Dear Parents and Carers

I always seem to be writing my piece for the final newsletter of the year, following a magical morning at St. John’s for our annual carol concert. To see the church so full that there was standing room only at the back, and the children singing with such excitement and joy was simply wonderful and always serves as a reaffirmation of my decision to do the job that I do. Thank you so much to those parents, friends and grandparents who took the time to say thank you after the service or who have emailed me during the day. You know who you are!

It has been such a long term for us all and we haven’t wasted a second since we started out in our new classes in September. The children’s attitude to their learning and to helping each other continues to be a source of immense pride for me and this term has been no exception.

We have worked hard to develop our ideas around making healthy choices and keeping ourselves safe this term. Our Food, Fitness and Fun Week lived up to its name and was great fun and we look forward to this becoming a regular annual enrichment week for our school in future.

Further enrichment has happened, in the form of our continued work with the education team at the Ashdown Forest. We have been extremely proud to have our first exhibition on display at the Visitors’ Centre and we look forward to bringing the display boards back to school, where we hope that even more parents will enjoy seeing some of the activities that the children do in the forest each week.

The introduction of our Young Governors’ team this year has been extremely positive. Our first ever team have taken on the role with great responsibility, enthusiasm and reflection and I am delighted already by their ideas and thoughts about the future of our school. You can find their Children’s School Development Plan for this academic year on page 6.

Next term, although considerably shorter, promises to be just as busy and I look forward to watching the children continue to build on their strengths and achievements from this term.

It just remains for me to wish you all the very merriest of Christmas holidays and the most wonderful of New Year celebrations. I look forward to welcoming the children back to school in 2018 on Monday 8th January, following two staff INSET days the previous week.

Sarah Stokes
A huge thank you to all of you who supported our recent book fair. Your support has meant we have raised just over a staggering £700 in commission for the school to spend on books for the children. This is the largest amount of commission we have ever raised. Miss Carter will be spending the money on a variety of new books for the children to enjoy. Thank you all so much!

Recently, everyone in Key Stage 2 was tested on the Spelling Bee words that they were given at the beginning of October. All scores were collated and the highest individual scorers from each class were invited to a semi-final. A HUGE well done to all of the children in Key Stage 2 for their hard work in learning the spelling lists, because they all did brilliantly - there were some particular personal achievements that class teachers have commented on and for that we are proud of you all!

The finalists took part in a knock out Spelling Bee final (in front of the whole school) & participated really well, showing great competitiveness and appreciation towards their fellow finalists. After several rounds of spelling words from their year group lists, words with common spelling patterns and words not conforming to spelling patterns, which challenged all of the finalists, the Dormansland overall Spelling Bee winner was Willow Jones (Year 4), with Fire winning the overall house competition.

Please close the door behind you.

A special request from Mrs Lowe. When visiting the office or passing through reception, please could you shut the main door behind you, as it can get a bit chilly in the office. Thank you so much.

Looking for a new venue for a birthday party or celebration?

The school hall is available for hire. Please contact Mrs Blyde at the school office for further details: admin@dormansland.surrey.sch.uk

Dormansland In the Woods Exhibition at the Ashdown Forest Centre

It's not too late to pop down and see our fantastic exhibition, showcasing your wonderful children during some of their visits to the forest last year, along with some work produced by them. The exhibition ends on January 1st and is open on the 23rd, 24th, 30th and 31st December.

Snow Procedure

Last week we were treated to a little flurry of snow. As we well and truly head into Winter, please don't forget our 'Snow Emergency Procedure'. Should the weather have an impact on the school’s daily routines, a message will be placed on the front page of the school website by 7am that day and will be updated through the day. Please continue to send in your children with lots of warm layers, to cope with freezing temperatures.
An Evening for Parents:
Resilience, Praise, & Growth Mindsets
Monday 18th January - Sunnydown
How can children learn to be more resilient in the face of challenges? What might a "successful life" for them be in the 21st Century? How can praise encourage - & discourage – their confidence? This evening session will explore practical things that parents can do to help their children deal well with the rigours of growing up in & out of school. Will Ord is an internationally known education consultant (www.thinkingeducation.co.uk) and he will draw on research to make the evening entertaining, informative, practical & fun.

