



Monthly Parent Update Sheet December 2016/January 2017



Christmas Wishes

All the staff at Dormston School would like to wish all our parents/carers a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year! Thank you for your continued support during 2016.

Operation Christmas Child

Samaritan's Purse is a charity which sends shoe boxes overseas to underprivileged children who would otherwise receive little, or nothing, at Christmas. After an appeal in school, a total of 44 shoe boxes were donated, these were dropped off with The Samaritans in Pensnett and Shoezone at The Merry Hill Centre. The shoe boxes contain barcodes, this means that they will be tracked and we will eventually receive an email about the eventual destination of the shoe boxes; this information will be communicated at a later date. A huge thanks to pupils and parents who supported this initiative. You will have made a real difference to the lives of these children this Christmas.

Welcome to new Staff

We are pleased to welcome the following staff to Dormston School

- Mr Clifton - English Teacher
- Mrs Poleyket - Technology Teacher (January 2017)
- Mrs Wakeman - English Teacher (January 2017)
- Miss Wickett - School Nurse (January 2017)

School Production Update - Disco Inferno

The cast are working extremely hard during rehearsals and the show is starting to come together. The set is currently being built by retired ex-Dormston teacher Martyn Brown with help from some of our pupils. The Show dates are 14th to 17th February 2017. Tickets will be on sale after Christmas from the Dormston Centre Reception. They will be available at lunch and from 3.00pm. If any pupils are interested in creating a stall to sell merchandise or other items on the evenings of the show then please see Mr Richardson.

English Department Update

We are pleased to say the English team at Dormston is expanding! Two new members of staff are joining us. This means we can have smaller class sizes and will involve us resetting children in Years 7, 9 and 10 after Christmas. Your son or daughter will be informed if this applies to them, however it will not apply if they are in Year 8 or Year 11. We do feel that this opportunity will enable us to improve children's outcomes in English.

SEN Information

Parents/carers of Year 9 pupils on the SEN list: The SENCO (Mrs Francis) will be sending out an invitation for you and your child to meet with her to discuss your child's progress and support on either Monday 12th December or Tuesday 13th December. You are, however, welcome to change the appointment if you need to.

Year 7 SEN interventions: Parents/carers of pupils in Literacy Withdrawal Interventions will be invited to a meeting to learn more about these interventions and how to help your child at home. The meeting is on Wednesday 14th December at 3.15pm. (Parents with younger children to collect, please come as soon as you can). Parents of pupils on Reading Booster and Spelling Booster interventions will be invited to attend meetings early in the New Year.

Safeguarding

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 Mr Dixon, Mrs Elliott or Miss Smith. Further information and guidance for parents/carers on safeguarding issues can also be found on the school website.

Science Notices

All Year 11 pupils are working on their GCSE Controlled Assessments this half term which is 25% of their final GCSE Science grade. It is essential that pupils catch up on any work missed and achieve their target grade or above in their Controlled Assessments. Pupils will also be involved in Mock exams in February where they will be assessed on all course content they have studied throughout the year. Please ensure pupils have purchased the GCSE revision guides, £3.00 and GCSE Workbook, £3.00 to aid their revision at home as well as working on past exam papers. Please encourage your child to attend after school revision sessions, which take place on the following days: **Thursday (Week 1) 3.00pm - 4.30pm (targeted by class teacher)**

Student Information Forms

If you have not yet returned the student data collection sheet and consent forms, or have any changes to make to contact details or medical information for your child please send this in to school as soon as possible. Your contact details will be really important if we need to contact you in the event of adverse weather conditions.

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. 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 after attending the appointment otherwise the absence will not be authorised.

Pupil Illness

When you report your child's absence you may be asked to provide information and discuss the symptoms that are being displayed by your child. You may then be advised whether time off is recommended or not. We are relying upon **Public Health England Guidelines**.

Year 8 Parents' Consultation - Thursday 8 December 2016

There will be a Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening on Thursday 8 December 2016. Please encourage your child to make appointments with all of their teachers so that we can inform you of their progress.

Year 7 Theatre Trip - Tuesday 13 December 2016 at 1.00pm

On Tuesday 13 December 2016, all year 7 students will be given the opportunity to watch the live adaptation of 'Treasure Island'. This trip is to take place at The Birmingham Repertory Theatre, where the students will experience the magic of a live professional performance. In terms of travel arrangements we will be leaving Dormston at 1.00pm to arrive for the matinee performance. All pupils will be back at school by approximately 6.00pm. You are responsible for collecting them at this time. Please provide your son/daughter with a packed lunch. Tickets are still available and payments need to be made via parentpay. If you require a barcode letter to pay at a paypoint station please see Mrs Gamble.

Christmas Jumper & Variety Show Day - Thursday 15 December 2016

As in recent years, we will be turning the heating down by 1 degree on Thursday 15 December 2016 and asking pupils to come to school wearing their Christmas Jumpers. Pupils can wear no school uniform bottoms 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 Last Day of Term - Friday 16 December 2016 at 12.30pm *EARLY FINISH

We break up for the Christmas Holidays on Friday 16 December 2016 at 12.30pm. Pupils should return to school on Tuesday 3 January 2017. They will be returning to a Week 1 timetable.

Year 11 Parents' Consultation - Thursday 12 January 2017

There will be a Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening on Thursday 12 January 2017. Please encourage your child to make appointments with all of their teachers so that we can inform you of their progress. It is vital that all Year 11 Parents attend as this is the very last opportunity you will have to meet your child's subject teachers. These conversations will guide you in terms of how much support you need to offer as parents in order for your child to achieve their full potential.

Year 9 Boys & Girls DTP Injections - Friday 13 January 2017

You will soon be receiving consent forms for the above injections. Please ensure you return your child's form as a matter of urgency. Without this form being returned this very important injection cannot take place.

Year 10 Boys & Girls DTP Injections - Friday 20 January 2017

You will soon be receiving consent forms for the above injections. Please ensure you return your child's form as a matter of urgency. Without this form being returned this very important injection cannot take place.

Year 11 A* - A Parents Evening - Tuesday 24 January 2017

This evening will target any pupils who are capable of achieving A/A*s in their GCSEs and looks at what the future could potentially hold for them. Further information on this will come out in January 2017.

Year 10 Parents' Consultation - Thursday 26 January 2017

There will be a Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening on Thursday 26 January 2017. Please encourage your child to make appointments with all of their teachers so that we can inform you of their progress.