

St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY



Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

Dear Families and Parents,

This weekly newsletter serves as your essential guide to supporting your child, providing a central place for key dates, event details, and school information. Please take a few minutes each week to read through these updates to ensure you do not miss a thing.

A huge well done to our students who competed in the Youth Speaks Competition last weekend. The choice of topics, quality of arguments, and sophistication of delivery were all brilliant; while I know the team was disappointed to come a very close second, they represented the school with immense talent. You have made us all very proud!

St Dunstan's School also continues to produce some excellent future chefs. Congratulations to Lily on achieving second place in the MNSP Young Chef of the Year competition. We were all thrilled to receive reports of how she wowed the judges with her exceptional culinary skills and creativity.

Furthermore, I would like to share another "well done" with our Year 11 students, who have now completed another week of mock exams. Staff have commented on how proud they are of the commitment and focus shown during "Power Hour" and throughout their lessons. We understand that this is a demanding time, but please keep up the good work as you head into the final week of mocks. We look forward to sharing the outcomes with students and families shortly.

Over the coming weeks, we look forward to sharing more highlights from this academic year. If you have any "good news" stories or student achievements from home that you would like us to celebrate, please feel free to reach out. Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Balkwill', located below the 'Best wishes,' text.

P. Balkwill

Headteacher

Truth

Resilience

Ambition

Community

Kindness



Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

Key Dates

Thursday 12 March- Year 7 Parents' Evening

Friday 20 March- Red Nose Day- arrangements to be shared in coming weeks

Wb 23 March- French Speaking Exams (final trial)

Thursday 26 March- Year 10 Mock Interview Day

Thursday 26 March- Year 11 Information Evening

Thursday 2 April- End of Term

Wb 13 April- Year 11 Easter Revision sessions

We would like to make all families aware of two additional INSET days, which will be taking place in July 2026. Thursday 16 and Friday 17 July 2026 will now be INSET days, with the school closed to students on these days.

Important Information

Parent View

If you have not had a chance to complete the parent survey sent out in February, please follow the link below to share your views.

<https://forms.gle/D1m66Y4cKD6QvQwz7>

Uniform

As we move into spring, we would like to remind families of our uniform expectations. Students are expected to wear their blazers while moving around the school site and when entering lessons. Once settled in the classroom, students are welcome to remove them. Please be advised that the V-neck jumper is an optional item; we encourage students to remove their jumper if they are too warm, rather than their blazer.

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.



Discover the benefits of consistent attendance

PERFORMANCE

Consistent attendance leads to improved academic performance and higher grades over time.



TEAMWORK

Regular attendance fosters better teamwork skills, enhancing group dynamics and collaboration among peers.

RELIABILITY

Consistent attendance builds a reputation for reliability, making you a valued member of any team.

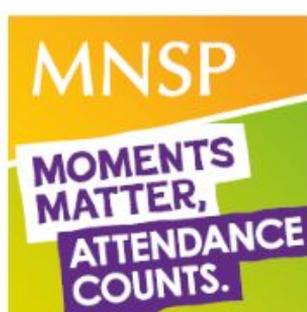


BE PRESENT

Commit to showing up for success and growth.



Your attendance shapes your future!



Weekly Attendance Update

What does my attendance look like so far? Term 4 Week 3

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%	110	0	0	Perfect
2	98% to 100%	108	4	20	Excellent
3	96% to 98%	107	8	40	Good
4	93% to 96%	102	14	70	Requires Improvement
5	90% to 93%	99	38	190	Concerning
6	Below 90%	98	40	200	Persistent absence

Keeping the Momentum Going: Why the Next Few Weeks Matter

The first two weeks of the term have been very positive, with strong attendance across the school. It's always encouraging to see students returning with energy, focus, and a willingness to get stuck into their learning. A good start sets the tone for the weeks ahead, and we are grateful to families and students for helping to make that happen.

The "Week Three" Challenge

In many schools, the real challenge begins after this initial period. The first couple of weeks are often the easiest: routines are fresh and motivation is high. Historically, **weeks three and four** are when attendance can begin to dip. The initial excitement wears off, energy levels drop, and the pressure of work becomes more noticeable.

This is exactly why the next few weeks are so important. Consistency is the secret to student success. Every lesson builds on the last, and regular attendance helps students stay confident and on track. Beyond academics, pushing through these "lulls" helps students develop **resilience**—a life skill that extends far beyond the classroom.

Weekly Attendance Update

New Attendance Rewards: Friday Prize Draws

To celebrate those who keep their momentum going, we are launching an exciting rewards window over the next three weeks!

