Welcome back to the new school year!

While I recognise that, for some of you, the thought of the summer holidays drawing to a close is not one you are ready to contemplate, I must confess that I’m raring to get started on the new academic year ahead. The summer has been lovely and has allowed me to reflect on all that we have achieved already as a school community and where we can aspire to go next. So I am delighted to welcome you all back to school for an exciting year of learning and discovery.

Of course, a special welcome must go to all of our new children in Reception and a few newcomers dotted across other classes throughout the school. If you have siblings already at Dormansland, then our faces will at least be familiar to you, but if you are entirely new to our school community, then we hope that you soon feel at home here with us all and are made to feel part of something special, as we do every day.

We have plenty of new ideas and plans for this forthcoming year and, along with the PTA, we are managing to fill up the school calendar already! Please take a moment to look at the main events planned for this term, which you can find on our school website calendar and on the reverse of this newsletter. We have also produced our termly ‘fridge calendar’ for you, which should appear in book bags this week, so keep an eye out for that too.

I have every confidence that this is going to be another fantastic year for the children, staff and families of Dormansland and I can’t wait to get started! I hope to catch up with many of you informally, on the school gate or in the playground, over the coming weeks, but if you would like to see me about anything specific, please don’t hesitate to contact me: head@dormansland.surrey.sch.uk.

Sarah Stokes
Letter from the Chair of Governors

What a year! It's a huge testament to Sarah and her team that during a time of considerable change, our school has achieved so much while maintaining its lovely, warm, caring atmosphere.

The changes from Government, noted below, have required huge amounts of energy and drive to see through successfully, and we congratulate all of the staff for their dedication to making our school a better place to teach and learn.

We received a well deserved Ofsted rating of Good in our March inspection and the whole school community should feel proud of this achievement.

Our Year 6 SATS results this year are excellent: 65% of our pupils performed well across all of the subjects examined, vs 53% nationally.

At Dormansland, we recognise and celebrate the hard work and achievement of our pupils both in and out of the classroom. The governors are always delighted to chat with children during our visits and to see so many achievements and outside interests noted in displays around the school. School events, both small and large, have provided a further source of delight and we congratulate all of the children who have put in so much hard work to make these events so enjoyable. Our PTA has continued to enrich the life of the school through its fundraising and events that are so loved by the children. The PTA is part of the fabric of life at the school, and we look forward to forging ever closer ties as it moves into its next phase.

Our newly formed Parent Forum is another successful school initiative and it is already proving to be a highly effective communication channel between the school leadership and the parents.

Collaboration with other local schools, both primary and secondary, is extremely beneficial to our teaching staff and therefore our pupils. We continue to strengthen our existing relationships and develop new links when we can. It is right that we consider more formal relationships in the form of acadamisation, so we continue to explore this as a possibility for our future.

The Governors wish our Year 6 pupils every success as they move onto the next stage of their education and we look forward to welcoming many new families to our community in the autumn term.

Also, a special mention and farewell for families for whom 2016 sees their youngest child move on from Year 6.

Trevor Smeaton

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Government changes during the last school year:

End of Key Stage tests, taken in Year 2 and Year 6, became more demanding and the familiar reporting of results by level has been replaced by a system that is intended to provide greater clarity. Also, with the scrapping of levels, schools have been expected to establish their own assessment system to suit their children and parents.

There was also to be a new ‘baseline’ test for children in Reception, and although we were preparing for it, questions regarding the fairness of the new system meant that the government postponed its introduction.

Ofsted introduced two major reforms: Firstly the introduction of a Common Inspection Framework - the idea behind this is to take a common approach to inspection and reporting across the different stages of your child’s education from nursery through to 6th form and beyond. Secondly, shorter inspections were for schools thought to be ‘Good’ because Good schools tend to stay Good. At Dormansland we expect to get a one day visit in the spring of 2019, this may well be transformed into a full inspection in recognition that we are indeed an Outstanding school.

On the horizon for next year:

In recent years, despite the Government’s intention to reduce public spending and cut the deficit quickly, spending on education has been somewhat protected. However, last autumn, the Institute for Fiscal Studies released a report predicting the coming five years will witness actual cuts in education spending of around 8%.

