Happy New Year!

The PTA team have been working hard again this school year to raise funds for the school to spend on enhancing your children’s learning and school experience.

All parents or carers of children attending Dormansland Primary School are automatically members of the Dormansland PTA and everyone is welcome.

The level of help needed to keep the PTA running and to raise much-needed funds for our children is always increasing. As many of you know, the Dormansland PTA has gone through many changes over the last few years.

You may not know that the PTA nearly closed down twice last year because we did not have anyone to Chair the PTA Committee or even enough volunteers to actually run our events.

We currently run all our events with the core help of only about 16 people. This is out of a school community of around 350 parent (and carer) PTA members. We feel that this is partly because parents often don’t know what the PTA really does, how much work is involved and how the funds raised are used to benefit the school.

We hope that by publishing a newsletter every term we can improve communication within the school community. The newsletter will update everyone on what we have been up to, give an idea of how much money we have raised together and how the PTA has used those funds, along with details of upcoming events and how you could help. Please do email us at pta@dormansland.surrey.sch.uk if you have any questions, queries or ideas!

Thank you for your support.
WHAT DOES THE PTA DO?

We are very lucky at Dormansland Primary School to have Mrs Stokes and a committed team of staff who put together a fun and enhanced teaching plan for the children, packed with different activities. Of course, we also know how hard it is to keep track of all the school activities and PTA events for the children!

The PTA supports the school financially by paying for the extras to support and enhance this teaching, such as paying towards resources, school trips, the school library, equipment, school garden and providing playground equipment. For example, the PTA paid for the new library system and for nearly every item of play equipment and seating you see throughout the playground.

PTA FUNDRAISING: Why are we always asking for your money?!

Nearly every school has a PTA and fundraising for it is part of school life. We know it can feel like you are always being asked for money by the PTA.

Yes, our children go to a government-funded school and we pay taxes to fund it!

Unfortunately, just like the NHS, school funding is just not sufficient to provide for the children’s needs. In fact, as you may know, the school is desperately struggling to cover even basic stationary for the children from their local authority budget. Increasingly the PTA funds are being used for everyday items as well as the extra ‘luxuries’.

Whether this makes us feel angry or frustrated etc, this is the current reality. The PTA funds are vital to our children’s learning and, most importantly, for them all to have a fun, happy time at Dormansland Primary. Our aim is to use the PTA funds for the benefit of the children here right now and support the school in any way we can.

WHAT HAS BEEN RAISED AND WHAT HAS BEEN SPENT?

We will be using our newsletter to give everyone a breakdown of what we have

Upcoming events:

- **8 February: Movie Night** – KS1 film: Trolls (U). KS2 film: Big Hero 6 (PG):
  *Could you stay to help at the KS1 or KS2 film night to supervise the children and serve snacks?*

- **9 March: Ladies Pamper Night!** Details to follow! Pre-booking required for pedicures/manicures etc.
  *Can you help on the day by helping set up or serve drinks? Are you a beautician (or similar!) willing to help?*

- **25 March: Easter walk**
  *Could you help with organising or setting up the walk with support? We need volunteers to be marshalls on the day, put out the Easter egg challenge signs and/or serve refreshments after the walk.*

- **12 May: A Royal May Fair:**
  *We are already starting to plan the May Fair in detail so if you would like to help with organising this big event or have any ideas please get in touch.*

Save the date:

- **9 June: Family Camping Day** at the school – day and night tickets available.
  Details to follow.....

PTA Committee:

Co-Chairs: Helen Smith & Catherine Thompson
Treasurer: Tara Vasey
Secretaries: Sam Brehm & Wendy Wood

Email: pta@dormanland.surrey.sch.uk
SO......WHY DO WE DO IT?

The reward? Seeing how much the children love the PTA events, especially the fairs and movie nights.

Why do we do it? Because we want our children to have the best experience they can at Dormansland Primary. We know how tight funds are for the school and what a shame it would be for all our children if there was no PTA.

WHAT DOES THE PTA NEED FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY?

Feeling inspired?! Please help us!

We desperately need volunteers to help at PTA events and to help with planning projects.

Whilst it may seem like a lot of work, if we delegate and each take on a small task with support from each other it really is easier as well as a lot of fun! Many hands make light work.... Most active PTA members will say what they enjoy most is socialising with the other mums and dads and just having a laugh while we help the school. Being active in the PTA is a great way to socialise and contribute to school life.

