Coffee Mornings: w/b September 11th

- An opportunity to meet your new teacher, find out what is coming up this term and ask any questions. Refreshments will be provided.
- 9am start in the school hall.
- Tuesday 12th - Years 5 and 6
  Wednesday 13th - Years 1 and 2
  Thursday 14th - Years 3 and 4

School Photos: Thursday September 21st

- Taken by Kelly Firmin Photography
- Don't forget to brush your hair and bring your best smile!
- Sibling photos (who are attending school) will automatically take place during the course of Kelly's session, but if you would like a photo of non school siblings, then Kelly will be in the playground and the outdoor classroom from 3.15pm on both Thursday and Friday 22nd September.

PTA AGM: Thursday September 21st, 7.30pm

- Our PTA Annual General Meeting, held in the school hall.
- Open to all parents and carers of children attending the school, the meeting will appoint/re-appoint the chair(s), secretary and treasurer and will include representation from all class representatives.
- A chance to be involved in PTA Events and deciding how to raise and spend money to benefit the school and our children.

Mufti Days: Friday 22nd September, Friday 20th October 2017, Thursday 9th November and Tuesday 19th December

- A non-uniform day, used to raise funds across the year for various projects for both national charity days and PTA events.
- Children can wear their own clothes to school for the day, in exchange for bringing in a £1.00 contribution.
- Please do not let fashion override SAFETY. Children MUST wear sensible footwear and clothes suitable for the weather. School activities will continue as normal throughout the day, and the children must be able to engage with these safely and comfortably.
- If your child does not want to dress up, that is absolutely fine. Please still bring in a contribution of £1.00.
- This term’s themes are: Jeans for Genes, Wear it Pink, Numberfull (in conjunction with the PTA) and Christmas Jumper Day!

Dress to impress!
Parent Forum: Wednesday 27th September

• 9.15am to 11.30am, The Royal Oak
• The parent forum is a great way for parents and carers to communicate to the school any questions, concerns or feedback (including the positive!) about the running of the school or activities, such as clubs and events. The forum is made up of the two PTA parent representatives for each year and a senior school official, usually Mrs Stokes. We meet once every half term and parents are more than welcome to come along to the meetings. If you have anything you would like improved or any questions about the school, you can talk to your child’s class rep at any time and they can raise this at the next forum meeting. We will discuss the issues raised, how we can make changes to resolve those issues and report back to you on the action to be taken. This is then followed up at the next meeting so we can monitor our progress!
• Next meeting will be on Wednesday 23rd November in the evening at school from 7pm.

Bulbs in Barrows: Thursday or Friday 5th/6th October

• Following on from the success of last year, we will be holding our annual ‘Bulbs in Barrows’ afternoon in order to plant some more spring bulbs around the school grounds.
• If you are out buying bulbs for your own garden this Autumn and can spare a few, we would absolutely love it if you would donate some to the school and if you are free, come along with your trowel and help plant a few.
• Bulb donations from Monday 2nd October and planting after school at 3.15pm on either Thursday 5th or Friday 6th October, whichever day the weather is better.
• Please meet us by the outdoor classroom.
• If your children are keen gardeners, then they are more than welcome to join in with the planting or play in the background.
• There will be warm drinks and cookies for afterwards.
• To ensure a good spell of colour as soon as possible and well into the Spring, we would love snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils and tulips.
• If possible, please label your bulbs with the type of plant and their colour.

If the forecast is rain for both days, this event will be postponed to another Friday.

