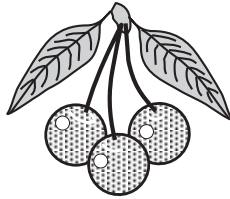


## DORMANSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Newsletter: APRIL 2010**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a very sunny start to the Summer Term! I hope that you all had a good Easter break and that you were able to enjoy the great weather we had. I know that some families have had difficulties making their way back to the UK because of the flight ban, but fortunately all our staff were here present and correct on the first day of term. Years 4 and 5 have enjoyed fantastic weather for their residential trip to Hindleap Warren this week. When I visited on Wednesday, the children were all having a wonderful time and had probably managed to find every muddy spot in the forest!

### **HELLO TO NEW STAFF**

We have some staffing changes this term. As Miss Robinson begins her maternity leave, we welcome back Miss Hyde who will be teaching Reception. Mrs Scott has requested to reduce her hours of work: she will now be working afternoons only and we have appointed Mr Simon Johnson as our new caretaker. Mr Johnson will be working every morning.

### **SPORTING SUCCESSES**

At the end of last term, we achieved some notable successes across a range of sports. These successes are all the more remarkable since we were competing against a wide range of local schools, many of which are twice our size.

**Football:** The Dormansland football squad took part in the Tandridge World Cup 2010. Wednesday 3rd March saw the team take on their first two competitors: St Mary's and Nutfield. Dormansland made an excellent start to both games and won both their matches comfortably, with final scores of 9-0 and 7-1. Wednesday 10th March saw us return to Oxted School astro-turf to take on our arch rivals Lingfield, as well as Tatsfield and Godstone. Again Dormansland showed excellent skill, great team work and exceptional attitude to win all 3 games, with scores of 6-0, 7-1 and 8-0 respectively. Wednesday 17th March took the team to Lingfield school where they took on their last two opponents: St Catherines and Holland. Yet again the team played fantastically and kept their winning streak in both their last two games in the competition; final scores were 8-1 and 3-1. The whole squad contributed in some way to this fantastic triumph and each and every member of the squad should be pleased with themselves. They were commended by Mr Jolley, the tournament organiser, on their excellent skill on the pitch and their courteous and pleasant attitude during their triumphs! None of this would have happened without our amazing coach Mr. Morgan-Rowe, Miss Robinson and all the supporters who came to cheer us on, in some very cold and windy weather.

**Swimming:** The Dormansland swimming team took part in the East Grinstead Schools Gala and came out with first prize as the overall winners. William Hewitt won the shield for the fastest 11 year old in the 50m front crawl and Laura Howson brought back the prize for the fastest 9 year old in the

25m front crawl. At the Brambletye Gala, the A team achieved 1<sup>st</sup> place, winning the Porter Pot and the B team achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Well done to all our talented swimmers and to Mrs Wall for training the team.

**Netball:** On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March the Netball squad took part in the South Tandridge inter-school netball tournament at Oxted School. We were placed in a pool with St Mary's B, Nutfield and St Catherine's B. Our first game was against St Catherine's B team who beat us 3-0 - However they were a team of nearly all boys who were not allowed to progress in the competition as they did not meet the criteria of 2 boys maximum! Our second game was against St Mary's B which we won 3-1, with some super goals from Eryn Gardner and Francesca Smith. Our final pool game was against Nutfield where we battled hard and drew 1-1, with a great goal from Lauryn Ireland. After hearing the results of the pool games we were delighted to have been announced winners of our pool which meant we had to face the runner's up of pool A - the St Mary's A team. Despite playing well we lost this game 6-1, with Eryn scoring our only goal. We then played one final game to decide 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> place and faced Nutfield again - the whole team played well and we won this game 2-0, with two super goals from Lois Drummie. Final results meant we came 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 8 teams! Well done to the whole squad - each child played their part and thoroughly enjoyed themselves and a big thank you to Mrs Watson who coached the team this season.

### **SACKVILLE SHIELD 2009**

For the third year in a row, our children have been successful in the essay writing competition organised by Sackville College for schools in East Grinstead and the surrounding area. Alex Keeley won 1<sup>st</sup> Prize and Laura Howson the Runner Up Prize for Year 3. Well done to both of them and also to Mrs Stirrat for organising the competition entries.

### **DORMANSLAND AFTER SCHOOL CARE CLUB (DASCC)**

Our after school care club has opened its doors this week to children from school who require child care from the end of school up until 6.00 pm. Some of the children have enjoyed their time at the club so much they have not wanted to go home when their parents came to collect them! The club is supervised by Mrs Lochhead and Mrs Eaton and runs every day from 3.15 pm until 6.00 pm. The charge is £8.00 per child per day up until 5.00 pm and £11.00 per child per day up until 6.00 pm. This charge includes a light tea (e.g. sandwiches or crumpets or bagels or pitta pockets plus fruit, yoghurt and a drink). We are able to accept child care vouchers at the club. If you would like any further details, or to reserve a place at the club, please contact the school office.

### **ADVANCE NOTICE - EARLY CLOSURE ON FRIDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

This year we shall be holding our School Improvement Planning afternoon on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> July. On that afternoon **the school will close for children at 1.30 p.m.** DASCC will be open from 1.30 pm on that day to children who already attend. Details will be sent out in a separate letter.

### **WATER ONLY, PLEASE!**

We have noticed that some children are bringing fruit drinks in their water bottles. The children all know that they may only bring in water, not juice, to drink during the course of the day. One child told us he tried to tell his mum that he should bring water only to be told "Your teacher won't notice it's not water because you can't see through the bottle"! Water is much kinder to children's teeth and does not cause sticky spillages in classrooms, so water only please for drinking bottles.

## **INJURY LETTERS**

Please will you make sure that you always check your children's bags for any letters each day? Although most of our letters are now coming out via Parentmail, we still put letters about any bumps or bruises into the children's bags at the end of the day. This is especially important when a child has had a bump on the head, because what can appear to be a minor bump at the time can develop into concussion many hours after the event when the child is at home with you.

## **SOME REQUESTS FROM MRS LOWE!**

- Mrs Lowe is having to spend increasing amounts of her time reminding parents to make payments for things such as swimming and school trips. Please make her life easier by ensuring that you get your payments to school by the due date.
- If you are collecting vouchers for school, please send them in to the office as you get them. It is much easier to keep on top of counting them if they arrive in smaller quantities rather than in a huge wodge at the end of the scheme.
- The minimum period for school lunches is one week. We are sorry, but we cannot take payment for odd days or parts of a week.

## **BEHAVIOUR GROUP MEETING**

You may remember that in my last newsletter I asked for some volunteers to join a working party to discuss the school's responses to poor behaviour. Four parents came forward and the group met this week. We discussed which aspects of the school's responses we liked and the areas for development. The group felt that:

- Overall, behaviour is good
- We use positive reinforcement well - 'catch them being good'.
- Visual systems for behaviour monitoring, eg traffic lights, cloud and sun were effective
- There was effective follow up with parents of children whose behaviour had given cause for concern.

Aspects which we will work to improve are:

- Teachers could provide more information for parents on behaviour management systems they use in class
- Problems seem to occur on the playground rather than in school: we need to teach the children a wider range of playground games and provide more support for those children who feel unhappy at playtimes
- We should provide more follow up information for parents whose children are unhappy because of the behaviour of others.

## **MOBILE PHONES**

A quick reminder that children should not bring mobile phones to school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jane Cowley  
Headteacher

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	pm	Football tournament at Ashurstwood
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	pm	Swimming gala at Moorhouse School
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May		Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	2.00 pm	Maypole dancing (infants)
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May		PTA Bag to School
	7.30 pm	PTA meeting
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> May		Class photos
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> May		National Curriculum Tests week
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	4.00 pm	Governors' Curriculum Committee
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	2.00 pm	PTA sponsored walk
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> May		Year 1 trip to Borde Hill
	3.30 pm	Governors' Finance and Premises Committee
	5.00 pm	Governors' Personnel Committee
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May		Year 3 trip to Standen/Sackville College
		Reception and Year 6 height and weight screening
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	2.45 pm	Year 4 Assembly
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30 am	Governor monitoring visit - success criteria
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May		Year 6 visit to Preston Manor
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	2.45 pm	Infant and Junior sharing afternoon
		PTA Children's Disco
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May</b>		<b>INSET DAY</b>
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>		<b>HALF TERM</b>
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June</b>		<b>INSET DAY</b>
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> June		Art Week
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	2.45 pm	Art Week Exhibition
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> June		Year 6 residential trip to Osmington Bay
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	1.30 pm	Drama workshop for KS1
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	4.00 pm	Full Governing Body meeting
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> June		PTA Summer Fair
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June		Oxted Induction Day
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June		Junior Sports Day
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July		Reserve date for Junior Sports Day
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July		YR visit to Ladyland Farm
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> July		Infant Sports
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> July		Sackville Induction Day
	1.30pm	<b>EARLY CLOSURE</b> - School Development Planning afternoon
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July		Reports sent home
	2.45 pm	Open afternoon
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July		Chequer Mead School Performance
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>		<b>END OF TERM</b>

