



Denmead Junior School

Inspiring Curiosity, Building Success

Bere Road
Denmead
Waterlooville
Hampshire
PO7 6PH

Tel: 02392 252735

Mr A Clarke
Head Teacher

www.denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk

Friday 24th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've enjoyed an exciting and full-on week back to learning after the half-term break.

A number of you will have received your child's results following the dyslexia screening tests that we began before Christmas and completed in January. Hopefully, regardless of result, you will be clearer around your child's level of need and how we might support your child in school and how you might do something similar at home. This was a huge undertaking for the school, but we felt strongly that we conduct these screening tests so that we can all be in a better and clearer position to meet your child's needs.

Mrs Lodge, who is our highly skilled, intervention teacher, is already well trained in this area, but she is also keen to extend her knowledge and understanding so that she can share this further with staff and children alike. She has been recently accepted onto a new course run by the Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity to extend her knowledge and understanding. The charity does great work across the country and can be a useful portal to understand more about dyslexia and specific learning difficulties (SpLD). I have included a link below for those of you who may be interested.

<https://helenarkell.org.uk/>

Next Friday sees us celebrate World Book Day. This is always a fun occasion, where children are encouraged to wear something inspired from their favourite book, author or book character. We will be engaging in a variety of book themed activities across the day and Mr Stapleton and myself will be holding special World Book Day assemblies on the day itself. Please do not feel pressured into buying a whole or new costume. The most important thing is for children to think and feel more positively about books and reading. Even a 'nod' to a particular book, author or character is plenty and if your child is not comfortable with dressing up, the activities throughout the day will be enough, so long as they enjoy the day.

Hopefully, you will have received the recent update from Mr Stapleton regarding Boom Reader, with the App now becoming even more interactive to help with that sense of home reading as a joint venture.

We are desperately trying to arrange another author visit. Our last one, involving Guy Bass, was a huge success and did fire the children's, and adults I hasten to add, enjoyment of reading, which is what we try to do, each and every day. Watch this space for exciting, future updates!

Mr Stapleton and the teaching staff, have been sharing reads of children's books that we have recently acquired for our library, to spread the word about new and exciting books and authors. I will signpost these to you in future newsletters, but this another way in which we are trying to 'hook' your children into the enjoyment and pleasure of reading.

We look forward to welcoming you all to parents evenings next week, whether in person or virtual. The 'in-person' offering will take place in the hall, as we have previously conducted them in years gone by. This will mean that there will be no Karate on that day. We will have a number of governors present to listen to your feedback and of course, I will also be available to discuss any issues that you might have. I would also hope, that you can at any time raise any



concerns you may have with me and not feel you have to wait until parents evening. I am always, as ever, keen to hear your views and wanting to resolve any matters that are causing concern.

And finally, I shall be donning my chauffeurs peaked cap next week, as I, along with Mr Marley and others, escort lower school to the banks of the river Meon, where children will extend their knowledge and understanding of rivers, through practical and hands-on (wellies on!) learning. What a great and memorable way to learn! I can't wait!

Looking forward to seeing you all next week.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards,



Mr Andy Clarke
Head Teacher

REMINDERS:

- Online reading survey [HERE](#)
- Upper school Mary Rose Trip consent form links: [YEAR 5](#) & [YEAR 6](#).
There are a number of parents/carers who have not yet completed the online form or made the voluntary contribution. Please would you do so over the weekend.

Class Photos

Class Photos, Year 6 group photos and sibling photos will take place on Tuesday 7th March. If possible, please send your child in wearing a DJS sweatshirt or cardigan.

Rhubarb:

Do you have an established rhubarb plant that you don't want or need? If so Outdoor Learning would be very grateful for this! Please get in contact with Miss Halford on z.halford@denmead-jun.hants.sch.uk

Courteous parking:

Please can we ask once again that parents and carers who choose to park in the residential roads around the school (front and rear) at pick up/drop off, do so with care and consideration for the local residents. We have heard from several of our neighbours in recent weeks who have routinely been unable to access their own driveways, and we will be inviting the local PCSO to make a return visit as soon as possible.



CALENDAR (new additions will appear in red & * indicates more details to follow):

FEBRUARY	
27 th	Day 1 – Lower School Rivers Trip
28 th	Day 2 – Lower School Rivers Trip In-person Parents’ Evening
MARCH	
1 st	Day 3 – Lower School Rivers Trip Virtual Parents’ Evening
3 rd	World Book Day* now moved to FRIDAY 3rd
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 week
MAY	
1 st	Bank Holiday
8 th	New Coronation Bank Holiday
w/c 8 th	SATS week – tests from Tuesday 9 th – Friday 12 th May inclusive
w/c 30 th	Half term week
JUNE	
26 th	INSET day
JULY	
21 st	LAST DAY OF TERM – early finish tbc

CLASS ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE:

LOWER SCHOOL: 2.40pm on TUESDAYS

Egypt	7 th March
Qatar	14 th March
Aruba	21 st March

UPPER SCHOOL: 2.40pm on THURSDAYS

USA	NEW DATE: Weds 8th March
Philippines	16 th March
Djibouti	23 rd March



OUTDOOR LEARNING SCHEDULE:

	UPPER: MONDAY & TUESDAY						LOWER: THURSDAY & FRIDAY					
	Mongolia	Bermuda	Cape Verde	Philippines	USA	Djibouti	Qatar	Aruba	Egypt	Indonesia	Panama	Seychelles
1. 20.2.23												
2. 27.2.23												
3. 6.3.23												
4. 13.3.23												
5. 20.3.23												
6. 27.3.23												