- Maintain 100% attendance from Monday to Friday.
- Every student with 100% attendance for the week will be entered into a prize draw.
- We have **60 prizes in total** to be won!
- Draws will take place every Friday for the next three weeks.

We are proud of the positive start students have made, and we want to keep that energy high. By maintaining good routines and continuing to prioritise attendance, students give themselves the very best chance to succeed.

Thank you, as always, to parents and carers for your continued support in helping students attend school every day and arrive ready to learn.



MNSP
MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.

MIDTERM MOTIVATORS!



To celebrate and award good attendance in weeks 3-5 students with 100% will be entered for the following prizes in a weekly draw:

Friday 13th March- Cheesy Chip Friday- 15 Winners 

 **Friday 20th March**- Donut Day- 30 winners

Friday 27th March- Easter Egg Giveaway- 15 Winners 

A prize draw will take place every Friday morning. All students with 100% attendance each week will be included.

Turn Up, Stay Committed, Be Celebrated!

St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY



On Track Update

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!



307,000 POINTS ACHIEVED

SINCE SEPTEMBER

Let's get to 350,000 by Easter!

KEEP UP THE AMAZING WORK!



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MNSP Young Chef of the Year



This week Lily proudly represented St Dunstan's at the MNSP Young Chef of the Year finals competition, held at Writhlington School.

Twelve talented Year 9 students from across the MNSP Trust competed, each selected for their outstanding menu designs. The brief was to create a seasonal dish that showcased both technical skill and culinary finesse. Lily has spent time working tirelessly at home, refining and perfecting her dish in preparation for this moment.

The day also included an inspiring culinary masterclass delivered by professional chefs from La Rocca in Cheddar and Ravello in Bradford-on-Avon. Students enjoyed watching the preparation of a beautifully presented scallop and pancetta dish, followed by a rich chocolate fondant dessert.

For her final dish, Lily prepared a Korean favourite, Tteokbokki and Garaetteok served with pickled radish, demonstrating confidence, creativity, and flair.

Lily should be incredibly proud of her achievement. Her dish received nothing but praise and admiration from the judges, with comments that it would not have looked out of place in a high-end restaurant..

The judges faced an exceptionally difficult task in selecting a winner, as every competitor delivered an outstanding performance.

Lily achieved second place. She has won a masterclass at La Rocco and will cook for her family, a £50 voucher for Wake the Tiger in Bristol and a bag full of goodies including a signed cookbook. What a remarkable accomplishment, well done, Lily!



MNSP Young Chef of the Year

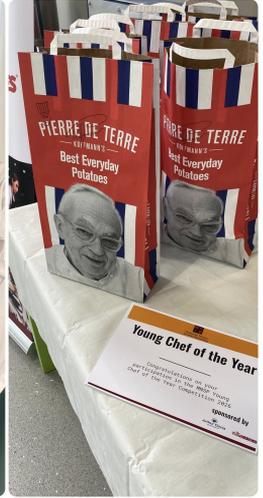


Treokbokki and Garaetteok with a Pickled Radish Garnish



MNSP
Somerset Norton
Schools Partnership

Young Chef of the Year
Sponsored by



Young Chef of the Year
Sponsored by



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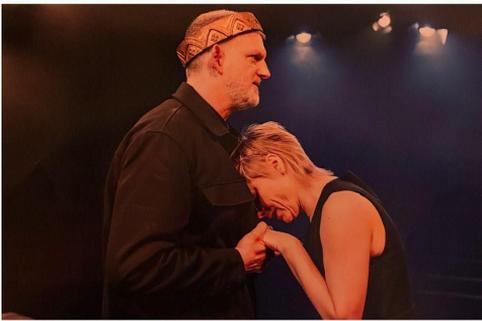
Macbeth Trip



Year 11 enjoyed a wonderful afternoon watching Macbeth at the theatre this week.

Set in the brilliant Tobacco Factory theatre in the round, students were entertained by a really refreshing and vibrant version of the play. Staying loyal to the text throughout, but with its own signature stamp, this performance was exactly what our students needed the day before their English Literature mock exam tomorrow! In addition, it was lovely to spend the afternoon watching live theatre.

As always, our students made us proud with their conduct and enquiring questions about the staging. What a great way to spend a Tuesday afternoon.



Year 11 Leavers' Hoodies- Last Chance!

Our online shop closes on **Sunday 8th March 2026** (with a little wriggle room over the weekend!)

