

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/ Carers

What a week! Staff and students have been very busy this week and there's plenty to celebrate in this newsletter. My thanks to all the staff involved in the organisation of this week's events and for your support to make the week run so smoothly.

Monday 16 December

A Christmas Carol Y10 Trip 10:30-18:00

Tuesday 17 December

French Speaking Exams Year 11

Wednesday 18 December

Christmas Dinner Day- timings and arrangements to be confirmed. Each year group will be given a separate serving time

Thursday 19 December

Celebration Events- Periods 4-5- This is invitation only for students who have reached our 'On Track' thresholds

Friday 20 December

Celebration assemblies
The school day will finish at 3:15pm

Monday 6 January

Inset day. The school will be closed

Tuesday 7 January

First day of term



13.12.24

NEXT WEEK
ASSEMBLY
FOCUS:

Celebration
Assemblies

Key Dates

Monday 16th
December:
Year 10
Theatre Royal
Trip

Last day of
term: Friday
20th
December

[Click here for
Extra-Curricular
Activities](#)

[Click here for
term dates](#)



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GLASTONBURY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Thursday 16 January

Year 11 Parents Evening- please make sure that you sign up

Thursday 30 January

Year 9 Options Evening

Items to Celebrate

On Wednesday, we welcomed back our former Year 11 students for our celebration event. This event was very well attended by former students and families. Mrs Bevan also returned to congratulate and celebrate the successes of her final Year 11 group. Thank You to Mr Armstrong, Miss Kench and Mrs Rigby-Jones for your organisation of the evening. We wish the class of 2024 all the best in future endeavours.

Thank you to all the students and staff who supported the Festive jumper day, to raise money for Save the Children.

On Thursday we welcomed families to attend our Christmas Showcase. During the evening, staff and families were treated to an array of musical performances, dance and poetry recitals. Every single performance was fantastic and the students involved should be rightfully proud of themselves.



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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Christmas is often a time when we come together to celebrate with family and friends. It is also an opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate the fantastic talents of the young people who attend the school. My thanks goes to Mrs Pulford and Mrs Hopton, for the organisation and coordination of the evening.

We now sit on a massive total of 93,632 'On Track' points this term, double the total for last academic year! Well done to all of the students for your continued hard work and efforts. Keep going and let's hit 100,000 by the end of the term.

Wishing you all a good weekend and look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday for what I am sure will be a fantastic final week of term.

Best wishes

P Balkwill



13.12.24

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St John's Christmas Tree Festival



Key stage 3 students have been working hard in Art Club to design and make decorations for the St Dunstan's School Christmas tree at St John's Church.

You can visit the tree along with many other beautiful Christmas trees until Christmas!

Well done to all students involved and a big thanks to Miss Hart for organising!



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Festive Jumper Day



This week our classrooms were filled with the extraordinary colour combinations that only a festive jumper can bring!

Glitter, sparkles, reindeers, puddings and all manner of Santas adorned these garments. Today allowed our students and staff to spread a little kindness in aid of Save the Children, who campaign for children in over a 100 countries around the world.



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Festive Jumper Day



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Year 10 Hospitality and Catering Trip



Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students visited Zaza Bazaar in Bristol during lunch service today.

The purpose of the trip was to learn about job roles within the Hospitality and Catering industry.

Students observed the chefs preparing food from all around the world , as well as learning about culinary skill and technique .

Students then had the opportunity to enjoy lunch , sampling foods from a range of different cultures and cuisines .

This trip has developed knowledge and understanding about our course and how it is linked to the real world , further education and career choices.

Well done year 10 and a huge thank you to Zaza Bazaar for your wonderful hospitality!



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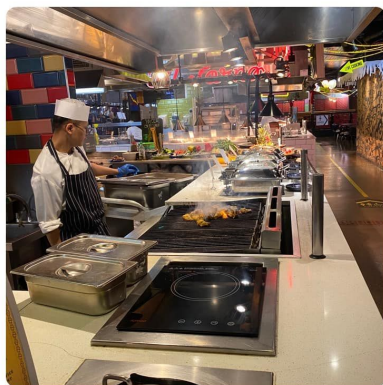
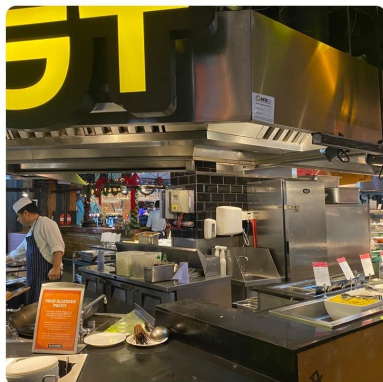
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Year 10 Hospitality and Catering Trip



