

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Families and Parents

As we come to the end of the second week, please read our newsletter to keep you abreast of key updates and news.

### Important Updates

### Year 11 Exams and Information

Over the next few weeks we will be updating our Year 11 Exam information page, for students and families. Please visit this site on a regular basis for updates regarding the exams, revision, revision resources and wellbeing advice and support. [Click link](#)

### Arbor Update

On Wednesday we were pleased to launch the Parent App and Parent Portal to families. This will now be used to send letters, information and updates to families and all communications from Talaxy will be discontinued.

All primary guardians were sent an email last week, detailing how to log in and set up the Portal and App. If you haven't received it, we advise you to check your emails carefully, including the Junk mail box. For any other questions and queries regarding Arbor or the Parent Platform, please do not hesitate to contact main reception via [secretary@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk)



02.05.25

NEXT WEEK  
ASSEMBLY  
FOCUS:

Mental Health  
Awareness

### Key Dates

Bank Holiday  
Monday 5th  
May.

07.05.25 Year  
7 careers day

08.05.25 Pen  
Pals trip to  
Glastonbury  
Care Home

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

[Click here for  
term dates](#)



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Unfortunately, we will not be able to transfer over student behaviour logs and positive points issued on Talaxy. These have been downloaded and stored separately so that they can be used and added to the points and logs students receive on Arbor.

### Google Migration

As part of ongoing work to improve the efficiency of our network and IT infrastructure, we began the process of moving our Google tenancy this week into a central MNSP platform.

We are currently experiencing some teething issues which may impact on emails, googleclassroom and some documents. The IT team is working hard to resolve these issues and we hope to be in a position to complete the migration for staff over the next week.

Students will migrate onto the new platform later in the summer term and we will write to you when we are about to start the process.

Please be advised that our previous email accounts are no longer active. Parents and families should email [secretary@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk) if they need to make contact with a member of staff.

### Uniform

As we move into the summer term and the weather begins to get warmer, we wanted to clarify the school's expectations on uniform.

-Students will be expected to wear their blazers to school everyday and between lessons.

-Teachers will allow students to remove blazers in classrooms and students will be allowed to take them off at break and lunch times.



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- The V-neck sweater is an optional part of the uniform. We advise that students do not wear this item if they are feeling hot rather than removing their blazer. Equally winter jackets are not necessary for this time of year and we suggest these are left at home on warmer days.

-Students are allowed to wear black tailored knee length shorts or black pleated skirts. Skirts must be black and knee length at all times.

Please be advised that we will be putting in place a summer dress code later in the year and we will write to you when we feel that it is an appropriate time to move to this. The weather during the late spring can be variable, ranging from warm sunny days to torrential downpours. As a consequence, it would not be appropriate to change our normal dress code at this early stage.

Last week we decided to relax aspects of the dress code to support students, especially during the afternoon. We will continue to do this when we feel it is necessary and we will provide instructions and guidance for students at those times. We ask that students continue to arrive in full school uniform and wait for guidance from staff regarding adjustments to the dress code on warmer days.

### Important Dates

7 May- Year 7 Careers Day

8 May- GCSE Final Examinations window opens

May Half term- we will be running revision sessions to support students ahead of the exams after the break. More information to follow.



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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

### Items to celebrate

It has been fantastic to see our students proudly wearing their On Track badges over the past few weeks. These are awarded for students who have achieved key thresholds for On Track points awarded by teachers. Congratulations to all those students who have now been rewarded with the Gold award. Achieving over 600 positive points in just over two terms is a brilliant achievement.

At the end of last week our students have accumulated 197,898 On Track Points since September. This total is huge and we are looking forward to celebrating when the school reaches 200,000. Well done to all the students for your continued hard work and efforts.

Finally well done to the Netball teams who represented the school over the past few weeks. It is great to see so many students involved in our sports activities and taking the opportunity to compete against neighbouring schools.

