

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome to this week's newsletter. It has been a fantastic week with both individual successes to celebrate as well as lots of events taking place. This week's update also focuses upon all the great literacy and reading events and achievements over the past few weeks. A love for literature, writing, reading and speaking is an absolute cornerstone of our curriculum. The school can be very proud to say it has a vibrant culture of reading and love of literature. I thank our passionate team of staff for their support and efforts to continue to foster this ethos.

Key Updates for Families

Thursday 13 February

Year 9 Parents Evening and KS4 Choices Fayre.

Monday 24 February

Year 11 Trial Exams- this will take place over two weeks. Please can all Year 11 parents ensure that any appointments or commitments are rescheduled to avoid clashing with the exams. This will be the final chance students have before the May final examinations.

Thursday 27 February

PTA Quiz night

Thursday 13 March

Year 7 Parents Evening



07.02.25

NEXT WEEK
ASSEMBLY
FOCUS:

**Celebration
Assembly**

Key Dates

13/02/24 Year
9 Parents'
Evening and
KS4 Choices
Fayre

17/02/24 Half
Term begins

Week
Beginning
24th Feb: Year
11 Mocks

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

[Click here for
term dates](#)



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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Items to Celebrate

Firstly I would like to congratulate Elliot and Oren for their success in the 'Young Chef' and 'Youth Speaks' competitions! We were all very proud to hear about your achievements and success this week.

Over the past fortnight there have been a range of Literature and Arts trips taking place. It is one thing to study a subject within a classroom, but it is another to see poets and musicians performing live. Opportunities such as these really bring the subject to life and I hope these experiences will serve to foster a lifelong passion for the arts. Thank you to all the staff who have organised and facilitated these events.

Next week is an important week for our Year 9 students who will embark on their Key Stage Four Choices 2025. A lot of work has gone into preparing our curriculum offer as well as to provide all the information and advice to families will need. This includes the Key Stage Four Choices evening, the information booklet, taster events and our dedicated website page. I encourage all students and families to make the most of these opportunities over the next week, so that they make informed choices about their next steps.

Finally, St Dunstan's School is very proud of the continuing hard work and efforts shown by our students. In September we updated our Rewards & Recognition to celebrate individual achievements and recognise when students meet our high expectations. This hard work has been recognised by teachers and also visitors to the school. Feedback has consistently noted our calm and engaged classrooms as well the improvement in uniform and appearance.



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St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

In January our students reached the 100,000 threshold for receipt of 'On Track' points from September. The current total now sits at 142,821, which is an incredible achievement. To acknowledge and reward our students, we will be holding a number of celebration events on Friday 14 February. Students will be able to wear non-school uniform in exchange for a donation to the Food bank. There will be an extended tutor time activity during Period Five. Celebration Assemblies will also take place during the day and will include a showcase from Cirque de Silk. I will write to you at the beginning of the week with more details.

Thank you all for your continued support, have a good weekend and I look forward to updating you again and what I know will be a very positive final week of the term.

Best wishes

P Balkwill



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Year 11 Leavers' Hoodies



Our Student Leaders, Prom committee and Miss Kench have been working hard on this year's Year 11 Leavers' hoodies.

We have set up an online shop and can now offer all Year 11s the opportunity to purchase one.

This would be a great keepsake and will include the names of all our Year 11s (first name and initial only).

They are available in a wide variety of colours and styles. Please go to the following link to order your hoodie:

[Order your hoodie here!](#)

All orders need to be placed by Sunday 23rd February and will be delivered directly to school.

Should anyone need any support towards the cost of the hoodie, please contact Miss Kench about possible options.

St Dunstan's School 2025 Leavers

St Dunstan's School 2025 Leavers

**St Dunstan's School
2025 Leavers Varsity
Hoodie**



**St Dunstan's School
2025 Leavers Varsity
Hoodie**



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Youth Speaks



Youth Speaks Rotary 1200 District Final

We were thrilled to accompany our Youth Speaks team to Taunton School last weekend for the final of the competition.

