Thursday 16th November:
PTA Christmas Challenge Part One - Jolly Jars

Each child is asked to decorate a jar (or as many jars as they like!), fill it with sweets or toys and bring it in to school on 16 November to donate for the Jolly Jar Tombola at Festive Friday.

There will be a box for each class in the playground. The boxes for Reception and Year 1 will be on the deck outside their classrooms. Please ask your child to put their jar(s) in their class box. The PTA then collect and count them ready for the teachers to give the children their baubles for the Challenge trees!

We would be grateful if you could save any empty jars and leave any spares you may have in the trolley by the school office for others to use. If you need an empty jar, please help yourself!

Thursday 23rd November:
PTA Christmas Challenge Part Two - Secret Santa

Each child is asked to bring in a donation for the Secret Santa room, which can be given as a present. There will be a box for each class in the playground. The boxes for Reception and Year 1 will be on the deck outside their classrooms. Please ask your child to put their jar(s) in their class box. The PTA then collect and count them ready for the teachers to give the children their baubles for the Challenge trees!

We will then count up the baubles and see who wins the class prize!

What to bring?

Unopened toiletries, Perfume, Candles, Wine, Chocolates and anything else that would make a good gift.

We need donations of gifts for men as well as the ladies!

Friendship Day: Thursday 30th 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.
Reverse Advent Calendar:
1st December
*Please look out for a letter from us with further details*

- 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.

PTA Festive Friday:
1st December - 3pm to 5pm

- A PTA Christmas Fair to raise funds for the school.
- Join us for festive cheer, Santa’s grotto, book stall, Secret Santa, jolly jar tombola, secret auction, market stalls, refreshments, bar (serving alcohol), indoor play area and crafts for babies and toddlers, and much more…
- You can pre-book Secret Santa and Santa’s grotto – more info to follow.
- School pick up and Amigo’s after school club will be run as usual. Amigos will run until 5pm as usual, we have extended the finish time to 5.30 pm so children and parents can have a drink and a browse after Amigo’s pick up!
- Come and join us.
- Please bring lots of cash and festive spirit!
Infant Nativity Performances: 7th & 8th December

*Please look out for a letter from us with further details.*

- As in previous years, our children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be performing their Nativity play this year, which is called a 'Christmas Recipe'.
- 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 Wednesday 6th December, so older brothers and sisters will see the show during school time.
- There will be a rehearsal on Wednesday 6th December.
- Thursday 7th 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.
- Thursday 7th December @ 2.30pm
- Friday 8th 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 24TH NOVEMBER**. Your tickets will be sent out to you via bookbags on the Monday, with additional allocations sent home the following Wednesday, 29th 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.

PTA Festive Film Night: Friday 15th December

- Reception and KS1: 4:30-6:00pm - Santa Paws
- KS2: 6:30 – 8:30pm - Elf
- Both films will be shown in the main school hall
- £3.50 entrance fee, which includes festive inspired treat and drink.
- Children can bring along their teddies, pillow or cushion for a cozy 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.

*Amigos: Reception and KS1: children attending Amigos will be taken up to the hall for Film Night if they wish (£3.50 still required for entry). Pick up will then be from year 6 class room at 6pm. Please let us know if your child will go to film night from Amigos so we know each child’s collection arrangements. KS2 children at Amigos – will need to be collected at 5pm as usual.*
Class Christmas Parties
Reception & KS1: Monday 18th December
KS2: Wednesday 20th December

Please look out for a letter from us with further details.

- 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 & Carols by Candlelight: Tuesday 19th December

Please look out for a letter from us with more details

- 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!
- In the evening, we would like to invite everyone back to school for additional carol singing by candle light in the playground - details nearer the time.

Christmas Carol Concert @ St. John’s Church: Tuesday 19th December

Please look out for a letter from us with more details

- 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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