PTA Discos: Thursday 5th October

• A highly popular event with the children!
• This year we are trialing a new DJ, who organise games for the infants.
• Reception and KS1: 5.00-5.45pm
• KS2: 6.00-7.00pm
• This event is well supervised by members of the PTA and school staff.
• The school gates will be open at both entrances. However, the building itself can only be accessed from the car park entrance.
• Parents are welcome to park in the school playground, which will be opened up for this event.
• The children come to the main door where they will be charged a £2.00 entry fee. This covers limitless dancing, all the squash they can drink and some light snacks. There will be vegetable crudités – please encourage your child to have at least two of these as well as their sugary biscuits☺
• If parents choose to stay and wait during this event, rather than going home, we are happy for them to come into Year 6 via the classroom door from the car park, where they can sit and wait for the disco to finish. We do not encourage the children to run in and out of this room to see their parents during the disco.
• We will never leave a child in distress, as sometimes the disco lights and sounds can be overwhelming. If we know parents are waiting, we will come and get you. If not, we will always call for you to come and collect your child a little bit early.
• At the end of each disco, the children are brought to the Year 6 classroom, where they are matched up with their appropriate adult before being allowed to leave. Please be patient with us, as this can be quite a lengthy process, but we need to ensure that they are all safely returned to their families.
• We will not allow any child to walk home alone after the disco so please make provision to have them collected.
• If it is not raining, we would prefer that the children do not bring coats, as these can be quite tricky to match up with their owners at the end of the evening.
Ready Steady Cook & Fairtrade Tuck Shop: 
Monday 9th October - all week

- A week of activities dedicated to healthy eating.
- Full details will be sent out to parents in advance.
- As we are now a Fair Aware School and following on from the success of our last one, we will also be running a Fairtrade Tuck Shop during break times this week. Please send you children in with pocket money to use, should they desire.

PTA Pub Quiz Night: Thursday 12th October

- Open to anyone wishing to come along for a fun night out and an opportunity to raise funds for the school.
- 7.30pm to 9.30pm.
- Details of the venue will be posted on the school website and sent out to parents the week before.

Harvest Festival: Tuesday 17th October

- Held at Dormansland Baptist Church on the High Street
- Two separate services, due to limited space inside the church:
  - Reception and KS1 @ 9.30am
  - KS2 @ 11am
- All family and friends welcome to attend – no tickets necessary
- Parents who are able to help with walking the classes to and from the church are most welcome – please speak to your child’s class teacher before the day if you are able to help. We politely ask that you do not take on this role if you will have a toddler or a buggy with you, as the pavements are narrow and we need all adults to be able to walk in the road at the side of the classes.
- The children will take their harvest donation item with them to place at the altar when they arrive.
- The church has slightly limited viewing from the upstairs balcony, but the staff are aware of this and will do all that they can to ensure that the children are as visible as possible when their class is performing.
- Parents are welcome to stay behind after the service for refreshments.
Parent Consultation Evenings: Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th October

- The school operates an online booking system, which will be explained to you in the covering letter that you receive beforehand. Please speak to a member of the school office team if you require further assistance with booking your appointment.
- Appointments on Wednesday 18th are available between 3.15pm and 6pm, appointments on Thursday 19th are available between 3.15pm and 8pm, with a break in the middle for staff.
- Teachers are also able to book a more convenient appointment time for you, should either of the evenings be difficult to attend.

New Parent Open Morning: 8th November

- An open morning between 10am and 11am for new parents to the school and in particular Reception 2018.
- Parents will have an opportunity to take a tour of the school and grounds and meet members of our Senior Leadership and Early Years teams.

Numberful Day/Mufti Day: Friday 9th November

- A day dedicated to numbers.
- Children are asked to come to school dressed as a number.
- All proceeds will go to the PTA for the Festive Friday arrangements.

School Book Fair: Tuesday 14th November

- Similar to last year, the book fair is hosted by Scholastic
- The fair will be open each day from 3.15pm to 4pm from Tuesday 14th November to Friday 17th November
- All proceeds will go to the school library and new books.

Children in Need: Friday 17th November

- If any of your children would like to raise money for Children In Need this year, please ask them to talk to their teachers about their fundraising ideas and we will do our very best to support them.
Thursday 16th and 23rd November: PTA Christmas Challenge

- This event enables the PTA to collect goods for the Festive Fridays.
- Children are encouraged to bring in items for the Fair on each of these days:
  - 16th November: jolly jars
  - 23rd November: items for the Secret Santa room
- For every item brought into school, the PTA will exchange it for a bauble to be hung on a classroom tree.
- The class with the most baubles at the end of the two weeks wins a prize.
- If the whole school reaches a specified target number of donated items, Mrs Stokes usually has to dress up in a ridiculous costume!