Having won their area heats, our team gave a smashing performance, speaking clearly, confidently and humorously.

We were proud of them all and excited to see Oren, our Proposer for the motion in favour of electric cars, win Best Overall Speaker! What a fantastic achievement knowing that the best speaker in this whole competition from miles and miles around (there were schools from Wiltshire, Devon and Somerset) attends St Dunstan's School.

Well done team and thank you to the Rotary Club for hosting such a great competition.



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Poetry Live Trip



What an incredible day. 49 of our Year 10 and 11 students had the amazing opportunity to attend 'Poetry Live!' in Bath this week and witness some of the UK's most celebrated poets perform their work live.

The line-up included: John Agard, Simon Armitage, Imtiaz Dharker, Carol Ann Duffy, Owen Sheers, Daljit Nagra.

Not only did the students get to experience their powerful poetry firsthand, but they also had the chance to ask questions and engage with these renowned poets. We were particularly proud when Year 11, Nick, posed a question to Simon Armitage!

We're so proud of how impeccably our students behaved – they were a real credit to the school and we know that opportunities like this make all the difference to the study of a text.



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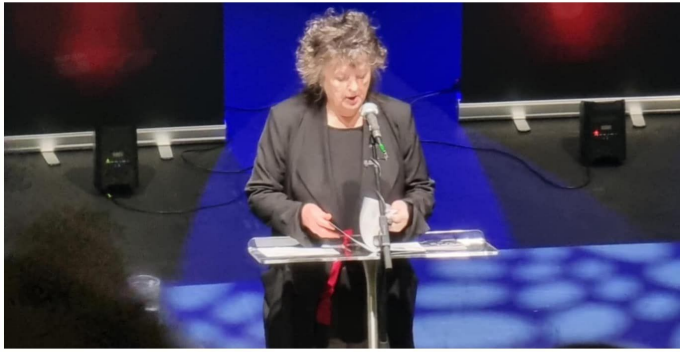
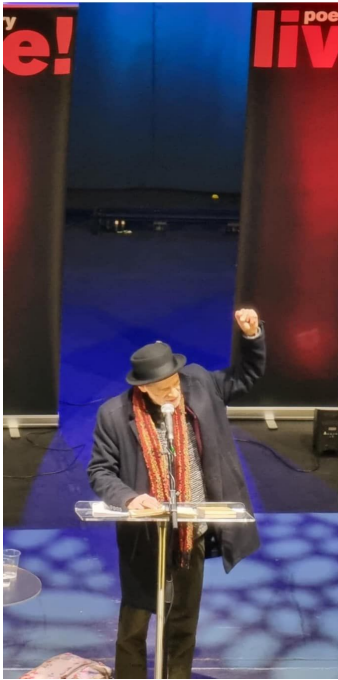
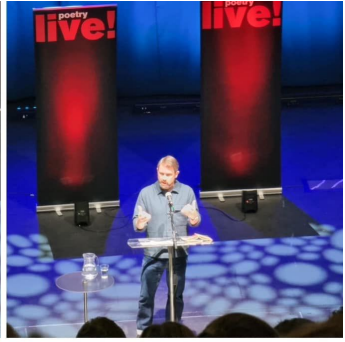
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Poetry Live Trip



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Westlands Trip

Musicians in Year 9 and Year 10 went on a trip to Westlands in Yeovil for a KS4 Concert with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra this week.

There were performances from the orchestra from GCSE set works from various exam boards for GCSE Music, including Bach, Beethoven, Video Game Music and Defying Gravity from Wicked. Before each performance there was analysis of the compositional techniques used and musical devices which make the piece successful. This was hugely helpful as students can apply this to their own music writing in the future.

We also heard performances from school groups and the conductor described how they had developed their ideas and created the finished pieces.

