

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome to this week's newsletter. I hope that this provides you with all you need to know about upcoming events as well as what has been going on this week.

Key Updates for Families

Inset Day- Wednesday 27 November. A Polite reminder that school will be closed on this day.

PTA Silent Disco- Thursday 28 November 6:30-8:45 pm. Please ensure that tickets are bought in advance from the main reception. We will not be accepting payment on the door

Year 10 Parents Evening- Thursday 5 December. We look forward to seeing Year 10 students and their families to discuss the start of KS4 and new courses. Please sign up for appointments if you have not done so already.

School closures- As we move into the winter months there may be an occasions when a school closure takes place due to extreme weather such as snow and ice. If the school is forced to close we will try to make a decision as soon as possible before liaising with the bus services and Local authority. Families will be notified of any decision via our Facebook page and our website.



22.11.24

NEXT WEEK
ASSEMBLY
FOCUS:

Thanksgiving

Key Dates

**Inset day:
Wednesday
27th
November**

Tuesday 26th
November
Youth Speaks
competition

Thursday 28th
November
Silent Disco

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

[Click here for
term dates](#)



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Items to Celebrate

Duke of Edinburgh continues to go from strength to strength. Well done to the students who have received their bronze awards this week.

Well done to all the Year 11s on the completion of their first Year 11 mock window. We will be sharing the outcomes of these shortly in a 'Mock Results' day. More information to follow.

A huge congratulations to our Key Stage 3 students for winning the Computational Thinking Competition and our thanks to Millfield School for inviting us and hosting the event.

Our On Track Positive Points now sits at 64995. This is now 22,000 more than the whole of last academic year. Well done to everyone for your continued hard work and effort. Lets see if we can get to 100,000 by Christmas!

Thank you to everyone who was involved in fundraising for Children in Need, which has raised over £500 to support a very valuable cause.

Wishing everyone a good weekend and try to stay warm and dry if you can!

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes
P Balkwill



22.11.24

NEXT WEEK
ASSEMBLY
FOCUS:

Thanksgiving

Key Dates

**Inset day:
Wednesday
27th
November**

Tuesday 26th
November
Youth Speaks
competition

Thursday 28th
November
Silent Disco

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

[Click here for
term dates](#)



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

SILENT DISCO

On Thursday 28th
November, 6.30 -8.45pm

Silent Disco

28th Nov @ 6.30 - 8.45 pm
Thursday

DJ Lineup

DJ 1 Mr Norris

DJ 2 Mrs Morris

DJ 3 Miss Pengelly

DJ 4 Mr Waugh

DJ 5 Kieron

DJ 6 Mr Green

!! Buy Tickets £3 from Reception!



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

Inset Day Reminder



St Dunstan's School
GLASTONBURY

Headteacher: Mr P L Balkwill, BA Hons, NPQH
Wells Road, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9BY
T: 01458 832943
E: secretary@stdunstansschool.com
www.stdunstansschool.com

21 November 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

Further to previous correspondence, I would like to provide a polite reminder that St Dunstan's School will be closed for all students on Wednesday 27 November 2024 for a whole trust Inset day. We will reopen on Thursday 28 November 2024.

There will be no further inset days this term. Our next Inset day will take place on Monday 6 January 2025. For all further enquiries related to term dates and inset days please visit our website.

Thankyou for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Balkwill
Headteacher

'Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership'

Company Registration Number: 07365778 | VAT Number: 115 2460 50



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

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.



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

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.



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS



Children in Need 2024



Thank you to everyone who donated. We raised an incredible £532.60 for Children in Need last week.

Well done to everyone who donated or bought cakes, wore non-uniform or participated in the Dance Off, it definitely paid off!