- How can children deal well with struggle and failure?
- What can parents do to encourage resilience in their children?
- When is praise helpful, and when can it be harmful?

Will Ord and the Great TEP Learner Project continues next year. The feedback from this amazing innovative programme has been fantastic. The venue is Sunnydown and the date Monday 18th January, between 4pm and 6pm. If you would like to attend this event, please let the school office know by Wednesday 10th January.

Changes on the High Street
Thanks to the efforts of one of our parents, the two pavement build outs are now complete on the High Street in Dormansland. Please could we encourage all of our Dormansland families and friends to use them.

Primary School Applications Are Open
In the lead up to Christmas, parents are being reminded that they can now apply online for 2018 primary school places using the online admissions system. The admissions system is quick, easy to use and available all day, every day and they’ll receive the outcome of their applications by email.

The deadline for applications is Monday 15 January 2018. Parents who miss the deadline reduce their chances of getting one of their preferred schools, so please apply online by visiting surreycc.gov.uk/admissions.

Congratulations…..

to Amelia in Emerald class, who took part in Lingfield library’s poetry competition in October. The task was to write an animal-themed poem. Amelia was the overall winner from a large number of entries from many local schools.
New Horizons Returns

We were recently contacted by Andrew Hindmarch, part of the New Horizons Mission.

Dormansland School’s spacecraft “New Horizons” is now on its way to a new target. New observations suggest America’s Pluto probe will see more than one object on its next flyby. It looks very strange at the moment. Either a tiny moonlet orbiting it or two objects possibly just touching. Andrew thinks that if they name the objects, they should name them Small Clanger and Tiny Clanger!

If you would like to do some space science research over the holidays, then an article on the mission can be found via the enclosed link:


We will be doing plenty of work in school on this exciting mission in 2018.

Shigellosis Outbreak

Specialists from Public Health England (PHE) South East are working with local authority and NHS colleagues to investigate 17 cases of Shigellosis in the Guildford and Woking area.

Shigellosis, also known as Shigella Sonnei, is caused by shigella bacteria that infect the gut, causing diarrhoea (often watery or slimy and sometimes bloody), fever, stomach cramps and sometimes vomiting. The illness may last for only a day or it may continue for one to two weeks.

The incubation period (the time taken from coming into contact with the bug until the illness starts) is usually one to three days, but can be up to a week.

Most of the cases are of pre-school age, but the illness is very contagious and PHE are aware of a number of families where older children and adults have also been affected.

If symptoms worsen or the person has underlying medical conditions, advice from the GP should be sought. People who have had diarrhoea should stay away from work or school until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours and if Shigella is suspected, should not return to school or work until stool samples have been tested and results show samples are free from the infection.

At the moment we are very fortunate not to have been hit by this, but we would really appreciate it if parents would go over washing of hands with their children, as well as covering noses and mouths when sneezing.
There is a measles outbreak in Surrey affecting unimmunised children and adults. Measles is highly infectious. It can cause serious illness and can sometimes be fatal. Vaccination with 2 doses of MMR is the only way to protect children and young people. There are also measles outbreaks occurring in Europe, particularly in Romania, Italy and Germany, and if you are planning to travel overseas please ensure that your child is up to date with their routine immunisations, including MMR.

The first MMR vaccine is given to toddlers at the age of 13 months and the second injection at around 3 years and 4 months before your child goes to school. MMR can be given to older children, teenagers and young adults if they missed their injections when they were younger. Contact your GP practice if your child needs an MMR vaccine. The vaccine is free. If you are not sure if your child needs an MMR vaccine, you can contact the GP to ask.

Measles is not just a little kids’ problem. Teenagers, young adults and anyone who has missed their MMR vaccination can get measles. The first signs of measles are fever, cough, runny nose and red sore eyes. After a few days, a spotty rash will appear. It starts on the face and neck before spreading to the rest of the body.

If you think your child has measles, ring your GP practice for advice. Don't turn up to the surgery, walk in centre or to accident and emergency without calling ahead. The doctor will make special arrangements to see your child so that if your child has measles – they won’t pass it on to others. Keep people with symptoms of measles away from others to avoid spreading measles, and stay away from school, nursery or work for 5 days after the onset of rash.

