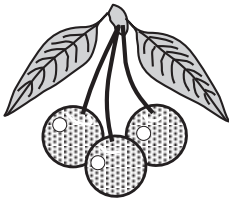


**DORMANSLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Newsletter
FEBRUARY 2010**



Name.....

Class.....

Dear Parents,

PAYMENT FOR ART WEEK, SCIENCE WEEK AND FRIENDSHIP DAY

If you have already sent in this payment - thank you! For everyone else here is a reminder:

As in the previous few years, to reduce the number of times when we ask you for contributions, we have lumped together the payments we request for Art Week, Science Week and Friendship Day, and are asking you to make one payment of £6.00 to cover all three events. **Please send this payment into school before half term**, in an envelope clearly marked with your child(ren)'s name(s). Cheques made payable to Dormansland School Fund, please.

Of course, as always, if you are experiencing financial difficulties and are in receipt of Job Seekers' Allowance or Income Support, please come and see us in confidence to discuss what help we may be able to give you.

ARRIVING AT SCHOOL ON TIME

On some days towards the end of last term and on some 'non-snow' days this term, as many as 20% of the children were arriving late for school. The reasons they gave for lateness included: watching cartoons, traffic, icy roads, lost clothing, escaping dogs, oversleeping, taking too long to eat breakfast and "I don't know"!

I feel that I should gently point out that our teachers, many of whom also have young families, all have the same challenges of icy roads and traffic (and perhaps even the cartoons and lost clothes!) and they all manage to get to school well before 8.50 am.

Sometimes lateness really is unavoidable and we understand this. However, some children are habitual latecomers and others do not have a really valid reason for arriving late.

Punctuality is a habit which will stand children in good stead in their future working lives. As parents and teachers, we need to impress on our children the importance of arriving at school on time. Children need to realise that it is rude to arrive late because it inconveniences other people and that if they are late, it is good manners for them to apologise and to give a reason for their lateness.

Please ensure that your children are on the main playground by 8.50 am at the latest and that they understand that they will need to say sorry to the office staff and their teacher if they are late arriving.

MORNING ROUTINES

In the mornings, it really helps the teachers on duty if you say goodbye to your children either at the Clinton Hill gate or outside the blue fence on the red tarmac. In this way, we are able to supervise the children properly in just the same way that we do at break times and lunchtimes. Also, please help the teachers on duty by not talking to them! We are very happy to talk with parents at other times, but when a teacher is on playground duty, they really do need to be concentrating on the welfare of the children and not be distracted by conversations with parents.

STUDENT TEACHER FOR YEAR 3

This term we shall be welcoming a teaching student, Mrs Kate Butler, into Year 3. Mrs Butler is studying at the University of Sussex and will be undertaking her final teaching practice with us.

Mrs Butler will be beginning her time with us after half term and her teaching practice ends on 11th June. During this time she will gradually assume a greater whole class teaching responsibility, always working very closely with Mr Pritchard.

SAFETY ON THE INTERNET

At school, we have a very powerful filter, which blocks out any potentially harmful or unsuitable websites. It also blocks social networking sites such as Bebo or Facebook. The children are supervised when they are using the internet and with all these precautions in place, we are as confident as we can be that the children will not come to harm when using the internet.

If you are at all worried about your child's safety when they use the internet at home, I suggest that you have a look at this site: <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk> It has very useful information for parents, as well as activities and videos for children to look at to help them to know how to keep themselves safe when using the internet.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS FOR EACH YEAR GROUP

Some of you have been asking recently about how much homework your child is expected to complete, so here is a guide for each year group:

Year Group	Time to be spent on homework	Activities will include:
Reception	10 minutes per night.	Reading and talking about the book; phonics work; occasional other activities.
Year 1	10-15 minutes per night.	Reading and talking about the book; words of the week; occasional other activities.
Year 2	10-15 minutes per night.	Reading and talking about the book; words of the week; occasional other activities
Year 3	15-20 minutes per night.	Reading and talking about the book; spellings; either an English or a maths task each week.
Year 4	20 minutes per night.	Reading and talking about the book; an English and a maths task each week.
Year 5	30 minutes per night.	Reading and talking about the book; an English/topic task and a maths task each week.
Year 6	30 minutes per night.	Reading, spelling, a maths task, an English/topic task and science task each week.

