Our Spring term is always such a busy one, and we have certainly managed to cram in some really exciting learning opportunities in the past few weeks. The children have thrown themselves into Science Week since Monday and it has been truly wonderful to welcome so many willing parents to come and work alongside the children in their classes. I hope that you have found this to be as rewarding an experience as we have.

Our focus for reflection this half term has been around why we are all special, what we are really good at and how important it is that we are developing our learning independence. As always, your children continue to delight and inspire me and the work they are producing on a regular basis is something truly to be proud of.

I attended an international conference on Visible Learning this term, which has enabled me to articulate my vision for the future of Dormansland within the wider context of an exciting, innovative and international educational forum. I look forward to sharing my ideas on this with you in greater detail over the coming weeks.

My best wishes to you all for a restful half term week. I look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 22nd February.

Sarah Stokes

E-SAFETY

The children and some of our parents participated in an extremely powerful programme of e-safety training, with Kate Daniels of PSHE Education. The children in Years 1-6 had a class workshop, focusing on a range of e-safety issues, giving them the opportunity to reflect on what makes the virtual world both a wonderful learning resource and a dangerous place to be. From the parental feedback I have received, it sounds as though these sessions gave the children much to think about and many of them went home and talked about these ideas in more detail with their parents.

The evening session for parents was also well-received, even though Kate did not hold back from some of the more hard-hitting messages about the dangers of their children being online. The feedback comments from parents speak for themselves:

- Very informative. There were many things discussed that I hadn’t thought of, a real eye opener.
- It was good to stop, listen and think about the different aspects of e-safety.
- Engaging, informative and really practical. I’m really glad I came!

Staff feedback was also very positive and we will continue to keep in touch with Kate and ask her to run some similar workshops for us again in the future. Our school e-safety policy will now be updated in light of this training.

Discovery Education Espresso is an award-winning, cross-curricular digital learning service for teachers and children and has been used in our school since the end of last Summer. Espresso is updated weekly and provides engaging short videos, weekly news bulletins, interactive activities, images, sounds, fact files, articles and printable resources. Similar to Mathletics, children (and parents) have home access available to them via the school website. Just click on the Espresso icon from the home page and then log in. Log in details for all of our school applications can be found in the back of your child’s school diary. If this is not the case, please contact Rachael Tufo on ict1@dormansland.surrey.sch.uk and she will arrange for a new set.

ATTENDANCE: OUR ‘AT-A-GLANCE’ GUIDE FOR PARENTS

We are sending home today a copy of our new attendance leaflet, which summarises the practical aspects of our school attendance policy, hopefully for more easy reference.

We acknowledge that this half term has been particularly bad for coughs, colds and other unpleasant ailments and are so grateful to all parents for continuing to do everything possible to ensure your children have been in school as often as they could during this time.

Roll on the warmer weather and healthier climate!

PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOCAL BUS SERVICES

We have received news that some changes are being proposed to a number of local bus services by Surrey County Council, including; Metrobus 281 and 409, Southdown 236, 424 and 509 and Buses4U. These could impact significantly on some of our families, especially those of you who have older children at local secondary schools who may use these bus routes more frequently.

These changes are not due to take place until September 2016, but further details can be found by visiting surrey.gov.uk/transportreview. The closing date for feedback on this consultation is Monday 14 March.
SATs AND ASSESSMENT PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

We were hoping to run an information evening for parents on Thursday 25th February to explain the significant changes to our assessment processes, both at a local and a national level, this year.

However, due to the lack of proper information from central government on what the end of year assessments will actually look like or how the results will be reported to schools or parents this year, I am reluctant to waste your time by holding an evening without all of the relevant information at my disposal.

Please bear with me on this and note that I have now postponed this session until further notice. As soon as I feel that the staff are in a position to inform you of the changes in appropriate detail, I will reschedule this session and hope that many of you will still be able to attend.

Thank you for your patience in this rather frustrating situation.

