Cake sales: 12th/13th/21st October 2016
(all proceeds from these three sales will go to Great Ormond Street Hospital)

- These are usually run by classes or groups of children and are 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. Please make sure your tin is clearly labelled so that we can return it afterwards
- Cakes will be set out for sale either in the outdoor cabin or in the playground
- Prices normally are kept simple, eg. 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
- Following a cake sale, all cake tins will be stacked in the foyer outside the school office hatch for collection.

Playground Day: Friday 14th October 2016

- Do you have any family or friends, who previously attended Dormansland Primary School as a child? Or perhaps you or your own parents did?
- Please join us for our 'Playground Day' on Friday 14th October, to share games ideas, past and present with the children.
- Weather permitting, the session will begin at 10am and should last no more than an hour to an hour and a half.

Bulbs in Barrows: Friday 14th October 2016

- 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 10th October and planting after school at 3.15pm on Friday 14th October.
- 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 it rains, this event will be postponed to another Friday.
Harvest Festival: Tuesday 18th October 2016

- 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 this lovely singing occasion – 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, eg. tinned goods, packets of dried pasta, jars, biscuits, etc.
- 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.

PTA Mufti Day: Thursday 20th October 2016

- A non-uniform day, used by the PTA to raise funds across the year for various projects.
- Children can wear their own clothes to school for the day, in exchange for bringing in a £1.00 contribution for the PTA fundraising pot.
- 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 theme is:

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.
PTA Discos: Thursday 20th October 2016

- A highly popular event with the children!
- 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.

Charity Marketplace: Thursday 10th November

- 3:15 – 4:00pm in the school playground (or Year 6 classroom, if rainy)
- This is an opportunity for those children who want to raise funds for a charity of their choice.
- Each group of children will be allocated a table from which they can sell their wares and publicise their chosen charity.
- The children are responsible for designing or obtaining appropriate posters, flyers, etc. and for producing the goods to sell, eg. cakes, bookmarks, etc.
- A parent of one child in the group must let the school know that they will be responsible for ensuring that the funds reach their charitable destination.
- The school will make a note of the total funds raised by each group and report this to all parents, once a term, as part of our on-going fundraising news.
- Children will need to have signed up with their class teacher to participate in this event by the end of this half term.
PTA Movie Night: Thursday 17th November 2016

- Reception and KS1: 4:30-6:00pm
  - Film: Despicable Me 2 (U)
- KS2: 6:30 – 8:30pm
  - Film: Zootropolis (PG)
- Both films will be shown in the main school hall.
- £3.50 entrance fee, which includes popcorn and squash
- 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.

Children in Need: Friday 18th November

- Once again, we will be supporting the national charity to raise funds for Childline.
- Please send your child into school dressed in a ‘Spotacular’ way! Feel free to interpret this theme in any way you wish; the spottier the better. The usual advice about appropriate footwear will still apply.
- If your child does not want to dress up, that is absolutely fine. Please still bring in a contribution of £1.

We are asking for a minimum donation of £1 to be brought into school on the morning of Friday 18th November. You can, of course, donate more if you wish!

Christmas Challenges: 24th November & 1st December

- This event enables the PTA to collect goods for the Winter Wonderland Fair.
- Children are encouraged to bring in items for the Fair on each of these days:
  - 24th November: items for sale in the Secret Santa room for parents, eg. any new unwanted gifts, bath goods, homework, books, etc.
  - 1st December: bottles for the tombola
- 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!
**Reverse Advent Calendar: 1st – 16th 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.

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**Friendship Day: Friday 2nd December**

- This is a lovely school event that takes places 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.

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**Winter Wonderland Fair: Saturday 3rd December**

- This is one of the school’s two main fundraisers during the year and has, traditionally, been a hugely successful and enjoyable event for all the family.
- It’s a great afternoon for the children and anyone accompanying them and we try to provide something for everyone. We always have a Secret Santa room where the children can enter without parents to choose and wrap presents, ready to give their loved ones at Christmas. These items are pre-donated by parents in the lead up to the fair, as part of the Christmas Challenge (see page 4).
- We also have traditional tombola games, pocket money games for the children with a festive feel, a silent auction, a type of raffle, refreshments, cakes and some yummy food so that you don’t need to worry about lunch that day.
- Other attractions include a marketplace, which has had an artisan bread stall, handmade gifts for Christmas and a PTA Stall with some special goodies that we think you will like. This year we are hoping to hold some interactive storytelling workshops in the outdoor cabin, and we also hope that a certain someone might put in an appearance.

12.00-3.00pm: Plenty of festive fun for the whole family!
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 Monday 5th December, so older brothers and sisters will see the show during school time.

The main performance times are as follows:

- Tuesday 6th 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.
- Tuesday 6th December @ 2.30pm
- Wednesday 7th 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 25TH NOVEMBER.** Your tickets will be sent out to you via bookbags on the Monday, with additional allocations sent home the following Wednesday, 30th 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.

The performance will be filmed and will be available to download from our school Vimeo channel for a small fee by the end of term. All proceeds go to the PTA.

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**Class Christmas Parties**

**Reception & KS1: Thursday 15th 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: Friday 16th December**

- All children, staff and parents are invited to wear their most fashionable, iconic Christmas woolwear to school for the day, in return for a £1.00 contribution to PTA funds.
- 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!

**Christmas carol concert @ St. John's Church: Friday 16th 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.

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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