PTA Movie Night
Friday 12th October

- Reception and KS1: 4:30-6:00pm
  - Film: Hotel Transylvania (U)
- KS2: 6:15 – 8:15pm
  - Film: Coco (PG)
- Both films will be shown in the main school hall.
- This event will be well supervised by members of the PTA and school staff.
- £3.50 entrance fee, which includes popcorn, a treat and drink, and a FREE raffle ticket to win a DVD of the film!
- Children can bring along their teddies, a pillow or a cushion for a cosy movie experience (they must be able to carry these, though!)
- The school gates will be open at both entrances. However, the building itself will only be accessed from the car park entrance. Please drop off at the car park entrance.
- Parents with both KS1 and KS2 children - please drop off KS2 children after collecting KS1 children to give us time to reset the hall.
- 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. Access to this classroom is via the Year 6 door onto the staff car park. 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.
- Amigos - Reception and KS1: please email the office to confirm if your child(ren) will be attending film night and they will be taken from Amigos up to the hall for 4.30pm (£3.50 still required for entry). Pick up will then be from year 6 class room at 6pm. KS2 children at Amigos – will need to be collected at 5pm as usual.

Harvest Festival
Tuesday 16th 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 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 at the church for refreshments.
- This year’s Harvest donations will be made to the East Grinstead Food Bank.
Round One (Friday 12th October): Each year group will be given a month to learn a list of words taken from the National Curriculum High Frequency word list. Children will have the opportunity to practise spelling sounds associated with these words in class and will be able to take the lists home to practise over the first half of the Autumn term. This will be a useful opportunity to ensure they have remembered and learnt these words. Each class teacher will give their class a written test on these words after the Autumn Half-term. Children will achieve house points depending how many they get correct, so every spelling counts!

Semi-final (Week beginning 15th October): The highest scorers (a small group of children) from each year group will be invited to take part in a semi-final. Spelling words will be from their own and higher year groups and will be spelt out loud. Again children will be awarded house points for their success.

Final (Wednesday 17th October): The highest scorer from each year group will take part in a final in front of an audience of peers, spelling words aloud in the style of a traditional spelling bee.

This all takes place during the normal school day, but children will need to practise the words at home in preparation.

You should have already received a letter from school, asking you to book a 10 minute appointment to meet with your child’s class teacher to discuss how well s/he has settled into the new academic year in class, and ways in which you can provide support at home. This is a key part of our work with you, and we expect all parents to attend.

The school operates an online booking system, which will be explained to you in the letter. Please speak to a member of the school office team if you require further assistance with booking your appointment.

While we don’t encourage children to come along to these appointments, we do understand that it can be difficult to arrange childcare for this event. We will have a member of staff available to supervise the children with quiet activities in the school library during your appointment, should it be necessary for you to bring them along.

The teachers will be based in the school hall, where we also ask parents to wait until your teacher is free. Refreshments will be available while you wait.

Teachers are able to book a more convenient appointment time for you, should either of the evenings be difficult for you to attend. Please contact them directly through the email at the bottom of your child’s class page on the school website, if you would prefer to do this.

Any parents who do not attend their consultation appointment will be contacted by the class teacher to arrange a mutually convenient opportunity to catch up and discuss their child’s progress.
PTA Race Night
Thursday 1st November

- This event is for parents, staff and school governors only.
- Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.
- £5.00 a ticket includes a selection of bread and cheese.
- Bring Your Own Bottle for this event.
- Win some money while raising funds for the school’s playground equipment replenishment project.
- Be the horse owner or be a jockey and win additional prizes!
- Even if you can’t come on the evening, you can still support the PTA by sponsoring a horse.
- Tickets available from members of the PTA committee selling from the outdoor classroom after school in the playground.

Prospective Parents’ Open Morning
Wednesday 7th 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.