If you would like more information, see https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/

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**Childminders**

We are always being asked to recommend local childminders. If you are a childminder or can recommend someone, please would you contact the school office. Thank you.

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**Lunchtime Mindfulness & Meditation**

In the New Year Ann will be offering lunchtime sessions on a Friday, split between KS1 and KS2 for twenty minutes. Each session is £1.00 for a four week course.

For more information about the sessions please feel free to call Ann on 01342 837867 / 0787 946 1252, or you can book a place via the school office. Ann's email is:

ann.fraser@outlook.com

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**Reverse Advent Calendar**

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we have created seven overflowing boxes of Christmas treats for the East Grinstead Foodbank this month.

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**Polite Notice**

We have received further complaints from local residents about parents parking in front of the garages in New Farthingdale car park when they are dropping off or collecting their child from school. Please can we urge parents to consider the inconvenience caused by this which, even if it is only for a few minutes, is the cause of immense stress to some of the local residents. Thank you.
Dear Parents

I have been Chair of Governors for less than a year, but what a changing and challenging year.

It was unfortunate that after deciding to join with TGAT after the consultation process, the governors and SLT at the school had to make the difficult decision to decline to go any further along the journey to academisation with them. Governors will continue on the drive to find a suitable partner with a like-minded ethos and culture to collaborate with. We will of course be updating you and consulting again when this happens. I also have to make you aware that school finances across the education system are not good and here at DPS it is no different. Surrey are no longer providing a lot of the previous free to school services we use, meaning the school now has to buy them, and along with other constraints we have to tighten our belts considerably as we move into next year. On a much happier note the rest of the governing body and I were extremely pleased to meet and welcome to our last FGB meeting in November the Young Governors - Evie, Harry, Millie, Daisy, Anna and Astrid. They will continue to be a part of our meetings, sharing the thoughts and ideas from the rest of the children with us. I have enjoyed several visits to the school this term – I meet with Mrs Stokes regularly - but I have also been in the audience for the ‘Christmas Recipe’, I don’t have children at the school anymore but I did feel quite emotional at several points during the performance. Some governors and I made a team up to get quizzing at the PTA quiz night, I don’t know how, but we did very well in spite of the ‘help’ from a few bottles of wine. I also joined everyone on the 19th for the ‘Carols by Candlelight’ event.

On behalf of the Governors – I hope you all have a ‘Holly, Jolly Christmas’ and restful New Year’s break.

Angela Winsor.

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The Young Governors have been working hard on their Children’s School Development Plan this half term, which you can find below. They have also attended their first Full Governing Body meeting and will continue to attend meetings and provide Governors with presentations that share the children’s voice in our school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Area</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Success Criteria</th>
<th>Impact on Outcomes for School Community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Create a School Charter, reflecting the needs and aspirations of every child</td>
<td>Create a survey questionnaire Interview three children from every class &amp; 5 members of staff Collate the information from survey Create a draft School Charter Present this to the school</td>
<td>November 17 November 17 November 17 December 17 January 18                                                                                                                                               Children and staff will understand the role they play in the success of the school</td>
<td>Positive reinforcement of roles and responsibilities of key community stakeholders, led by the children themselves</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Anti-bullying campaign, with focus on cyber bullying Index for Inclusion B2.9 (p.123)</td>
<td>Create a presentation for a whole school assembly Research possible visitors to the school to work with YGs on cyber-bullying activities Run a poster competition Run parent workshop to raise awareness</td>
<td>January 18 January 18 January 18 Feb/March 18                                                                                                                                                           Increased awareness of the dangers of cyber-bullying and how to combat these. Greater engagement of parents in e-safety discussions</td>
<td>E-safety questionnaires with parents and children indicate that more than 75% understand the dangers of cyber-bullying and have strategies to combat these</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Communication from Young Governors to school community</td>
<td>Half termly contributions in newsletter Young Governors blog on website: G-blog, focusing on topical issues or ideas raised by children in school</td>
<td>Ongoing, each half term November 17, then regular updates                                                                                                                                              Parents, children and other community stakeholders feel informed about topical issues that matter to the children</td>
<td>Children’s voice is given greater profile within school communications on a regular, timely basis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Recycling campaign to raise awareness of social responsibility Index for Inclusion B1.13 (p.114)</td>
<td>Audit of current recycling Research requirements for schools’ eco awards Focus on bio-degrading and composting from school kitchen Whole school assembly</td>
<td>March 18 March 18 April 18, then review in July 18                                                                                                                                                      Clear understanding of data Understanding of what the school needs to do to improve Raised awareness</td>
<td>Statistics at start and end of project indicate a significant reduction in the amount of food waste that is going to landfill. Children see the benefits of compost in produce from school garden.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dormansland School
House Captains

We are the Year 6 House Captains and we were elected in September.

