



Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

Bere Road
Denmead
Waterlooville
Hampshire
PO7 6PH

Tel: 02392 252735

Mr A Clarke
Head Teacher

www.denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk

Friday 9th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's difficult to start this, my first newsletter of the new academic year. On the one hand, I have been buoyed by the return to school and the mixture of excitement and nerves that a new school year brings. To see your children look so smart, so bright eyed, so expectant. To be out on the playground and to hear the happy shouts and to see children playing so well together. To visit classrooms and see your children happy, focussed and eager to learn and to show their best. All of this I have happily witnessed throughout the week, and so despite the first week back always being tiring for everyone, I was expecting to be writing to you with a broad and satisfied smile on my face.

The unfortunate and deeply sad news of our Queen passing has however, left an empty feeling in myself. Our recent Jubilee celebrations were a timely reminder that her life as our Queen was one of service, duty and sacrifice. For the vast majority of us, we will have never known a time without our Queen and it will take some time to be able to process, in our own way, the sense of loss. As one commentator noted, although many of us did not know the Queen personally, it felt as if we did. As my earlier communication to you all noted, we will support your children through this moment in our nation's history; to listen to their thoughts and feelings and to be a source of support if and when needed. Even when you think news like this might not affect you, it can sometimes trigger a sense of loss about moments in your life where you have lost something or someone. On Monday, we will be holding two special assemblies to mark the Queen's passing and her legacy to our nation and beyond.

Thank you for your efforts in making sure your child has been ready to return to school. This includes making sure they are in the correct school uniform, including PE kit. As a reminder, we only allow small stud earrings and the wearing of non-smart watches. Thank you for your continued cooperation in supporting the school's uniform policy.

As some of you may remember, we are keen on holding an Open Classroom event. We had hoped for it to be next week, but we have had to push it back one week. Open Classroom will now be on Tuesday 20th September for Upper School parents, beginning at 2.45pm in the school hall. And then for Lower School parents on Thursday 22nd September, beginning at 2.45pm once again in the school hall. The event will allow you to hear some key information delivered by Mr Stapleton and Mrs Marks, along with their teaching teams. It will also give you the opportunity to informally be taken by your child into their new classroom to have a look round and to see what they have been up to in their first few weeks back.

The opportunity to discuss how your child has settled in to school will be reserved for the following week, when we will be holding our first parents' evenings of the year on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th September. The Wednesday offering will be for a face-to-face meeting in school and the Thursday offer will be a virtual offer, via MS Teams.

Many of you who have been dropping off or collecting your child from school, will have seen that many of the trees in our orchard are displaying very ripened fruit. Miss Halford will be harvesting the fruit next week, as part of the children's outdoor learning. The harvested fruit will be bagged up and offered to you after school as you collect. If you



would like to make a small donation, you can, but we are keen that they are eaten and enjoyed by anyone who takes a bag and that will be payment enough.

If you're stuck for things to do at the weekend, then I can highly recommend the Dino Derby, held by the 1st Denmead Scouts Group, from 1.30pm on Sunday at the end of Kidmore Lane. I will be attending with Mrs Marks and look forward to seeing many of you there – the weather is set fair, so fingers crossed for us all.

A polite request, as we have returned en-masse to school, to continue to show respect and consideration for our local residents when parking your cars. In particular, taking note of the signed no-waiting zone in Old River. Thank you for your anticipated support.

I finish with a huge congratulations to your children for completing a very successful first week back. And with a heartfelt thanks for your support in enabling this to happen.

I hope you all have an enjoyable and dry weekend.

Kind regards,



Mr Andy Clarke
Head Teacher

KEY AUTUMN TERM DATES

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|--|---|
| • Tuesday 20th September 2.45pm | Upper School open classroom event |
| • Thursday 22nd September 2.45pm | Lower School open classroom event |
| • Friday 23rd September | School photos |
| • Wednesday 28th &
Thurs 29th September | Parent Evenings - <i>times to be confirmed. One evening will be virtual and one evening will be held at school in person.</i> |
| • Thursday 6th October | Open Morning for Y2 families – <i>invitations to be sent out</i> |
| • Friday 18th November | Children In Need Day |

****Half term week – Monday 24th October****

KEY COMMUNICATIONS SENT THIS WEEK:

- Music lesson letters
- Our new starters should have received a Scopay online link email to activate a new account
- Y6: Application for Y7 place letter – closing date is 31st October 2022

Reminder: Year 4, 5 and 6 should continue to use the reading app (now renamed BoomRead) as the expectation is to read 5 times with an adult per week. Year 3 will receive logins shortly, with more information.

CONT >>>>



OUTDOOR LEARNING SCHEDULE:

For anyone new to us this year, this table is to show when your class has outdoor learning in the coming weeks. Each class has 2 timetabled afternoon sessions per half term, for which **they will all need WELLIES, TRAINERS AND COAT please.** For simplicity, each class will have their sessions on 2 consecutive days, so they only need to bring in a bag with wellies and trainers once. Year 5 & 6 classes will be on Monday and Tuesday in their week and Year 3 & 4 will be on the Thursday & Friday.