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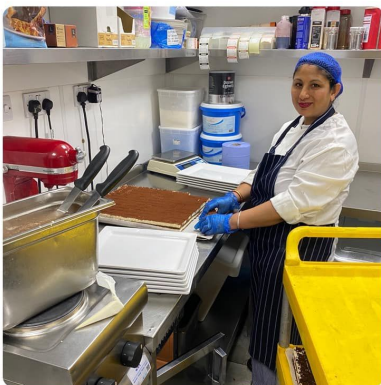
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Year 10 Hospitality and Catering Trip



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British Library: Medieval Women



This week, Year 10 historians got the exciting chance to participate in a livestream Q&A with Professor Janina Ramirez, TV historian and academic, on medieval women.

Hosted by the British Library, aimed specifically at secondary school students, the livestream shed light on some influential and powerful medieval women, from Margery Kempe (15th century) the controversial 'influencer', a Viking warrioress leader buried in Birka and Hildegard of Bingen (12th century) all round medieval genius mystic.

Thank you to Mrs Morris and Mr Brown for organising and collaborating on this enriching event!



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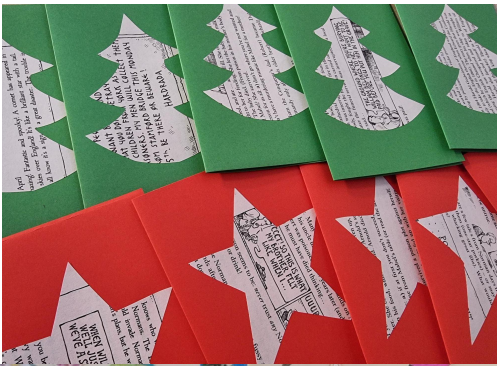
Pen Pal Christmas Cards



This week we wrote Christmas cards to our pen pals, and they've been sent off to Glastonbury Care Home.

Whether you celebrate or not during the festive season, we can always use this time to share some joy amongst friends, and we hope our cards make our pen pals smile!

(Don't worry! Mrs Morris promises she only used damaged and ruined books when crafting these cards!)



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Library Fundraising



The library will be fundraising to raise money to buy new books! Handmade crocheted flower bookmarks are still available this week!

Thank you to the PTA who have set up an Amazon wishlist for the library with books we'd love to stock (requested by students). If you would like to donate a book to the library, here is the link. Thank you to the PTA for this! [PTA wishlist](#)

**LIBRARY FUNDRAISER
BOOKMARK SALE**

AVAILABLE FROM THE LIBRARY AT
BREAK AND LUNCH

**FLOWER BOOKMARKS ARE
£2 EACH**

ALL HANDMADE

GREAT AS CHRISTMAS GIFTS

ALL MONEY RAISED GOES TOWARDS NEW
BOOKS FOR ST DUNSTAN'S LIBRARY!



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Staff Wellbeing Cook-a-long



Staff wellbeing was at the heart of the cook-along this week as teachers and support staff came together to make mincemeat shortbread.

We were not all naturals, but it was lovely to have a demonstration by Mrs Potter and experience the joys of being in the food rooms, crafting delicious sweet treats to take home to our families.

Well-being is important all year round but we have found it particularly comforting as we move towards the end of a long, tiring term, to have the support of our work family.



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Student Spotlight



We have a talented artist amongst us! Tyler has been busy creating some beautiful work and has framed them, ready to go on display. Aren't they fantastic?

Well done Tyler, we're really impressed!

If you have a student spotlight story you want to share, email it and any photos to secretary@stdunstansschool.com



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St Dunstan's Library presents...

THE BOOK NOOK

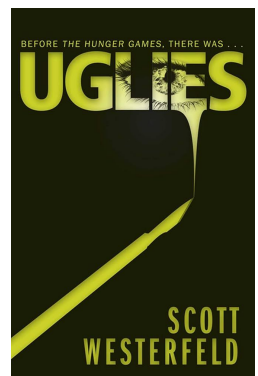
Term review of the Library by Ivy

So far, since Mrs Morris joined the school, the library has gone from a cold place of boring books to a warm, happy, clean and friendly environment with books that interest the inhabitants of our school. It is a popular hang out space if the outside world is a little too much. Mrs Morris has some very big plans for the future of our library too...but only us librarians know, so watch out for future changes! Some new clubs have been taking place this term such as Quest Club and Just Write Club which have been really popular. I have really enjoyed being a librarian and I can't wait to see what else is coming!

