

Dear Parents,

SWIMMING GALA

Dormansland competed against Brambletye school in a swimming gala last week and our 'B' team won the cup! The races were very close and exciting to watch and everyone who attended remarked how well the children swam and behaved themselves. As always, our thanks go to Mrs Wall for organising the gala.

READING IN SCHOOL...

We are having a big focus on improving standards in reading, especially in the infants. To help the children to make even better progress, we really need your help. Could you spare just an hour a week to come into school to hear children read? Teachers and teaching assistants already hear the children read each week, but it would really help the children if they could read to an adult more frequently. Please talk to me, Mrs Douch or your child's teacher if you are able to help. Our coffee mornings next term will be on the subject of reading, so make a date in your diary to come along and find out how to help your child at home.

...AND STORY TAPES

We are trying to build up a collection of story tapes that we can use in school reading sessions. In particular, we are looking for the shorter tapes aimed at young children. If you have any of these at home which your own children have grown out of, please think about donating them to school – just drop them into the school office. They will be used and enjoyed here, I can assure you!

PARENTS' SURVEY

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of a parents' survey. We carry out this survey every two years (the last one was undertaken when Ofsted came in March 2005). It really helps us to know what you think about the school and the education your children receive. We take your comments very seriously and are always keen to know how we can make things better as well as hearing what you think we do well. Please take a few minutes to fill in the survey and return it to school by Monday, 26th March.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Thank you to those parents who came along to our coffee mornings earlier this term. It was good to hear how appreciative many children are of their school lunches. Some have been asking our cook, Amanda, for the recipes for their favourite dishes! We were also able to talk about healthy lunches and to discuss what should and should not be in children's lunchboxes.

SUPERVISION BEFORE SCHOOL

We are finding that increasing numbers of children are being left at school early. Please note that your children should not be left at school before 8.40 am. Before this time, there is no supervision on the playground and we cannot be held responsible for any accident or injury that may occur. If you need to leave early to get to work, please remember that our Breakfast Club runs every day from 8.00 am. The Breakfast Club provides child care and a cooked breakfast for a very reasonable £2.50 per child. There is no need to book, just turn up on the day at any time before 8.30 am.

WEBSITE

A huge number of you (451, to be precise) visited our website for updates during the school closure last month. Having spoken to some of you and having seen the large number of 'hits' on the website, I realised that it was not that easy to see the latest news as it was tucked away in the 'Newsletters' session. I asked our website designer to make a new 'urgent notice' section that will flash up in red on the home page when we have something pressing to report. I hope that we shan't be having another school closure, but we can use this facility for other urgent messages, so do keep a look out for it.

MATHS CURRICULUM EVENING

We had an enjoyable evening last week when Kate Chase, our school's mathematics consultant, came to talk to us about how children learn maths nowadays and the approaches to calculations that we teach them. The evening was well attended and parents were able to get some helpful tips on how to help their children at home. Thank you to all the teachers and parents who came along.

SCIENCE WEEK

Science week this term was as great a success as ever, with many visitors and helpers throughout the week. At the whole school assembly at the end of the week, the children talked confidently about what they had learned during the week and their enjoyment of all the activities was clear to see. The week began with a fascinating assembly taken by a teacher from the Royal Horticultural Society on different kinds of seeds and culminated as usual in our 'Science Exhibition', when parents and visitors could tour the school to see the work produced during the week. Thanks go to Sheila Wall for taking on the organisation of the week and to all the class teachers for the extra work they put in to make the week such a success.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Cowley
Headteacher