

Our Ref: RDE/KON

November 2023



All Derwent House Parents/Carers

Dear Derwent Parents/Carers

Re: Derwent House Updates

I am your child's Head of House at Dormston. I would like to introduce you to our policies and procedures and ensure that you are aware of ways to get in touch if you need any assistance. Our motto is 'We are more than a *House*, we are a *Home*', and this truly is the mantra by which we exist. Derwent students should feel cared for and secure and know that their contributions will be celebrated. I want you to know that your children will be picked up for their behaviour if it is causing concern and their attendance will be monitored closely, but they will be praised and rewarded for their efforts and successes also.

As a past pupil at Dormston and a past mother of children at Dormston, I totally understand your child's perspective at Dormston and yours as parents/carers. I have now worked at Dormston for 15 years and have therefore spent just under half of my life here as a pupil or a teacher - so something keeps me here - and that is your amazing children. Thank you for entrusting them into our care and for all of your support in making us as successful as we are.

Derwent have excelled this year so far by having the best attendance and behaviour so far. All of this is simply down to them applying themselves. I constantly try to encourage the pupils to be the best version of themselves, to be grateful for all that they have and regularly share current events to show them how lucky they are to be cared for and safe. My wish is that they take every opportunity; participate in extra-curriculum clubs, attend every day possible, apply maximum effort and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Extra Derwent Rewards (*additional to whole school rewards*)

Smiley Face Challenge

Every day on the daily PowerPoint a smiley face is displayed if Derwent gained the best attendance and behaviour out of the Houses the previous day. If they gain a certain amount of smiley faces every half term they gain sweets and a pass for 5 minutes early to lunch on the final day of term. This half term there will also be a chance for them to view a Christmas film after school in the Theatre and be treated to Christmas snacks.

Weekly Certificates

Each week, the form/s with the best attendance and behaviour will be issued a certificate to display in the form room and this will be on the weekly PowerPoint.

Derwent 'Star of the Week'

Every week a pupil/pupils will be named 'Star of the Week' for Derwent. E.g. outside school achievements, inside academic achievements, helping other students, improvements in attendance/ behaviour etc.



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Head Teacher: Mrs C Sutton

Termly Challenge

100% attendance and 0 behaviour issues for the whole term will result in prizes e.g. a small Christmas gift in December, small Easter egg at Easter etc.

Attendance Stars

Every week if a pupil has gained no absences, they will place a star on the chart in their classroom. When they get 10, they gain a certificate, 20 a certificate and sweets and at the end of the year, the pupils with the most stars will be invited on a reward trip of their choice. We celebrated the trip to Alton Towers in October that made other pupils very jealous!

Behaviour

We follow the school's Prepared for Success Behaviour Policy and every incident will be recorded. Every half term, the students with the highest number of negative points are placed on Behaviour Monitoring and their progress will be observed. Contact will be made with parents/carers and again at the end of the half term, to see if your child has improved. We have the lowest number of negative points and I am so proud of your children for this! We need to keep it this way! The average number of positive points per pupil is 33 and negative points is 2.7- where does your child fit in? You can view your child's behaviour, homework, progress and attendance on GO4Schools. There are things you can do to support your child to ensure they do not gain negative points. Have they packed their correct equipment - books, PE kit, calculator? Are they in the correct uniform? No false eyelashes, no nose piercings, correct shoes? Are they on time? Do they need to leave the house earlier? If they are going to be late and it is unavoidable - let me know and I can ensure they are not unfairly sanctioned (obviously for one offs!).

Attendance

We value attendance very highly at Dormston as it has such an impact on progress and your child's wellbeing. The school target is 97% - how close is your child to this? We follow the school's Attendance Policy that was sent to you in September and available to see on the website. If your child reaches the Stage 2 threshold, we will require medical evidence to authorise absences. All of this is to support your child in gaining the most of their time with us. We can support with many issues students have days off for; friendship issues - we pair them with a 'buddy', homework issues - I will contact your child's teacher, headaches/sore throats/feeling sick/cold etc- we can ask staff to sit them by a window and drink/take cough sweets etc/contact medical staff/leave early pass. There are many things we can do to support your child to be in school - you just need to let me know.

For any assistance at all, please email me on rdownie@dormston.dudley.sch.uk . Your children are amazing, thank you for everything you do.

Yours sincerely

R Downie

Ruth Downie
Head of Derwent House