PTA Christmas Preparations 1
Friday 9th November

- Our PTA use days like this across the year to raise funds or gather goods for various projects.
- On this day, we would like the children to bring in a ‘Jolly Jar.’
- Jolly Jars are emptied, washed out glass jars that have been filled with some tiny goodies and decorated for sale at the Christmas Fair. Contents in the past have included a selection of wrapped sweets, hair accessories, tiny pencil erasers, balloons, so feel free to be creative!
The theme for this year’s Anti-Bullying Week is to choose respect over bullying.

Following a consultation with over 800 children, teachers and members of the Anti-Bullying Alliance, it emerged that a top priority was showing that bullying is a behaviour choice, and that children and young people can set a positive example by opting to respect each other at school, in their homes and communities, and online.

The aims of this week are to support schools and other settings to help children and young people, school staff, parents and other professionals who work with children to understand:

- The definition of respect
- That bullying is a behaviour choice
- That we can respectfully disagree with each other i.e. we don’t have to be best friends or always agree with each other but we do have to respect each other
- That we all need to choose to respect each other both face to face and online

Encourage your child to wear a ‘pair’ of odd socks to school on Tuesday 13th November. If they can be wild and whacky socks, so much the better!

These are usually run by classes or groups of children and take place after school.

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

As this event takes place at 3.15pm, after school, please do not send any money into school with your child, unless s/he attends Amigos.

Amigos children can bring in money in a clearly labelled envelope, which must be handed to the class teacher first thing in the morning. The Amigos team will make sure that the children have the opportunity to buy cakes after school.

Children are encouraged to buy cakes themselves, although parents are never turned away!

Sometimes larger, whole cakes are available for sale and we always welcome these.

In addition to cake contributions, we would love donations of sandwich bags.
PTA Christmas Preparations 2
Friday 16th November

- Children can bring in any unwanted toys or teddies, in excellent condition, for sale at the Christmas Fair.

School Book Fair
Friday 23rd - Thursday 29th November

- We have a book fair arriving at Dormansland for a week, hosted by Scholastic Books. School staff will be running the Book Fair each afternoon.
- All children will have the opportunity to visit the book fair during the school day with their classes to see what is on offer.
- The fair will be open for business each day from 3.15pm to 4pm from Friday 23rd November to Thursday 29th November.
- Once they have collected their children from the school playground as usual, parents and carers will be able come into the school and browse through the range of books, posters and other small reading-related items for sale, with their children.
- All proceeds from the sale will go to the school library and new books.
- We raised more than ever before last year and were able to buy some fantastic and much-needed new resources for our Guided Reading sessions across the school with the money.

Let's see if we can beat our record again this year!

Friendship Day
Thursday 29th November

- 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.
PTA Mufti Day for Art Week
Friday 30th November

- 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 any bottles for the Bottle Tombola or cakes for sale at the Christmas Fair.
- A paper plate with instructions will come home with the children on Monday 26th. We hope that you will return it on the morning of the 30th, full of yummy treats to sell!
- To tie this particular Mufti Day in with our Art Week theme, we are challenging children and staff to come to school, in a costume inspired by either a famous painting, a famous artist or your favourite colour.
- 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 any bottles and cakes, though, if you can!

Art Week Exhibition
Friday 30th November

- A chance for family and friends to come along and celebrate the wonderful artwork created by the children during Art Week.
- We open the school building at both ends at 2.45pm, where you will be greeted by either a member of senior school staff or a team from Year 6.
- From here we ask you to make your way to your child’s classroom, where your child will be signed over to you and ticked off the register by the class teacher.
- You can take a look at your child’s artwork, which will be on display as part of the school’s exhibition. You are then welcome to wander through the school and see the work in other classrooms, with your child.
- Please feel free to bring buggies, babies and toddlers to this event – all welcome! We just ask that you ask your younger children not to touch the exhibition exhibits.
- We are always happy to look after any tiny-tots for a few minutes in the school office (we all love a cuddle!), if this will enable you to focus on your child’s artistic creations and give them your full attention. This also applies to buggies, which we are happy for you to park in a safe place in the corridor or by the school office.
- Once you have seen all you want to see, please feel free to take your child home, even if it is a few minutes before 3.15pm.
- Any children whose parents cannot make this event will remain with their class teacher and will be dismissed at the end of the school day in the usual way.
PTA School Christmas Fair
Saturday 1st December

- This is one of the school’s 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.
- We also have traditional tombola games, pocket money games for the children with a festive feel, 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.