Our responsibilities include running house events such as the spelling bee competition, sports day and other house competitions and showing visitors and prospective parents around the school. Throughout the year we also run and collect the house point system.

Keely, Immy and Meggy are also litter pickers - a new initiative they have come up with themselves, with the help of Tandridge County Council, to help clean up the recreation ground in the village. TCC will shortly be supplying us with bin bags and picky uppy instruments to use.

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Boiler Works - Please Read

Our very old boiler is about to be replaced and whilst this is very exciting news for us, it does mean that for the first half of the new term, there will be no access on the path that runs along the back of Year 2, Year 4 and up to the staff car park.

There will also be no parking available in the far corner of the staff car park, on either side of the PTA shed.

Temporary fire exit arrangements will be made for both Year 4 and the dining/assembly hall.
PTA Update

A big thank you from the PTA for all your donations for the Christmas Challenges and for Festive Friday.

Reception class won the challenge class prize and we are finalising a special treat in conjunction with the school, which we hope will be extra fun! Details to be confirmed soon.

We also hit our 500 donations target and Mrs Stokes will shortly therefore be suitably embarrassed by the choice of Christmas costume she will be forced to wear. Look out for the photos on the school website - though we have seen the costume and doubt you could miss it!

An extra special thank you to all those parents who have given up their time and energy making crafts, manning stalls, attending meetings, helping build scaffolding in the freezing cold and looking after excited children at film night! You know who you are. We really appreciate it and could not support the school without your help.

Finally, have a very Merry Christmas!

The PTA Team xx

Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby Tournament

On Monday 6th November a selection of students from Y5 & 6 competed in a tag rugby tournament at Oxted school. Dormansland took two teams, the teams were Dormansland 1 and Dormansland 2. Dormansland 1 came 4th whilst Dormansland 2 came close behind them in 5th despite some people never playing before. Both teams enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to further tournaments.

Year 5 & 6 Football Tournament

On Wednesday 22nd November a team of Yr5&6 girls entered the football tournament at Oxted School. The team consisted of Niamh, Evie, Tara, Keely, Imogen, Meggy, Freya, Rosie, Erin and Jazmin. The team came an outstanding 3rd place out of 7. An amazing effort came from all our players and we couldn't have done it without them.
Thank you to Miss Newns for co-ordinating this year's Friendship Day and the theme of the Jolly Postman.

Please ask your children to show you which of the following boards they were involved in.
Pics from this half term……

Clockwise from top left: Year 4 at Lingfield College, Friendship Day, PTA Festive Friday, KS1 Nativity, Carols at Church, Fairtrade Mini Christmas Cakes by Year 1, Carols by Candlelight.
**EFFORT AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS WINTER 2017 - 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Attitude to Learning</td>
<td>Athena</td>
<td>Abi</td>
<td>Charlie</td>
<td>Alyssa</td>
<td>Bess</td>
<td>Harry H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sportsmanship Award</td>
<td>Nathan</td>
<td>Paige</td>
<td>Dex</td>
<td>Tom</td>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>Keely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Player Award</td>
<td>Erin</td>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>James</td>
<td>Willow</td>
<td>Sid</td>
<td>Evie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Enquiring Mind</td>
<td>Richard</td>
<td>Lily</td>
<td>Toby</td>
<td>Haki</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>Astrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Helpful Member of the Class</td>
<td>Lottie</td>
<td>Kallie</td>
<td>Rosie</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>James</td>
<td>Meggy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Improved Reader</td>
<td>Chloe</td>
<td>Bailey</td>
<td>Alex</td>
<td>Radley</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td>Harley Jay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Improved Writer</td>
<td>Billy</td>
<td>Lexie</td>
<td>Sonny</td>
<td>Giuseppe</td>
<td>Chloe</td>
<td>Immy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Improved Mathematician</td>
<td>Zachary</td>
<td>Neveah</td>
<td>Milli</td>
<td>Isabella</td>
<td>Willow</td>
<td>Daisy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Effort Award</td>
<td>Mila</td>
<td>Logan</td>
<td>Ethan</td>
<td>Tilly-Marie</td>
<td>Jazmin</td>
<td>Kelsey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Round Superstar Award</td>
<td>Danny</td>
<td>Ellie</td>
<td>Rosie</td>
<td>Zahir</td>
<td>Martha</td>
<td>Evie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Teacher Award for Excellence</td>
<td>Lara</td>
<td>Harry</td>
<td>Evie</td>
<td>Isabella</td>
<td>Chloe</td>
<td>Liam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to Amethyst Class for the best whole class attendance this term. We have 58 children in the school, who have had 100% attendance since September. You are our Superstar attendance dudes!
Tips For Keeping Your Child Safe Online