Now … a lot has happened since last Autumn, not least of which is the vote for Brexit which may well effect the Government’s view on the rate of deficit reduction and possibly public spending. 2017 will also see the implementation of the National Funding Formula - this is a new way of dividing up the education budget, and our hope is that Dormansland will get a slightly bigger slice of the pie!

We are watching developments very closely, and hope that funding does remain at ‘sensible’ levels. However, we are vigilant to possible downturns in funding and continue to work with Sarah and Louisa to develop sustainable plans to cope with this.

Another significant change in the political world is the appointment of a new Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening. We will be watching developments closely and sincerely hope that the dialogue between minister and the teaching profession becomes a positive driver for improving educational standards in a sensible, sustainable way.
Before returning inhalers and epipens to school this week, please check that they are in date, clearly labelled and provided to your teacher in a clear plastic bag with any relevant information.

A gentle reminder that we are a nut free school, so no nutella or peanut butter please. Whilst we now have two members of staff who are severely allergic to nuts, please don’t let this stop you baking for us, as we really appreciate your treats in the staff room.

A Polite Notice…..

to be considerate to our neighbours on The Meades and think carefully about where you park each day. Please do not park along Clinton Hill. Don’t forget that you can always take advantage of our ‘stop n drop’ scheme in the mornings, behind the school in New Farthingdale.

Ofsted Inspection

April 2016 saw Dormansland Primary receive the extremely welcome news that we are now a ‘good’ school, providing a high standard of education for all of our children once again. Those of you who have been associated with our school during the past few years will, no doubt, share our joy at the outcome from this inspection, and can now look forward to a period of sustained stability and rapid improvement, building on the lead inspector’s recommendations.


Winter Coat Sale

If you need one, Mrs Lowe still has some coats and fleeces in her sale.

Congratulations to Year 3 (now Year 4) for completing your 25m badges in swimming last term!

Dora and Barney

We are very excited to welcome Dora and Barney, our new reading dogs to the library this year.

Packed Lunches & Snacks

As we reluctantly leave the Summer behind us with fond memories of ice cream and all things sweet, could we please start afresh this term with our packed lunches and snacks. Mid morning snacks should only contain fresh or dried fruit and/or vegetables. Last term we saw a variety of versions of fruit including yo yo’s, fruit strings and those wheel pin thingies wrapped in a cartoon sketch, but if it comes in a packet then strictly speaking it’s not a piece of fruit or a vegetable.

As parents ourselves, we know how easy it is to cave under pressure and pop a bit of chocolate, sweets or some hula hoops into your child’s packed lunch, but please try to minimise this to once a week or preferably at home. The NHS website currently has some great suggestions for a bit of variety and fun, whilst ensuring your children have a balanced healthy meal at lunchtime.

A warm welcome to all our new Reception children starting this month!

After School Clubs

Finally, please look out for all of our new exciting club details in book bags this week and return your forms to the school office by Friday please. Thank you!
The Dormansland PTA have had a successful year organising events and fundraising (Winter wonderland, Easter walks and hunts, May fair, Disco's .....to name a few!)

Over the year we have raised over £5,800. This money has been spent to enrich the teaching and learning at Dormansland. There has been a key focus to improve the outside area - we were all very excited to see the lovely outside classroom in place earlier in the year. There are new outside tables, seating and parasols for the children and at the beginning of the summer holidays some new outdoor play equipment was installed - we look forward to seeing the children playing on it in September.

All teachers are preparing this term’s class information for you, which will be available on their class pages on the website over the next few days. Please keep an eye on these, as this is where the most up to date information about your child’s learning can be found. Don’t forget that you can email them directly via the class pages on the website too, should you need to.

Finally, we will be holding our class welcome coffee mornings again this year, details of which can be found on the website calendar and on the back page of this newsletter, so pop the date in your diary if you can. We look forward to seeing many of you at these events.

Staff News!

Congratulations to Mrs Pollard, who is expecting her third child early in the new year. We will be recruiting for a maternity replacement for her this term, and will keep you updated in this regard.

