



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Associate Principal



3rd December 2021

Hello Stantonbury families

I hope you are all well as we enter the start the festive season.

BE HERE

Christmas kids club

If you are wondering how you're going to entertain your little ones over Christmas without having to brave the cold, or you have last minute Christmas shopping to do then sign them up for our Christmas kids club. We are running kids club for three days in December: 20th, 21st & 22nd December. Lots of great festive Christmas activities planned. For enquiries or to book please call reception - 01908 324466.

Face Masks

As a school we are supporting the latest Government update on the wearing of face masks which is now mandatory for secondary school children in the open areas of buildings. We ask that you support us with this and ensure your child has a face mask to wear in school. If you have informed us that they are exempt from wearing a mask they have been issued with a lanyard to wear.

Testing

Thank you to all families who have been home testing. We are all looking forward to a fun and safe Christmas break. On our return in January the government asked for all students to be tested once on site before education resumes.

As a school we are aware that students have missed enough of their education due to the current pandemic, so we have looked at the most efficient and effective way for all our students to be tested so we start the term ensuring all our students are well and safe. Similarly, to other Milton Keynes school all students will use the home testing kits in school on the first day back, Thursday 6th January, during lesson 1. We have conducted a full risk assessment, devised strong protocols and procedures to ensure the safety of all students and staff and consulted with other schools who are already using this approach.

In preparation for this day, we plan to use the next two weeks to also use the home testing kits in school. Students will test in school on Thursday 9th, Monday 13th and Thursday 16th December during tutor time. If a positive result is recorded, the student will be reassured and asked to leave the room and isolated in our designated space. We will contact families immediately for the student to come home and the advice is to go for a PCR test as soon as possible.

If you wish child to opt out of this testing please fill in the attached form and email to alyson.taylor@stantonbury.org.uk by 15:15 on Tuesday 8th December.

Please note students do not need to home test over the Christmas break but if they develop symptoms you are advised to book a PCR test as soon as possible. Please email any positive results to enquiries@stantonbury.org.uk

Food bank

Christmas time is the season of giving, and we're always overwhelmed by the generosity of the Milton Keynes community to others who may not have as much. This year could see a particularly difficult winter for many more families and individuals, with the removal of the Universal Credit uplift and the end of the furlough scheme as well as soaring energy costs. Because of this, we've decided to focus our 2021 Christmas Appeal on reaching as many people as possible, stocking up cupboards with essential items, as well as some Christmas treats!

As a school we want to support the food bank and our community, if you feel you wish to donate something to the cause please see the attached for further information. Thank you in advance for your support and contributions.

BE READY

Last day of term

The last day of term Friday 17th December will be a half day for students, and they will finish at the end of period 3, 12:20. Further details will follow in the coming weeks.

Parents evenings - reminder

We have confirmed that the annual parent's evenings for each year group have been scheduled as follows:

Year 11	Thursday 13 th January 2022
Year 13	Thursday 10 th February 2022
Year 11	Thursday 10 th March 2022
Year 12	Thursday 17 th March 2022
Year 9	Thursday 31 st March 2022
Year 7	Thursday 9 th June 2022
Year 8	Tuesday 14 th June 2022
Year 10	Tuesday 5 th July 2022

These events will allow families the opportunity to discuss progress with their child's specific subject teachers. All appointments will be conducted via the SchoolCloud platform, and families will receive specific information regarding how to set up appointments a minimum of two weeks in advance of the event. We will write to year 11 parents during the week beginning 6th December to confirm arrangements for the year 11 parents evening in January 2022.

Behaviour and Achievement Go4School - Reminder

This week families have been able to see all the achievement and behaviour entries our staff have made. On Friday evening you will all receive an email with a summary of your child

achievement and behaviour points recorded this week. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's Form tutor in the first instance.

BE LEARNING

Careers

Network Rail: Tomorrow's Engineer Final Event

Friday 26th November 2021, The Quadrant:MK

Our six intrepid finalists gave up their INSET day to participate in a day of engineering and STEM quizzes and activities.

The students from Key Stage 3, all acquitted themselves well throughout the event and came away with Certificates of Appreciation, presented to them by Martin Jones, Chief Engineer of Network Rail. One of our Year 7 students was awarded a commemorative shield to recognise his personal progress throughout the in-school event and the final event, along with his impressive level of engineering knowledge, demonstrated by the complex questions he asked Martin Jones and other members of the Network Rail team.

A Year 9 student shone through as a natural group leader in the 'Leaves on the Line' activity. Autumnal ice and wet leaves are a real-life issue for Network Rail and students learnt about current technologies and solutions used. This activity saw our students experimenting with wet and dry active ingredients to come-up with a mixture that was able to provide good friction, clean leaves away from railway tracks and, maintain conductivity. After correctly deducing that a mixture of hair gel and sand worked best, the group managed to beat the drag/friction achieved by the Network Rail team.

Ozobots are desk-friendly coding robots, the second key activity was for students to design a railway track that included two stops, a change of line, a visit to a railway siding, a level crossing, a slow and a fast section of track and two stations. Our students had great fun designing and coding and their efforts were repaid when their design worked, with an Ozobot navigating the track as planned.

A tour of the impressive Quadrant:MK was enjoyed by all; it in itself is a work of engineering excellence.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE?

The Sleep Charity has launched a brand-new National Sleep Helpline to ensure that everyone has access to high quality, evidence-based advice. Does your child suffer with sleep issues? Do you struggle with your child's bedtime? Will your child not sleep in their own bed?

HOW CAN THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE HELP YOU?

- Run by a team of specialist trained sleep advisors
- Offer you some practical strategies and recommend services that could help
- Ensuring you understand how sleep plays an important part in your child's mental health and wellbeing

For more information, please see our website.

Library Newsletter

Please go to our website for this month's On the Shelf. Well worth a read!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Take care

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Wilson". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Ben Wilson
Associate Principal

