



Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

Dear Families & Parents,

This weekly newsletter is your essential guide to supporting your child. It is packed with important dates, event details and information. Please take a few minutes each week to read it so you don't miss a thing.

We look forward to sharing all the great news with you this academic year. If you have any good news stories or student achievements you would like to share, please feel free to reach out to us!

This fortnight we saw the return of the annual Youth Speaks competition. Well done to all the students who participated and represented themselves and the school so well! A special congratulations goes to our Year 9 team who won thursday's event and Siena (Y7) who won best overall speaker.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

P Balkwill

Headteacher





Key Information

Key Dates

Monday 1 December- Youth Speaks KS4 Area competition

Wednesday 3 December- Woman in Black Y10 Theatre trip

Thursday 4 December- PTA Silent Disco- more details to follow

KS4 Bath University & Christmas Markets

Important Information

PTA events

Our brilliant PTA are involved in two fundraising events this week. All funds raised go directly to supporting students and invest in the school.

Tickets for the Silent Disco are still available, but going fast. To book your child's ticket, please go on to Arbor and pay as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Our car park will also be available for the Frost Fayre this weekend.

Attendance

We were disappointed to see a decline in attendance this week, especially following such a positive start to the school year. It is clear that some individuals have been under the weather and we hope to see you all fit and well on Monday 1 December. We ask all families to support their child to attend the final 15 days wherever possible, so that students continue to reap the benefits of good attendance for their social, emotional and academic development.

Christmas Lunches

Following on from the success of last year's staggered lunches, we will be organising a similar plan in the final week so that students can enjoy a christmas lunch with their friends in the canteen. Please look out for information over the next week for details regarding times and payment.



Tickets available on Arbor now!



ST DUNSTAN'S
PTA

MYSTERY STAFF DJ's

TICKETS ON SALE ON ARBOR

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL ST DUNSTAN'S

SILENT DISCO

On Thursday 4th
December, 6.30 -8.45pm

CASH TUCK SHOP

TICKETS £3



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SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER
2025

FROST FAYRE PARKING

AT

ST DUNSTAN'S SCHOOL, WELLS
ROAD, GLASTONBURY BA6 9BY

(/////fries.reflected.evidently)

OPEN FROM
10AM

£5
PER CAR

RAISING FUNDS FOR THE PTA

Weekly Attendance Update

What does my attendance look like so far? 28 November

Band	Percentage	Number of days attended this year to date	Potential Days of Absence across the year if this continues	Potential hours of lost learning	Classification
1	100%	57	0	0	Perfect
2	98% to 100%	55	4	20	Excellent
3	96% to 98%	54	8	40	Good
4	93% to 96%	53	14	70	Requires Improvement
5	90% to 93%	51	38	190	Concerning
6	Below 90%	50	40	200	Persistent absence

You have to be "IN to WIN!" – Christmas Activities for the Next Three Weeks

As we count down to the Christmas break, we're excited to launch **three festive weeks of challenges, celebrations and opportunities to shine**. Our theme this year is "*In to Win*" – because the more you are in school and the more you get involved, the more chances you have to take home prizes, earn recognition, and enjoy the best of the season together.

We are still going with our **3 week streak** - currently we have 132 students who are in line to be put into the draw for Amazon vouchers - just what you need to buy those Christmas presents!

On Monday, there will also be the **November 100 Club** draw - all the students who have been in school for the whole of November will have the opportunity to win more Amazon Vouchers.

Daily Christmas Riddle – Are You Up for the Challenge?

Each morning, tutors will reveal our **Daily Christmas Riddle**. Students will have the day to think, debate and guess the answer... **The correct answer will be revealed the following morning!**

Every correct entry goes into a prize draw, so make sure you submit your guesses – you never know when your Tutor Group might be drawn to win a tutor prize.

Weekly Attendance Update

Tutor Group Quizzes & Individual Challenges

Throughout the three weeks, tutor groups will take part in a series of fun, festive quizzes designed to test teamwork, creativity and Christmas knowledge.

