

5TH JANUARY 2024

DORMANSLAND DAYS



A message from the Heads

Welcome back and Happy New Year, we hope that you had a restful Christmas break and are ready for the term ahead. I think this is one of the earliest dates that we have ever returned to school after a Christmas Holidays, however the children have shown no post-Christmas sluggishness and have already thrown themselves straight into their new topics and learning, which is fantastic to see.

On Tuesday, teachers had a highly productive INSET day where we looked at our whole school curriculum and how it is structured. We then discussed the importance of children having age appropriate 'sticky knowledge' that they should be expected to remember. These have been created with our children and Dormansland locality in mind. We hope these will be a useful aid for teachers and children moving forwards.

This term, we're thrilled to welcome Mr. Goodall as the new class teacher for Year 5 and welcome back Mrs. Hare, who will be working in all classes and contributing to curriculum development across the school. Both teachers have settled in seamlessly, and there's an opportunity to meet Mr. Goodall after school today for Year 5 parents.

Our term kicked off with a PHSE day organised by Miss Lee, focusing on the theme of Nurture. Throughout the day children experienced different teacher, who shared stories with them all with similar themes. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged in the books and really working hard to explore the underlying messages within the books.

Towards the end of last term, we noticed an increasing number of children with missing items of PE kit. Please ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school every day. Their PE kit should contain:

- Navy shorts/tracksuit bottoms
- House Colour PE t-shirt
- Trainers/Plimsolls which are of the correct size.

Please also note that Surrey Guidelines state that children are not allowed to participate in PE with earrings in. Children must be able to safely remove these independently on PE days.

Parent Parking

This is a gentle reminder to parents who park in New Farthingdale, to not park on grass verges or to block driveways. We have had local residents unable to access their own driveways during drop off and pick up times. Please consider others when you park.



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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 8.50am **MUST** be signed in to school via the office by an adult.

Attendance

Well done to Sapphire class for achieving 93.3% 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, Miss Newns, Mrs Lochhead or Mrs Higginson.

Device Safety

Through discussion with the children this week it appears a high percentage received new devices for Christmas. A couple of reminders:

- Smart watches of any kind are NOT allowed in school
- Refer to the attached document for advice to set parent controls on any new devices
- Ensure you CHECK YOUR CHILD'S DEVICE. We are now dealing with an incredible number of incidents in school which begin via messaging on devices at home.

Diary Dates

- 10th Jan - YR - Pilot visit
- 12th Jan - Y5 Forest Day
- 19th Jan - Y4 Forest Day
- 25th Jan - Y4 Hindleap trip parent meeting - 3.15
- 26th Jan - Y3 Forest Day
- 29th Jan - Y6 PGL/SATs information meeting - 3.15
- 30th Jan - Headteacher Drop-in Session
- 2nd Feb - Y2 Forest Day
- 7th Feb - YR Heights & Weights
- 12-16th Feb - Half Term
- 23rd Feb - Y6 Forest Day
- 28th Feb - Y2 Class Assembly
- 1st March - Y5 Forest Day
- 8th March - Y4 Forest Day
- 11-13th March - Y4 Residential trip
- 14th March - YR trip to British Wildlife Centre
- 15th March - Y3 Forest Day
- 20th March - Easter Service @ St John's Church
- 22nd March - Y2 Forest Day
- 25-28th March - Y6 PGL Residential
- 28th March - Last Day of Spring Term - **NO AMIGOS**

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

Informal 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.

PTA Events

- Thursday 18th January - Y4 Cake Sale
- Thursday 25th January - Bags2School



@dormanslandpta

