



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Associate Principal



5th November 2021

Hello Stantonbury families

I hope you are well and enjoyed a restful half term.

It has been wonderful seeing the children move to their lessons across the site this week. As promised, we have stepped out of our year group bubbles and have allowed the students to travel to each of their lessons. Teachers are finally back in their own classrooms, teaching next to their colleagues waiting with their retrieval tasks, our 'Do Nows' to complete in silence as your child arrives. I would like you to pass on my thanks again to your child for how well they have responded to the new expectations around effective starts to lessons, uniform checks, and our drive on punctuality as they traverse across our large site every lesson.

BE HERE

At the end of last term, we invited Ben Everitt MP, MK North to our school to see first-hand the improvements and progress that we have started to make. This is Ben's response.

I was delighted to meet so many of engaging and enthusiastic students from Stantonbury when I visited last month. It was lovely to see how passionate they were about some of the campaigns they were working on including supporting the homelessness, how to improve cultural relations and plenty of other issues. I'm confident the future of Milton Keynes is in good hands with the impressive young people I got to speak to. It was also extremely pleasing to see the focus the school is putting on supporting children with their mental health. The last couple of years have been an incredibly difficult time, especially for young people being kept away from their friends and the classroom environment for so long so a focus on mental health is very good to see.

COVID

We have been informed by the Director of Public Health at Milton Keynes Council that the following measures must be put in place from Monday 11th November:

- ✚ Masks must be worn in all buildings unless in a lesson
- ✚ Masks to be worn in the Deli/Diner unless sat down eating
- ✚ All students need to wear coats as windows and doors will be open to allow ventilation (No Hoodies)
- ✚ If someone in the household tests positive for COVID the recommendation is that the student needs to take a Lateral Flow test every day for 7 (seven) days
- ✚ Assemblies will be remote
- ✚ Any visitors to the school site will need to always wear a mask
- ✚ Students should be testing every Monday and Thursday as per our previous guidance

Please see the attached letter for all the advice provided from the Director of Public Health.

Below is a link to some advice about vaccinations from the Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi.

https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2021/10/25/education-secretary-writes-to-parents-about-vaccinations-for-12-to-15-year-olds/?utm_source=28%20October%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Punctuality

As part of our drive on punctuality this half term we will be sending a late text message to parents to inform them if their child has arrived late to school in the morning so you can support us and have the challenging conversation with your child as to the reason why.

WhatsApp

Recently there have been several incidents related to the misuse of WhatsApp groups. We would like to remind parents and children that the minimum age for using WhatsApp is 16 or over. We urge all parents to keep an eye on their child's mobile phone or online activities involving social media. The children are constantly reminded that they must tell a parent / adult if they receive anything inappropriate from any application.

As a school we strongly advise you to remove the chat groups involving other children as this can cause issues in and outside of school.

For a parent friendly guide please look at <https://parentinfo.org/article/whatsapp-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

BE READY

REPORTS

This half term, we will start to publish reports using the Go4Schools platform. If you've not yet set up your Parent account on our "Go4Schools" platform, please click on www.go4schools.com and use the email address that we have registered on the system for the site to link you to your child's account.

Winter weather plans

We ask all students to bring a warm, waterproof coat (No Hoodies) to school as students are now moving regularly around the site. As we enter winter and the weather turns more unpredictable, there may be times when we need to enact our wet weather plan. During the break and lunch times, we actively encourage students to be outside in the fresh air, however, in cases of particularly wet or extreme weather, we will direct students inside their year group buildings, where our duty supervisors will move indoors to supervise students. All students will also be able to access the toilets when required.

Key dates

Staff Training days – please note that there are two staff training days in November.

Friday 12th November

Friday 26th November

BE LEARNING

Children in Need

The Children in Need charity was created to make sure every child in the UK is safe, happy, secure and has the opportunities they need to reach their potential. Children in Need support children and young people affected by a whole range of disadvantages such as poverty, disability, illness, distress or trauma. They also work with a range of partners to tackle some of the most pressing issues such as mental health and wellbeing, violence impacting young people, child sexual exploitation, holiday hunger, access to employment, and social injustice. Whether you join in with our fundraisers or raise money your own way please can we donate as much as possible. At school from 15th - 19th November we will have small events across the week at break and lunch time with the big finale on the **Friday!**

Food Bank

The Food Bank relies entirely on donations of food and money from local schools, churches, businesses, organisations and individuals and every single item or penny given makes a difference. This year Stantonbury would like to help donate as much as possible to our local community. For the month of December, we would like students to bring in a donation. Please bring all donations to the Portway office and hand to Miss Farley

Donation ideas include

Long life juice or squash

Long life milk

Biscuits

Cereals

Pasta sauce

Tinned tomatoes

Tinned fruit

Tinned meat

Tinned fish

Dried rice in 500g or 1kg packets

Spreads – jam or peanut butter

Small packs of chocolate or sweets (chocolate oranges, matchmakers, tubes of smarties, fruit pastilles etc are perfect)

Tubs or bags of Christmassy snacks like twiglets, mini cheddars or nuts

Mini versions of Christmas cakes or stollen

Enrichment

Please see attached the updated clubs list that we would like you to promote with your child. Numbers at clubs are increasing weekly and as you can see, we offer a wide range of opportunities, but if there is anything that isn't currently available that your child wants to get into please ask them to let their Form Tutor know and we will see what we can do.

Year 7 Football

Congratulations to our Year 7 girls Football team who beat Kents Hill Park 11-1. We are very proud!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the fireworks!



Ben Wilson

Ben Wilson
Associate Principal