Alongside these, students can take part in a range of **individual activities**, from creative tasks to mini-challenges. Depending on the task, there will be **prizes** for:

- The winning tutor group
- Standout individual performers
- Special mentions for creativity, leadership and teamwork

Kindness Cards – Spreading a Little Joy

Following the success of last year, we are delighted to continue our **Kindness Card tradition**. Every student will have the opportunity to write a heartfelt, encouraging or appreciative message to a member of staff.

It's a small gesture that makes a *big* difference, and it embodies the spirit of our school community at Christmas.

Attendance Rewards – A Non-Uniform Treat!

Attendance continues to be one of the most important ingredients for success.

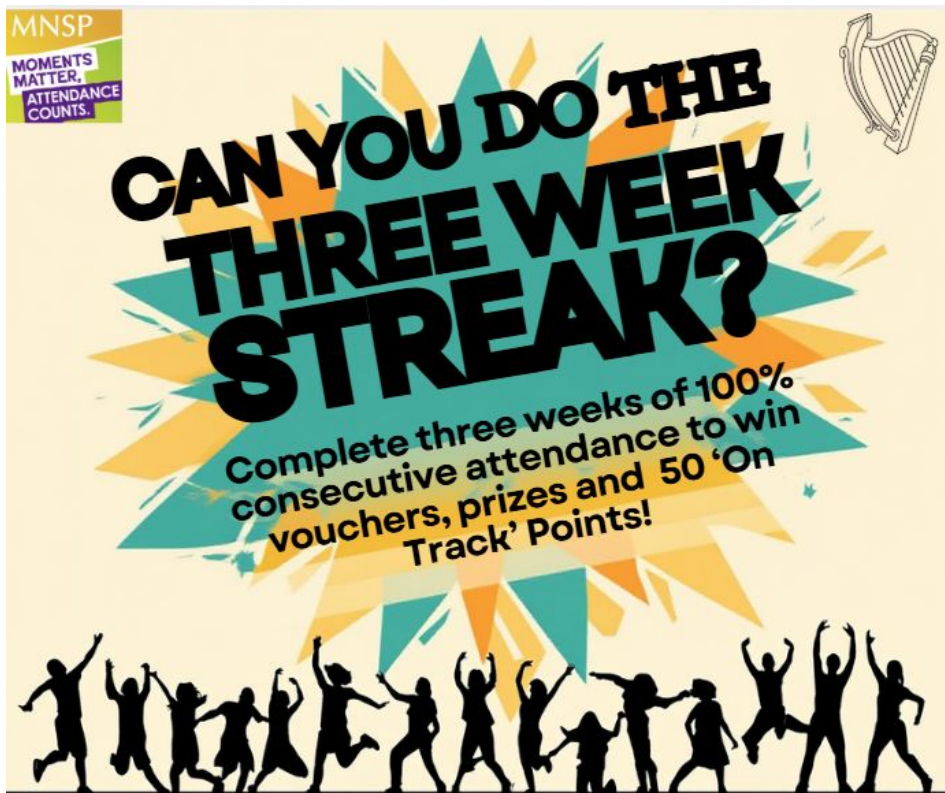
To celebrate this, tutor groups with the **most outstanding attendance** over the first 2 weeks of December will win:

A non-uniform day for the whole tutor group (while the rest of the school remains in uniform)

A brilliant incentive to stay in school, stay engaged and stay connected right up to the final day.

Let's make these last three weeks of term Winning Weeks

We hope every student gets involved, takes part, and finds something to enjoy. It's a wonderful way to end the term on a positive note, celebrate together, and keep our community strong.



To support and encourage students to maintain good attendance in the middle weeks of this term, we will be celebrating students with three weeks of consecutive 100% attendance from week 2 until week 6. All students need to do is be in each day and they will be entered for a rewards raffle and prize draw for amazon vouchers.

Well done to all the students who are entering their third week. 5 more days to go!



On Track Update

<u>O</u>rganised	Equipped, on time, and completing homework
<u>N</u>eat	Smart, well presented books demonstrating your best work.
<u>T</u>ry hard	Trying your hardest and rising to the challenge.
<u>R</u>esponsible	A role model to others in your appearance, actions and words
<u>A</u>ctive	Listening, responding, and participating in lessons
<u>C</u>ommunity	Supporting staff and other students to create a positive learning environment for all.
<u>K</u>nowledgeable	Knowing key information, concepts and terminology for each subject/unit

Our 'On Track' Total so far.....

159,135

Well done to all of our students!



Year 11 Mocks



A huge congratulations to all our Year 11 students! Your confidence, determination and resilience have truly shone throughout your mock exams over the past two weeks.

Your positive attitude and your drive to showcase your impressive knowledge have been exceptional.

Well done — we are so proud of you all!

Well Done
YEAR 11

FOR COMPLETING YOUR MOCK EXAMS



Youth Speaks Competition



Youth Speaks Internal Intermediate Heat

Last week we hosted our internal heat of the Youth Speaks public speaking competition.

Five teams performed and the judges' task was to select the two teams who will represent St Dunstan's School in the area competition next week.

Our winning teams were: The Silly Tabby Cats and team Aaaaaaaaaa!

Our thanks go to the Rotary Club of Shepton Mallet for their time and guidance. Watch this space for this week's result as we compete against other local schools!



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Youth Speaks Competition



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White Ribbon Day

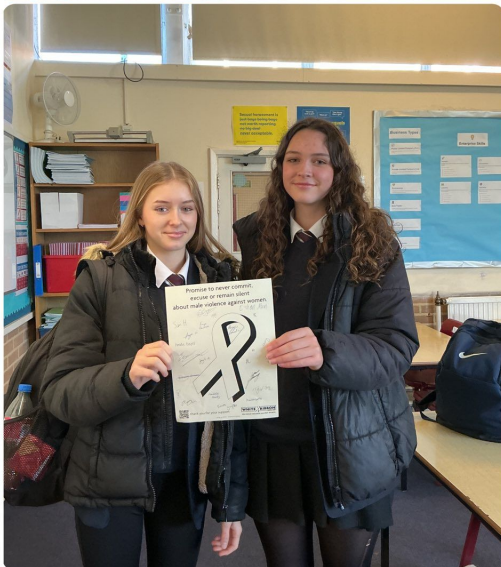


November 25th marks the start of the 16 Days of Activism to end violence against women and girls worldwide.

This year's focus is digital violence — a growing threat to safety and equality.

Today, tutor groups across the school signed a pledge to support the campaign and stand against all forms of violence.

Further details about the campaign can be found here: [Ending Violence Against Women](#)



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KS3 Art Exhibition



KS3 artists have participated in the Bishop's Palace annual Christmas sculpture competition. This year's theme is 'Christmas carols'.

These beautiful sculptures have been delivered to the Bishop's Palace in Wells.

The exhibition starts on Monday 1st of December and ends on Wednesday 31st of December. The exhibition is open to the public.

A huge well done to all students who participated!



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Year 10 Hospitality and Catering



Students have been working hard this week in their term 2 practical assessment.

Students have been showcasing skills and techniques that they have learnt this term.

The brief was pastry, bread or pasta. Mrs Potter is incredibly impressed and proud of the year 10 students and what they have achieved, well done!

Keep up the good work as we move onto the next topic.





Carnival Celebration



It's been over a week since Carnival finished and we pay homage to all of our staff, students and families who worked so hard with their clubs! We know lots of them worked really hard, whether it be backstage, performing on carts, collecting money and many other roles.

It's a highlight every year for many, and we appreciate how much drive and resilience goes into the preparation and delivery of such brilliant masterpieces.

Thank you for entertaining us on a those dark autumn nights; see you next year!



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Coding Event for Girls



Are you curious about a future in STEM? Whether you're choosing your GCSE options, studying for your GCSEs, or an A-Level student passionate about science and technology, this event is for you!

Supported by University of Bath students, you'll get to take part in hands-on coding activities, practical workshops, and discover exciting STEM career pathways. It's a fantastic opportunity to explore, learn, and get inspired.

