

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 and were able to have some time relaxing despite the disappointing weather. We are all ready to start another school year, and there are some exciting developments in store with the new trim trail being built and some plans to improve the building and outdoor areas.

#### HELLOS

This term we are very pleased to welcome two new members of staff: Mrs. Miller, who will be teaching Year 4 and Mrs Hrachovec who is a teaching assistant in Year 6. Mrs Miller is a job share partner to Mrs Davies, who is back from her maternity leave.

#### TRIM TRAIL

Thanks to a fantastic fundraising effort from the PTA, our long awaited new trim trail is at last under construction. The new trail is being built on an all weather surface so that the children will be able to use it throughout the year and access it directly from the existing playground. We hope that the trail will be ready for use in a week or so and are planning a grand opening ceremony!

#### NEW BUILDING PLANS

We will shortly be applying for planning permission to make some much needed improvements to our outdoor learning area for the younger children. Our plan is to move the reception classroom to the current Year 2 room (Year 2 will move into the reception classroom) and to create a much larger outdoor learning area, partly covered and partly on the red tarmac which can be shared by Reception and Year 1. If we are successful in gaining planning permission, we hope to have the work completed by September 2009. If you would like to see the design drawings, they are currently on display in the entrance hall.

#### 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.

#### CONTACT WITH TEACHERS

Teachers are always happy to see you to discuss any concerns you may have, particularly in these early days of the school year as your children settle into their new classes. However, it would be appreciated if you could 'catch' the teacher after school, when they will have more time to spend with you, rather than in the mornings when they are busy bringing the children into school. If you are not able to see the teacher in the afternoon because of work commitments, it is often possible to come in and see the teacher earlier in the morning by appointment.

#### SCHOOL UNIFORM...

Thank you for your support with school uniform. The children really do look smart in their uniforms ready for the new school year.

### ...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 putting some elastic through the hem.

### ...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.

### FREE SCHOOL MEALS

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

- Income support
- Income Based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, provided that your annual income is less than £15,575 and you are not in receipt of Working Tax Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

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.

### 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 £2.50 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.

### MORNING AND AFTERNOON ROUTINES

Thank you everyone, for helping us to keep the children safely supervised on the main playground in the mornings. It really helps now that you are saying goodbye on the red tarmac or outside the gate in Clinton Hill and not coming onto the main playground. If you wish to wait until your child has gone into school, please stand on the red tarmac or outside the Clinton Hill gate, and leave the path by the flagpole clear for the children to walk round.

At the end of the school day, please ensure that you keep an eye on your children if you are chatting to other parents or waiting for their brothers or sisters to come out. 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.

## DATES

A full list of dates for this term will be sent to you next Friday.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Cowley  
Headteacher

## REMINDERS

### « Payments into school

Please make our hardworking office staff's lives easier by 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.

### « Allergies

We have a number of children in the school with fairly severe allergies, including several with a nut allergy. Because of the risk of a severe reaction to nuts in any form, I would just like to remind you that we have declared the school a "nut-free" zone. Please do not include any nuts or nut products, including peanut butter, in your child's lunch box.