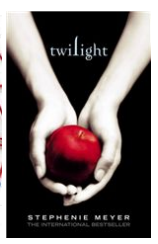
Book Review by Ena



This book was incredible! A mix of high drama, suspense and sci-fi action. The author really turns the table on story-book beauty, and makes you think more about supposed beauty in stories.



Popular loans this week:



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Parent/Carer webinars

Calling all Parents & Carers!

The MHST (Mental Health Support Team) are offering a series of FREE helpful webinars over **Spring 2025**.

- Supporting your neurodivergent child
- Supporting exam and test wellbeing
- Helping your child to thrive: Boosting self-esteem & resilience
- Understanding and supporting anxiety and low mood
- Supporting your child's big feelings

Find out more & register here: [Link to find out more](#)

SOMERSET'S MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM ARE HOSTING A SERIES OF

FREE

PARENT & CARER WEBINARS

Click the link to find out more & register

MHST

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM
In partnership with Truist, Somerset & Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

In partnership with
Somerset NHS Somerset NHS Foundation Trust



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Young People's Board for Change

NSPCC

Young People's Board for Change

The NSPCC are currently recruiting 15 young people aged 13-16 from across the UK to form our next Young People's Board for Change. The Board for Change will have the opportunity to share their opinions and work as a team to steer, advise and influence the work of the NSPCC. We'd love you to **share this exciting opportunity** with young people you know.

[Find out more](#)

Do you know someone:

- Aged 13 - 16?
- Who wants to help the NSPCC be there for children and young people?
- Wants to share ideas and opinions, meet new people and have fun?

Help us to inspire more young people to have a say



Whether you know young people who are part of the school council and debate team, or someone who has never done anything like this but has a passion who just needs a platform - we want to hear from them!

[FAQ's](#)

Board for Change members will:

- Take part in exciting new experiences and opportunities
- Meet other young people who also want to make a difference
- Develop confidence and amazing skills for the future
- Take action and make change happen at NSPCC



[NSPCC Link](#)



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PARENTS –

GUIDING OUR CHILDREN THROUGH THEIR EDUCATION IS ONE OF OUR GREATEST ROLES.



MOMENTS MATTER,

ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Consistent support and motivation from you plays a pivotal role in their success, and this begins with school attendance – that isn't just about adhering to school rules; it's about shaping their future, one day at a time.

If your child is struggling with school attendance, our tips overleaf can help you help them. Or if you have any concerns contact your child's school.



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Attendance Update



Thank you to all parents for your support to ensure that your child attends school as regularly as possible. We would also like to take this opportunity to outline to you how we intend to encourage and support good attendance across the year.

We know that sometimes our pupils cannot come to school because they are really unwell - and that's the right thing to do for them and other students. Medical advice is clear however that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance [is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.

We also know that pupils fall behind their friends and classmates when they miss school. At St Dunstan's School we want the amount of missed education to be reduced as much as possible. We believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our pupils in school, on time, every day. We are building life skills, life-long friendships and preparing your child for future success.

The advantages of good attendance are numerous:

- **Improved Academic Performance:** Regular attendance helps children stay up-to-date with their lessons and reduces the likelihood of falling behind.
- **Social Development:** Consistent attendance allows children to form and maintain friendships, enhancing their social skills and sense of belonging.
- **Routine and Structure:** Attending school regularly helps children develop a sense of routine and structure, which is beneficial for their overall development.
- **Increased Opportunities:** Students who attend school regularly are more likely to participate in extracurricular activities and special events, enriching their school experience.
- **Better Mental Health:** Being part of the school community can boost children's confidence and self-esteem, contributing to better mental health.



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We also know that parents/carers can have a significant effect on good attendance and we would really appreciate your continued help and support ensuring that your child comes to school every day so that they can get the best possible outcomes. We want to work with you to achieve this in the following ways-

- Monitor and track attendance and punctuality on a daily basis, making contact if your child is absent
- Students are given a minimum attendance target of 96% attendance for the year
- Our tutors will contact families, when there has been periods of absence to offer support and discuss any concerns that could become a barrier to school
- Our Pastoral team will offer support for individuals and families to help remove barriers to learning
- We will provide assemblies and personal development sessions on the importance of attendance and punctuality and its link to the world of work and professional practice
- In school attendance clinics are intended to discuss with students the importance of attendance and any barriers they may be facing
- Where attendance becomes a concern, we will make referrals to our Education Welfare Officer to support families and individuals
- Work with the Local authority to tackle persistent absenteeism
- Consider all applications for planned absence, authorising requests that fall within Department of Education guidelines
- Offer adaptations and adjustments to support students to reintegrate back into the school following a significant absence

As part of our approach to securing high attendance, we intend to recognise and celebrate students for high and improved attendance across months, terms and the year. (Please see next page). These rewards are intended to recognise students for consistently high or exemplary attendance. Rewards are also given to students for improved attendance as well as meeting our minimum attendance target of 96% each term.