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS



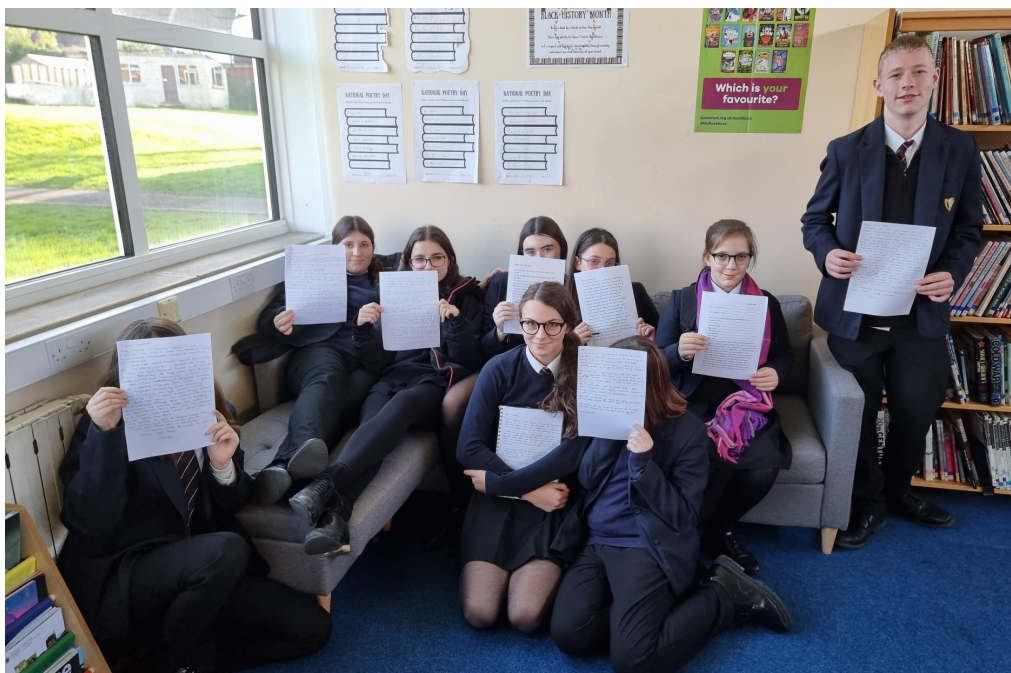
Library Pen Pals



Last week we received our first batch of letters from Glastonbury Care Home, and each of our students 'met' their new pen pal.

It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm and excitement from our students when receiving their letters and learning about their new pen pals. We have written our replies this week and have sent back our letters, and are already excited to see what our pen pals have to say in their replies.

The Pen Pal project was initially set up to enhance students' skills ready for their GCSEs but it has already become about so much more than that! Forging connections, helping the local community and enhancing empathy and kindness are some of the wonderful benefits, and making friends with a different generation is the cherry on the cake.



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS



Just Write

Creative Writing Group



Just Write club started this week and it was magical! We have a lovely group of budding authors working together as a proper writing group. We started by sharing what we're going to be working on, then had half an hour of writing, followed by a sharing session where we read snippets of what we wrote. We have some really talented writers among us! It was a joy to host, and even Mrs Morris got involved, writing some fantasy along with the students. We're looking forward to seeing how our manuscripts progress, and will be sure to include some excerpts in future newsletters.



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

Duke of Edinburgh



Bronze Success!

Congratulations to our most recent group of students who have achieved their Bronze DofE Award.

Any Bronze Award holder has applied a lot of effort to become one, and this is very well recognised by employers, universities and in the wider local community.

Well done!



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

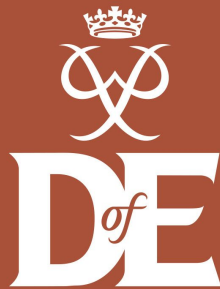
Duke of Edinburgh

Welcome to our new Bronze DofE students!

It was fantastic to see so many of our Year 9 students at the Bronze DofE meeting this week.

We are extremely proud that 45% of the year group are undertaking the award.

Well done Year 9!



BRONZE



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS



Walk and Talk



Some of our students were given the opportunity today to take part in a 'Walk and Talk' with our local police officers.

Avon and Somerset Police have set up the 'Walk and Talk' initiative to provide students with an opportunity to discuss their feelings or concerns of safety in the community while walking the local area.

Many thanks to PC Emily Brown and PCSO's Mel Rowland and Elaine Cave for talking to our students this week.



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS



Forest School



This week we had a fantastic first day back at Forest School!

Our students started their woodwork projects this afternoon and then had the opportunity to make some delicious pancakes.

Students then explored the woodland and chopped firewood.

All the students were fantastically behaved and didn't feel the cold due to the lovely warm fire that they made themselves.



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS



Forest School



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

Computational Thinking Competition

St Dunstan's came back from Millfield victorious! Today a group of Key Stage 3 students visited Millfield to participate in the first ever Computational Thinking Cup, offering them a unique opportunity to showcase their computational thinking skills in a dynamic and competitive environment. Students faced a variety of computational thinking challenges designed to test and enhance their problem-solving and logical reasoning abilities.

Thirty four teams participated from local schools such as Crispin as well as further afield (Exeter), and with exceptional problem solving skills St Dunstan's came out on top as the **overall winner!**

We will look forward to defending our titles next year!