Friendship Day: Thursday 30th November

- This is a lovely school event that takes place during school time every year, in order to transform the school’s displays into those with a Christmassy feel.
- The children arrive at school and register as usual. They are then split into seven groups in each class by their class teacher.
- Each of the seven groups is allocated a classroom for the morning and the children spend their time, working with other children from all over the school, painting giant display sheets to decorate the entire school building, in preparation for the Christmas season.
- The children and staff really enjoy this morning’s learning, as it is an opportunity for the older ones to inspire and nurture the younger ones and, in some cases, vice versa!
- This event inevitably involves everyone getting a little bit sticky, glittery and painty, so any old adult shirts from home that we can button backwards onto your child before they get started would be fantastic.

Reverse Advent Calendar: 1st December

- Starting December 1st, each child will be given a date on which to place a non-perishable food item into one of the 24 compartments of their class Advent calendar. They will be encouraged to reflect on helping others less fortunate than themselves as part of this process of giving.
- Some suggestions for non-perishable items might be: canned goods, a box of pasta, a jar of spaghetti sauce, silver foil,
- Once our boxes are filled, we will donate them to the Trussell’s Foodbank in East Grinstead.
- If anyone has an empty wine case or two, complete with the cardboard dividers inside that create 12 bottle spaces, we would really appreciate these, as every class will need two to build their advent calendar. Also, donations of Christmassy wrapping paper for us to wrap the boxes in, would be very much appreciated.
Infant Nativity Performances: 7th & 8th December

- As in previous years, our children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be performing their Nativity play this year. The performances are in the school hall.
- They perform the play a total of three times to family and friends over the two days, so please expect them to be more than a little tired and emotional this week (I have exactly the same to deal with, with the staff ….)
- Parents of children in these classes will be sent a letter, indicating what costumes they will need to provide and a date by which these need to be in school.
- Children in KS2 watch the final dress rehearsal on Wednesday 6th December, so older brothers and sisters will see the show during school time.
- The main performance times are as follows:
  - Thursday 7th December @ 9.30am: Please note, this is the performance where we welcome toddlers – no ticket needed for a toddler, as they can sit on your lap or at the front to watch the show. Our local pre-school children also attend this performance with their key staff.
  - Thursday 7th December @ 2.30pm
  - Friday 8th December @ 2.30pm
  - You will be sent home a separate letter, outlining the procedure for reserving your tickets, nearer the time. **Tickets are limited initially to TWO PER FAMILY.** Please send this ticket request form into the school office as soon as possible. Ticket requests to reach us **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER.** Your tickets will be sent out to you via bookbags on the Monday, with additional allocations sent home the following Wednesday, 29th November.
- While we will endeavour to accommodate as many requests for additional tickets as possible, for health and safety reasons, we must limit our numbers in the hall and will, therefore, prioritise your request for two tickets initially. We thank you for your patience and understanding in this regard.

PTA Festive Friday and Film Night: 1st & 15th December

- This year there will be no Christmas/Winter Fair, but instead two Festive Fridays, straight after school, but with combined PTA led events.
- On Friday 1st there will be a selection of stalls for both children and parents to buy from. These will include the very popular Jolly Jars, Secret Santa, Crafts & Toys.
- On Friday 15th December there will be a Film Night.
  
  Plenty of festive fun for the whole family!
PTA Festive Film Night: Friday 15th December

- Reception and KS1: 4:30-6:00pm
- KS2: 6:30 – 8:30pm
- Both films will be shown in the main school hall
- £3.50 entrance fee, which includes festive inspired treat and drink.
- Children can bring along their pillow or cushion for a cosy movie experience
- This event will be well supervised by members of the PTA and school staff.
- The school gates will be open at both entrances. However, the building itself will only be accessed from the car park entrance.
- At the end of each film, the children will be brought to the Year 6 classroom, where they can be matched up with their appropriate adult before being allowed to leave. Please be patient with us, as this can be quite a lengthy process, but we need to ensure that they are all safely returned to their families.
- We will not allow any child to walk home alone after the movie night so please make provision to have them collected.

