

Our Ref: BSN/KON

19 May 2017

ALL PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Attendance Week 2017

I am writing to express my thanks for your support during our Attendance Week. To say that it was a success is an understatement. During the course of the week we broke the following records:

- ✓ **best ever attendance for a school day - 98.1% on Thursday (*we previously broke the record on Tuesday*);**
- ✓ **best ever Friday attendance - 96.6%;**
- ✓ **best ever attendance for a school week - 97%.**

It is hard not to be delighted by our new record but it does raise some very important questions. The one that sticks in my head is, "**Why can't we get to these levels all the time?**" Having spent some time thinking about it the answer is obvious; **there is no reason.**

The impact of achieving such high attendance on the school and its pupils would be transformational. The extra learning that would be achieved as a school would be huge. It would make us one of the best attended schools in the country and mean that we are giving even more of our young people the very best possible start in life.

It is for this reason that I wish to share with you the important news that from September the whole school attendance target will be increased from 96% to 97%. We have proved that we can achieve this once so I think we should be aiming to hit this target consistently.

Over the past term we have been analysing in even greater detail our attendance data and we have discovered some very significant facts. At Dormston, if your attendance is 96% you are in the bottom 30% of pupils, if your attendance is 97% you are in 50th percentile. I think that this illustrates why we are pushing up our target.

I believe that one of the most impressive things about our school is that when we ask our pupils and parents/carers for their support, we get it. In my experience, that's what happens in very good schools.

Thank you as always for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely



Mr B A Stitchman
Headteacher