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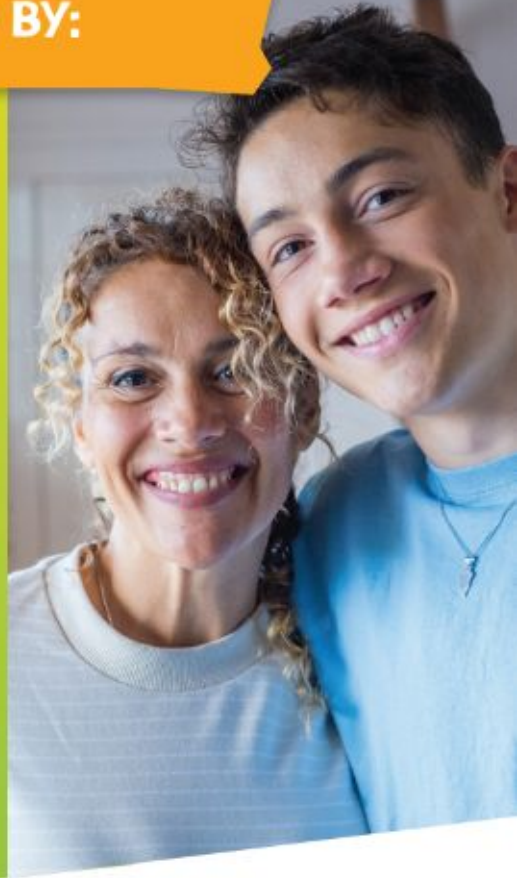


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YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD BY:

- ensuring your child understands the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality.
- asking about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities.
- discussing any problems they may have and inform their Form Tutor to pass on concerns.
- not allowing them take time off school for minor ailments – particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work.
- arranging appointments after school hours, at weekends or during the holidays, to prevent disruption to your child's education and to the school.
- being open and willing to work with us to improve your child's attendance.



If you are concerned about your child's school attendance, it's best to contact their school first. Our dedicated Attendance Team are on hand to support pupils and families.

For more information about school attendance visit our website: www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com/attendance

We're here to help if you need it.



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Local Sports Camps booking now



WELLS
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
ENTERPRISES

EAT. SLEEP. BREATHE.
PERFORMANCE
NETBALL CAMP
2025

26 - 29 AUG, WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
wcsenterprises.co.uk/netballcamp2025

Performance Netball Camp 26th - 29th August 2025

Our 4-day intensive residential and day performance netball camp helps players really understand what it's like to be a pro netball player.

Elite coaches have curated a fully rounded programme that highlights what it takes to elevate your game to the next level. We are delighted that England Netball is supporting us once again this year. Past coaches include the Head Coach of France, the British Army and Team Bath.

The camp is for netballers aged 12 – 17, those looking to grow their game and those keen to get on a professional pathway. Residential: £400 + VAT, day: £325 + VAT. Book before 31st January 2025 for 10% off.

<https://wcsenterprises.co.uk/netballcamp2025/>



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Local Sports Camps booking now



EAT. SLEEP. BREATHE.
PERFORMANCE
CRICKET CAMP
2025



26 - 28 AUG, WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
wcsenterprises.co.uk/performance-cricket-camp/

Performance Cricket Camp 26th - 28th August 2025

Our NEW three-day intensive residential/day performance cricket camp helps boys really understand what it's like to be a pro cricketer. Elite coaches have curated a fully rounded programme that highlights what it takes to elevate your game to the next level. The summer coaches include retired pros and county affiliated coaches.

The camp is for cricketers aged 12 – 17, those looking to grow their game and those keen to get on a professional pathway. Residential: £350 + VAT, day: £290 + VAT. Book before 31st January 2025 for 10% off.

<https://wcsenterprises.co.uk/performance-cricket-camp/>



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Local Sports Camps booking now



EAT. SLEEP. BREATHE.
PERFORMANCE
HOCKEY CAMP
2025



26 - 28 AUG, WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
wcenterprises.co.uk/performance-cricket-camp/

Performance Hockey Camp 26th - 28th August 2025

Check out the website for details of our new Performance Hockey Camp which will be announced soon.