Please note: the children's learning remains unaffected by this hold-up in assessment legislation. They are still working hard and are applying themselves in their learning appropriately and we are satisfied that the majority of them remain on track to meet the end of year expectations. Staff will be discussing your child’s individual progress and targets at next half term’s parent consultation evenings, in the usual way.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

This week I was very pleased to attend the second meeting of the newly-formed parents’ forum, which I believe brings a valuable dimension to the existing methods of communication offered by the school. Much as the governors are required to challenge and support the school, we in turn welcome and respond positively to challenges from the parents and other interested parties.

The forum was lively and proved to be very constructive, particularly in terms of the improvements to school meals and library. Unsurprisingly, the main concern was that of the ‘threat’ of the school becoming an academy and, to this end, Mrs Stokes and I have written a letter to you all, explaining the situation. I hope that this letter makes it clear that nothing is certain or pre-ordained and that the governors have dedicated a working group to study and report on the options open to us.

The working group will methodically examine the pros and cons of the various options and the suitability of potential partnerships. We will start with a definition of the school’s ethos and strengths (“Dormansland is special because. . .”) and how we will protect that. Then we will consider the threats posed by the changes in national schools’ policy, the different types of partnerships and how each might affect the education of our pupils. The working group will carry out an in-depth assessment of potential partners and conduct informal discussions with all the stakeholders – the parents, local authority and, perhaps most importantly, the teaching and support staff.

Having considered all the evidence, the working group will then make recommendations to the full governing board (FGB). No commitment will be made until the FGB have fully examined any recommendation and all parties have been consulted.

On other matters, governors continue to note the improvement in the pupils’ readiness to learn and the general air of friendliness and care that pervades the school building. The pupil’s enthusiasm for, and involvement in, the Cherry Blossom restaurant is a very exciting development and helps to make the best use of limited resources.

From the view of the governors, the school’s development continues with many new initiatives, successes and challenges. We in our turn keep on our toes as the long-awaited visit by the Ofsted inspector remains the focus of our attention.

Finally, this year three of our governors will reach the end of their terms and we are earnestly seeking replacements for them. I am sure that some of you have, or know someone who has, an interest in education generally and Dormansland in particular. These are very interesting times and if you would like more information on this very worthwhile voluntary work please let me know. I would be happy to meet you to explain the role of the governor, the training available and the commitment required.

David Orringe, Chair of Governors

TOP TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

- Talk to them
- Listen to them
- Respect and trust them, don’t snoop
- Try to understand
- Try not to judge
- Be open so your children feel that they can come to you about anything
- Be a ‘team’
- Learn about the websites they use—maybe ask them to teach you
- Adjust parental controls and privacy settings where applicable
- Remember—you are the expert when it comes to your child. Go with your instincts.

STAFFING NEWS

We look forward to welcoming Miss Emma Thompson, an experienced local teacher, to Emerald Class after February half term. She will be available in the classroom after school on Tuesday 23rd February, to meet the parents in her class.

Miss Lauder is continuing to undergo her treatment and is keeping in touch with the staff. She sends you all her warmest wishes and says that she misses us all.

PARENT FORUM

Our parent forum committee met again this half term and the minutes are available on the school website. We also have a dedicated Parent Forum notice board in the school entrance hall, where you can see copies of all the latest information.

I am finding this an extremely useful forum for providing me with the opportunity to reflect on making continued improvements to our school systems. I hope that you feel it has opened up another channel of communication for you too.

David Orringe, Chair of Governors
LET’S CELEBRATE!

1. Effort and Achievement Awards

The following children have received certificates this half term:

<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>Best Attitude to Learning</td>
<td>Rosie Humphrey</td>
<td>Tabitha Fraser</td>
<td>Rosie Rackett</td>
<td>Jet Jefferies</td>
<td>Isabella Lavidge</td>
<td>Sienna Reynolds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sportsmanship Award</td>
<td>Tom Dean</td>
<td>Toby Davis</td>
<td>Jazmin Hedger</td>
<td>Niamh Portman</td>
<td>Jamie Holm</td>
<td>Daniel Clarke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Player Award</td>
<td>Charlie Glenn</td>
<td>George Pollard</td>
<td>Oscar Glanz</td>
<td>Harley Jay Lurcuck</td>
<td>Amy O’Riordan</td>
<td>Jack Warburton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Enquiring Mind</td>
<td>Toby Lloyd</td>
<td>Charlie Taylor</td>
<td>James Couch</td>
<td>Liam Vedor</td>
<td>Stanley Tuesday</td>
<td>Eve Kendall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Helpful Member of the Class</td>
<td>Ellie Cogan</td>
<td>Gemma Gooch</td>
<td>Jazmin Hedger</td>
<td>Harry Higginson</td>
<td>Lottie Clarke</td>
<td>Lydia Berrill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Improved Reader</td>
<td>Dex Jefferies</td>
<td>Tilly-Marie Cormick</td>
<td>Jack Lampkin</td>
<td>Dylan Dakin</td>
<td>Charlie Everall</td>
<td>Sean Vedor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Improved Writer</td>
<td>Milli Carroll</td>
<td>Cara Drew</td>
<td>Harley Van Zanten</td>
<td>Hannah Taylor</td>
<td>Immy Neill</td>
<td>Rebekah Burgess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Improved Mathematician</td>
<td>Evie Glanz</td>
<td>Matthew Dean</td>
<td>Erin Davies</td>
<td>Megan Smith</td>
<td>Dylan Tilley</td>
<td>Adam Lindsey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Effort Award</td>
<td>Millie Norris</td>
<td>Brodie McMullan</td>
<td>Daniel Freeman</td>
<td>Ellie Davis</td>
<td>Sophia Appavoo</td>
<td>Florence O’Loughlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All-Round Superstar Award</td>
<td>Henry Mitchell</td>
<td>Willow Jones</td>
<td>James Dean</td>
<td>Chloe Bassell</td>
<td>Hannah Bellini-Tagg</td>
<td>Mae Bennett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Teacher Award for Excellence</td>
<td>Primrose Whitehead</td>
<td>Stevie Middlemiss</td>
<td>Jack Lampkin</td>
<td>Bobbie Smyth</td>
<td>Isabelle Upton</td>
<td>Matilda</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Attendance

Congratulations to these 90 children who have been in school, ready to learn, every day this half term:


Congratulations to Sapphire Class for 97.82% attendance overall this half term!

Our school target for attendance this year is 97%. Congratulations to the 99 children who currently have an attendance rate that is higher than 97% since the start of September. That's 50% of the whole school.
Monday 22nd February
8.50am: Children back to school

Tuesday 23rd February
9.00am: Parent reading volunteer workshop
9.30am: Rubies Class heights, weights & vision
2.00pm: Amethyst Class talk from a fire fighter
3.15pm: Emerald Class ‘Meet the Teacher’ with Miss Thompson

Thursday 25th February
9.30-11.30am: Years 3 & 4 Imberhorne Theatre performances (in school)
7.00pm: SATs and assessment evening for parents: POSTPONED

Friday 26th February
9.15am: Opal class assembly (Year 1)

Tuesday 1st March
9.15am: Topaz class assembly (Year 2)

Wednesday 2nd March
All day: Opal & Topaz class trip to Hever Castle

Tuesday 8th March
3.30-6.00pm: Parent Consultations
(no clubs apart from Amigos)

Wednesday 9th March
3.30-8.00pm: Parent Consultations
(no clubs apart from Amigos)

Friday 11th March
All day: Sport Relief ‘dress up as your sporting hero’ School Council event (£1 contribution)

Monday 14th—Friday 18th March
Sapphire Class residential trip to Windmill Hill

Sunday 20th March
pm: PTA Family Easter event

Monday 21st—Thursday 24th March
STEM WEEK
(further details will be sent out after half term)

Tuesday 22nd March
9.30am: Family Easter service, followed by PTA refreshments and Easter Treasure Hunt
— all welcome

Thursday 24th March
10.00am: Robokids roadshow
2.30pm: STEM Week celebration afternoon
— all welcome
5.00-7.00pm: PTA discos (rescheduled)

Friday 25th March—Friday 8th April
EASTER HOLIDAY

Monday 11th April
8.50am: Children back to school