



DORMANSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2010

www.dormansland.surrey.sch.uk

Dear Parents,

First of all, a very warm welcome to all our new parents and an equally warm "welcome back" to our existing parents! I hope that you all enjoyed the summer holiday, despite the rather disappointing weather. It's amazing just how quickly the long summer holiday passes, and now here we are back at school and ready to start another school year.

At the end of last summer term, we received so many lovely letters of thanks and appreciation from parents and I thought that I would share just one with you. It's a letter from a grandparent:

"The children will not know how lucky they are to be at this lovely, friendly little school as they have no means of comparison, but fortunate they are, indeed they would not do better if their parents struggled to pay private school fees.

My own grandchildren have loved school and it has never been a problem to get them there. Thank you for all you and your staff do; it really is appreciated."

Thank you to everyone who took the time and trouble to write in - it is always lovely for us to hear that our work is appreciated and, of course, we shall continue to work just as hard this year to ensure that the children have the very best education at Dormansland.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast club is running and offers an excellent breakfast and good child care for your child from 8.00 a.m. until school starts at 8.50 a.m. The cost is £3.00 per morning and you do not need to book in advance. Please make sure that your child arrives by 8.30 at the latest, so that they have time to eat their breakfast.

DORMANSLAND AFTER SCHOOL CARE CLUB

We have received fantastic feedback from parents using our after school care club and it's true that some children enjoy their time there so much that they don't want to go home when their parents come to collect them! The club is up and running, offering high quality child care every day from 3.15pm until 6.00 pm. The cost is £8.00 per child up until 5.00 pm and £11.00 per child until 6.00 pm. If you would like your child to come to the club, please ask at the office for an application form. We can accept childcare vouchers as payment.

LIBRARY HELP - PLEASE!!

If you like getting things into order, have sorted out your books and CDs at home and are looking around for another project, we have the perfect task for you! With 200 children using our library, things can quickly get into a bit of a mess. So, we are in real need of a volunteer who could spare a couple of hours a week to ensure that the books are arranged properly and that it is easy for children to find the book they need. Please contact me if you think that you would be able to help. Full training will be provided!

SCHOOL BOOK AMNESTY

Now that the children are back at school, you may be giving their bedrooms a bit of a tidy up! If you should happen to come across any school books languishing under the bed or at the bottom of the cupboard, please bring them back into school. We honestly don't mind how many you come in with - we're just pleased to see our books back in school.

SCHOOL UNIFORM...

The children looked so smart coming into school this week - thank you for your support with our school uniform.

...AND PAINTING OVERALLS

To keep those new uniforms looking smart, please ensure that your child has a painting overall in school at all times. You can either buy a ready made painting overall, or convert an old shirt by shortening the sleeves.

...AND PE KIT

Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school every day of the week, not just on the days when PE is timetabled. Also, a quick reminder that no earrings may be worn during any PE activity, including swimming.

CONTACT DETAILS - mobile numbers and email addresses please

We shall shortly be sending out a form for you to confirm your contact details. Please ensure that we have up to date mobile numbers and that you have given us your email address so that we can send you our newsletter.

MORNING AND AFTERNOON ROUTINES

I would just like to remind everyone that we ask parents not to come onto the main playground in the mornings. Please say your goodbyes on the red tarmac or outside the Clinton Hill entrance. (Children in Reception should be taken to their classroom.)

At the end of the school day, the children will be dismissed onto the main playground, so please wait here for your child. While you are waiting, please ensure that you keep an eye on your younger children if you are chatting to other parents. In school we don't allow the children to climb on the trees, climb on or jump off the tables or sand trays, and run up and down the bank. Please help us by reminding your children, both those at school and their younger siblings, about these safety rules. Again in the interests of safety, please do not allow your children to ride bicycles or scooters inside the school grounds.

SCHOOL CLUBS

Details of school clubs for this term will be sent out in a separate letter.

CARPENTER REQUIRED

How are your carpentry skills? Would you be able to build a large sandpit for our Reception/Year 1 children? If you would like to have a go, please contact Mrs. Douch - there will be a small remuneration.

INSET DAYS 2010 - 2011

When the red card was sent out last term, some of you may have spotted that we have six INSET (staff training) days next year, rather than the usual five. This is because the previous government agreed the additional day for schools to work on reviewing their curriculum.

Just to remind you, the governors have agreed the following days for INSET in 2010/2011:

25th and 26th November 2010

5th, 6th and 7th January 2011

26th April 2011

You will notice that we have taken the unusual step of taking three INSET days together at the start of the Spring Term 2011. This is to enable us to have a sustained period to work together as a staff on developing our curriculum. The governors felt that having the three days together would enable us to make much greater progress than having separate days.