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION

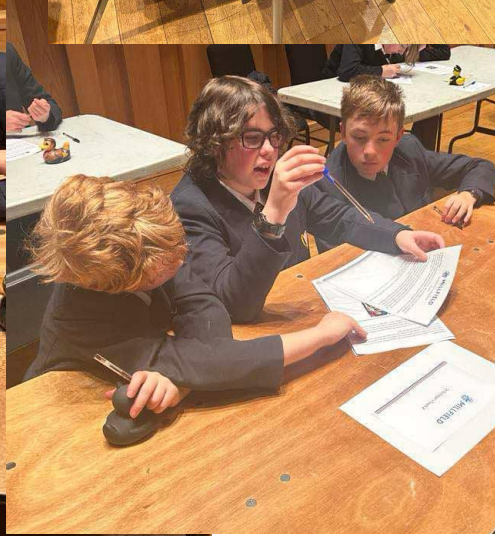
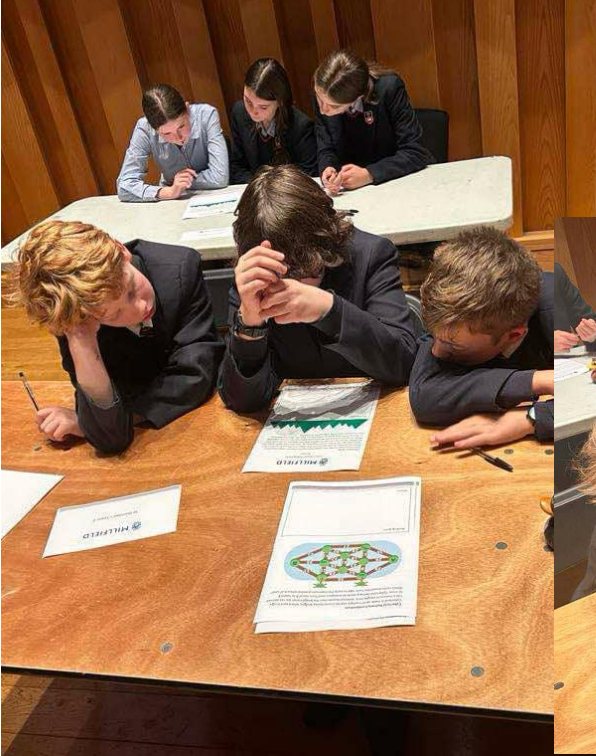
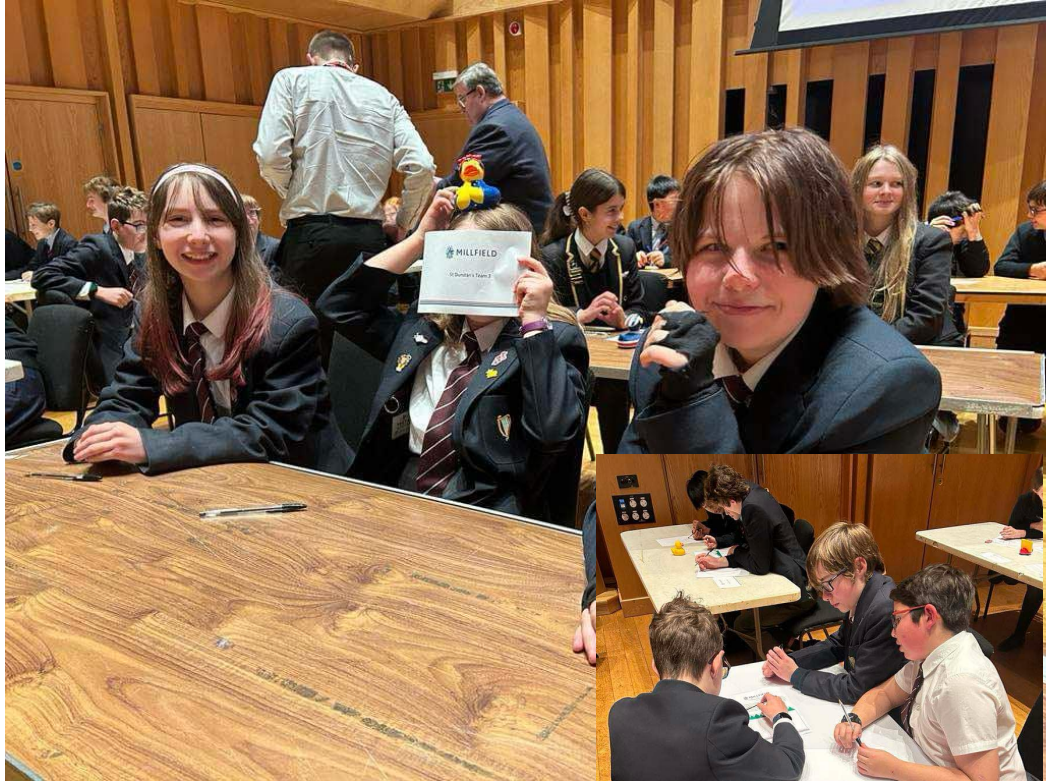


COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

Computational Thinking Competition





Year 11 mocks



Huge congratulations go to all of our Year 11 students. Their confidence, determination and resilience has shone throughout their mock exams this week.

Their attitude to the exams, as well as their desire to demonstrate their considerable knowledge, has been phenomenal.

Well done, we are so proud of you all!



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



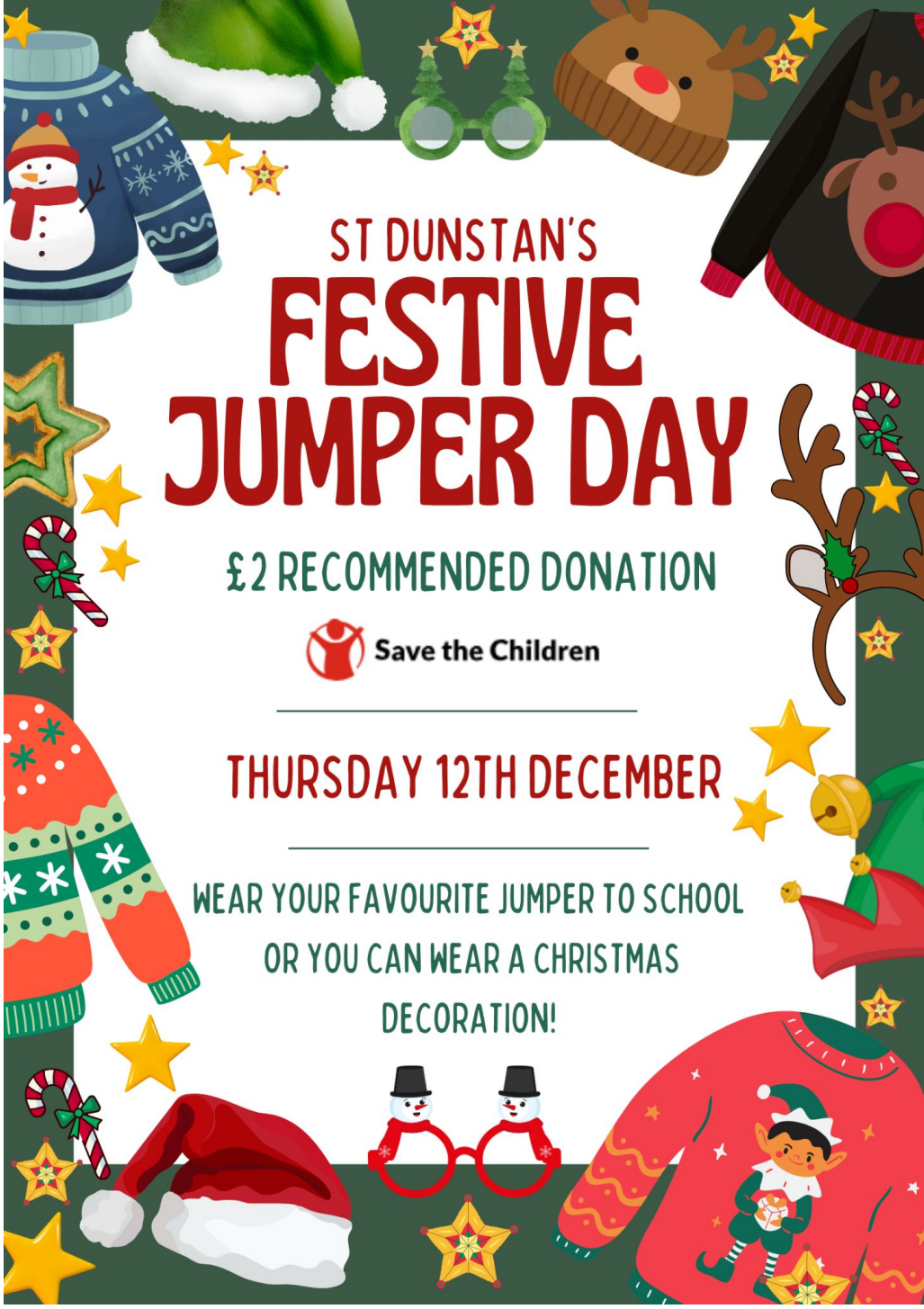
COMMUNITY



KINDNESS



Festive Jumper Day



ST DUNSTAN'S FESTIVE JUMPER DAY

£2 RECOMMENDED DONATION



Save the Children

THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER

WEAR YOUR FAVOURITE JUMPER TO SCHOOL
OR YOU CAN WEAR A CHRISTMAS
DECORATION!



