



Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

Dear Parents & Families,

At the end of another busy week, there is plenty to celebrate and share.

Firstly, well done to all the students who were involved in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition at the start of the week. Fortunately, the weather cooled off enough to make the trek a more pleasant experience for everyone involved! It was great to see the photos of all of you participating and to read the reports about the teamwork and support our students showed once again to one another.



This week, we also welcomed our Year 6 students who will be starting with us in September, along with their families in the evening. Overall, this was a very positive day; students were eager to get involved in all the lessons and activities on offer, and it was great to meet both our new and returning families too. Thank you to all the students and staff involved in making this event such a success.

Finally, I had the great pleasure of joining families, students, and staff to watch the Summer Showcase yesterday evening. It was fantastic to see the wide array of talent on show, from musical performances and recitations of written poetry to acrobatics and dance. One thing that struck me was that, at a time of year when we often celebrate sporting achievements and academic outcomes, this was a special chance to celebrate our students' talents and efforts more widely. On our transition day, I spoke to our families about how we aim not only to educate our students academically but also to provide them with opportunities to become the very best versions of themselves. We certainly saw this in abundance on Thursday evening. My thanks go to Mrs Hopton, Mrs Pulford, and all the other staff members involved for making this great event possible.



Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

We are now bounding towards the end of the academic year, with just eight days to go. Our final full week will be packed with events, including the Celebration Carnival on Monday, Year 11 celebration events, and Key Stage celebration assemblies. Please read the contents of this newsletter and check your emails carefully for important updates.

Thank you to all parents and families for the positive initial feedback regarding the implementation of phone pouches. While this is a departure from our current arrangements, we know that in the long term, it will be a very positive change not only for our students but for young people across the country. Our aim is to speak to students next week about this update, as well as give them a chance to see the pouches before the summer break.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support. Have a good weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to a member of the school staff, written in a cursive style.





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Key Dates

Monday 6th July- Celebration Carnival

Monday 6th July- SEND Coffee Morning

Thursday 9th July- Year 11 Celebration Assembly & Prom and

Ks4 Celebration assembly

Friday 10th July- School Sports Day

Monday 13th July- Ks3 Celebration Assembly and Year 10 Work experience starts

Tuesday 14th- Wednesday 15th July Enrichment Activities

Wednesday 15th July- End of Term 3:15pm

Important Information

Having reviewed the forecast for the next week, it is apparent that the warm weather continues. However, it currently looks unlikely that temperatures will reach the levels of the previous week. For this reason, our current arrangements for uniform will continue. These are as follows-

Blazers are optional.

Ties must be worn.

Students are encouraged to remove their V-neck sweaters (these remain optional).

Shirts must stay tucked in at all times.

Knee-length tailored shorts or pleated skirts are allowed. Please ensure skirts are worn at this appropriate length.

Formal black shoes and plain dark socks are still required.

If a student arrives dressed incorrectly, we'll direct them to the uniform hub to find a suitable solution. Please be aware that we may contact



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we'll direct them to the uniform hub to find a suitable solution. Please be aware that we may contact you for your support in resolving these issues.

To assist students during the peak heat of the afternoon, we will implement a relaxed dress code on warmer days beginning at Period 3. From this point forward, students are permitted to take off their ties and are not required to put them back on for the remainder of the school day.

Reminders

As the weather remains warm, we know that a number of students would prefer to wear a skirt. However, we have noticed a number of students have started to roll up their skirts, which means that they do not conform with our uniform expectations. Students are reminded that skirts should not be rolled up at any point during the day and they will be requested by staff to adjust as required.

Furthermore, a number of students have arrived at school with colouring and streaks in their hair. Please be advised that our dress code clearly stipulates that extreme hair and unnatural colouring are not allowed and students will be asked to remove this immediately. Please ensure that your child resists the temptation to do this in the final 8 days of school.

Enrichment Days

Enrichment Activity Days will take place on 14th and 15th July. Bookings and payments are now closed, so please check Arbor to confirm your child's placement and settle any final outstanding balances. Detailed information regarding equipment, dress codes, and trip advice for specific locations has been sent via email and Arbor; please review this thoroughly in advance. All students must arrive at the normal time of 8:40 am each day. School-based activities will conclude at the usual time of 3:15 pm, and specific return times for off-site trips will be shared during the week commencing 6th July. If your child normally catches a



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bus or does not walk home, please ensure you arrange alternative transport for trips returning later than the end of the school day. Finally, please note that there will be no extra-curricular clubs running during this week.

Work Experience

As we approach the end of the academic year, we would like to remind you that the Year 10 Work Experience week will take place commencing Monday 13th July. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to gain valuable real-world insights, and we expect them to fully comply with all workplace requirements and professional standards set by their hosts. Our main goal is for every student to gain an enjoyable, rewarding, and highly enriching experience from their placement. Please note that students will have either a three-day, four-day, or five-day work experience during this week. To ensure everything is running smoothly and to support our students in their new environments, a member of the school staff will be conducting a check-in (either in person or via telephone) for every student while they are on-site.