Day	UPPER: MONDAY & TUESDAY						LOWER: THURSDAY & FRIDAY					
Class	Mongolia	Bermuda	Cape Verde	Philippines	USA	Djibouti	Qatar	Aruba	Egypt	Indonesia	Panama	Seychelles
Weeks/date												
2. 12/9/22												
3. 19/9/22												
4. 26/9/22												
5. 3/10/22												
6. 10/10/22												
7. 17/10/22												

Plea from the outdoor learning team: We're making making compost as part of Working and Managing the Environment so we'd love fruit and veg peelings and egg shells in secure containers/bags please.

TRIPS & RESIDENTIAL NEWS:

- **Wednesday 12th October** Lower school trip to Butser Ancient Farm (*more details to follow shortly*)
- **Wednesday 8th March** Year 6 Trip to Mary Rose Museum
- **Thursday 9th March** Year 5 Trip to Mary Rose Museum

- **w/c 10th October** Y6 Bermuda & Cape Verde classes on Stone Farm Residential
- **w/c 17th October** Y6 Mongolia classes on Stone Farm Residential

Y6 Stone Farm: all balances are now overdue. We will contact families next week to check is the place is no longer required. If you have not been allocated a place but wish to now take one up, please contact us to discuss. We will notify you of the parent information evening as soon as possible and issue all the necessary paperwork, including kit list etc.

Y4 Calshot (April 2023): Balances due by early February 2023

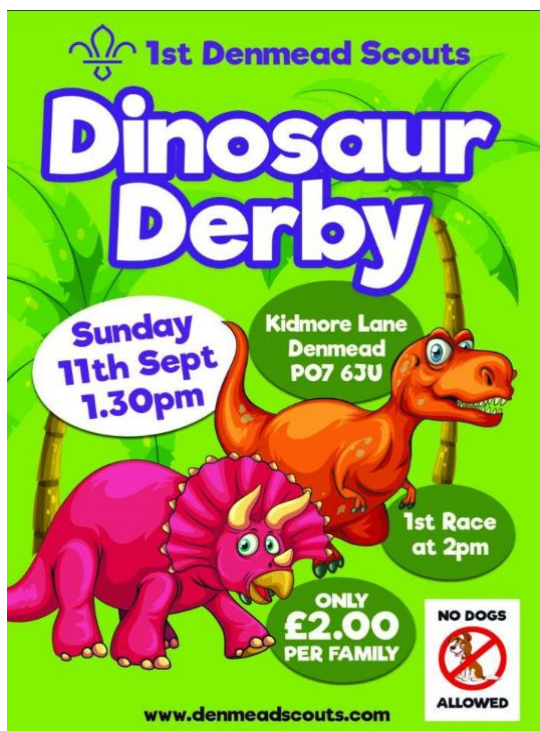


PTA – NEWS UPDATE

Last year, we were able to support a return to some of the PTA events, which were generously supported by many of you. Because of this, they were able to donate equipment for the outdoor learning space, the crackers for the Christmas lunch and items for the leavers' event and their keepsake hoodies. But more than this, by arranging events like the shopping day and fayre, our whole community has been able to enjoy some fantastic experiences that just wouldn't be possible otherwise. We bid a fond farewell to a number of key PTA stalwarts at the end of term as their year 6 children leave DJS. In particular, we wish to thank Mrs Badman as Chair, together with Mrs Thorpe (Treasurer) and Mrs Murray, whose contribution over a number of years was truly appreciated. A breakdown of the fundraising follows:

Bauble decoration competition	£152	Christmas Shopping Day	£999.62
Jubilee Jog	£1543.86	Summer Fayre	£2063.31
TOTAL RAISED £4758.79			

We are fortunate that some of our PTA parents are already beginning to think about ideas and events for this year and there will be an AGM, so look out for further details before long. In the meantime, if you're on the school run on Fridays, the PTA will be selling ice lollies in the playground at the end of the day (50p per item) for the next few weeks – weather permitting!!



Hex Pro Wrestling has been running fundraising events out of Denmead Junior school with this being their third weekend. The last 4 events have been well attended and enjoyed by all who came. Hex Pro has raised money for DJS to help with purchasing new equipment for the students. Mr. Restall (a teacher at DJS and wrestler himself) is the organiser of the events and wants to continue to deliver 'high quality entertainment for the community in the half term breaks at an affordable price'. 'We do the weekenders because the events are so popular and the hall can only hold so many so we split it over two days, each show is unique and exciting in its own right.' Hex Pro is also unique for its 6 sided ring, a sight rarely seen in the UK. Hex Pro prides itself on bringing together the best wrestlers the south coast has to offer in unique combinations you won't see anywhere else. The shows are to be held at Denmead Junior School, Bere Road, PO7 6PH

Tickets are limited and must be bought in advance: Saturday: www.ticketstripe.com/hexpro-oct22 Sunday: www.ticketstripe.com/hexpro-oct23 Find out more about us on our social media: www.facebook.com/HexProWrestling/ www.twitter.com/HexProWrestling www.youtube.com/channel/UCSb_qD8qCng2HinUBB5fPYA