12.00-3.00pm: Plenty of festive fun for the whole family!

Fairtrade Tuck Shop
Tuesday 4th December

- As part of our ongoing work to support the organisation, Fairtrade, we will be running a Fairtrade Tuck Shop after school in the playground on December 4th.
- As this is after school, the children do not need to bring any money with them into school during the day, unless they attend Amigos.
- Amigos children can bring in money in a clearly labelled envelope, which must be handed to the class teacher first thing in the morning. The Amigos team will make sure that the children have the opportunity to buy something from the stall after school.
- Dormansland achieved its status as a Fair Aware School last year. We have now submitted our application for the top Fairtrade award for schools and hope that parents will support us in our endeavours by coming along and buying something from the stall on the 4th.
Infant Nativity Performances
Thursday 6th and Friday 7th December

- Our children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be performing their Nativity play this year. The performances take place 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 we would like these to be in school.
- Children in KS2 watch the final dress rehearsal on Wednesday 5th December, so older brothers and sisters will see the show during school time.
- The main performance times are as follows:
  - Thursday 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.
  - Thursday 6th December @ 2.00pm
  - Friday 7th December @ 2.00pm
- 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 23RD NOVEMBER. Your tickets will be sent out to you via bookbags on the Monday, with additional allocations sent home the following Wednesday, 28th Nov.
- 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.
- Please bring along any spare change you may have, as we often have a number of stalls along the main corridor for those last minute gift ideas at our Nativity performances.

Class Christmas Parties
Reception & KS1: Monday 17th December
KS2: Tuesday 18th 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 donated to the East Grinstead Foodbank.
- 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  
Tuesday 18th 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!

Christmas Carol Concert @ St. John’s  
Tuesday 18th 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.

Class Assemblies  
Ongoing throughout the year

- 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.
- 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.
As part of our outdoor enrichment programme, each class from Years 1-6 visits the Ashdown Forest once a term.

Each class works with an experienced member of the education team at the forest to develop their understanding about nature, society, interactions with each other and a deeper understanding of themselves. The learning involves working with others, developing a range of new skills, undertaking practical conservation in the forest and influencing society.

The older classes (Years 5 & 6) work towards gaining the John Muir Award for conservation, a nationally recognised qualification.

In preparation for visiting the Ashdown Forest, the Reception children visit the Forest School setting locally at Lingfield College Prep for half a day’s learning. All of our Early Years team have also received basic training in Forest Schools.

Further details are available on our school website and in our 'Dormansland in the Woods' leaflet, which is sent home to all families. This leaflet also contains the dates on which your child’s class will visit the forest during this academic year. These dates can also be found on the calendar on our school website.

We LOVE having parents with us for the day in the forest, so do please come along to at least one visit across the year to see just how much learning the children are doing without even realising it!

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.

info@dormansland.surrey.sch.uk
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<th>Type of Event</th>
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<td>Friday 12th October</td>
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<td>Wednesday &amp; Thursday</td>
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<td>17th &amp; 18th October</td>
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<td>Children bring in Jolly Jars for the PTA</td>
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<td>Children bring in Toys and Teddies for the PTA</td>
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<td>23rd-29th November</td>
<td>Scholastic Book Fair</td>
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<td>3.15-4.00pm every day in the main school corridor</td>
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<td>Thursday 29th November</td>
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<td>- bring an old shirt or apron for painting!</td>
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<td>Friday 30th November</td>
<td>Mufti Day (dressed as something artistic): Bottles &amp; Cakes</td>
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<td>Thursday 6th &amp; Friday</td>
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<td>Monday 17th December</td>
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<td>9.15am: Christmas Carol Concert @ St. John’s Church</td>
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<td>pm: KS2 Christmas party</td>
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