Other dates for the diary

GCSE Results Day will be on Thursday 20th August 2026. We will write to all Year 11 students and families shortly to outline the arrangements for collecting results.

The new academic year will start on Monday 7th September 2026. This will be a staggered start. Arrangements are as follows-

Monday 7th September- Years 7 & 11 only

Tuesday 8th September- All year groups



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Phone & Electronic Devices Update

In May 2026 you all received a letter from Mr Williams (MNSP CEO) that included information about changes that the Trust is making to its mobile phone policy. With the new legislation stating that *'Students must not have access to their mobile phones (or similar devices like smartwatches) throughout the school day, including during lessons, break times, and lunchtime'* it will no longer be sufficient for schools to say they expect children to have their phones switched off and in their bags.

We are aware that this is a big change for our students. There are strong reasons for these changes that are not only grounded in research but also in the experiences of young people across the country. It is clear that access to mobile phones 24/7 is fuelling anxiety, sleep deprivation, and the "Fear of Missing Out". In creating a phone-free space, we break the cycle of notification anxiety and give students a much-needed mental break. Moreover, smartphones are engineered to fracture attention. Even a vibrating phone in a pocket shifts focus, attention and mental energy. Removing this distraction reclaims valuable instruction time and boosts student focus and academic performance. It is also worth noting that all schools across the country will be expected to enforce this, and the new legislation around access to social media will further reduce the necessity for students to use their phones during the day.

Before deciding to use pouches, the school explored a number of options. Other solutions such as depositing phones in lockers or secure boxes, are cumbersome, take up time and require huge logistical adjustments to the timing of the day. In addition, students have indicated that whilst they understand the new legislation, they would feel more comfortable and secure having the phone in their possession rather than being handed over. For these reasons, to ensure adherence to DfE policy whilst allowing students to maintain personal responsibility for their devices, we will be introducing pouches.

This approach aligns with other schools within the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership (MNSP) and is the best way forwards for our school context too. From September 2026 onwards, these pouches will become part of essential equipment for students. Pouches are magnetically sealed, restricting access to devices throughout the day. Pouches will be available to buy from the school.



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Phone & Electronic Devices Update

Students will be asked to place specific items in their pouches and store these safely in their bags. At the end of the day, students will open their pouches whilst exiting the site.

To support this transition, working alongside MNSP, we have procured pouches for students from an experienced supplier, Yondr. Yondr has worked with schools to successfully implement pouches across the country. Over the past six weeks the school has been working with consultants to establish a sensible implementation plan which can be seen below.

We understand that the costs of uniform and equipment can be significant for many families, which will be further impacted by the expectation to purchase a pouch at full cost (likely to be around £17.00 - £18.00). For this reason the school is fully funding the cost of your child's pouch for this year only. Pupils will keep their devices with them in their locked pouch throughout the school day. Pouches will be regarded as essential equipment and students must bring these items with them every day. The pouches are incredibly durable and should last for five years if treated with care. If pouches are lost, damaged or broken, they will require replacement and will be sold at full cost. Please be advised that parents and families will be expected to cover the full cost of a replacement for a damaged, broken or lost pouch.

Alternative pouches will be available for exceptional circumstances, such as pupils who need phones for measuring blood sugar levels or for other medical monitoring requirements. In these cases, students will be provided with pouches that close with velcro. Please be aware that these will be for students who already have a record of serious medical conditions that would require an alternative pouch. Not all medical conditions require an alternative pouch and these will only be provided in exceptional circumstances.

Emergency Communication

Students will keep their pouches with them at all times for before and after-school use. In the event of an emergency during the day, parents should contact the main office to reach their child. We will be talking to young carers over the next few weeks and working with families to ensure that a suitable arrangement for contact is in



Phone & Electronic Devices Update

place to support you both whilst ensuring the policy is adhered to. To support emergency contact, we will be reissuing our data collection form.

We are also aware that there is a very small minority of students who do not possess a phone and may not require a pouch. If this applies to your child, we ask that you write and inform us of this formally. You will then be provided with an online form to complete. Please be advised that if your child gets a phone at a later point, they will be required to get a pouch and parents will be liable for the full cost.

Implementation of Pouches

Over the final two weeks for the year, we will be holding information sessions with students about the implementation. This will give students an opportunity to see the pouches and how they are locked and unlocked. Students will be able to ask questions and provide suggestions to support with the smooth introduction. At the start of the new term alongside our planned launched pad days, students will receive their pouches, be given an opportunity to lock and unlock pouches and be briefed on the 'lock and drop' checking procedure. The school will be reviewing its records of students with underlying medical conditions that may require an alternative pouch. We will contact these families individually to discuss medical needs and establish whether an alternative pouch is necessary. To reiterate, these will only be supplied in exceptional circumstances.