A great concert organised by Somerset and Dorset Music hubs which was a great experience and free for our students to attend.



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Young Chef Competition



This week we took Elliot from year 9 to the Midsomer Norton Trust Young Chef of the Year finals at Writhlington School to showcase his winning dish from the heat stage in December.

Elliot started the day with a culinary masterclass with the head chef from Babington House and Centurion Restaurant, these chefs were also judges. The masterclass included a demonstration in making homemade pasta and tom yum soup.

Elliot was competing against 11 other schools from within the trust. The kitchen was tense and you could hear a pin drop with the concentration.

Elliot made his stunning dish of tom yum soup, tea stained egg and pork gyoza.

We are incredibly proud to announce that Elliot won first place in this competition with his spectacular dish. The judges were very impressed by the quality of his dish and said that they would employ Elliot in their restaurants. Well done Elliot, a well deserved prize after your hard work and effort in recent months.

Elliot won an amazing prize of a meal for 4 at the Michelin Star 'Fallows' in London, a tour and breakfast for him and his family at Arthur David which overlooks Chew Valley Lake and a goody bag which consisted of a signed book by Pierre Koffmann.



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Young Chef Competition



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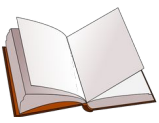
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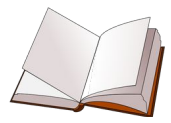
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National Storytelling Week



For National Storytelling Week this week, every breaktime staff read sections of some of their favourite books in the library to an audience of students. It was a lovely way to share in a mutual love of reading, and to get inspiration for future reads. Thank you to all the staff involved.

On Friday lunchtime, members of Just Write Club took part in their first ever reading of the stories and books they've been working on. It was amazing to see so much enthusiasm for storytelling, and support from other students, and was the first of hopefully many future reading showcases yet to come! Well done writers.



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Just Write Club: First Lines



For those who didn't get to hear some of our wonderful writers in person, we wanted to share a the first lines of their works in progress.... enjoy the teasers!

Fia, Year 7

Book Title: Shadows

First Line: 'The ARK- 1967'

Honey, Year 8

Book Title:

First Line: 'My name is Brynn and my life revolved around books.'

Frankie, Year 9

Title: The Queen of Fight and Dragons

First Line: 'The winter air was frail, snow hung off of the trees' thin branches, and the grass was covered in a thick blanket of white powder.'



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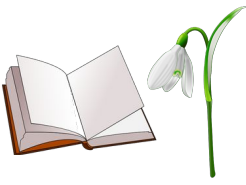
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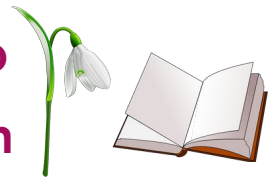
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Shepton Snowdrop Poetry Competition



Lots of our Just Write Club members recently entered Shepton Snowdrop poetry competition. The theme this year was 'Treasures of Nature'. Though we didn't make it through to the finale, two of our students were shortlisted with their fantastic poems. Well done to Lily and Grace, and enjoy their poems below!

Nature's Treasures

BIRDS TWEET,
MAGIC IS IN THE AIR
THE WIND'S MOANS GLIDE ACROSS THE LAND AND
FILLS EACH SOUL WITH HAPPINESS
NOTHING BEATS SITTING DOWN AND WATCHING THE
WORLD BELOW.
BEAUTY IS EVERYWHERE
MORNING SUNLIGHT
SWEEPED INTO EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY
FLOWERS ARE SCATTERED
PERFECTION IS JUST AN UNDERSTATEMENT

By Grace



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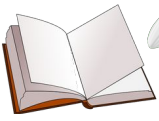
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Shepton Snowdrop Poetry Competition



Treasures of Nature

Beneath the sky's wide-open arms,
Lie treasures free of human charms.
The whispering trees, the singing streams,
A world that breathes in endless dreams.

