Merry Christmas…..

Dear Parents

I have just got back from our carol service at St John’s this morning, my head still ringing with the children’s angelic singing and my heart warmed by so many lovely conversations with parents and grandparents about the service. It’s on days like today when I cannot believe how lucky I am to do the job that I do at Dormansland.

This has been a busy first term and I hope that our newsletter gives you a flavour of many of our achievements, as well as a taste of things still to come.

We are saying goodbye to several members of staff this term, including Mrs Pollard, Mrs Douch and Mrs Miller. All three have given so much to our school community and I know that parents will join me in wishing them well for the future. Mrs Pollard will be returning after a period of maternity leave, and we wish her a calm Christmas before the imminent arrival of her new little one in January.

We will also be saying goodbye to our little elfin friend, who will be leaving Dormansland on Christmas Eve. We hope you have enjoyed following his adventures around the school on Twitter as much as the children have enjoyed searching for him each morning.

It just remains for me to wish you all the very merriest of Christmas breaks and we will look forward to seeing you all back again on Wednesday 4th January, following our INSET day on the 3rd.

Sarah Stokes
Having recently applied for a grant, we are delighted to be able to tell you that we have been awarded the sum of £200 plus a £20 Squires Garden Centre Voucher from the Surrey Garden Trust Schools Scheme. Nine schools out of fourteen applications received a share of £1500 from the scheme and Dormansland was one of them. A huge thank you to all the children, who helped Mrs Miller produce a pop up piece of artwork designed as a 'shed' as part of our application. The trust will be visiting us in the New Year to present us with a cheque and discuss our project. This grant will go towards another from the Parish Council, leaving us with £1900 left to raise. If you have been a parent at the School for a while, then you will remember that our garden used to be where the Outdoor Classroom is now standing. We would really like to create a new garden for the children to learn from and be able to use. Budget permitting, we would like to have a potting shed with tools and some garden beds installed by early Spring. To ensure the success of the garden during the holidays and enable the children to see the full cycle of planting, we would like to invite a member of the local community to adopt a mini allotment at the garden and be on hand to talk to the children about their gardening. We think this is a really exciting project and hope you will agree. If you would like to join a team to get this kick started or have contacts for any supplies/materials, then please would you contact Mrs Tufo via the office.

Looking for a new venue for a birthday party or celebration?

The school hall is available for hire. Please contact Mrs Blyde at the school office for further details: admin@dormansland.surrey.sch.uk

Fundraising News

We had a spectacular time on Friday the 18th November when all manner of spots came into the School. Thank you so much for supporting Children In Need, raising £194.00. Details of our Charity Market Place held in November can be found on pages 7 & 8.

A thank you from Miss Carter....

New Books

A huge thanks to staff, parents and year 6 librarians who helped out with running the recent book fair. We raised an amazing £597 in commission, all of which I am hoping to spend on group readers for KS2 and new take home readers for KS1 and early years.
Let’s talk about………

From January please look out for details of our workshops and parent sessions, which will begin with "making healthy choices’ and ‘internet safety at home’. If you would like us to deliver any other workshops, then please do let us know.

Dormansland In the Woods

As the coldest months approach on our return to school, just a gentle reminder to wear lots of layers when coming to Ashdown Forest and bring your waterproof clothing, as we will be spending the whole day outdoors. Details of dates for each class can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Snow Procedure


Should the weather have an impact on the school's daily routines, a message will be placed on the front page of the school website by 7am that day and a tweet will also be sent out.

Stop ‘n’ drop - volunteers needed

Are there any Year 5 & 6 children, who would like to volunteer to help with our stop ‘n’ drop scheme from January. If so, please contact Mr Cook via his Class Page email or leave a message at the school office.

Aluminium Cans Needed……..

Decorations for the next Christmas fair to sell. Please drop all cans off in the box outside of the office. The box will be out by next term, if not wait …it will be out soon. You can drop cans off any time in the year up until the autumn half term when we will be casting. Make sure the cans are aluminium.

Isaac Smeaton Y4 😊

Staffing News

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Miller this term, who has taught at Dormansland for the last ten years and will be greatly missed.

