

Our Ref: BSN/KON

3 April 2017

ALL PARENTS

Dear Parents

Once again, we are at the end of another term at Dormston. As always, much has happened over the course of the last three months. I hope that I will be able to give you a flavour of your child's school in this letter.

Attendance is never far from the front of my thoughts. We have had a decent half-term which means that we are within touching distance of our whole school target of 95.5% for the year. This would be by far the best figure we have ever had. However, we are not quite there yet and we do need a final push. For this reason, we will be holding our first ever **Attendance Week** during the week commencing **Monday 8 May 2017**. I believe that if we work together we could achieve a figure in excess of 97% for that week. To make this happen the school will: organise a number of events; share information with pupils, parents/carers and staff; and target pupils with attendance that is less than 95%. I am determined that we make a success of this week and that we achieve our overall target. I hope that I can rely on the support of every parent and carer.

One of the new ideas we have launched this year has been our House Councils. Each of our Houses has elected a group of pupils to represent them and their views. They meet regularly with me for a Council Meeting during which we discuss how we can improve our school. I am big believer that any school belongs to the children who attend it and so it's crucial that they play a central role in its development. It's also very important that young people understand why decisions are taken and the constraints we face which sometimes prevent us doing everything that we would like. When the Government talks about British Values this is what they mean at its best. For me these meetings are a real highlight because they allow the pupils and me to have a proper debate about the future direction of the school. A number of the issues they have raised have already been acted upon, with perhaps the most significant being the agreement to build a second set of girls' changing rooms for September.

In June (which really is not very long away now) every pupil from Year 7 to 10 will have Exam Week. Academically, this is possibly the most important week of the school year because it gives us the opportunity to see exactly how much progress each child has made during the year. Over the coming weeks we will give parents/carers additional information about the best possible way each child can prepare themselves.

As you all know, a key part of our strategy is providing our pupils with the best and most varied extra-curricular provision possible. The last few months have seen great sporting success and the School's Production of "Disco Inferno". The show was a triumph, not least because so many pupils took advantage of the opportunity to stand and perform on our theatre stage. The last few weeks have also seen the annual House Rowing competition. The coming term will see our annual Activities Week as well as many more sporting and cultural trips and visits. I would encourage every child to take part in at least one activity outside the classroom. It really will have a hugely positive impact on their time at school.

The school year really is flying past again but there is still very much that we hope to achieve together. Please rest assured that we will keep striving to provide the very best education that we can for each and every child.

As always thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B A Stitchman', written in a cursive style.

Mr B A Stitchman
Headteacher