RETURNED CHEQUES

Recently we have a number of cheques written by parents returned to us by the bank because there were insufficient funds to cover them. When this happens, the school is charged by the returning bank.

I am sure that you will appreciate that it would be an improper use of school funds to meet this charge and so if your cheque is returned by the bank we will ask you to reimburse the bank charges plus an administrative charge of £5.00 to cover the increased work for our office staff.

SCHOOL STATIONERY SHOP

We supply all the junior children with a new pen and pencil each half term. If they lose or break them, it is their responsibility to replace them. As during this year, replacement pens and pencils will be available at cost from the school shop, which opens on Friday lunchtimes.

The shop also offers a small range of other stationery items, such as pencil cases, glue sticks, rulers, pencil sharpeners, etc. at well below shop prices.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you are in receipt of any of the following you are entitled to free school meals for your child:

- Child Tax Credit, provided that your annual household income is less than £16,190
- Income support
- Income Based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Employment Support Allowance

The Inland Revenue provides the necessary documents which you will need to show the school at the beginning of every term to prove your eligibility.

Please contact the school office in confidence to take up the offer of free schools meals. It helps the school to obtain extra funding if we have an accurate picture of the number of families who are entitled to free school meals, even if the parents decide that they do not wish to take advantage of them. So, even if you do not want your child to have free lunches, please help us to get extra money for the school by letting us know, again in confidence, if you are entitled to them.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Cowley
Headteacher

REMINDERS

- ★ **Payments into school** Please make our hardworking office staff's lives easier by always putting payments for trips, swimming, etc. into an envelope marked with your child's name and class, the amount enclosed and what it is for. **Also, please make all payments to school by cheque.** It makes banking the money much quicker for us and means that we do not have sums of cash on the school premises. Cheques for school lunches should be made payable to: Surrey County Council. Cheques for all other payments should be made out to: Dormansland School Fund.
- ★ **Head lice** Please check your child's hair at least once a week. If you discover head lice, please treat your child's hair before they come back to school and let the office know so we can remind other parents to check their children's hair.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 7 th September		Reception Autumn born children start
		Judo club starts
Thursday 9 th September		Reception Spring born children start
Monday 13 th September		Reception Summer born children start
Tuesday 14 th September	9.00 - 9.30 am	Year 5 'Meet the teacher' coffee morning
Wednesday 15 th September	9.00 - 9.30 am	Year 4 'Meet the teacher' coffee morning
Thursday 16 th September	9.00 - 9.30 am	Year 1 'Meet the teacher' coffee morning
Monday 20 th September	9.00 - 9.30 am	Year 3 'Meet the teacher' coffee morning
Wednesday 22 nd September	9.00 - 9.30 am	Year 6 'Meet the teacher' coffee morning
Thursday 23 rd September	9.00 - 9.30 am	Year 2 'Meet the teacher' coffee morning
	7.30 pm	PTA AGM
Tuesday 28 th September	9.00 - 9.30 am	Year R 'Meet the teacher' coffee morning
Friday 1 st October	3.15 pm	PTA Second hand uniform and cake sale
Wednesday 6 th October	4.00 pm	Governors' Curriculum Committee
Monday 11 th October		Reception Spring born children start full time
Tuesday 12 th October		Individual school photos
Wednesday 13 th October		PTA children's disco
Thursday 14 th October	3.30 pm	Governors' Finance and Premises Committee
	5.00 pm	Governors' Personnel Committee
Tuesday 19 th October	3.30 - 6.00 pm	Parent/teacher consultations
Thursday 21 st October	11.00 am	Harvest Festival at St. John's Church
	3.30 - 5.00 pm	Parent/teacher consultations
	6.00 - 8.00 pm	
Monday 25 th - Friday 29 th October		HALF TERM
Monday 1 st - Friday 5 th November		Book Week
Wednesday 10 th November		PTA Bag to School
	4.00 pm	Full Governing Body Meeting
Friday 12 th November	3.15 pm	Cake Sale
Thursday 25 th November		INSET DAY
Friday 26 th November		INSET DAY
Monday 6 th December		Reception Summer born children start full time
Wednesday 8 th December		Friendship Day
Saturday 11 th December		PTA Christmas Fair
Tuesday 14 th December	2.00 pm	Infant Nativity Play
Wednesday 15 th December	2.00 pm	Infant Nativity Play
Thursday 16 th December	11.00 am	Christmas Carol Concert, St. John's Church
Friday 17 th December	2.45 pm	Open Afternoon
Friday 17 th December		TERM ENDS
Wednesday 5 th January		INSET DAY
Thursday 6 th January		INSET DAY
Friday 7 th January		INSET DAY
Monday 10 th January		TERM STARTS FOR CHILDREN