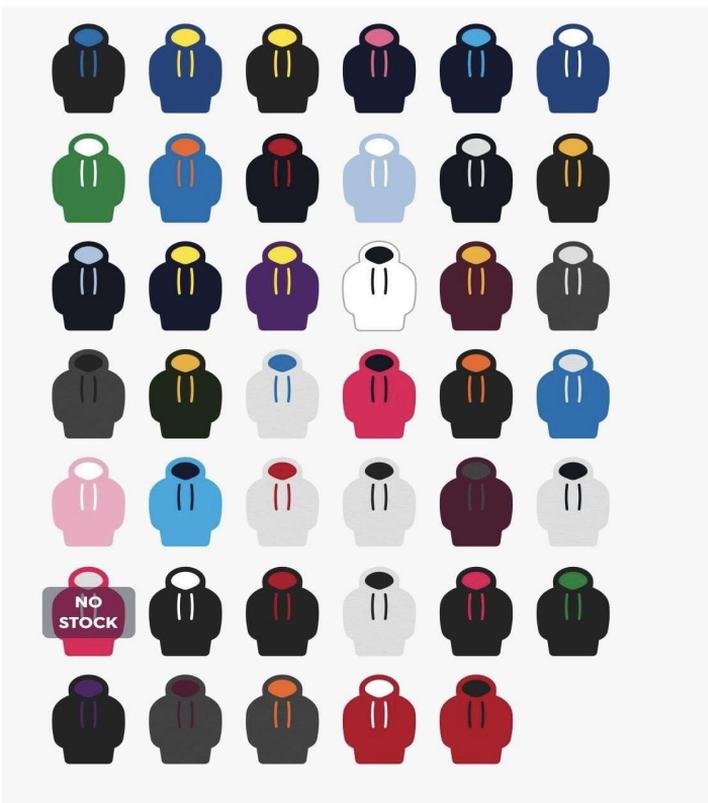
At the moment, **33 hoodies** have been purchased... but we need **50 orders** for the supplier to go ahead with production. That means we still need **17 more orders** or unfortunately the whole order will have to be cancelled

These hoodies are a brilliant keepsake of Year 11 and students will be able to wear them in school on Fridays

Please check your emails/ Tutor Google Classrooms for the shop link and place your order before the deadline.

If cost is a barrier, please do not hesitate to speak to **Miss Kench** in confidence — we may be able to offer some financial support. We would hate for anyone to miss out

Let's make this happen, Year 11!



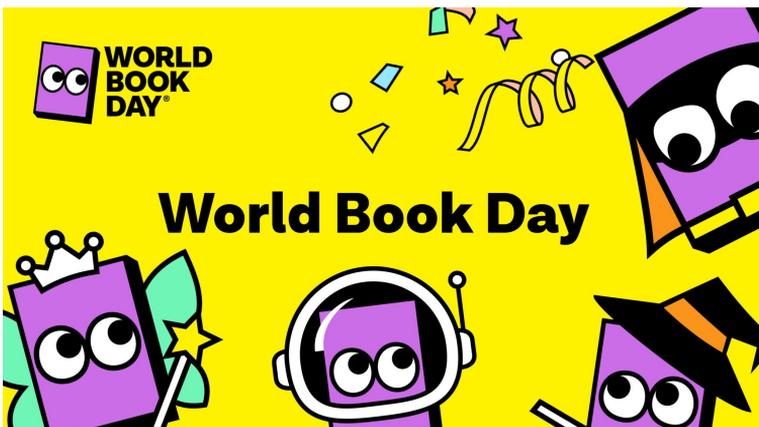
St Dunstan's Library presents...

THE BOOK NOOK

Thursday 5th March was World Book Day!

This year we celebrated World Book Day with some library activities at break and lunch including custom word searches, book star creations and page lanterns, and a shelfie quest around the school (guess which member of staff owns which bookshelf. Clues included in the photos of course!) It was brilliant seeing students running around asking staff what their favourite books were and taking notes.

The library also hid 26 wrapped books around the school (since it is 2026!) for students to find and keep as a little gift to celebrate reading. Thanks to book donations we were able to spread a bit of literary joy amongst the students. It created so much excitement as everyone hunted high and low, and all the books were found! It was a fantastic treasure hunt.



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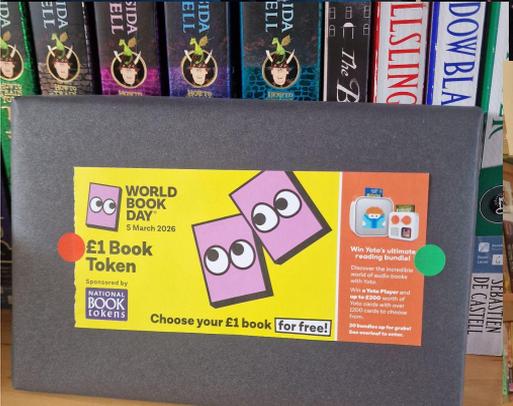
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St Dunstan's Library presents...