Attendance Update

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%	170	0	0	Exceptional
2	98% to 100%	167	4	20	Strong Standard
3	96% to 98%	164	8	40	Expected Standard
4	93% to 96%	160	14	70	Needs Attention
5	90% to 93%	156	38	190	Urgent Improvement
6	Below 90%	155	40	200	Critical Action

Celebrating Success as Summer Approaches

It has been another exciting and successful week at school, with plenty to celebrate!

A huge 196 students in Years 7–10 achieved 100% attendance throughout June. The Amazon vouchers were handed out before the end of the day, so students who won from the ‘random wheel of names’ can spend their money before the holiday.

Although attendance is usually even higher, the school is proud of this achievement, especially as one year group has now left for the end of the school year.

Students also enjoyed the return of the popular Summer Games at lunchtime. The highlight of the week was the fun-filled water relay races, which brought lots of laughter, teamwork, and, of course, plenty of splashing!

Attention is now turning to the final 10 days of term. On Monday, the school will hold a special celebration event with Sporty Stars, where

Attendance Update

360 students will take part in a variety of inflatable activities. One of the most anticipated attractions is **zorbing**, and everyone is looking forward to seeing their friends take on the challenge.

Students who have been invited do not need to worry if they have misplaced their invitation. Everyone on the list will receive a **wristband** to help staff organise groups and ensure students are in the right place throughout the event.

Following Monday's celebration event, students can also look forward to our exciting **enrichment activities**, providing even more opportunities to learn new skills, work with friends and enjoy memorable experiences. With so much happening before the summer break, there are plenty of reasons for students to attend school right up to the very last day of term. The school is looking forward to finishing the year with enthusiasm, achievement and lots of fun.



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**CONGRATULATIONS
STUDENTS!**



**427,880
POINTS ACHIEVED**

SINCE SEPTEMBER

**How high can the total reach before the
academic year concludes?**



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Free Summer Reading

*First*News

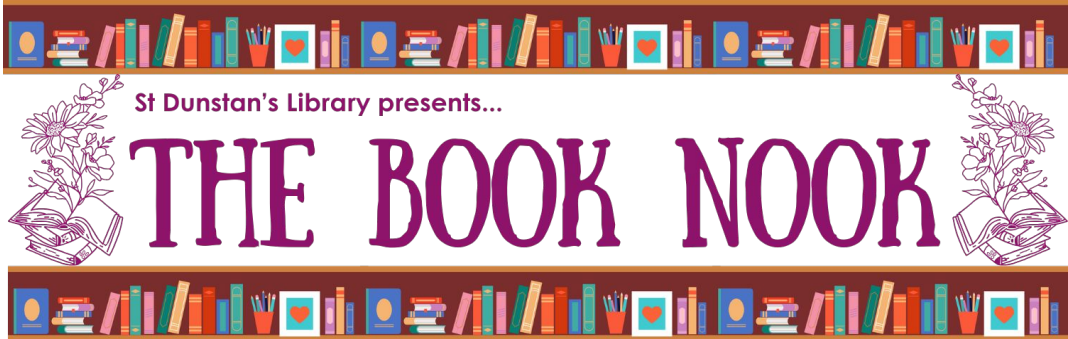
The First News Summer Reading Scheme is a **free initiative for all pupils** of subscribing schools (including us!) It gives them **full digital access** to our award-winning **children's newspaper**, games and puzzles via the First News app throughout the summer holidays.

The scheme helps children stay curious, informed and reading while school is out – supporting families and helping schools **reduce summer reading loss** with trusted, age-appropriate news and engaging activities.

Every pupil will receive an 8 week FREE full digital subscription to First News from 9 July to 4 September 2026, thanks to the National Year of Reading, including:

- Weekly 28-page digital newspaper
- Daily news stories available to read or listen to
- Weekly news quizzes
- Puzzles and word games (Wordie, Crosswords, Sudoku, and more)
- Interactive polls and competitions
- Full searchable access to the First News archive

[Our unique St Dunstan's Parent Sign-Up Link](#)



Loan Recalling

As we approach the Summer Holidays, the Library will be **recalling all library loans ahead of the break.**

Unfortunately we don't have the resources to loan books over the summer break as we lose too many, but we wholeheartedly encourage summer reading! Please use this as a reason to support our local libraries, like Glastonbury and Street, and get a free library card and keep reading over the holidays!

We ask that all library loans are returned before Friday 10th July so we can ensure the library remains well-stocked for September!

If you have lost a library loan, please replace it with a second hand copy, otherwise you will be billed full price at the end of the year.