The sun spills gold on fields of green,
A richer wealth than kings have seen.
Mountains rise with ancient grace,
Guardians of this sacred space.

The oceans pulse, a heart so vast,
Echoing tales of the distant past.
Each grain of sand, a story told,
Each wave a crown of liquid gold.

The flowers bloom, a fleeting show,
Their colors more than gems can glow.
The night unveils its diamond skies,
A galaxy where wonder lies.

These treasures need no gilded chest,
No lock, no key—just care, expressed.
For what we take, we must return,
Lest nature's treasures cease to burn.

Protect the wealth no coin can buy,
The earth, the sea, the endless sky.
For in these gifts, so wild, so free,
Like all the riches we'll ever need.

By Lily



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St Dunstan's Library presents...

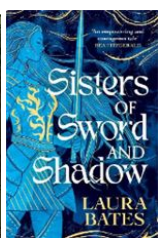
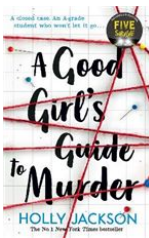
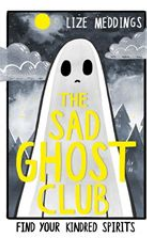
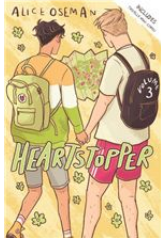
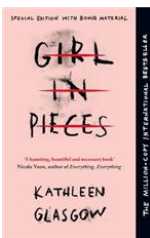
THE BOOK NOOK

Taking inspiration from The Sad Ghost Club books, the library now has hidden motivational messages around the room for Children's Mental Health Week. See if you can find them on your next visit, and use them as little wellbeing reminders to be kind to yourself!

A big thank you to Emma Mitchell and Mrs Salt who donated these books to the library from the [PTA Wishlist](#) Emma gifted us epic diverse fantasy, while Mrs Salt has given us ghosts and mermaids galore!

Thank you all for all your support with the PTA wishlist. The students adore getting post with the books they've requested, it is all so exciting!

Popular loans this week:



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Cake Sales



There will be a cake sale at breaktime on Tuesday, raising money for Year 11 events. Bring some change!

Cake donations will be gratefully accepted, please leave with reception, thank you.

**SALE
NOW
ON**

**SALE
NOW
ON**

The Cake Sale

**YOU
LIKE
CAKE**



Room 8 - 11th February 2025

All donations welcome - Going to Y11 Events



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Cake Sales



AND we have a Friday cake sale too! This will be held at break time on Friday and will be raising money for the Year 10 World Challenge. Donations gratefully accepted for this too, thank you.

**Come to our Friday 14th
cake sale at
break time to help raise
money for Yr 10
World Challenge!**

Friday 14th
February

LAST DAY OF TERM. BREAK TIME CAKE SALE



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Careers



**Room 8 with Miss Kench
Tuesday Lunchtimes 12.30pm**

KS4 Lunchtime Drop-In Sessions

**Chat about post-16 options,
work experience, revision, on
TRACK programme, wellbeing
and lots more! All welcome!**

**SELF
CARE**

**RADIATE
POSITIVITY**



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Army Careers Talk



Sgt Sainsbury from the Army Careers Centre delivered a presentation to our Year 10s last week . He discussed the wide range of career opportunities available in the Army.

There are over 75 different occupations with a wide range of apprenticeships available.

Our Year 10 students were very engaged!

Further details can be found here:

<https://jobs.army.mod.uk>



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LGBTQ+ History Month



February is LGBTQ+ History Month!

This February, let's come together to celebrate and honour the trailblazers, activists, and everyday heroes who've shaped the history of the LGBTQ+ community.

LGBTQ+ History Month is a time to reflect on the progress made, acknowledge the struggles that continue, and uplift the voices that are still too often unheard. It's about recognising the resilience, love, and courage that has paved the way for greater acceptance, equality and visibility.