Wishing you all a restful May day weekend and I look forward to updating your next week.

Best wishes

P Balkwill



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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/conditions/when-to-call-the-doctor/) 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 target for every student at the school is to achieve 96% attendance or above. There is often a misconception that if a child has 90-94% this is acceptable. However, attendance at this level can still have significant implications. A child on 90-94% attendance would have missed approximately 8 days of school so far this year. This equates to approximately 16 absent registration marks and 40 lessons missed. If this level of attendance continues at a similar percentage for the rest of the year, a student could be at risk of missing 12 school days, which equates to 60 hours of lost learning.

Good attendance has lots of benefits for your child.

- **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



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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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## 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](http://www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com/attendance)

**We're here to help if you need it.**



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## Youth Council Meeting



This week, we had the pleasure of taking interested Y9 students to Glastonbury Town Hall to discuss improvements they wanted to see in their town.

Students met with Town Council colleagues, completed group challenges and were rewarded with Domino's pizza.

We hope the students who attended will be applying to the Glastonbury town council Youth Committee!



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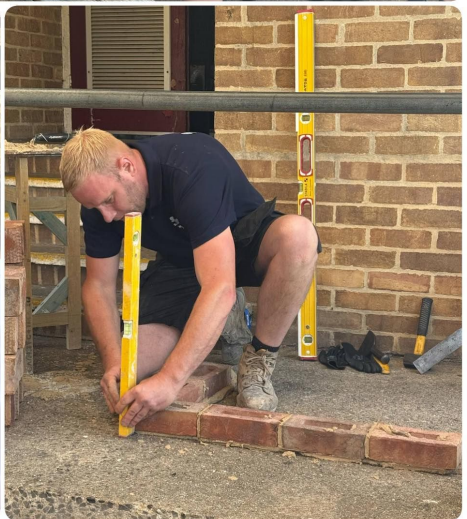
## Bricklaying Talk



This week we were lucky enough to have Mr Wheller in to do a Bricklaying talk and demonstration for some of our KS3 students .

They learned about the equipment needed for the trade as well as how to lay bricks - they even had a go with the trowels and mortar! There was fantastic engagement and lots keen for another visit.

Our thanks to Bradfords for donating materials as well as Mr Wheller for giving up his time for our students.



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## Netball



Both our Year 9 and Year 10 teams put in fantastic performances against Huish Episcopi this week, showing real resilience and determination, especially in the challenging heat.

The Year 10 match was extremely close, with the girls battling hard throughout to finish with a 10-10 draw. Carmen was deservedly selected as the Year 10 Player of the Match by the Huish team for her outstanding play. Our Year 9s also played brilliantly, narrowly losing 16-13 in another very competitive and exciting game.

The effort and teamwork shown were exceptional, with Aalaa being named Year 9 Player of the Match for her brilliant contribution.

Both teams made Miss Pengelly incredibly proud with their commitment, attitude, and sportsmanship. Well done!



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# New Arbor App (replacing Talaxy)



We have now switched to Arbor and our new app is live! Please check your emails carefully for details on how to log in and set yourself up.

Please contact the school office if you require any assistance.



## We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Parent App

### We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

### How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday

The Sunnyville School of Magic  
W10 5BN, London, GBR

Enter your password

Log in

Forgotten password?

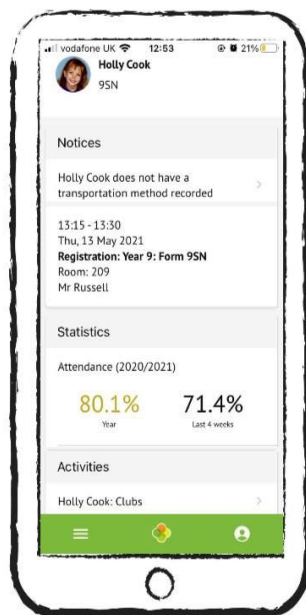
### Need help using Arbor?

**Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal.** Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

#### Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the **password link will have expired**. Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.



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# Student Leaders: Library Ambassador

An exciting new, last minute new role for Year 10s, but act fast as applications are due next week!

## St. Dunstan's School Student Leaders

Student leaders act as role models for all students in the school. They meet and maintain the highest standards of courtesy, academic effort, kindness, attendance and punctuality and correct wearing of the school uniform.

Student leaders are kind, helpful and polite. They support our school by maintaining our core TRACK values, setting an example for all students at all times.

Student leaders wear the blue school tie and have a student leader lapel badge.

## Library Ambassador

- A brand new role within the school, designed to motivate students to use and respect the library, and to promote reading.
- Assist in maintaining a safe and welcoming space within the library environment.
- Champion the library, reading and extra curricular activities within the library and throughout the school.
- Support the organisation of student librarians, and help maintain the overall appearance and atmosphere of the library.
- To support fundraising and library events.
- Embrace and promote the TRACK values in all responsibilities.

## Application Process

**This has a QUICK turn around as it is a last minute addition to the leader team, so applications are due in next week.**

1. Prepare a Letter of Interest: Write a compelling letter (300-500 words) that outlines your qualifications, experiences and contributions to St Dunstan's TRACK values. Highlight your leadership skills, involvement in school activities and any relevant achievements.
2. Proofread: This ensures it is free of grammatical errors and conveys your message effectively.
3. Submit the Application: Address your completed letter to Mrs Morris, Miss Kench and Mrs Watson and submit it to Mrs Morris by **end of break on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May**.
4. Interview: Prepare to discuss your application, experiences and how you would contribute as a student leader.

**Interviews will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May so there is no leeway for late applications.**



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St Dunstan's Library presents...



# THE BOOK NOOK



## MNSP Book Club: The Votes are in!

After weeks of reading, we have finally come to the end of our Trust book club. With all six books read and voted on, we have submitted our results to the other Trust schools involved. We won't find out the overall winner until we go the Awards Ceremony at the Merlin Theatre at Frome College at the end of May, but for now we're happy to have completed the challenge!

Our votes: 1. Sisters of Sword and Shadow by Laura Bates  
2. Keedie by Elle McNicoll  
3. Bird Boy by Catherine Bruton

Let's wait and see how our results compare to the overall winner...



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St Dunstan's Library presents...



# THE BOOK NOOK



## Library System update:

We have just switched to a new library system, Libresoft+ and this should open up lots of new avenues for the students to get involved in loaning books, from reservations to class reading lists to reviews, it should be a more engaging, interactive system.

Please bear with us while we get this set up, and trial new loan email reminders. Apologies for possible duplicates.

On the plus side, we can now see some exciting new insights, for instance, since September 2024, we have loaned books out 3000 times (including renewals). It is wonderful to see just how much our students use the library, and hopefully this new system allows us to connect even more.

However, as you can see we have a lot of overdue books. Books are loaned for a fortnight and need to be renewed before that date is up. If a book is severely overdue, or has been lost, at the end of the year we will request parents/guardians replace the book so our students can keep reading (second hand copies are fine). So please have a rummage at home and encourage students to return books please, to the library or reception. Thank you!



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<b><u>O</u>rganised &amp; Proactive</b>	<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>
<b><u>N</u>eat &amp; Tidy work</b>	<p>Smart, well presented books demonstrating your best work</p>
<b><u>T</u>enacity</b>	<p>Trying your hardest, rising to challenges, having a 'can do' attitude, working out solutions and taking ownership of your learning</p>
<b><u>R</u>eady, Respectful and Responsible</b>	<p>Being a role model by consistently demonstrating our basic expectations</p>
<b><u>A</u>nswering, reading and listening like an expert</b>	<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>
<b><u>C</u>ontributing to the class</b>	<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>
<b><u>K</u>indness &amp; Community minded</b>	<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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