We know that every family is different and for many families every penny counts now. Your contribution does not have to be in £££... Some parents may also feel they will get roped into doing PTA events unwillingly or be put under pressure to help in the future. Do not fear! Even if you can only offer an hour of your time here and there, on a particular day of the week or only for a specific event this would be brilliant. Anything you can do will be appreciated!

We also need contacts who may be willing to donate raffle prizes or practical things like crafts materials, marketing materials or paper supplies.

We are a friendly, easy going bunch (honest.....!) and everyone is welcome. We are all mums or dads, most of us work full or part time, and we have a lot of babies and toddlers in tow! We meet formally once a term and informally (i.e. at the pub) once every half term or so. Come and join us! Please get in touch with

INCOME:

In the winter term, you helped to raise the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PTA School Disco</td>
<td>£241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTA Quiz Night</td>
<td>£281</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTA Numberful Mufti Day</td>
<td>£140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Festive Friday - approx</td>
<td>£1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festive Film Night</td>
<td>£396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refreshments at Carols by Candlelight</td>
<td>£30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>£2,888</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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OUTGOINGS:

From September 2017 to January 2018, the PTA has approved the following spending:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outings Subsidy - Funded £10 per child towards class trips. We do this each year, subject to funds.</td>
<td>£2,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Allowance – each class teacher is offered £200 per year to use for ‘extras’ to aid learning.</td>
<td>£1,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cameras for classrooms x 8 - Cost approx. £670, part funded by a grant the PTA applied for of £300.</td>
<td>£370</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTA Christmas treat - Treasure Island theatre production by The Flying Pizza Company.</td>
<td>£270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding for science week and musical appreciation week</td>
<td>£1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>£5,120</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
us by email if you feel you could help in some way.

The PTA funds we raise together also allow us to hold all PTA events as we need rolling funds to cover up front expenses.
GRANTS:

The PTA also apply for grants each year for the benefit of the school children. So far, this school year we have been successful with the following:


2. Application for a grant from the Parish Council of £200 to fund a weather station for the school.

3. Application for a grant from the Dormansland Carnival Committee of £300 towards the purchase of new cameras for the classrooms.

Easyfundraising:

Please support us by using Easy Fundraising when you make any online purchases (www.easyfundraising.org.uk). This is a really easy way to make money for the school without costing you a penny!

Easyfundraising has over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, the trainline and Sainsbury’s. We currently have only 45 supporters signed up to easyfundraising. We would like to raise more PTA funds with easyfundraising to take the pressure off fundraising directly from parents.

How it works:

1. Head to the easyfundraising website page www.easyfundraising.org.uk and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you’ve checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your chosen good cause for no extra cost!
4. You can also set up automatic reminders, so you are reminded to go to easyfundraising first.

OUR EVENTS AND HOW WE DO IT:

It is not until you get involved with the planning of PTA events and projects that you realise how much work the PTA has to do just to make these events happen. All events need to have a basic plan and the dates agreed with the school by the August before school starts. The PTA therefore plans them all in the previous July.

As an example, planning for Festive Friday (the Christmas Fair) began at our PTA meeting in July 2017. Due to popular demand from parents, we agreed to hold the Christmas Fair on a Friday instead of a Saturday this year.

In September 2017, we began planning in detail. Throughout October and November, we applied for the alcohol licence, drew up posters, leaflets and floor plans, organised stalls for all ages and budgets, sourced Silent Auction prizes, handmade all the PTA crafts to sell and organised the Christmas Challenges (with two days spent at school by our wonderful volunteers sorting all the items donated). Our houses were taken over with storing donations and making crafts.

We spent the final days dealing with the lengthy Health & Safety assessment, finalising the never-ending list of Secret Santa and Santa’s grotto slots (an unprecedented number of you wanted slots – thank you!), working out schedules of who was helping where and begging people to help us man stalls, finalising plans with the school, speaking with stall holders, bulk buying alcohol and refreshments for 200+ people, organising the school choir and music, sticking raffle tickets to 185 jolly jars, and wrapping 120+ gifts for the Santa’s grotto (the elves were very busy this year). We decorated the hall at school the night before from 7 – 9pm. On the day it took us 2 hours to set up the fair, we manned the fair for 2 ½ hours and then it took just under 2 hours to tidy the school afterwards. Then most of us had a very large glass of wine….!

After Festive Friday, we then manned the craft stall at the nativity performances for two days to sell our remaining crafts, finalised the silent auction, organised the Festive Movie Night (bagging up popcorn and treats for around 130+ children the night before!) and organised refreshments for the informal Carols by Candlelight. Then our own Christmas’ began!