The library has lots of LGBTQ+ fiction and non-fiction so why not read some this month in support of LGBTQ+ History Month.

Further details can be found here:

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



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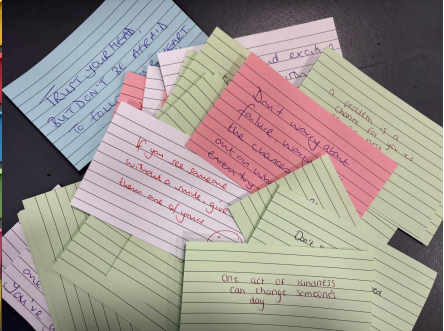
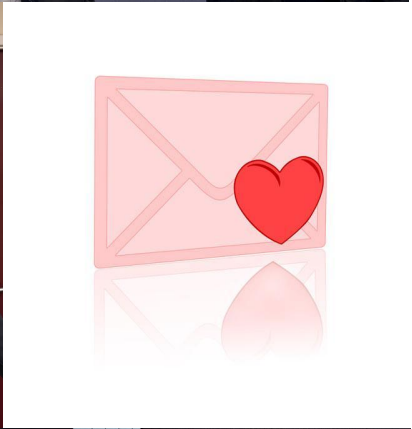
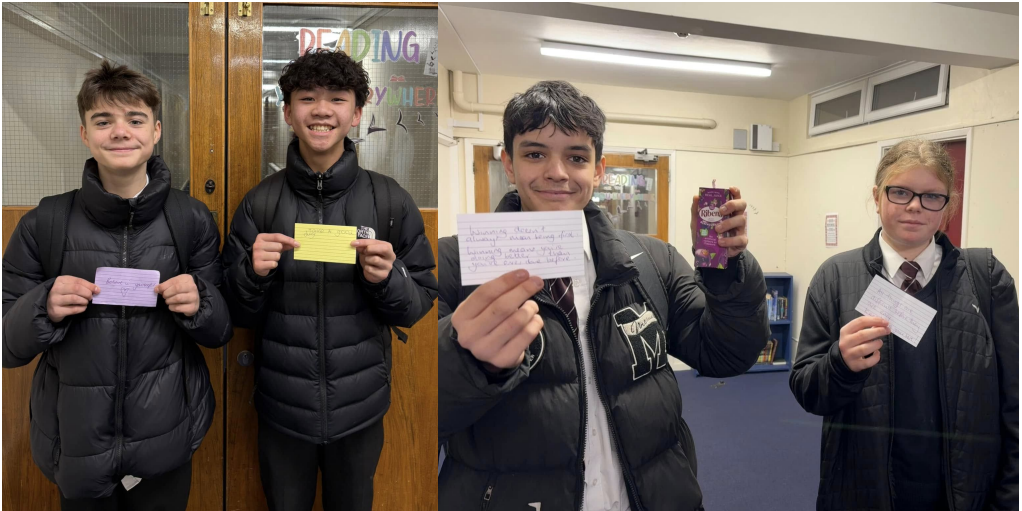


Positivity Exchange



Students had the opportunity to share uplifting anonymous messages at break and lunchtime this week to boost wellbeing and spread some joy.

We hope that this simple act of kindness will give pleasure and inspire others to be kind.



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PTA Quiz Night



Tickets are available on ParentPay now for St Dunstan's PTA's 4th annual quiz!

Mrs Gregory and Mrs Manning are officially announced as our sparkling quiz masters for the evening's event.

Raffle Request: 'Do you have an unwanted Christmas presents? The PTA would love to have it for a raffle prize at the quiz. Any donations can be left at school reception at any time. Thanks in advance.

ST DUNSTAN'S COMMUNITY
PTA PRESENTS

QUIZ NIGHT

THURSDAY 27TH
FEBRUARY 2025

6.30 pm - doors open,
7pm kick off

£6 per adult, £3 per child
[children must be accompanied]

Teams of 8 max

1st drink free, nibbles on the table, BAR!

