

Dear Parents,

This month's newsletter gives me the opportunity to bring you up to date with some events earlier this term and to give you advance notice of some of our Christmas arrangements.

HARVEST FESTIVAL COLLECTION

Many thanks for your generous contributions to our Harvest Festival collection. £180.00 was raised and sent to WaterAid, to help provide access to clean, safe water for children in developing countries.

CHILDREN IN NEED

On Friday, 14th November, the School Council will be raising funds for Children in Need by holding "Pudsey's PJ Day". For a donation of £1.00, children will be able to come to school in their pyjamas and for a donation of £2.00, adults will be able to come to school not wearing their pyjamas!

If your child wishes to take part, they should wear their pyjamas over other clothes so that they are warm enough. For safety reasons, children should wear their trainers or their normal school shoes, rather than slippers.

SCHOOL COATS

Here is a heartfelt plea from teachers faced with pairing up dozens of identical, unnamed Dormansland School coats with their rightful owners at the end of each day! Please, please either:

§ Write your child's name clearly onto the reflective strip on the back of the coat.

or

§ Sew a clear name label into the inside collar of the coat.

Thank you for your help.

CLARINETS IN YEAR 5

We are very pleased to have secured the funding from Surrey to allow every child in Year 5 to learn the clarinet this year. This scheme is part of a government initiative to increase the number of children playing a musical instrument. The children are lent a clarinet free of charge and receive an hour's class tuition each week. They are all very excited to be getting their clarinets this week and we are looking forward to hearing their first concert later in the year.

BASEBALL POSTS

Thanks to your Sainsbury's vouchers we are now the proud owners of two lovely new baseball posts – except that they are in bits! Miss Robinson would love to hear from anyone who could spare an hour or so to put them together.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our school council is now separated into three groups: a fundraising committee, an eco committee and a playground committee.

Last month Hugo Underhill and Molly Moe represented Dormansland at the Tandridge Youth Council meeting at de Stafford School, Caterham. Almost seventy pupils attended from primary schools across Tandridge. The meeting was addressed by the mayor, Sally Marks. This opportunity was about pupils having the chance to have a say in decision making, not only in their school, but also in their community. Pupils working in partnership can make a real difference to the communities they live in. Hugo and Molly said, "It was a great experience being able to put forward our ideas to other schools in Tandridge and it was interesting to hear their opinions. The best bit, though, was using the microphones!" They will shortly be announcing details of an exciting inter-school competition.

EUROPEAN DAY

We had a very successful European Day last half term. The day was brilliantly organised by Miss Lauder and included tasting food from different countries, learning phrases in different languages and playing games from different countries.

FRENCH ASSISTANTE

We are delighted to welcome Anou Nizan to Dormansland as our very first French assistante. Mademoiselle Nizan is spending a year in England, working with Dormansland, Lingfield Primary and St. Mary's, Oxted. She is working alongside Miss Lauder in the children's French lessons, giving them the opportunity to hear a real French speaker.

FRENCH LINKS AND CHINA VISIT

This year, we are establishing links with primary schools abroad, which we hope will give the children the chance to learn about schools in different parts of the world. Miss Lauder is establishing connections with a school in France and later this month I shall be travelling to China to make contact with a primary school in Shanghai. This visit has been funded by the British Council and I shall be one of four headteachers from Surrey who are taking part. I am very much looking forward to sharing my experiences with the children when I get back.

HANDY PERSON REQUIRED

From time to time, we have small jobs around the school that could be easily handled by someone with good DIY skills. At present, we often have to pay costly call out fees for small tasks and to avoid this, we are keen to find someone who would be willing to take on some of these small jobs for us on a paid basis. If you are interested, or know some one who would fit the bill, please contact Neila Gibson in the school office.

CASH FOR CARTRIDGES

Please bring your used printer cartridges into school because we can exchange them for cash! All you need to do is drop them into the special bin by the office.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Here is a reminder of the days and times for our Christmas celebrations.

The Infant Nativity Play this year is "The First Christmas" and will be performed to infant parents in the school hall on two afternoons, Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th December at 2.00 pm. The

dress rehearsal will be performed at 2.00 pm on Monday, 15th December.

As last year, we are inviting parents with babies and young pre-school children to the dress rehearsal and would request that these young children are not brought to the two performances. Thank you.

All the children, both junior and infant will be taking part in our Christmas Carol Concert at St. John's Church on Thursday, 18th December at 11.00 am, with a rehearsal on Wednesday, 17th December at 11.00 am.

As with the infant nativity, this year we are inviting parents with babies and young pre-school children to the rehearsal on Wednesday and would request that these young children are not brought to the Carol Concert on Thursday. There is no need for tickets for any of our Christmas events – just turn up on the day.

FAIR PROCESSING NOTICE

Schools, local authorities and other educational bodies that process personal data about pupils are required by the Data Protection Act 1998 to issue a Fair Processing Notice to parents to inform them and their children of the purposes for which that personal data may be held and used. A copy of this notice is attached for your information.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Cowley
Headteacher

REMINDERS

§ This newsletter is available on our website www.dormansland.surrey.sch.uk, in large print or by email on request.

§ The children have playtime outside in (almost!) all weather conditions, so please ensure that your child brings a waterproof coat to school every day.