The V Code Team has put together a short video to give you a sneak peek of what's in store:

<https://www.mightygirls.co.uk/vcodevideo2025>



V Code

STEM Code & Careers Bootcamp

Saturday 28th February 2026

At: University of Bath Campus

For Girls in Yr 8 to Y 13.

In this workshop you'll:

- **Learn Coding Basic:** Join an interactive session on coding skills.
- **Hear from Women in STEM:** Gain insights from professionals about their careers and experiences.
- **Q&A with Students:** Chat with current students to learn about studying and thriving as a woman in STEM.



Learn More & Register: www.mightygirls.co.uk

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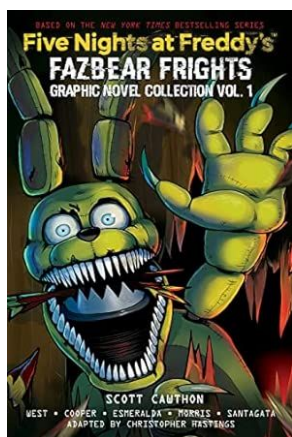
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St Dunstan's Library presents...

THE BOOK NOOK

Welcome to the Book Nook, the section of the newsletter where we update you with what has been happening in the Library.

This week we have a book review from Thomas in Year 7:



Title: Five Nights at Freddy's Graphic Novel: Fazbear Frights
By: Scott Cawthon

I would recommend this book. It's so good but it's weird how Oswald has to go through a ball pit to go to the past. It's very good and not *that* scary for a Five Nights at Freddy's book.

My favourite part: When Oswald texts his mom (she's at work) and tells her it's an emergency and when she comes home, Oswald's Mom doesn't see what happens to his dad... (the rest is a spoiler!)

My overall rating is 10/10 because it's the first and best book and it's so good because the moral of the story is to never prank your dad (I think)! The characters are a 8/10. I like when the story goes into the past and the characters look like they are from the 80s/90s.

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Safeguarding Spotlight



Parent and Carer Workshops:

Talking to your Children and Teens about their Bodies, Feelings and Relationships - a relaxed and informative session for parents and carers of SEND children of all ages with an additional focus on teenage years.

The 2-hour session focuses on talking about bodies, boundaries, feelings, and relationships.

Dates:

- In person: 26th February 2026 at Albemarle Centre, Taunton, TA1 1BA, 1pm—2:45pm
- Online (live only): 11th February 2026, 7pm-9pm

Complete this form to book your space:

<https://forms.office.com/e/TLptzxKxzE>





Production Request



Rehearsals for the next school production of The Addams Family are well underway and we are turning our attention to set and costumes!

We are looking for donations of costumes which may be suitable for our ancestors' characters within the show. These characters wear white floaty type clothes, which can be shawls, dresses, jackets, white accessories, wigs etc. and can be from varied time periods.

If you have some spare white material, lace or white lace curtains, or any suitable clothing you don't need anymore and our wonderful costume department can work their magic. Here are some ideas for the types of costumes we would like to create. Thank you!



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Holiday Activities



Activity Calendar

Community Inclusion
and Activity Team

Christmas Holidays
Sat 20 Dec - Fri 2 Jan 2026



For ALL children and young people in Somerset with a disability or additional needs
*You DO NOT have to be referred to any service to access these activities, unless otherwise stated.

Useful Information

Key for activities:

-  **Family Activity** - for all members of the family to attend and enjoy
-  **Child/Young person can attend on their own under group supervision or with parent/carer if additional 1:1 support is required** - please call the organisation to have a chat
-  **Child/young person must attend with a parent or carer**
-  **Staff provided by the organisation to support the child/young person 1:1 if required** - please call the organisation to see what they can provide as this may not include personal care
-  **Some parts of the activity are wheelchair accessible please call the organisation to find out more**
-  **Accessible changing facilities are available please call the venue to find out more**
-  **Activities aimed at young people/teenagers/young adults**

Who are the people offering the activities? Organisations who have experience of working with children and young people with a disability or additional need and their families. Activities can be adapted to suit the children and young people who would like to attend. Please call them to chat about your child / young person's needs.