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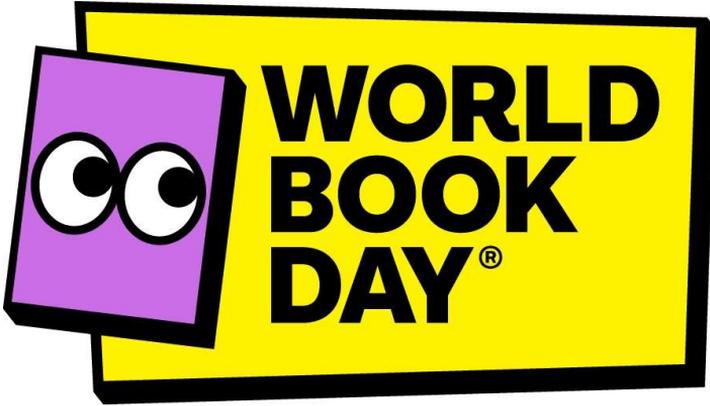
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St Dunstan's Library presents...

THE BOOK NOOK



World Book Day Poem

By Ellis in Year 7

World book day is great!
It shows the joy to read,
This day is special...
It sprouted from its seed.

Its leaves shine bright,
In the sun of books,
Its joy is everywhere,
In the crannies and crooks.

Its blossom is powerful,
Its petals of joy,
Its stalk of pages,
Here for every girl and boy.

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Youth Speaks



We were so proud this weekend to accompany our fabulous team to Taunton School, for the district final of Rotary Club's Youth Speaks Competition.

Proudly taking 2nd place, our team debated the pros and cons of AI. To see young people speaking so eloquently on such topics, to a room full of adults, was awe inspiring and testament to their hard work and commitment to the competition.

We are already planning our debate for next year and we know this team will be back to develop their skills even further. Well done team!



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Quiz Night



Thank you to all who attended our quiz night hosted by our fabulous PTA last weekend.

It was an excellent event filled with challenging questions, collaboration and laughter. The questions focused on a range of subjects such as general knowledge, music and food. Even the quiz masters learned a thing or two!

It is always lovely to welcome the community through our doors and we especially like it when ex students make up a team too.

The winning teams were Giggles Not Glory, who steadily held a good place in the rankings throughout the competition. They were joined by the top ex student team, The Goats.

All events put on by the PTA benefit our children and we are lucky to have such a proactive group of parents who work hard for us. They are always looking for new members to lend a hand so, if you think you could help, please get in touch with our school reception team.



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Local Events



JOIN FOR **FREE**

NOTHING TO PAY UNTIL 15TH MARCH

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

10-15 yrs old

- ✓ Enjoy unlimited gym access during our supervised sessions to train independently, or visit anytime alongside a parent or guardian.
- ✓ Approved exercise classes
- ✓ Unlimited general swimming
- ✓ Ongoing support from trained and friendly staff
- ✓ Safe and welcoming environment.

Available at:

- Frome Sport and Fitness
- Strode Pool & Fitness Centre
- Wells Sport and Fitness
- Tor Sport and Leisure



Scan the QR code and enquire today

Build healthy habits from a young age



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Local Events



HAPPY HEALTHY HOLIDAYS... IS BACK FOR EASTER!

4 SESSIONS PER CHILD ONLY

Exciting activity clubs for children aged 5 - 16, who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals across Somerset



GET A BOOKING CODE FROM YOUR SCHOOL

BOOKINGS OPEN ON 2ND MARCH



FOOD INCLUDED!



Find and book FREE local activities by visiting: www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays or scan the QR code!





Local Events



MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP

Wonka

featuring

Jenny Legg

**Assistant Choreographer
on the Wonka movie**



AND



**West End Director
Tolley Angell**

**Friday 10th April 2026
King's College, Taunton**

**Ages 5 - 18
9am to 4pm**

**Free demonstration for families at the end of the workshop.
£40 per child (£35 per additional sibling)**

Singing, Dancing, and Acting!

**To book your place,
email tolley.angell@yahoo.co.uk**





Local Events



YOUTH SIGN ON

— 2026 SEASON —



Wednesday 1st April



6:30pm



Victoria Club,
Street

PRELOVED KIT SALE

Donations welcome

YOUTH TEAMS

★ U11 • U13 • U15 • U19

★ New players welcome

★ All abilities welcome

**Bring a
friend!**



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