Mrs Martin, the school’s Deputy Head Teacher, has decided to move on to another role in a setting that is closer to her home and to her children, so it is with sadness that I must tell you that she has resigned over the summer holidays. Mrs Martin was instrumental in the school’s leadership during a difficult time for our community and I know that many of you will want to join me in wishing her and her family every success for the future.

If you would like to write to Mrs Martin, please hand in any cards or letters to Mrs Lowe in the office and we will see that these are forwarded on to her.

I am delighted that both Mr Cook and Mrs Davies will continue in their senior leadership positions at the school.

Miss Lauder continues to respond well to her on-going treatment and we remain in close contact with her. We are currently considering a number of options to cover her continuing absence in the short term, in order to minimise disruption to the children. In the meantime, Mrs Davies will be with the new Reception class full time while they settle in, ably supported by our familiar and experienced Early Years team.

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Sadly, three key and hardworking members of the PTA are standing down this year - Claire Gibbs, Helen Gooch and Rachael Tufo. Without them, many of the above would not have happened. A massive thank you and a well deserved rest ladies!

We now have a dedicated, but small team of parent volunteers. In order for us to continue organising events and raising funds to support the school, we could really do with some more parents to join the team. You know the saying "many hands make light work". This is a good way to support the school in all the amazing things they do for our children and is a great opportunity to meet other parents outside of your year group.

If you think you can join the team, please let your current class rep know or drop into the office. Remember all parents and carers are automatically members of the PTA and are welcome to meetings.

We hope to see you at our AGM on Wednesday 21st September.
By The River, by Isabella Thompson (now Y3)

Over the icy cold choppy sea there is a land called Ireland and on that land is the village of Dunourgan. Dunourgan is at the end of a dark creepy windy tree lined lane. Just past the quiet lonely village houses the road turns sharply to the right and then crosses a fast slowing river. The dark brown icy water crashes over the grey granite rocks foaming into a white froth. By the river was a broken house. A very old scary man lived there by himself. He had long dirty grey hair with a long beard. His eyes were red and bulging. The old man had a brown old walking stick. He walked as slow as a slug. When he walked the stick moved side to side. The house had a leaky roof. The gutters were full of black gooey mud. The windows were green with mould. The curtains were ripped with rats teeth marks. A black cat sat on the broken step hissing at the people.

Night Time Noise, by Ella Smith (now Y3)