The 12 ways that Christmas shoppers can keep children and data safe when buying smart toys and devices (ICO)

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? Planning to spend a couple of hours in a Christmas Market or even on Amazon? This Christmas there will be more tech toys than ever before, and many of them will use bluetooth or wifi to link to apps and the wider internet. Some of these toys will have cameras and microphones recording the environment and the child's play. The Information Commissioner recently published an article looking at the risks of using smart toys and it is well-worth sharing it with parents.


Safety alert: see how easy it is for almost anyone to hack your child's connected toys (Which?)

Which? Magazine have also surveyed many connected toys and found that, without appropriate safety features, they can also pose a big risk to your child’s safety.

The Which video below shows just how easy it is for anyone to take over the voice control of a popular connected toy, and speak directly to children. Which? found that it is easy enough for almost anyone to do, not only skilled hackers.

https://www.which.co.uk/news/2017/11/safety-alert-see-how-easy-it-is-for-almost-anyone-to-hack-your-childs-connected-toys/

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

Twitter 13
Facebook 14
Instagram 16
Pinterest 17
Google+ 18
Tumbir 18
Reddit 18
Snapchat 18
Secret 18

LinkedIn 18
WhatsApp 18
Vine 18
Tinder 18
Path 18

(13 with parents permission)
DIARY DATES FOR NEXT TERM

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

**Tuesday 4th January**
INSET Day for staff only

**Wednesday 5th January**
INSET Day for staff only

**Monday 8th January**
First day of term for children

**Wednesday 10th January**
Y5-6 Football @ Oxted

**Thursday 11th January**
PTA Treat - Treasure Island

**Friday 12th January**
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 6
PTA Frosty Friday

**Friday 19th January**
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 5
PTA Frosty Friday

**Friday 26th January**
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 4

**Tuesday 30th January**
Y6 @ Lingfield Racecourse

**Thursday 1st February**
Y5 & 6 Basketball @ Oxted

**Friday 2nd February**
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 3

**Monday 5th February - all week**
SCIENCE WEEK

**Tuesday 6th February**
Safer Internet Day

**Thursday 8th February**
PTA Movie Night

**Friday 9th February**
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 2

**HALF TERM - February 12th to 16th**

**Thursday 22nd February**
Y3&4 Dodgeball @ Oxted

**Friday 23rd February**
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 6
Y3 to Lingfield College

**Friday 2nd March**
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 5

**Monday 5th March**
Y5&6 Dodgeball @ Oxted

**Friday 9th March**
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 4
Reports to parents
PTA Pamper Night

**Monday 12th March - all week**
Y6 Windmill Hill

**Tuesday 13th March**
Y5&6 Netball @ Oxted

**Friday 16th March**
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 2

**Wednesday 21st March**
Topaz Class Assembly
Parent Consultation Evening

**Thursday 22nd March**
Parent Consultation Evening

**Friday 23rd March**
Dormansland in the Woods - Year 3

**Sunday 25th March**
PTA Family Easter Walk

**Tuesday 27th March**
Y5&6 Hockey @ Oxted

**Thursday 29th March**
Easter Church Service
PTA Easter Egg Hunt
Last Day of Term

**INSET DAYS FOR 2017/2018**

Tuesday 8th May 2018
Monday 23rd July 2018