Good bye also to Mrs Douch and good luck in her new role in Horsted Keynes.

A warm welcome to our Year 5 teacher Miss Jessica Newns, who will be covering for Mrs Pollard, whilst on maternity leave and also our Reception teacher, Mrs Sue Reeve. Both will be starting with us on our return in January.
Letter from one of the Governors - Tony Day

Hello! My name is Tony and I am one of the more recently elected governors to Dormansland (and a parent here for eleven years) and I sit on the Resources Committee.

'Resources' covers everything from paper and stationery to staffing and the premises. This year we are looking at the kitchen provision and possible alterations to the IT Suite, to meet the future changes of the school. We are also responsible for monitoring the Health & Safety aspects of the School, which is why we are introducing an Asthma Policy soon. As a life long Asthmatic myself and with a child, who suffers from Asthma, I am fully aware of the effects and potential dangers of this condition, if not treated or dealt with appropriately. Due to the increase in the number of children diagnosed with Asthma each year nationally, we felt this was the right time to enhance our current in house provisions, by introducing a formal policy and details of this will be coming out in the New Year.

Should anyone wish to discuss this further or anything else related to the governors, please feel free to contact me via the school office.

Tony Day

Dormansland Primary School Parent Forum

The Parent Forum met in November of this term and were joined by the chair of governors Trevor Smeaton and two of our other governors Rose Thorn and Angela Winsor.

Items discussed included the possible transition to academy status for our school. Many questions from parents were raised and a booklet will be produced, providing information for parents ahead of consultations to be held next term.

Topics for further parent workshops next year were also suggested, these included healthy eating, cyber bullying and how maths is taught.

For more detailed information of these and the other topics discussed the minutes are available from your class rep or on the school website. Once again you can find the name of your class rep on the school website www.dormansland.surrey.sch.uk/pta-the-cherry-on-the-cake or you can email any queries to pta@dormansland.surrey.sch.uk.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st February. If you have any topics to be raised please contact your class rep or come and join us!

We wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas.

Lucy Whitehead (Topaz Class Rep)
Have you……won a medal, reached a personal goal, played in a match or event outside of school or entered a competition recently? Don't forget to tell your editorial team about your sporting achievements, so that we can celebrate with you in our next newsletter.

Congratulations to Ted in Year 4, who recently entered an Under 9/10 football tournament run by Crystal Palace. The teams played against other Under 9’s and were watched by Crystal Palace scouts. After the tournament, he received an email inviting him to join the ‘Crystal Palace Development Squad’ and now trains with the development squad every Friday evening on an Astro-turf in East Grinstead.

Well Done to our Hand Ball Team (Charlie, George, Thomas, Matthew and Ted) who recently took part in the inter-school handball festival at Oxted School and won every game in their group.

PTA Update

We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas Fair a few weeks ago. Thank you for coming and supporting the event. We are very grateful for everyone's help - donations, setting up, looking after stalls, clearing up and joining in! It is one of our main events in the year for fundraising. As budgets for education becomes increasingly tighter, our fundraising becomes more essential to assist the school in giving the children the environment and experiences that will enhance their time at Dormansland. Therefore, we are delighted to reveal that the fair raised in excess of £2000.

We have had many other successes this term......
The school disco was as popular, as usual.
Our "dream team" Jumble sale organisers - Donna and Alex completed their final Jumble Sale this term to raise an amazing £1000. Thank you to them and their team of helpers. The children seemed to really enjoy the "Movie Night" and this was also a healthy fundraiser. We hope to have more of these in the future. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 10th January, please remember that all parents and carers are automatically members of the PTA and everyone is welcome to come along to a meeting. It's a great way to support the school.
If you still have some Online Christmas Shopping to do, or organise a holiday in the New Year, do remember to get signed into "Easy fundraising" - it really is an easy way to raise money, without any cost to you. Ask your class rep if you need any further information.

Wishing you all a very happy and relaxing Christmas.

Best wishes

The PTA Team xx
Friendship Day
Our First Charity Market Place - 11th November

"On this sale, we raised £45.05. Tear Fund help young children grow up in a nicer environment. 1/4 people in Cambodia have a toilet and even then it isn't a very pleasant one. 3/4 children in Cambodia have to do physical jobs and don't get paid much at all. 2/4 children have clean fresh water to drink. Fortunately, quite a few children get educated. Martha came across this hurtful news and decided something needed to be done about it", Tia, Erin and Martha.

"We are very happy to have raised £75.00 for Cleft Lip and Palate. We chose it because my brother Max and my Dad had Cleft Lip and Palate. 3 babies every minute in the UK are born with Cleft Lip and Palate. We got inspired because of Jazmin's brother's operation and he recovered so well and they were so nice to him. We thought that the £75.00 could help massively", by James, Bess, Jazmin and Ollie.

"We raised £65.30 for PAT Dogs. The reason is because we have only just had two dogs come in and they are Harry's dogs. Dora and Barney are Pets as Therapy dogs. Dora and Barney listen to children read. They could also visit hospital or care homes. The reading scheme is known as Read 2 Dogs. The children read for 10-15 minutes once a week for a half term. At the end of term assembly each child gets a certificate and a bookmark with either Barney or Dora on it", by Harry H and Harry S.
"We wanted to do this to help children live longer and happier. We raised around £33.00 for Water Aid from selling cakes, cookies and popcorn", Lainey, Sid & Isaac.

"We raised £30.50 and we did because not everyone is as lucky as us. Children in Need support children who have lost a part of their family or if someone doesn't have a home", Isabella, Sienna and Willow.

"CRY stands for Cardiac Risk in the Young. We decided to raise money for CRY because we all do swimming with a lady called Shirley and her daughter died as a result of this condition. We wanted to raise money to help families who lost loved ones and help young people have treatment. We raised £68.00 ", Mary, Isabelle, Giuseppe, Tabitha and Lottie.
Pics from this half term……

Clockwise from top left:

Charity Market,
Spotacular
Children In Need,
PTA Christmas Fair,
KS1 Nativity, Carol Singing at Greathed Manor & St Johns.
### EFFORT AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS WINTER 2016 - CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Best Attitude to Learning</strong></td>
<td>Harry G</td>
<td>Primrose</td>
<td>Logan</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>Evie</td>
<td>Megan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sportsmanship Award</strong></td>
<td>Luca</td>
<td>Olivia</td>
<td>Alfie</td>
<td>Charlie</td>
<td>Harry</td>
<td>Sophia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Team Player Award</strong></td>
<td>Ella</td>
<td>Esme</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>James</td>
<td>Henrie</td>
<td>Nathan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Most Enquiring Mind</strong></td>
<td>Bailey</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>Willow</td>
<td>Isaac</td>
<td>Alfie</td>
<td>Matilda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Most Helpful Member of the Class</strong></td>
<td>Lottie</td>
<td>Ellie</td>
<td>Amy</td>
<td>Lainey</td>
<td>Liam</td>
<td>Katie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Most Improved Reader</strong></td>
<td>Ellie</td>
<td>Millie</td>
<td>George</td>
<td>Oliver</td>
<td>Harley-Jay</td>
<td>Lottie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Most Improved Writer</strong></td>
<td>Harry P</td>
<td>Will</td>
<td>Matthew</td>
<td>Freya</td>
<td>Keely</td>
<td>Dylan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Most Improved Mathematician</strong></td>
<td>Suzy</td>
<td>Tom</td>
<td>Stevie</td>
<td>Harley</td>
<td>Megan</td>
<td>Izzy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Effort Award</strong></td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Theo</td>
<td>Giuseppe</td>
<td>Millie</td>
<td>Diezel</td>
<td>Isabella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All Round Superstar Award</strong></td>
<td>Elia</td>
<td>Evie</td>
<td>Sienna</td>
<td>Oscar</td>
<td>Dylan</td>
<td>Ella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Head Teacher Award for Excellence</strong></td>
<td>Ted</td>
<td>Daisy</td>
<td>Joshua</td>
<td>Emma</td>
<td>Alfie</td>
<td>Cameron</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to Topaz Class for an outstanding 98.85% attendance since September!
Tips For Keeping Your Child Safe Online

We all enjoy the benefits of the internet, which is an amazing source of information, but there are some elements that our children should not have access to. Last month we shared details of three separate organisations including CEOP, NSPCC and Think U Know, which have a wealth of useful information on their websites. We also sent out a booklet via book bags from the NSPCC.