Activities offered by the Community Inclusion and Activity Team - Dependant on the child / young person needs, we can provide a day out without parent / carer as we offer group supervision. If it is the first time your child / young person has accessed a trip with our team, a parent/ carer will need to attend. We require payment a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the day. Please note, spaces for children and young people with a disability or additional need will be prioritised first, with spaces offered to siblings once bookings have closed if we have room.
Online payment at www.somerset.gov.uk/cwd

Don't forget our Activity Day Passes - Available to ALL families in Somerset with a child or young person with a disability or additional need - Puxton Park, Noah's Ark, The Bristol Zoo Project, Abbotsbury, Ferne Animal Sanctuary, Hestercombe gardens, Court farm. Email ciateam@somerset.gov.uk to find out more or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/activity-passes to view the flyer.

Max Card - A FREE card for all children and young people with a disability or additional need in Somerset aged 0-25 years. This card can be used at many places all over the UK offering discounts and special rates when you show the card. Visit www.somerset.gov.uk/max-card for more information on how to access this card. **Cards can ONLY be issued by Somerset Council to people living in Somerset.**

If you would like help with the calendar and how to access activities, please email ciateam@somerset.gov.uk and someone will be in touch to support you.



Holiday Activities



SATURDAY 20th DEC

Childrens World
The Pitton Stage, St Mary's Lane, Pitton, BA4 5HX.
Children's World Xmas Family Rave and Interactive DJ Experience in partnership with Big Fam Disco. Fun for all ages and abilities. Experience and learn to DJ yourself with Bass and Rave classics and with a dedicated break out space so you can have some quiet time trying out DJ equipment and creating your own Graffiti Big Fam Logo. 2-4pm. For all ages. £5 per person.

To book, please contact Angela Bolton 01458 883693 or email: info@childrensworldcharity.org



SUNDAY 21st DEC

Wildierwoods
Wildierwoods Forest School, Drayton Woods, Langport TA10 6JZ.
Midwinter Candlelit Celebration. Decorations, candles and songs in the woods with refreshments around the campfire afterwards. 3-6pm. For all ages. £5 (1 child/1 adult), £15 per family (max 2 adult, 3 children). Additional children/adults £5 per person.

To book, please call Hannah Attkin on 07797 883264 hannah@wildierwoods.org



MONDAY 22nd DEC

Rainbow Roots
Dove Barn, Manor Farm, Silver St, Barton St David, TA11 6DB.
Mindful Christmas Crafts. Join us at Rainbow Roots for a magical mix of creativity and calm! Each morning, children will make festive crafts and learn simple mindfulness techniques to help them feel relaxed, focused, and joyful through the Christmas season. 10am-12:30pm. For 5-11 yrs. £7.50 per person.

To book, please email Lou Stockley on hello@rainbowroots.uk



TUESDAY 23rd DEC

Rainbow Roots
Dove Barn, Manor Farm, Silver St, Barton St David, TA11 6DB.
Mindful Christmas Crafts. Join us at Rainbow Roots for a magical mix of creativity and calm! Each morning, children will make festive crafts and learn simple mindfulness techniques to help them feel relaxed, focused, and joyful through the Christmas season. 10am-12:30pm. For 5-11 yrs. £7.50 per person.

To book, please email Lou Stockley on hello@rainbowroots.uk



20th

Purple Elephant
The Assembly Rooms, Christchurch, West West, Frome, BA11 1EB.
Family Holiday Fun! Christmas party! With festive crafts, Santa, and a hot meal, followed by a silent disco. 10am - 2pm. For all ages. £2 suggested donation. Free to those on free school meals.

To book, please email rebecca.harrison@purpleelephant.org.uk



22nd

Rainbow Roots
Dove Barn, Manor Farm, Silver St, Barton St David, TA11 6DB.
Gifts from the Heart. In our cosy afternoon sessions at Rainbow Roots, children will craft thoughtful handmade gifts to share at Christmas. We'll explore gratitude, kindness, and the joy of giving - celebrating how special it feels to make something with love for someone else. 1:30-3:30pm. For 5-11 yrs. £7.50 per person.