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



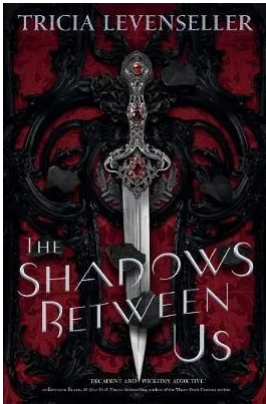
COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

St Dunstan's Library presents...

THE BOOK NOOK



Book Review by Ena

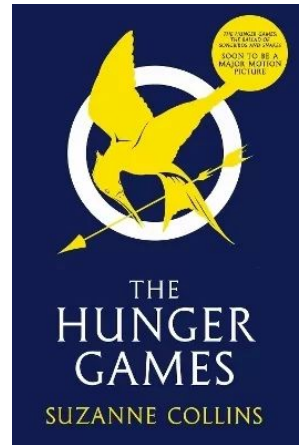


I loved this book so much, as it has a perfect mix of magic, romance and betrayal. This book had me on the edge of my seat the whole way through reading it, and I could not put it down until I finished it.

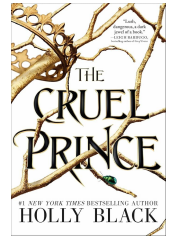
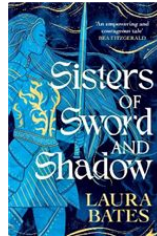
Book Review by Ivy



Katniss Everdeen volunteers for her sister at the reaping. If she ever comes back... no one knows. Winning will make you famous, losing means certain death. The Hunger Games is AMAZING. I love it so much because it is sci-fi dystopian and it is all about trying to survive.



Popular loans this week:



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

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>



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

Rewards & Recognition

ON
TRACK

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Bronze Award Badge - 200 points

Silver Award badge - 400 points

Gold Award badge - 600 points



TERMLY ACHIEVEMENTS



Students who achieve the 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
- Maximum 40 behaviour points.



St Dunstan's School
GLASTONBURY



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

Rewards & Recognition

ON
TRACK

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 consistently 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 within their classes that demonstrate:

- An exemplary piece of classwork
- An exemplary piece of written work
- Have an an exemplary lesson
- Consistently show their best



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES



Termly assemblies recognising individual and collective achievements.



St Dunstan's School
GLASTONBURY



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

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.



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY

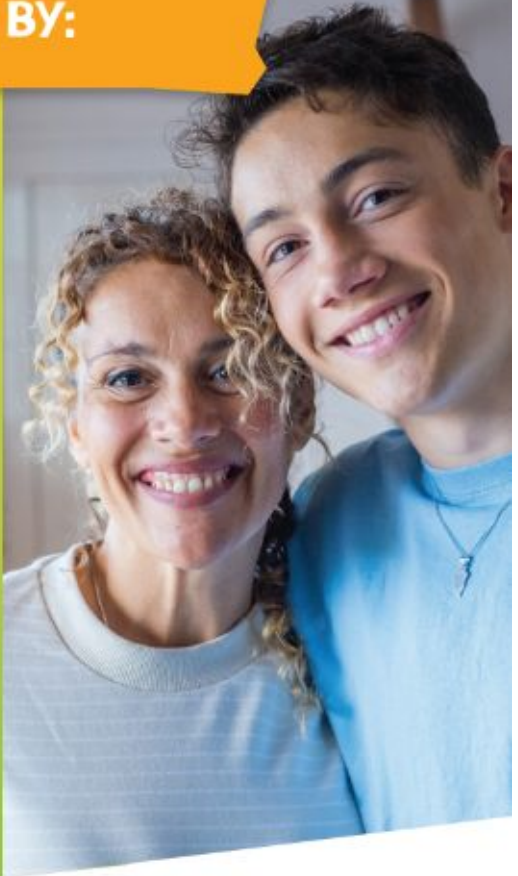


KINDNESS



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.



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS