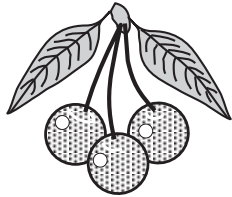


**DORMANSLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Newsletter
FEBRUARY 2010**



Name.....

Class.....

Dear Parents,

ARRIVING AT SCHOOL ON TIME

Thank you to everyone for ensuring that their children are getting to school on time. We have really noticed a big reduction in the number of latecomers each day.

PARENTS SURVEY

We are thrilled with the results from our recent survey. We had 71 responses and the results are as follows:

	Percentage of parents who strongly agree and agree
My child enjoys school	99%
The school keeps my child safe	96%
The school informs me about my child's progress	90%
My child is making enough progress at this school	92%
The teaching is good at this school	94%
The school helps me to support my child's learning	90%
The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle	92%
The school makes sure my child is well prepared for the future	97%
The school meets my child's particular needs	87%
The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour	78%
The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns	84%
The school is managed and led effectively	94%
Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school	94%

Thank you for the many positive comments that you made on the forms and for showing such a clear appreciation of the work of the school. The area of the school's work which showed least satisfaction in the survey was the school's response to unacceptable behaviour. I should like to find out more about your views on this, especially as the school already uses the full range of disciplinary sanctions open to us. If you would be interested in joining a small group of parents, staff and governors to look further at this issue and help us to improve our response to poor behaviour, please leave your name at the school office.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTIONS

The parent governor election was a close contest, but Mrs Lowe received the greater number of votes. The governors are very pleased to welcome her as our new parent governor.

HOME ACCESS IS HERE!

Home Access is a government programme in England which helps low-income families get access to a computer and the internet to get online at home.

If you're a low-income family, you could qualify for a grant to buy a computer and/or at least one year's internet access to help your child learn at home. The programme is aimed at those that need it most and targets families that do not have access to a computer or the internet at home.

Children who have access to technology at home tend to do better in school exams, learn and achieve more, and have fun while they're doing it. It also benefits the whole family. As well as allowing parents to find out more about what, and how, their children are doing at school, Home Access will help families to sign up for online courses, apply for jobs online, access online government services, and save money. Using the internet to shop for everyday items and paying household bills can save you around £40 a month - that's almost £500 a year!

To qualify, families must have a child in school years 3 - 9 who is entitled to receive Free School Meals which normally means the household having an annual income of less than £16,040.

If you think you qualify for a Home Access Grant please call **0333 200 1004*** for an application pack or for more information go to www.homeaccess.org.uk.

* Calls may be monitored or recorded to maintain high levels of security and quality of service. Calls to this number cost no more than a call to an 01 or 02 number and count towards inclusive minutes in the same way as 01 and 02 calls. These rules apply to calls from any type of line including mobile, BT, other fixed line or payphone

Families that do not qualify for a grant are still able to buy a Home Access package from a range of well known high street retailers, as well as other suppliers approved by the programme.

ROAD SAFETY AND PARKING

The Dormansland Road Action Campaign (DRAC) has mounted a postcard campaign to raise awareness of road safety issues in the village. Please support them by filling in and returning as many postcards as possible.

A group of parents who live in Clinton Hill have asked me to draw your attention to the following:

We have witnessed the following incidents on Clinton Hill:

- *At the top of the hill, my son was nearly run over as he went to retrieve his hat from the roadside. At the same time a parent was in the process of reversing her car. Bent over, he would be invisible to her mirrors and could have been run over. Janine Bell*
- *A younger sibling of a pupil stepped out between two parked cars while a car was hurtling up the hill. The lightning reflexes of the driver and the mother saved what could so easily have been a tragedy. I was shocked and shaken by witnessing the incident and could not get it out of my head. For several seconds I was sure that the younger child had been hit by the car. Natalie Jones*
- *I was driving down the hill quite slowly when my friend's son darted out from between two parked cars. If I had been driving fast I would not have been able to stop my car in time and would have knocked him over. Suzy Greaves*
- *Cars frequently cut the corner and **drive on the pavement** on the approach to Clinton Hill outside my house. It is simply a no-go area for my children as I am aware of this but please, other pedestrians, avoid this area of pavement at all times and drivers, **please** do not cut across the pavement. Laura Ireland*

Please do not drive up Clinton Hill to drop off or collect your children.

If you DO drive up Clinton Hill, please travel at minimal speed with full awareness for the small children who may be invisible behind parked cars. It is our hope that after reading this that no one will drive up to the Clinton Hill school gates for drop off or pick up.

In addition, I have received complaints from the residents of the Meades concerning parents being abusive when asked not to park in the privately owned section at the end of the road. I have suggested that the residents inform the police if there are further instances.

CHANGE OF DATE FOR SCHOOL PHOTOS AND SPORTS DAY

- The photographers have changed the date for the class photos from 6th to 7th May.
- Due to a clash of dates with the Oxted School induction day for Year 6 children, we have changed the date of Junior Sports from 29th to 30th June.

SCIENCE WEEK HELP

Thank you to everyone who came into school to help during science week. The children really enjoy science week and they benefit hugely from the extra support in school.

GIRLS' HAIRBANDS

Many girls are now wearing rigid, plastic alic bands to school. These are not ideal for school wear, as they have to be removed for PE, leaving girls with loose hair. (Hair has to be tied back for health and safety reasons in PE). Please would you ensure that girls wear plain, soft fabric hair bands, preferably in the school colours of dark blue or red and that any hair longer than shoulder length is tied back in a pony tail or plaits.

MATERNITY COVER TEACHER FOR RECEPTION

We are really pleased that Miss Hyde will be covering Miss Robinson's maternity leave later this year. Miss Hyde is a very experienced teacher and many parents will already know her since she has taught here on a regular basis over the past ten years.

EASTER SERVICE AT ST JOHN'S

Just a quick reminder that our Easter service is for children only.

PIANO LOAN

A message from Mrs Boyle:

Due to lack of space, we are looking for someone to take care of our grandmother's piano for approximately 3 years. It's a lovely upright piano, in excellent condition. This would be a great opportunity for anyone wishing to learn, without the expense of buying a piano. Please contact this number, 01342 837310 if you are interested.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jane Cowley
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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
	3.30 - 6.00 pm	Year 5 parents evening
Wednesday 24 th March	3.30 - 7.00 pm	Year 5 parents evening
Friday 26 th March	2.15 pm	Year 5 class assembly
	2.45 pm	Open afternoon PTA Cake Sale (junior donations, please)
Monday 29 th March		Year 1 visit to Yesterday's World
Tuesday 30 th March		Easter Egg Hunt
Wednesday 31st March		Easter service at St. John's for children only
		PTA Easter Egg Raffle
		SPRING TERM ENDS
Monday 19th April		SUMMER TERM STARTS
21 st - 23 rd April		Residential visit to Hindleap Warren for Y4 and Y5
Wednesday 21 st April		Year R visit to Pizza Express
Thursday 22 nd April	3.30 pm	Governors' finance and premises committee
Wednesday 28 th April	pm	Swimming gala at Moorhouse School
Monday 3 rd May		Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4 th May	2.00 pm	Maypole dancing (infants)
Wednesday 5 th May		PTA Bag to School
	7.30 pm	PTA meeting
Friday 7 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
Sunday 16 th May	2.00 pm	PTA sponsored walk
Tuesday 18 th May		Year 1 trip to Borde Hill
	3.30 pm	Governors' Finance and Premises Committee
	5.00 pm	Governors' Personnel Committee
Wednesday 19 th May		Year 3 trip to Standen/Sackville College
Friday 21 st May	2.45 pm	Year 4 Assembly
Wednesday 26 th May		Year 6 visit to Preston Manor
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
Thursday 17 th June	1.30 pm	Drama workshop for KS1

Saturday 26 th June		PTA Summer Fair
Tuesday 29 th June		Oxted Induction Day
Wednesday 30 th June		Junior Sports Day
Friday 2 nd July		Reserve date for Junior Sports Day
Friday 9 th July		Sackville Induction 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