ST DUNSTAN'S SCHOOL,
WELLS ROAD, GLASTONBURY, BA6 9BY
///FRIES.REFLECTED.EVIDENTLY
TICKETS ON PARENTPAY OR EMAIL
STDUNSTANSCOMMUNITYPTA@GMAIL.COM



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PTA Thank You



A big thank you to our fantastic PTA from St Dunstan's Breakfast Club for this incredible food donation! The PTA have also arranged bread donations to come to us from Burns the Bread so thank you to the PTA and to Burns the Bread for that, it will go a long way in the mornings.



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Dropping off/ Collecting Students

Please can we ask anyone coming to school to refrain from parking in the turning circle. This area is allocated for school transport (buses & coaches) as well as emergency services. Please park in the car park and walk down to reception.

Please can we also remind anyone dropping off or collecting students to avoid doing so on the residential roads outside the school.

Thank you very much.



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Safeguarding Spotlight

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: [Click Link](#)

National Headlines

We have all been shocked about the terrible news stories involving young people and knife crime over the past few weeks. The Department of Education has provided schools with a range of guidance and policies to support with this issue.

In line with DfE guidance, we will be providing students with further education and support. This will include a dedicated tutor time session next week and assemblies in March. We will also be running several workshops provided by an external company in order to inform, educate and warn about the risks.

It is important that all families are advised that we hold a zero tolerance policy on any member of our community bringing prohibited items on site. Any individuals found in possession of these items will be dealt with robustly in line with school and trust policy.

If you or your child has any concerns or you wish to report anything, please do not hesitate to make contact with our safeguarding team via main reception.



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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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Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to all parents for your support to ensure that your child attends school as regularly as possible.



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.

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.



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We have planned our rewards and recognition for attendance in order to recognise a wide range of student successes and achievements as well as take into account occasions when absence is unavoidable. Our aim is to encourage all students to secure high attendance across the year and in doing so, maximise their chances of success in school. This will include the following-

Improved attendance- 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 target- 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 across the year- 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

Monthly 100% attendance - if a student achieves 100% in a calendar month, they will receive a reward card and they will be 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'

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to make contact via main reception. Thank you to all parents/carers for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Ms K Haden

Deputy Headteacher



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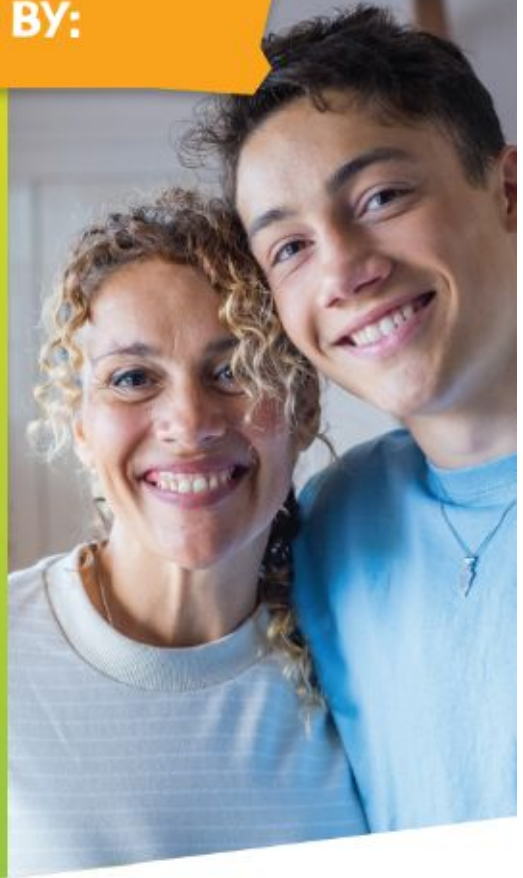


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YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD BY:

- 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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ON TRACK

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



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