



Denmead Junior School

Inspiring Curiosity, Building Success

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Mr A Clarke
Head Teacher

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Friday 10th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

So, here we are, at the end of half-term and half way through the school year! And although only 4 days, what a 4 days!

Panama and Cape Verde shared their assemblies this week, with Year 4 sharing details of how Maths can be fun ...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_HvGven4qJ0&ab_channel=LisaDieker

... and can be found in the world around us. Year 6 took a more dramatic approach to reflect their studies of Romeo and Juliet, with street fights, duels, a sweet parting and more! What a great way of de-mystifying Shakespeare and of making it active, fun and understandable!



Staying with assemblies, wow! what an assembly for upper school with Dr Whalen on Wednesday afternoon. The ideas he shared with the children were mind blowing! He described the power of the super computers that he uses to model the creation of stars after the "Big Bang". He showed pictures that had been created to show the different types of matter in the universe - only 4% of which is made of materials that are understood. We saw the creation of a star with matter being pulled together, he described the ideas of black holes, spinning galaxies, the expanding universe and the possibility of other universes.



Such was the level of information he presented, we wondered if it might be too much for the children, but then he invited questions and what fabulous questions they asked! They were completely engaged and curious to find out more and it was wonderful to have an expert who could answer them even when the answer was "We don't know because....." As Dr Whalen has proved to be so popular and there were still so many hands up with questions, he has very kindly agreed to return to school at some point after the half-term holidays.



Other: bulb planting for the PTA Easter sale activity

After a full day's worth of training for staff, involving visiting speakers focussing on how we can further develop and deepen our already rich and exciting curriculum, and how we can better understand children's behaviour in all its forms, we found ourselves up on Portsdown Hill for our final league race of the season. Both boys and girls have been competing hard against many other schools and it was a tense final race, where both our teams needed to run at their best to secure a place in the medals. And they produced their best run of the year! Which means that our boys team have finished 2nd in the league and our girls have finished 3rd! What a fantastic achievement! Proud of them all. We will meet after half-term, for the Championship Race at Crookhorn college, where medals and certificates will be awarded ... can't wait!

Coming up after half term we have: the remaining class assemblies, Lower School local rivers trips, Upper School Mary Rose trips, our parents' evenings, class and sibling photos, World Book Day (Friday 3rd March), Comic Relief and more PTA events.



We will also be participating in the **NSPCC's 'Speak out. Stay safe.'** online programme after half term. This consists of an online assembly for all pupils and a face to face assembly for years 5 and 6. This is a safeguarding programme available to all primary schools in the UK. It aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of

abuse in a child friendly way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline. The children will learn about the 'PANTS' acrostic, which stands for:

- Privates are private
- Always remember your body belongs to you
- No means no
- Talk about secrets that upset you
- Speak up, someone can help

In the online assembly, the 'Speak out. Stay safe.' messages are delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of their mascot Buddy as well as special guest appearances from Ant and Dec. We have studied the content of the materials and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of the programme, we're convinced children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe. If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme you can find information on the NSPCC website www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout or the school would be happy to discuss any questions that you may have.

Have a great half-term break if you can and see you all, raring to go, for the 2nd half of what should be, an eventful year here at Denmead Juniors!

Kind regards,

A. Clarke

Mr Andy Clarke
Head Teacher



REMINDERS:

- Parents' Evening booking system line on SCOPAY
- Online reading survey [HERE](#)
- Lower school Rivers Trip consent form link [HERE](#)
- Upper school Mary Rose Trip consent form links: [YEAR 5](#) & [YEAR 6](#)

Lower School – art materials:

After half-term, lower school will begin their new art unit inspired by the work of textile artist Jackie Gale. As part of this topic, the children will be using applique to create a seascape picture. We would be grateful if the children could bring in any scraps of material to add to the supply we have in school to support them with this project.

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.



PRIDE CERTIFICATE WINNERS THIS WEEK

Class	Child	Reason
Aruba		
Egypt	Ollie	For showing great cooperation and curiosity in maths this week when making 3D shapes. Ollie challenged himself to create complex 3D shapes and supported others to build theirs.
Qatar	Beau	For always being very polite to everybody in class as well as demonstrating positive behaviour in PE when participating in a football match.
Indonesia	Frankie	For showing real positivity and determination in her learning with Mrs Lodge.
Panama	Olivia	For being an excellent role model to the class. Olivia is determined to improve in every lesson and has worked particularly hard in maths this week to explain her understanding when converting measures.
Seychelles		
Djibouti		
Philippines	Abigail	For consistently great effort in all lessons. Having a good try at everything coming her way – a great role model to others.
USA	Dylan	For showing resilience and determination when making his magic wallet. Great listening skills and never give up attitude.
Bermuda	Isla	For creating a powerpoint and presenting some excellent information during our class assembly on the history of Bermuda.
Cape Verde	Sidney	For using feedback to develop his understanding in all subjects and for 'having a go' at all the learning that is offered to him. A wonderful work ethic!
Mongolia	Kyan	For showing a high level of grit and determination when persevering in violin lessons.



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

FEBRUARY	
20 th	First day back for children
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 3 rd
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												

WRESTLING

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February- HALF TERM 2023

Saturday 18th

Evening show. Doors 6pm Show start 6.30pm

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13th- 17th February

3rd - 14th April (excl bank Hols)

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