Class Christmas Parties
Reception & KS1: Monday 18th December
KS2: Wednesday 20th December

- We all love a party and the Christmas parties are one of the highlights of the children’s school year.
- The parties run from 1.45 to 3.15pm in the classrooms on the dates listed above.
- The children come to school in their uniform as usual, on the morning of the party, with their party clothes in a labelled bag. These will be stored safely for them until the afternoon. They will register after lunch and then get changed.
- Each class will be asked to bring a particular type of food, as indicated in the letters you will receive from your class teachers nearer the time. All the food is gathered together in the hall, where the children will spend part of the afternoon together, eating and/or disco dancing.
- Remaining food will be added to our reverse advent calendars for the food bank.
- Any child with particular food allergies will need to bring in their own separate party food, which we will ensure that they have safely on the day.
- We do welcome any offers of parental help for these events, especially with the setting up, serving and clearing away of the food in the main hall. This will also be requested in the letter to you from your child’s class teacher. Please be aware that, unfortunately, we cannot cater for toddlers at the parties so please do not offer to help if this is going to be difficult for you to organise.

Christmas Jumper Day & Carols by Candlelight: Tuesday 19th December

- All children, staff and parents are invited to wear their most fashionable, iconic Christmas woolwear to school for the day.
- If children do not have a Christmas jumper or would prefer not to wear one, teachers will be making badges the day before with their classes so that these can be worn over the school logo on a sweatshirt or cardigan on the day.
- This date happens to coincide with our Christmas carol concert at St John’s Church this year, so the church may look a little more Christmassy than usual when we arrive, adorned in our seasonal garments!
- In the evening, we would like to invite everyone back to school for additional carol signing by candle light in the playground - details nearer the time.
Christmas Carol Concert @ St. John’s Church: Tuesday 19th December

- We would like to invite as many family and friends to join us at St. John’s Church, Dormansland, for this lovely whole school Christmas event.
- Please drop your children off at school, as usual, and then make your way to the church for a 9.15am start to our carol service, which usually lasts no more than an hour.
- We will walk the children to and from the church. However, the teachers of the younger classes always appreciate any offers of help from parents to help us transfer the children safely there and back, in much the same way as for our Harvest celebration.
- Toddlers are welcome at this service. However, please be aware that this event is usually extremely well attended and there may be standing room only at the back of the church, especially for people with buggies.

Cake Sales: dates to be advised nearer the time
(all proceeds from these sales will go to the PTA)

- These are usually run by classes or groups of children and after school
- If involved, parents can put any cake donations into the PTA trolley which will be located outside the main school office on the morning of the cake sale
- Cakes will be set out for sale either in the outdoor cabin or in the playground
- Prices normally are kept simple, e.g., 50p each or three for £1.00
- Children are encouraged to buy cakes themselves, although parents are never turned away!
- Sometimes whole cakes are available for sale and we always welcome these
- In addition to cake contributions, we would love donations of sandwich bags

Class Assemblies and Open Mornings

- Every class has an opportunity to share some of the learning they have been doing with their family and friends throughout the school year.
- Assemblies are always held at 9:15am in the main school hall and should last no more than 20 minutes.
- A new feature to our assembly programme this year is the introduction of a cup of tea afterwards and the chance to join the children after their assembly in their classroom for an open morning, so that you can look at their books with them.
- The class teacher will be available during this session for an informal chat.
- The dates for each class assembly will be advertised on the school website calendar and a reminder will be sent out to you via the class webpage one week before.
Sports fixtures for this term:

**Wednesday 4th October**
Cross Country for Years 3 to 6

**Monday 6th November**
Tag Rugby for Y5 & 6

**Wednesday 22nd November**
Girl's Football for Y5 & 6

**Tuesday 5th December**
Handball Festival for Y3 & 4

**All at Oxted School**

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We hope that you find this guide a useful reference point for school events this term, especially those of you who are new to Dormansland Primary School.

Although this term is already looking busy, we may well be adding a few more dates soon, such as confirmation of our school choir singing in local residential homes, further sporting fixtures as they are confirmed and one or two other things to look out for.

As always, please keep an eye on the school website calendar, our weekly diary dates information and your child’s class webpage for the most up to date information.

Another ‘At-a-Glance’ guide will be produced jointly by the school and the PTA for the Spring term.

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