



# Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've made it! And what a year it's been! As much as there is a sense of euphoria, there's also a sense of bittersweetness as we bid farewell to our amazing year 6s.

I've just spoken to all the year 6s out on the field, and it was lovely to have some final moments with them, reminding them of everything they've experienced and everything they've learned at DJS that has helped shape them into the young adults they are so quickly becoming. Yes, we spoke about PRIDE and of the importance of living those values each and every day, but we also spoke about making sure that they make the most of life's opportunities.

One of the many debilitating factors of this pandemic, is that the world has shrunk for many, to just their local area. We are ever so lucky to live in Denmead and the surrounding outliers, but as their Headteacher, I want them to look beyond their known world and explore far flung places, meet new people and to learn about our amazing world first-hand. I want them to take risks with their life, to experience new things and to learn and grow as a consequence.

This pandemic will not hold us back forever, and I hope our children, as they get older, really go for it in embracing everything life has to offer. I hope they do so with the values we have collectively instilled, with an attitude of friendship and understanding and always striving to be the best version of themselves that they can be! I wish them all the very best of luck!

Some schools may have been winding down to this moment, but not us, not even in this weather... There was last week's Sports Day of course:







Monday saw our harvesting of crops from our Forest Garden planters, and boy, what a crop! The recent good weather and the abundance of rain that we have also had, lent itself to a bumper return. The winners of the of the fun and 'light-hearted' competition (there never is such a thing!), was Estonia class in Lower School and Ethiopia class in upper school. But for all those who took some veg home and enjoyed eating it, you were the real winners. As were Rowans Hospice, who we were able to donate £300 to, thanks to your kind generosity.



Tuesday saw a very successful visit to Cowplain school for our Year 6s who were transitioning there. The pandemic has brought many challenges, but I'm glad for those pupils, that they were able to experience a physical visit, that was safely managed and well received.

On Wednesday, we ALL enjoyed the Year 6 Enterprise Day, where those enterprising and entrepreneurial souls from year 6, did their best 'The Apprentice' impression, which involved copious amounts of money raised, sweets consumed and nobody fired! A big thank you to the year 6 team and Mrs Painting especially for organising this fabulous event.







Then yesterday, Year 6 were able to enjoy their Leavers Afternoon, which was a lovely opportunity for them to be together, outside, enjoying a whole host of fun activities, many of which were water based. You only needed to see Reggie's shirt to realise how much fun they had, along with a very drenched Mr Earl and Mrs Painting, with Mr Earl very proudly sliding his way to the end of the water slide and beyond! Thank you especially to Mr Proctor, who led proceedings.



I will also send thanks to the PTA and Mrs Badman particularly, for the support they have provided us with from afar this year. We hope to welcome back some of the favourite events next year, and as there will be a Chairperson vacancy to fill, do please consider getting involved in the future.

And then finally today, the whole school have been enjoying their last day of the year, taking advantage of the lovely weather and our amazing grounds.

Behind the scenes, Miss Halford has been busy weaving her magic and has acquired for the school, a vintage caravan, that we hope will augment our Forest Garden area and give children a fun place to be when they explore this area in the future. A massive thank you to Lesley and her family for kindly donating 'Buttercup' to our school.



The Unsung Heroes award this year, for two groups of people who do an amazing job, often quite anonymously, are our amazing kitchen team and fantastic cleaning team. They do such a great job and are so supportive to work with, but will do so out of the spotlight – I tip my hat to you all!

On a personal note, your unerring help, support and feedback throughout this year has been so much appreciated and welcome. I would also like to pay tribute to my wonderful staff, who work so tirelessly on behalf of your children and in many cases, for you as families – they, like you, have been incredible ... I am a very lucky Head Teacher!

And so it is, that we all wish you all a very enjoyable and safe summer break. Please re-charge your batteries, try and experience some new things and look forward to a new school year with renewed hope and optimism.

Take care and stay safe!

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

### **SEPTEMBER RETURN:**

INSET DAYS: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>. **First day back for children is Monday 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**UNIFORM DONATIONS:** We have been advised that used school uniform (in good condition) for local schools can be donated at Southern Cooperative Funeralcare, 76 London Road, Widley, PO7 5AX These items will be offered to local families in need.



### **COMPETITION TIME:**

There's still time left to nominate DJS to win £5000 in book tokens – click on the link below for more info! <https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools>

