

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas break and that Father Christmas was kind to you! Thank you for your generous donations to The Children's Society at our Carol Service – £135.56 was raised and added to St. John's donation to this very worthwhile charity.

PTA

Thank you also for all your support for the PTA Christmas Fair. The fair raised around £2700 – a fantastic amount for a school of our size. Thank you to every one who worked so hard to make the day a success and to everyone who came along on the day.

At the last PTA meeting, it was agreed that the PTA will help the school with the purchase of computer equipment this year. We are planning to put a computer projector and screen in the hall for use in assemblies and other events. We are also looking to upgrade some of our now rather elderly classroom projectors as well as thinking about what gadgets will help the children to record their work in different ways. Watch this space to find out how the money you have raised is being used to help the children in school.

We have started off the new year here in school with some new year's resolutions. One of these is for everyone to try hard to keep our cloak rooms tidy. The children have done very well so far and it would be great if you could make it easier for them by a few simple measures:

§ Ensure that their coat has a hanging loop – coats without loops fall straight on the floor.

§ Don't let them bring a back pack to school unless they really have enough to fill it. For infants, their book bag and lunch box are generally all they need.

§ Ensure that their belongings are named. Unnamed items on the floor may well end up in the lost property bin.

#### INTERNET ACCESS AT HOME

We are just starting on an exciting new project to develop a "learning platform" for the school. If, like many of us, you thought a "learning platform" was something to help the shorter children to see the board, let me enlighten you! Our new learning platform will be rather like an advanced web site, where parents, children and teachers will be able to look at work, find out what this week's homework is and have access to a wide range of documents and links to other useful internet sites. Part of the intention is for children to be able to carry on working at home on projects they have started at school.

To use the learning platform out of school, children will need internet access at home. We want to ensure that all children can use our learning platform, so we will be thinking how we can support those children who do not have the internet at home. It would really help us to plan if you could complete the reply slip at the end of the newsletter; in this way we will have an early idea of the number of potential home users and those who will need to have access at school.

#### CHILDREN'S SAFETY

This week we had a nasty incident where a pre-school child could have been injured by a car in the staff car park at the end of school. If you leave by the Clinton Hill gate, please be aware that some

staff members will be leaving in their cars close to the end of the school day. Your children (both pupils and younger children) need to be properly supervised as you walk past the car park to avoid any possibility of a nasty accident.

#### ECO SPONSOR WEEK

Next week is the PTA's Eco Sponsor Week. They are encouraging the children to choose a few simple tasks that will help the environment and to carry them out in return for sponsorship. The money raised will provide an end of year treat for the children. Please help your child to take part – sponsorship can be for any amount, pence as well as pounds.

#### BUILDING PROJECT

We have now gained planning permission for our new Early Years outdoor learning area. We shall be going out to tender next month to find a building contractor and hope that the work will be completed in the summer.

#### CRICKET

It's hard to believe that the cricket season will soon be here, but Lingfield Cricket Club is already making preparations. The club is running indoor coaching sessions for boys and girls from 17th January. The sessions are open to all children from Reception up to Year 4.

All sessions run for an hour and a half and all the equipment is provided; the venue is the Sports Hall at NCYPE. For further details, please ring Ashley Netherclift on 01732 866381 or email [Ashley@crockham.plus.com](mailto:Ashley@crockham.plus.com)

#### EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Along with all other Surrey schools, we have been asked to draw up an "Emergency Plan". This plan covers many different kinds of contingency, from closure due to lack of power or water to much greater threats such as a bomb threat or terrorist attack. We know from recent experience that we are vulnerable to lack of power or water, but the more extreme scenarios seem very unlikely in Dormansland.

However, whether the emergency is great or small, one thing remains the same: we will need to contact a large number of parents in as short a time as possible. The most efficient way to do this is to have a "telephone tree". This means that one or two volunteers from each class will each telephone half a dozen other parents from the same class and these in turn will ring others. This system means that every parent will hear quickly about what they need to do.

I would like to set up this system. In order to do so, I need your consent, so if you have any objection to your telephone number being used in a telephone tree of this sort, please let us know. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that we can use your phone number to set up this system. Thank you for your support – let's hope we never need to use the telephone tree!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Cowley  
Headteacher

PLEASE NOTE:

§ The gate to the Meads is locked at 4.45 pm. If you need to come to school after this time, you will have to use the Clinton Hill entrance. These gates are locked at 6.00 pm.

§ Children attending Dodgeball will be brought out onto the junior playground at the end of the club. Please wait for them there.