



Monthly Parent/Carer Update Sheet December 2018/January 2019



Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Variety Show - Thursday 20 December 2018

As in recent years, we will be turning the heating down by 1 degree on Thursday 20 December 2018 and asking pupils to come to school wearing their Christmas Jumpers. Pupils can wear non-uniform with their jumpers, i.e. jeans etc. Pupils will be asked to pay £1.00 and all money raised will be donated to a local homeless charity for those less fortunate. Pupils will also be treated to our annual Christmas Variety Show on this day where we have both staff and pupils showcasing their talents.

Christmas Holidays - Friday 21 December 2018 *EARLY CLOSE OF 12.00PM

We will be breaking up for the Christmas Holidays on Friday 21 December 2018 at 12.00pm. We will return to school on Monday 7 January 2019 to a Week 2 Timetable.

Cross-Curricular Day - Thursday 10 January 2019

Our annual cross-curricular day will be taking place on Thursday 10 January 2019. Year 7 pupils will be visiting RAF Cosford where they will take part in a variety of workshops and activities based upon History and Maths. Year 8 will be in school taking part in a carousel of 'one-off' lessons based upon the theme of Carnivals. Year 9 will be visiting Halesowen College where they will be able to have a taster day of life at college. Year 10 and 11 will spend half their day with the English Department and the other half with the RE Department working on material for their upcoming exams.

Year 9 Parents Consultation Evening - Thursday 17 January 2019

We will be holding a Year 9 Parent Consultation on Thursday 17 January 2019. Please ensure your child makes appointments with all their teachers so we can update you on their progress.

Year 11 Photographs - Thursday 24 January 2019

Year 11 Photographs are taking place on Thursday 24 January 2019. Pupils will have an individual and whole year group photo taken, proofs will then be sent in due course if parents/pupils wish to order photos to purchase. Pupils will have the opportunity to have friendship photos taken at a

cost of £5 for each individual in the photograph which will be payable on the day. Further information regarding arrangements will be sent to pupils via form tutors.

Avon Charity Day - Friday 25 January 2019

Avon House will be holding their annual charity day on Friday 25 January 2019. There will be top prizes up for grabs along with a host of exciting activities taking place across lunchtime. Pupils will be able to wear mufti and we look forward to raising money for a very worthy charity, Beacon Centre for the Blind.

Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening - Thursday 31 January 2019

We will be holding a Year 11 Parent Consultation on Thursday 31 January 2019. Please ensure your child makes appointments with all their teachers so we can update you on their progress.

GENERAL REMINDERS

Request for Leave of Absence

Dormston School's Attendance Policy is not to grant any leave of absence. However, we are aware that there are times of family crisis when leave of absence may need to be given. The Head Teacher may grant special permission but permission must be sought in advance of any bookings being made, and parents should be prepared that some may not be authorised. Should you insist on taking your child out of school without permission, then the absence does have to be recorded as unauthorised and a fine may be issued by the Education Investigation Service. The fine is £60 per parent for each child, if not paid within 21 days then the fine would increase to £120. The progress and development of your child is our main priority and it is because of this that we have taken this matter seriously.

School Attendance *REMINDER

We would like to congratulate the many parents/carers who make sure their children attend school regularly. **It is parents'/carers' responsibility to ensure their children receive appropriate education. Failing to send your child to school regularly without good reason is a criminal offence.** Absence disrupts the education of the individual pupil and the whole class. Are you aware that children who do not attend regularly:

- × do not achieve well in exams;
- × find it difficult to maintain friendships;
- × are more likely to become involved in crime;
- × miss out on opportunities in further education and the world of work.

Please remember that going shopping, visiting family, truancy, not wanting to go to school, alleged bullying (speak to school immediately to resolve the issue) are not acceptable reasons to be absent. All of these will be recorded as unauthorised absence which can lead to a referral being made to Dudley Council.

Pupil's Medical Information *REMINDER

If your child has any medical illness or conditions can you please update the School Nurse so we can keep our records up-to-date. Please can this be done every September or throughout the year if anything changes. Please write to Mrs Lewis, School Nurse, with the child's name, form group, the condition(s) and any treatments given/needed. Mrs Lewis may need to ring you to talk about any concerns so please leave a contact number. If you wish to discuss your child's medical concern in person, please make an appointment through Main Reception.

Medical Appointments *REMINDER

The school will not authorise medical or dental appointments unless they are supported by a doctor's/dentist's letter (a copy is acceptable) or an appointment slip or card clearly stating the appointment date and time. When a pupil needs to leave school for a medical or dental appointment, the parent/carer or child must show a letter/appointment slip/card to the Office when they sign out, or when they sign in after attending the appointment, or the absence will not be authorised. **Pupils should only leave school for appointments if they are collected by a parent/carer. Pupils can only leave school alone for appointments if there are extenuating circumstances discussed and agreed with the school prior to the appointment.** GP/Dental surgeries can issue appointment slips. When a pupil arrives late to school after a medical or dental appointment, a parent/carer or child must show their letter/appointment slip/card to the Office when they sign in otherwise the absence will not be authorised.

Releasing Pupils in School Time/Emergency Situations *REMINDER

Please note that pupils will only be released from School if we are able to obtain consent from somebody who has 'Parental Responsibility' for the pupil in question. We do appreciate that emergency situations can arise, and a parent/carer with 'Parental Responsibility' may send another member of the family to collect a pupil on their behalf. In these situations, Parental Consent will be required prior to the child being released from school. It is therefore imperative that your contact details are up-to-date and you are contactable if you have made this arrangement.

Forgotten Lunch Arrangements *REMINDER

As you know, we no longer interrupt lessons to pass on forgotten equipment and break-time snacks due to the disruption to learning this inevitably causes. If for any reason your child has forgotten to bring in their lunch it is **their responsibility** to go to Main Reception at the start of lunch to check if any lunch has been brought in for them. Please make sure you talk to your child about this procedure. Form Tutors have been asked to speak to pupils about this arrangement as well. If their lunch has not been brought in for them they will be issued with a lunchtime pass which parents will then have to reimburse the school for.

Safeguarding *REMINDER

Dormston School takes the safeguarding and welfare of all pupils very seriously. If you have any concerns regarding the safety of pupils at this school please report them to either, Mrs Elliott, Mr Amos or Ms L Smith. Further information and guidance for parents/carers on safeguarding issues can also be found on the school website.