To book, please email Lou Stockley on hello@rainbowroots.uk



23rd

Rainbow Roots
Dove Barn, Manor Farm, Silver St, Barton St David, TA11 6DB.
Gifts from the Heart. In our cosy afternoon sessions at Rainbow Roots, children will craft thoughtful handmade gifts to share at Christmas. We'll explore gratitude, kindness, and the joy of giving - celebrating how special it feels to make something with love for someone else. 1:30-3:30pm. For 5-11 yrs. £7.50 per person.

To book, please email Lou Stockley on hello@rainbowroots.uk



ACTIVITY PACKS

Step4ward-in2-growth

Christmas holiday activity packs tailored to young person's interests with a festive theme. Christmas Eve boxes also available, with small, individualised gifts to be opened the night before Christmas! Home delivered if local to Shepton Mallet or sent by Royal Mail. For ages 3-18th birthday. £3 per pack/box.

To order, please contact Becky on 07737 331174, email: Step4ward-in2growth@mail.com or facebook: step4ward-in2growth

Community Inclusion Activity Team
'Winter' or 'Christmas' themed activity packs, containing arts & crafts, puzzles and more! £3 per pack, to be paid prior to delivery. Please ensure payment is made by 12 Dec.

To order, please email ciateam@somerset.gov.uk by 8 Dec with your child's name, age, nature of disability, address, phone number and where we can safely leave the pack if you're not in. Delivery w/c 15 Dec.

FRIDAY 2nd JAN

In the Mix
The Hub Centre, Hartwell, South Street, Wiveliscombe TA4 2NE.

Create and Bake! Join us to make your own chocolate bark, mug decorating and treating your own hot chocolate to take home. 10am-12:30pm. For 11-18yrs. £2 per person.

To book, please contact emma.carberry@inthemixproject.org.uk 07494 839782.



TUESDAY 30th DEC

Community Inclusion Activity Team
Sanders Garden centre, Brent Knoll, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, TA9 4HJ.
Join us on a family day at the festive Big Top! Prepare to be mesmerised by twirling fairies, cheeky elf Nia, breathtaking aerialists and daring acrobats. Marvel at dazzling lasers, the heart stopping wheel of death and the adrenaline pumping motorbikes in the globe. Even Santa makes a magical appearance!

Venue has a limited number of ear defenders which can be borrowed for the duration of the show, so please bring your own if needed. Show includes flashing lights. Staff will be on site for support. 5-7pm. Please arrive by 4:30pm to allow time to be seated. For all ages. £5pp.

To book, call 07797 412199 from 10am on Tuesday 2nd December.



WEDNESDAY 31st DEC

Mad Community CIC
The Mad Hub, Unit 14 Orchard Shopping Centre, TA1 3TP.
New Year's Eve inclusive disco with lower-volume music to create a lively but sensory-friendly environment. There will be gentle disco lighting & party decorations to build excitement in a welcoming, festive space. TV-projected countdown with fireworks will give children the full New Year's experience in a way that suits their needs. 12:45-1:45pm. For 4-11yrs. 2:30-3:30pm. For 11-16 yrs. £2.95 per person.

To book, please call Kelly Gauntlett on 07467235607 or email themadhub@outlook.com



2nd

Minehead Eye
Minehead Eye centre, 1A Mart road, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 5BJ.
Enjoy games, music, sensory room, arts and crafts, water and sand tray activity! Café style space available for parent carers. 2 youth workers on hand for support and advice. 2-4pm. For 9-16 yrs. £1 per person.

To book, please email reception@minehead-eye.co.uk



2nd

Escape Support Group
Icescape Clark's Village, Street, BA10 9BB.
Glide into the festive season at Clark's Village magical ice skating rink! Penguin and seal skating aids will be available for help with balance. 1-1:45pm. For all ages. Children 12 and under £5. Adult & children 12+ £6. Carer - Free. Wheelchair user £5.

To book, fundraising@escapesupportgroup.com Bookings through the website escapesupportgroup.com.



For more inclusive activities, groups and organisations in your area,

please visit the Local Offer: www.somerset.gov.uk/send-events

where you can search by keyword or location.

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