now famous song of 'Football's Coming Home'. It went, "He's coming down, he's coming down, he's coming, Reggie's coming down". This went on for a good while, as slowly but surely, Reggie made his way down. The whooping and hollering continued and he soon was mobbed by delighted classmates as his feet touched the ground. You could tell how proud he was of himself and how proud all his friends were too.

Two great examples of how our children are often the inspiration for us. They are very often the best of us and they do you proud.

The Homebirds have also been enjoying their week at school, and I am delighted with the attitude that they have shown whilst taking part in the various activities we have planned for them – they too have led by example.

I have also been privileged enough to read everyone's school report, which you will receive today. They are a testament to all their hard work and success they have had over what has been a particularly challenging school year. If I had to write a school report for you as parents, it would be equally glowing. Your support to both the school and your own children has been nothing short of incredible. There's no two ways about it, this has been both a challenging week and a challenging year, but together we have prevailed and as a consequence, we are better prepared to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

And on a final note, parents have been asking if they are able to bring in gifts for their class teacher. Whilst we would never encourage or expect any gifts, we would be happy to receive them despite the current covid context.

Regardless of the proposed lifting of restrictions on the 19th July, we will be keeping our current covid risk assessment for the rest of the school year. We will review this over the summer and then inform you of any changes before we return in September.

Have a great weekend ... c'mon England!

Mr Andy Clarke
Head Teacher

KEY DATES

- **Friday 16th:** **Sports Day rescheduled**
- **Tuesday 20th** **Enterprise Day rescheduled – details to follow**
- **Thursday 22nd July:** Y6 Leavers afternoon – *details to follow*
- **Friday 23rd July:** Last day of term – 1.30pm finish for all classes

SEPTEMBER – START OF TERM: INSET DAYS Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd. First day for children is Monday 6th.

