

DORMANSLAND DAYS



A message from the Heads

As we end our penultimate week before the Christmas break, it is a chance to reflect on the hectic journey we've had this term. From class assemblies to spirited sporting competitions, parent open afternoons, harvest festivals, and engaging theme weeks, our school has been buzzing with activity.

The past few weeks have continued in this theme been a whirlwind of excitement, showcasing the talent and enthusiasm of our students. Witnessing the Key Stage 1 children shine in their Nativity performance was truly a highlight. Their confidence and stage presence were remarkable, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended, creating a wonderful supportive atmosphere.

In the face of a cold, wet evening, our Year 2 champions bravely represented the school at a multi-skills sporting event. They took part in a number of different challenges, competing against each other and other local schools. Despite the challenging weather, their teamwork and dedication was commendable.

As we wind down from a bustling last week, this week has provided a more settled atmosphere, allowing the children to have a strong finish to their learning topics and ensuring key concepts from the term have been embedded (while also very much embracing the festive spirit!) The PTA-funded pantomime of 'The Snow Queen' yesterday was a great success and the tireless efforts of our Year 3 elves spreading Christmas cheer through card deliveries have added a delightful touch to the week. Last Wednesday marked National 'No Pens Day,' a day where classes embraced various activities without using any writing implements. Once teachers had overcome the initial challenge of completing the morning register, the children immersed themselves in a range of skills and activities, showcasing their creativity and adaptability.

Looking ahead to next week, we are gearing up for a week filled with festive fun:

- Monday: Key Stage 1 Christmas Parties
- Tuesday: Key Stage 2 Christmas Parties
- Wednesday: Christmas Service at St John's Church (9:30 am), Christmas Jumper Day, and Christmas lunch
- Friday: Last Day of Term



Parent Questionnaires

Thank you to those that replied to our parent questionnaires over the last two weeks. If you haven't the links are included below.

1. Review of school values.
<https://forms.office.com/e/PZKmqaghr4>
2. Review of behaviour in school
<https://forms.office.com/e/hyPPu5K4hw>



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Reminders

- SCHOOL UNIFORM REMINDER- Please be reminded that jewellery such as necklaces, rings and bracelets should not be worn in school for health and safety reasons.
- Children who arrive at school after 8.50 **MUST** be signed in to school via the office by an adult.

Attendance

Well done to Diamond class for achieving 87.8% attendance over the last two weeks.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every single person who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

If you have a concern contact Mrs Davies, Mr Cook, Mrs Lochhead or Mrs Higginson.

Governor Focus

'Dear Parents, I was delighted to visit the school this week and to meet with senior teachers to discuss the Behaviour Policy. I was also able to visit classrooms to see the children's behaviour and their attentiveness to their learning. It is a privilege to be part of such a lovely school where the children are so happy, polite and well cared for. Pupils were clearly enjoying their learning and their good manners and kindness towards each other is a credit to you all. Thank you for helping to make Dormansland Governors proud!

Jenny Ashley- School Governor

Attendance

Following on from our article on attendance in our last newsletter we would like to remind you of the following, **this will be in place from** January 2024.

Penalty Notices to Address Poor Attendance at School

A Penalty Notice may be issued as an alternative to the prosecution of a parent/carer for their child's unauthorised absence from school (absence without the agreement of the school or not covered by a medical note) and will be used by Surrey County Council in the following circumstances :-

-Leave of absence in term time (5 days or 10 sessions or more within six weeks).

Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration)(England) (Amendment)Regulations 2013, which became law on 1st September 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

The Headteacher is also required to determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

In such cases the Headteacher/Governing Body must decide whether there are exceptional circumstances. They may request that the Local Authority issue Penalty Notices when the absence is not authorised. Warnings will not be given where it can be shown that parents/carers have been notified that such absences will not be authorised.

Finally, the issuing of a Penalty Notice will also be considered where it is judged that a parent is failing to ensure their child's regular school attendance. This will be considered when a student has incurred 10 or more unauthorised sessions in the previous 6 school weeks, which may include a student arriving late after close of registration.

If you believe at any stage that your child's absence from school may leave you liable to receive a Penalty Notice, it is extremely important that you act without delay to secure their regular attendance.

Headteacher Drop in

Headteacher drop-ins take place the last Tuesday of each month. The next sessions are 30th January 2024, to book an appointment please contact the office.

Diary Dates

2nd Jan - Inset Day

3rd Jan - 1st Day of Spring Term

5th Jan - Y6 Forest Day

12th Jan - Y5 Forest Day

19th Jan - Y4 Forest Day

26th Jan - Y3 Forest Day

30th Jan - Headteacher Drop-in Session

2nd Feb - Y2 Forest Day

7th Feb - YR Heights & Weights

12-16th Feb - Half Term

PTA Events

Congratulations to the PTA for raising a fantastic £2000 at the Christmas Fair! Thank you to all of the parents and Grandparents who helped to make the event.



@dormanslandpta