Residential: £350 + VAT, day: £290 + VAT. Book before 31st January 2025 for 10% off.

Booking opens soon

<https://wcenterprises.co.uk/>



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Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

Dear Parent/Carer

We are all too aware of how the recent cost-of-living increases may affect our local community, and we want to encourage you to access appropriate mechanisms of support. The Pupil Premium and Free School Meals funding allows schools to creatively support students. This funding is confidential and used to support your child.

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we will receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

How is the Pupil Premium funding spent?

Schools have the freedom to spend the Premium in a way they think is best to support the raising of attainment. Funding is given to schools and is spent according to a budgeted plan across three areas. These include:

High-quality teaching, such as staff professional development.

Targeted academic support, such as tutoring.

Wider strategies to address non-academic barriers to success in schools, such as attendance, behaviour and social and emotional support.



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Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

Parents do not receive this money from schools and there is not a budget to spend per student. Schools are expected to formulate a plan to use the overall funding, this must be based on evidence based research and approved by the Governing body.

How do I register?

To register, please visit the following web page.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/free-school-meals/>

For further information relating to our Pupil Premium Plan and Free School Meals please visit our website-

<https://www.stdunstansschool.com/pastoral-care/supporting-our-students.htm>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

If you require any further information, or are unable to access the web links above, please do not hesitate to contact the academy for support.



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ON TRACK

<u>O</u>rganised & Proactive	<p>Bringing the correct equipment, kit and uniform</p> <p>Meeting deadlines</p> <p>Working on tasks independently and completing homework to a high standard</p>
<u>N</u>eat & Tidy work	<p>Smart, well presented books demonstrating your best work</p>
<u>T</u>enacity	<p>Trying your hardest, rising to challenges, having a 'can do' attitude, working out solutions and taking ownership of your learning</p>
<u>R</u>eady, Respectful and Responsible	<p>Being a role model by consistently demonstrating our basic expectations</p>
<u>A</u>nswering, reading and listening like an expert	<p>Sophisticated full sentence answers using technical terms</p> <p>Following along, tracking the text and ready to read aloud in class.</p> <p>Reading widely and for pleasure</p> <p>Listening and considering the views of others</p> <p>Taking in turns to respond</p>
<u>C</u>ontributing to the class	<p>Playing an active role in every lesson</p> <p>Attention to the speaker, sat up straight, arms still, pens down</p> <p>Teacher focused</p>
<u>K</u>indness & Community minded	<p>Caring, polite, looking after one another and the site</p> <p>Speaking with kindness and respect</p> <p>Supporting staff and other students to create a positive learning environment for all</p>



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Rewards & Recognition



INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Bronze Award Badge - 200 points

Silver Award Badge - 400 points

Gold Award Badge - 600 points



TERMLY ACHIEVEMENTS



Students who achieve 150 Track points and 96% attendance will participate in a specific activity on the last day of term.

ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

At the end of the school year, students who meet the correct threshold will be united to join in a Celebration Carnival. Student targets for this activity will include:



- 500 positive points
- 96% attendance

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Rewards & Recognition



ATTENDANCE

Students who achieve 100% attendance over a set period, are recognised as members of the 100 Club and entered into a prize draw.



ROLL OF HONOUR



Students will be rewarded for consistent outstanding work, behaviour and effort. 20 behaviour points will be awarded and students will be celebrated on the 'On Track' celebration board.

PRAISE CARDS

Teachers will allocate a rewards card to students for-

- An exemplary piece of classwork
- An exemplary piece of written work
- Have an an exemplary lesson



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES



Termly assemblies recognising individual and collective achievements.



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Rewards & Recognition



IMPROVED ATTENDANCE AWARD



Students with improved attendance across a term will receive a letter from our Attendance Champion and 10 'On Track' points. The most improved students will also be recognised in our celebration assemblies.

TERMLY ATTENDANCE AWARD



All students who have met or exceeded our termly attendance target (96%) and 'On Track' points thresholds, will be invited to our end of term celebration events.

EXCEPTIONAL ATTENDANCE AWARD

All students who are 98% or above at the end of each term, will receive a letter from the Headteacher, 50 'On Track Points' and recognised in our celebration assemblies.



If a student achieves 100% in a calendar month, they will receive a reward card and entered into a prize draw to win Amazon vouchers. Students in the 100 club will also be celebrated on our celebrations board and awarded 50 'On Track Points'



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