If you find that your child is unable to complete their homework tasks in the suggested time, please let their teacher know by writing a note or simply recording on the homework itself that your child has spent the expected amount of time on the task. We do not expect children to spend longer than suggested on homework; there are plenty of other worthwhile activities for them outside school and it is important that they have time, for example, to go to Brownies, do sports or even to just relax with their family!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jane Cowley
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8 th - 12 th February		Science week
9 th February		Y1 visit to St John's Church
Friday 12 th February	2.45 pm	Science week exhibition PTA Cake Sale (infant donations, please)
15th - 19th February		HALF TERM
Tuesday 23 rd February		Dental talk for children in Years R, 1, 2 and 3
		Year 5 trip to Newhaven Fort
	3.30 - 6.00 pm	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 24 th February	3.30 - 8.00 pm	Parent Consultations
Thursday 25 th February	am	Fire safety talks for Y2 and Y5
Tuesday 2 nd March		Year 1 hearing tests
	4.00 - 5.00 pm	Governors' curriculum committee
Wednesday 3 rd March		Boys' football tournament
Thursday 4 th March	7.30 pm	PTA meeting
Friday 5 th March	2.45 pm	Year 5 class assembly
Tuesday 9 th March	3.30 - 5.00 pm	Governors' finance and premises committee
	5.00 - 6.00 pm	Governors' personnel committee
Wednesday 10 th March		Boys' football tournament
Wednesday 17 th March		Boys' football tournament
Thursday 18 th March	2.00 pm	Years 4, 5, 6 Swimming Gala, Brambletye
Friday 19 th March	2.45 pm	YR class assembly
Tuesday 23 rd March	4.00 pm	Full governing body meeting
Friday 26 th March	2.45 pm	Open afternoon PTA Cake Sale (junior donations, please)
Tuesday 30 th March		Easter Egg Hunt
Wednesday 31st March		Easter service at St. John's for children only
		SPRING TERM ENDS
Monday 19th April		SUMMER TERM STARTS
21 st - 23 rd April		Residential visit to Hindleap Warren for Y4 and Y5
22 nd April	3.30 pm	Governors' finance and premises committee
Monday 3 rd May		Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4 th May	2.00 pm	Maypole dancing (infants)
Thursday 6 th May		Class photos
Monday 10 th - Friday 14 th May		National Curriculum Tests week
Tuesday 11 th May	4.00 pm	Governors' Curriculum Committee
Tuesday 18 th May		Year 1 trip to Borde Hill
	3.30 pm	Governors' Finance and Premises Committee
	5.00 pm	Governors' Personnel Committee
Friday 21 st May	2.45 pm	Year 4 Assembly

Thursday 27 th May	2.45 pm	Infant and Junior sharing afternoon
		PTA Children's Disco
Friday 28th May		INSET DAY
Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June		HALF TERM
Monday 7th June		INSET DAY
Tuesday 8 th - Friday 11 th June		Art Week
Friday 11 th June	2.45 pm	Art Week Exhibition
Monday 14 th - Friday 18 th June		Year 6 residential trip to Osmington Bay
Saturday 26 th June		PTA Summer Fair
Tuesday 29 th June		Junior Sports Day
Wednesday 30 th June and Thursday 1 st July		Induction days for Surrey secondary schools
Friday 2 nd July		Reserve date for Junior Sports Day
Friday 16 th July		Reports sent home
	2.45 pm	Open afternoon
Thursday 22 nd July		Chequer Mead School Performance
Friday 23rd July		END OF TERM