



Denmead Junior School

Building success, inspiring curiosity

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Monday 24th October 2022

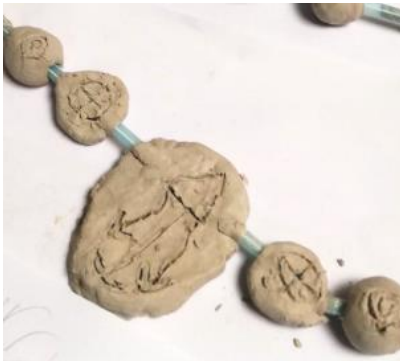
Dear Parents and Carers,

So our first half-term draws to a close. And what a half term it's been! DJS has travelled far and wide, we've been able to welcome many of you into school and witnessed political and monarchical history in the past seven weeks.

And throughout all this, your children have done brilliantly and your support has been very much welcomed and appreciated. Although it has felt incredibly busy, we can look back and see how much we've already achieved. I'm sure it has been challenging at times also – especially for our new year 3s. But out of challenge there accompanies a sense of pride in what has been accomplished.

It has been lovely to provide so many opportunities for you as parents to be in school this half term and we hope to build on this in the future.

This week, Year 3 and 4 have been very creative, designing and making beads from clay in their Art lessons.



The children learnt that it's something of a myth that stone age people did not have time, too busy surviving(!), to create decorative objects.

Indeed, they saw lots of archaeological evidence of stone age jewellery at Butser Ancient Farm last week which helped inspire them in their learning.

Meanwhile our Americas classes came together on Friday afternoon in the hall for a lively and fun challenge involving a general knowledge quiz and a nature bingo. Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children mixed to make up teams.

It has also been great to offer some fantastic off-site opportunities. Having just returned from Stone Farm, our new Year 6 residential trip, I know how valuable these experiences are to children's development and sense of independence and resilience, as well as supporting their emotional well-being. These opportunities come at a cost, and I thank you for paying that cost, especially at a time when things are becoming increasingly difficult financially. I also say thank you to my staff, who unstintingly give of their time to ensure that these trips can take place and in their positivity and organisation resulting in a fantastic experience for the children.





Our Year 6 Stone Farm Residential Blog

Once again, we hope to build on this off-site offer and look to ensure that it has great educational value as well as being cost-effective. Using our school minibus will help both in enriching our curriculum but also in helping keep overall costs down. We will be starting our library visits next half-term, which we couldn't have realistically contemplated before the use of the minibus. As I said last week, we will also be reviewing our current residential offer to ensure best value for money moving forwards.

After half-term, we will also be celebrating our Harvest Festival on the first Wednesday back. Following our assembly, which will be supported by Reverend Emma and All Saints Church, we hope to forward on any donated food to Waterloo Food Bank, as we have done in previous years. If you are able to spare any tinned or dry foods, that will be much appreciated.

We can also look forward to, on our first Thursday back, a first school discos for many a year. This should be great fun and another step back to normality. Like for many, this will be my first Denmead Junior School disco, and I can't wait to experience it!

I hope those of you were able to attend, enjoyed Mr Restall's Wrestling extravaganza over the weekend. As I've said before, I don't know of any school that provides this rather unique experience and I'm glad that we are able to provide this for you.

After the half term break we will be canvassing your views on how we are doing with our annual parent questionnaire. I look forward to your feedback as I want our school, like our children, to the best that it can be.

Wishing you a wonderful Autumn half term. Don't forget to put the clocks back on Sunday 30th for an extra hour of sleep if you're lucky perhaps! I look forward to seeing you all upon our return on Monday 31st October, where we can look forward to more treats – I trick you not!

Kind regards,



Kind regards,

A. Clarke

Mr Andy Clarke
Head Teacher

FIRST WEEK BACK:

Monday 31st October	First day back Deadline for online Y7 applications Rotary shoe box & Harvest donations due in for collection please
Tuesday 1st November	Deadline to return PTA artwork
Thursday 3rd November	Y6 Height & Weight checks in school PTA disco (remember those water bottles please): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5-6pm for Year 3&4• 6.15-7.15pm for Year 5&6
Friday 4th November	Expected Non-uniform day for winning house (carried over from this week)

KEY COMMUNICATIONS & REMINDERS THIS WEEK:

- **NEW MENU** – effective after half term, we will keep our baked potato menu, but the new HC3S 3-week menu will be live - find it on our website [HERE](#)
- The price of school meals will increase to £2.80 with effect from Monday 31 October 2022.
- **Year 3 Transition survey** (link [HERE](#)) open until noon on Friday 4th November.
- **PTA activity update:** Please look for the Xmas4Schools letter and artwork coming home for the holiday. Return date – Tues 1st November and orders delivered by Friday 2nd DECEMBER. Thank you for all of the support offered for the disco too!
- **Harvest donations email** for collection after half term



OUTDOOR LEARNING:

Please remember **WELLIES, TRAINERS AND COAT** for your child's two consecutive sessions on their weeks as follows...

	UPPER: MONDAY & TUESDAY						LOWER: THURSDAY & FRIDAY					
	Mongolia	Bermuda	Cape Verde	Philippines	USA	Djibouti	Qatar	Aruba	Egypt	Indonesia	Panama	Seychelles
w/b 31 st October												
w/b 7 th November												
w/b 14 th November												
w/b 21 st November												
w/b 28 th November												
w/b 5 th December												

WE NEED YOU: GARDENING VOLUNTEERS

We would like to invite volunteers with general gardening knowledge to help maintain the Forest Garden on a Wednesdays from 10.30am (for an hour or two). This would involve general gardening duties such as weeding, clearing, sorting etc. Although people will not be working with children, as with any regular visitor to school, we would require a DBS to be completed. We will provide tools and tea/coffee and biscuits. Please contact us in the office if you or someone you know are interested. Thank you.

**** NEW REQUEST: Plastic bottles please – eg cola, squash etc for bug hotel making and little plastic bowls for food for hedgehog houses. Thank you! ****

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CALENDAR (new additions will appear in red):

NOVEMBER	
18 th	Children In Need Day
DECEMBER	
6 th	Flu spray for all children – letter to follow
16 th	Last day of term – early finish 1.25pm
JANUARY	
3 rd	INSET day
4 th	First day back
FEBRUARY	
10 th	INSET day
13 th	Half term week
MARCH	
2 nd	World Book Day
7 th	Sibling & class group photos
8 th	Year 6 Trip to Mary Rose
9 th	Year 5 Trip to Mary Rose
31 st	Last day of term
APRIL	
3 rd -16 th	Easter Holidays
17 th	First day back
26 th – 28 th	Year 4 Calshot residential
MAY	
1 st	Bank Holiday
w/c 8 th	SATS week
w/c 30 th	Half term week
JUNE	
26 th	INSET day
JULY	
21 st	LAST DAY OF TERM – early finish tbc