Thank you for your cooperation. Books can be returned to the library, or to reception if the library is closed (Fridays).

Matilda Auditions

This week we had the pleasure of auditioning many hopefuls for our 2027 school production 'Matilda'.

For the auditions, students had to practice lines from the script and learn a song to sing as an ensemble.

We were absolutely amazed at the talented performers who attended the auditions and the sound of the ensemble piece was just beautiful.

Everyone who auditioned should be so proud of themselves... we are!



Glastonbury in Bloom

This week we were thrilled to be visited by the Mayor of Glastonbury and Mrs Marks, the Glastonbury in Bloom Committee Clerk.

They presented prizes for the winning designs from our school, for the Glastonbury in Bloom competition. This year's theme is "Kindness and the Community" with a colour theme of rainbow colours. Year 7 and 8 worked on these designs in their Art lesson with Miss Hart. Well done to our winners!



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Silver DofE Practice Expedition

After 3 days of route planning; tent erecting; water carrying; morale boosting; nature appreciating; footpath trekking; pasta cooking; reflecting upon skills and most of all, resilience and kindness, our Year 10 and 11 teams have done it!

We have been so impressed with how they have coped with the demands of Silver and to top it all, they have been brilliant to spend the time supporting.

We know they will enjoy their final expedition next month and they have learned lots to help it go smoothly when they are out on Dartmoor. Well done Teams!



Silver DofE Practice Expedition



Normandy Trip

A wonderful and very warm weekend well spent in Normandy with the Year 7 French explorers! From ice creams in Arromanches, shopping in Bayeux market and sightseeing at Bayeux Cathedral, thrill-seeking tobogganing, memorial visits to Pegasus Bridge and British war cemeteries and stepping back in time in the ancient Mont Saint Michel, Year 7s had a fantastic time and spoke a lot of excellent French!



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Normandy Trip



Career Talks - we need you!

Parents - we need you!

We would love to enrich our assembly programme to include career talks from as many different sectors as we can. We would like you to deliver a 15 minute assembly about entry into the profession and details of what the profession includes. If you would like to be involved, please respond to this google form and we will be in touch.

Many thanks in advance for any support you can give.

[Google Form - Parent Assemblies](#)

Thank you,
St Dunstan's



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Uniform Exchange

We are keen to replenish our stocks for our uniform exchange scheme in order to support families with growing costs, as well as our environment.

We are gratefully accepting:

- Blazers, ties, and plain navy V-neck sweaters.
- Trousers, skirts, and school shoes.
- All items of PE kit.
- Revision guides and stationery equipment.

If you have any items, please drop them in to our reception at any time. We will contact you later this term with dates and times for the summer "Exchange Days" where you can source items for the next year. Please note, this is for all families to access.

Thank you for your support.

UNIFORM EXCHANGE SCHEME



SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMPS



STRODE COLLEGE
23RD JULY, 13TH,
17TH - 21ST, 24TH - 28TH AUGUST

5-13 YEARS
9AM-3PM





**DELICIOUS LUNCHES
AND SNACKS**



**FUN SPORTS LIKE
FOOTBALL,
DODGEBALL, AND
MORE!**



SUMMER CRAFTS



NO COST
**



**Funded by
UK Government**

BOOK ONLINE AT [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/YUHMx86R](https://tinyurl.com/yuhmx86r)
OR SCAN THE QR CODE.

** NO COST FOR THOSE ON BENEFIT RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS

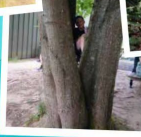


Activity Calendar

**Community Inclusion
and Activity Team**

Summer Holidays
23 July - 28 August 2026

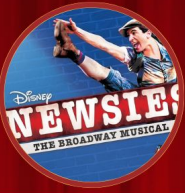




For ALL children and young people in Somerset with a disability or additional needs
*You DO NOT have to be referred to any service to access these activities, unless otherwise stated.

Summer Musical Theatre WORKSHOP

SINGING | ACTING | DANCING





Friday 24th July
9:00AM – 12:00 PM



Studio Sofia,
Unit 1, The Guard House,
Guard House Lane, Wells,
BA5 1GD

Ages 7-14

A fun, high-energy workshop exploring the 3 key disciplines of Musical Theatre

£20 PER CHILD

for more information email:



brunasofia.dancecompany@gmail.com

LOTS OF SUMMER FUN!!



KILVE COURT SUMMER ACTIVITY DAYS!!

Looking for some fun things to do this summer?
Look no further!!!
Kilve Court have Children's Summer activity days running throughout August!!
Ages 7 -14

VISIT SSEOUTDOORS.CO.UK TO FIND OUT MORE!

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2024



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ENROLMENT NOW OPEN

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secretary@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk



01458 832943



Wells Road, Glastonbury, BA6 9BY