

Parental Communication & Engagement



☎ 01384 816395 ✉ info@dormston.dudley.sch.uk 🐦 @DormstonSch 🌐 <http://www.dormston.dudley.sch.uk>

Message from Head Teacher

I hope this update finds you and your loved ones safe, healthy and happy.

Today we welcome back some of our Year 10 students for meetings with their Curriculum Leaders and Heads of House. We hope that we can start to help them feel more confident about their examinations next year and begin to plug the gaps left by the recent situation.

In preparation for this we have put lots of social distancing measures in place around the school. We expect all of our students in school to stick to the rules to minimise any risk and ensure we are all kept safe and healthy. We have placed signs and posters everywhere to remind students of the importance of working together as a school community to stop the spread of the virus. Just to give you an idea, this is what the corridors now look like:



We have also been very busy this week preparing for our new intake of Year 7 in September. Although as yet we do not know when or how the school will open fully, we want to ensure that Year 6 who are getting ready to join us are fully prepared for life at Dormston.

If you look on our school website you will find a new drop down section especially for Year 6. So far this contains a welcome message from me and some activities that we would like our new students to try between now and September. Mrs Bassan has added a PowerPoint that will guide our new students through the work pack.

Very soon the Year 7 Form Tutors and the Heads of House will be adding their messages so that students can put a face to the name and we will also take them on a virtual tour of the school. All new students will also be given a reading book which we hope will keep them entertained for some of the summer.

As far as possible, despite all the recent unprecedented events around the world, we want it to be business as usual for Dormston students. If you have a child coming to us in September, or you have friends that are sending their children, please can I strongly advise you to take a good look at our website over the coming weeks.

Have a good week.



Head Teacher

Emails/Letters Sent Out Recently

ALL letters are now emailed home, hard copies are ONLY provided for 'Reply Slip' Letters. *Selected student only letters are given out to your child by hand or are posted directly home. The criterion for 'selected student only' opportunities are based on various factors depending on the trip and its focus. Unfortunately, we are unable to allow every student the opportunity to be involved with every activity which we understand sometimes causes disappointment. If you require more details about the selection process for any opportunity please contact the event organiser.

- HoH Keeping in Touch Email to Students (includes Weekly PowerPoint) - Monday 15 June 2020;
- Head Teacher's Weekly Blog - Monday 15 June 2020;
- Key Worker/Students in School Letter - 12 June 2020.

General Updates

Year 10 1:1 Appointments

Thanks to those students who have got in touch to arrange a 1:1 appointments. Please note that it is optional if students wish to wear uniform for these appointments. Uniform however is compulsory when Year 10 return W/C 29 June 2020.

ParentPay Disneyland Paris Update

We are still waiting for further advice regarding the cancellation of Disneyland Paris in July, however we are pleased to confirm that we have now processed refunds for any monies paid above the original £50 deposit. If you paid for this trip via ParentPay can you please log on to check your account and withdraw your refund. Please note Funds will usually be showing in your bank or card account within 2 days of making the withdrawal request, however it may take up to 5 working days. If you paid for your child's trip using Paypoint we will have been in contact to confirm payee details so that a cheque refund can be issued and posted out to you. Thank you for your patience whilst we have been working through the refund process and please bear with us as we await further information regarding the final refund.

Teaching & Learning Tips



How to encourage your child to read:

- **Read yourself!** Show a good example by talking about the reading you do at work and at home. Let your child know that reading is an important part of your life.
- **Keep books safe.** Make your child their own special place to keep their books in their bedroom.
- **Make time to read.** Set aside a time for reading for the family – after school or before bedtime. Encourage independent reading but don't be afraid to still tell a bedtime story.
- **Don't just read books.** Encourage your child to read newspapers, TV guides, comics and magazines. Ask your child to find out information from the Yellow Pages, the Internet, cookery books, etc.
- **Let your child read with younger children.** Encourage them to read to other members of the family.
- **Keep in touch with school.** Make sure your child swaps their home reading books regularly at school and try to make a regular time slot of about 10 minutes to hear them read.
- **If English is not your family's first language:** You can buy dual language books. You can talk about books and stories in any language.

How to help with reading:

- **Be positive!** Praise your child for trying hard at their reading. Let them know it's all right to make mistakes.
- **Give them time.** Let them make a guess before you tell them the word. Let them read to the end of the line before correcting their mistakes. It doesn't matter if you have to tell them the word sometimes.
- **Spot words inside words.** Help them to spot words they know within larger more complicated words.
- **Let them read their favourites.** Don't worry if they only read one kind of book. If they are really stuck, ask the librarian or teacher to suggest something else they might like.
- **Make the story come to life.** Encourage your child to read with expression. This will help them read more fluently.
- **Ask lots of questions about the story.** What would you have done if you were.....? Does this book remind you of anything that has happened to you? Can you guess what is going to happen next?
- **Use a dictionary.** Use a simple dictionary or online dictionary and use it to check the meanings of new words.

Activities to try at home:

- Make a scrap book with your child about their favourite star, group or team. Let them cut pictures out of magazines and papers and write their own captions.
Buy a book of crosswords and word searches and try to solve them together. Make up your own puzzles to try out on family and friends.