On a dark December evening Ella received a strange phone call from what can only be described as a hysterical Mrs Stokes. "Ella, Ella come quickly, there is a horrible noise coming from one of the bedrooms. I'm so scared I'm in my bedroom under my bed". Ella grabbed her coat and without another thought ran as fast as she could out of the door. Outside the wind howled through the trees and the full moon shone putting shadows all along the ground below. Ella was frightened, she wrapped her coat round her tighter and broke in a run, she could feel her heart beating faster and faster like a drum, as he arrived at the spooky mansion. With every step Ella was more and more nervous, she could see a candle flickering in one of the tall windows up stairs apart from that the house was in complete darkness. She reached the door and pushed it open. The door was heavy, it creaked so loudly it made her jump. Mrs Stokes had said she was hiding in the bedroom. Ella knew that she would have to pass the room that the noise had come from to get to her. Ella had never been so frightened in her whole life, she crept up the long windy stairs, trying her hardest to make no noise, holding her breath so whatever was in the room didn't hear her. She was nearly with Mrs Stokes, her heart pounding she took a chance and ran as fast as she could down the hall, past the room and ran into Mrs Stokes room. They hugged like they hadn't seen each other for a long time. Now they had no choice but to find out together what was in the room. They crept slowly out of the room and down the hall. Holding hands they took a big breath and pushed open the door. Then they laughed and couldn't stop laughing as Pickles the family cat appeared in the middle of the room, not so scary after all.
EFFORT AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS SUMMER 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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Attitude to Learning</td>
<td>Toby Lloyd</td>
<td>Katie Harding</td>
<td>Rosie Rackett</td>
<td>Louisa Gooch</td>
<td>Isabelle Upton</td>
<td>Daniel Clarke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sportsmanship Award</td>
<td>Dex Jefferies</td>
<td>George Pollard</td>
<td>Jazmin Hedger</td>
<td>Bobbie Smyth</td>
<td>Stanley Tuesley</td>
<td>Jemina Moss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Player Award</td>
<td>Rosie Humphrey</td>
<td>Willow Jones</td>
<td>Isaac Smeaton</td>
<td>Keely Bonner</td>
<td>Katie Agate</td>
<td>Andrei Lariu-Rusu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Most Enquiring Mind</td>
<td>Holly Turner</td>
<td>Riley Garland</td>
<td>Martha Francis</td>
<td>Dylan Heffron</td>
<td>Paris Grant</td>
<td>Sienna Reynolds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Most Helpful Member of the Class</td>
<td>Olivia Southwell</td>
<td>Isabella Thompson</td>
<td>Emma Bellini-Tagg</td>
<td>Megan Smith</td>
<td>Cameron O'Brien</td>
<td>Jack Freeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Improved Reader</td>
<td>Sonny Diamond</td>
<td>Mia Deadman</td>
<td>Daniel Freeman</td>
<td>Harry Stevens</td>
<td>Amy O'Riordan</td>
<td>Taylor Rapson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Improved Writer</td>
<td>James Rickman</td>
<td>Thomas Comber</td>
<td>Millie Young</td>
<td>Harley Jay Lurcuck</td>
<td>Jessica Coward</td>
<td>Mae Bennett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Improved Mathematician</td>
<td>Millie Norris</td>
<td>Tilly McCormick</td>
<td>Chloe Palmer</td>
<td>Kelsey Tomsett</td>
<td>Jamie Holm</td>
<td>Florence O'Loughlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Effort Award</td>
<td>Will Hendry</td>
<td>Toby Davies</td>
<td>Ace Jefferies</td>
<td>Henry Giles</td>
<td>Luka Jones</td>
<td>Rebekah Burgess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Round Superstar Award</td>
<td>Eryn Myrdal</td>
<td>Sienna Leitch</td>
<td>Heather Mayes</td>
<td>Harry Higginson</td>
<td>Ella Saffery</td>
<td>Erin Bennett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Teacher Award for Excellence</td>
<td>George Atkins</td>
<td>Brodie McMullan</td>
<td>Lainey Chapman</td>
<td>Bobbie Smyth</td>
<td>Stanley Tuesley</td>
<td>Jack Freeman</td>
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A special mention to the following children who gained a 100% attendance last year:
**DIARY DATES FOR THIS HALF TERM**

(Please keep an eye on the school website for any changes and new additions)

**Wednesday 7th September**  
First day back at school for children

**Monday 12th September**  
Summer born children start (mornings only)

**Wednesday 14th September**  
Spring born children start (mornings only)

**Wednesday 14th September**  
Full Governor Meeting, 5pm to 7pm

**Monday 19th September**  
Autumn born children start (all day)

**Tuesday 20th September**  
Year 5 & 6 Parents coffee morning, 9.15am to 10am

**Wednesday 21st September**  
Spring born children start full time (at parents discretion)

**Wednesday 21st September**  
Year 1 & 2 Parent Coffee Morning, 9.15am to 10am

**Wednesday 21st September**  
Parents welcome meeting, 6.15pm followed by the PTA AGM, 7pm

**Friday 23rd September**  
Summer born children start full time (at parents discretion)

**Friday 23rd September**  
Year 3 & 4 Parents coffee morning, 9.15 to 10am

**Wednesday 28th September**  
Parent Forum Meeting, The Royal Oak, 9.15 to 11am

**Wednesday 28th September**  
Children & Learning Committee, 5pm to 7pm

**Friday 30th September**  
Macmillan coffee morning

**Friday 14th October**  
Dormansland Playground Day

**Friday 14th October**  
Bulb planting with parents and children, 3.15 to 5pm

**Monday 17th October**  
Bake Sale for Great Ormond Street

**Wednesday 19th October**  
Governor Resources Meeting, 5pm to 7pm

**Thursday 20th October, 5pm - 7pm**  
School Disco

**Friday 21st October**  
PTA Mufti Day

**Monday 24th - Friday 28th October**  
HALF TERM