Internet Matters - www.internet.matters.org is another really helpful site to look at with amongst other details, has step by step instructions to help you implement parental controls on various devices. It also lists a number of apps that you can use to control what your children see and do on Android devices, whether its a family device or their own, including:

Screen Time Parental Control - Screen Time is a parental control app that is less invasive than others and geared towards families with older children and teenagers. It will let you monitor and manage the time spent on devices and allows you to set time limits on selected apps, as well as a bedtime curfew, lights out and school time curfews. It can be controlled via any browser and the app itself runs in the background, providing you with an easy way to check up on usage.

Funamo Parental Control - allows you to monitor devices and filter internet sites. Contacts, calls, SMS, websites, applications and locations of the device will automatically be logged and history data is uploaded to the Funamo server each day. As a parent, you will then be able to view this data from any browser whenever you want. You can also enforce safe search for Google, Yahoo, Bing and YouTube, as well as set up keyword or phrase filtering – which lets you ban specific topics that might be deemed safe by the search engines and time limits for applications.

Kids Place – You will have to set up a pin when you first log into Kids Place that is then needed to exit the app, but once logged in, it will protect your personal data and restrict your children to only use apps approved by you. Kids Place will also make sure your kids can’t do anything on your device that will cost you money, such as making phone calls, texting or downloading new apps. In addition, you can block incoming calls when this app is running and disable all wireless signals, as well as have multiple user profiles: http://bit.ly/2gQyN2l

Other useful reading research includes a Digital Magazine produced in connection with Vodafone. We are ordering some hard copies for you, but in the meantime the link is http://bit.ly/2bY8He8

Have E Safety and Parental Controls been on your mind lately? If so, details of a Parent Workshop will be coming up in the New Year. Or, if this is one of your resolutions for 2017 and you would like to talk to a professional about it, then we have a parent called Mark at school, who can help and is offering some free initial advice on 01342 349109.

If you would prefer a more detailed consultation please contact Mark via his website on: www.mrcomputing.net for further details.
DIARY DATES FOR NEXT TERM
(Please keep an eye on the school website for any changes and new additions. You will also find full details with timings there.)

Tuesday 3rd January
INSET Day for staff only

Wednesday 4th January
First day of term for children

Tuesday 10th January
PTA Meeting - 7.30pm

Wednesday 11th January
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 2

Wednesday 18th January
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 1

Wednesday 18th January
Children & Learning Committee - 5pm - 7pm

Wednesday 25th January
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 3

Wednesday 1st February
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 6

Wednesday 8th February
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 4 & 5

Friday 10th February
Topaz Class Assembly - 9.15am

HALF TERM - February 13th to 17th

Wednesday 22nd February
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 2

Wednesday 1st March
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 6

Wednesday 1st March
Resources Committee - 5pm to 7pm

Wednesday 8th March
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 1

Wednesday 15th March
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 3

Friday 17th March
School Reports Go Home

Sunday 19th March - PTA Event
Family Easter Walk

Wednesday 22nd March
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 4

Wednesday 22nd March
Full Governing Body Meeting - 5pm to 7.30pm

Friday 24th March
Diamond Class Assembly - 9.15am

Tuesday 28th & Wednesday 29th March
Parent Consultation Evenings

Wednesday 29th March
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 5

Thursday 30th March
PTA Disco

Friday 31st March - Last Day of Term

INSET DAYS FOR 2017/2018
Mon 4th September 2017
Thurs 4th & Fri 5th January 2018
Tuesday 8th May 2018
Monday 23rd July 2018
Dormansland Primary School
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Absence Notifications: absence@dormansland.surrey.sch.uk or use the 'Studybugs' app: https://studybugs.com/about/parents