

Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 13 December 2024

Here are the latest school messages and updates for your information.

MESSAGES		
School	Whole School	As per our upcoming events below, school closes at 1230 for Christmas holidays on Friday 20 December.
School	Whole School	Please find the letter from Mr Humphreys with regards to SKYFund. Thank you to those who have made contributions, this is gratefully received. We have been able to set up this on ParentPay if you would like to also donate that way, please click on "view".
School	Whole School	Please take a moment to read through our communication guidelines with school .
Mr Sugden/ Mr Dawes (on behalf of the Year 11 Social Committee)	Whole School	<p>The Y11 Social Committee are hosting their first fundraising event for their Prom: A Christmas Bake Sale on Wednesday 18 December outside SSO.</p> <p>Please note the new token system through Parent Pay, previously communicated, cash is also welcome on the day.</p> <p>This is a student-led fundraising attempt and all proceeds will go towards ensuring our industrious Year 11s receive the joyful send-off they deserve after their GCSE examinations. Thank you in advance for your generosity and continued support of our Year 11s.</p>
Finance	Free School Meal Families	<p>Free School Meal Vouchers January 2025</p> <p>I have been informed by North Somerset Council that we are to issue £50 of Wonde vouchers from the Household Support Fund based on the free school meal list as at 16th January 2025.</p> <p>Please note that these are not holiday vouchers and Bristol City Council fund vouchers at different times for Bristol Schools.</p>
Finance	Whole School	<p>Parentpay One-Click Payments (Bank Transfer)</p> <p>Parentpay is encouraging parents to use this payment method rather than card payment. As a school we do not like this as potentially a transaction can fail several days later causing lunch accounts to go overdrawn. The direct debits take 3 working days to set up before a payment should be attempted. The transaction can then take another 4 days to show on your bank statement. We would recommend continuing with card payment as these transactions are pre-authorized. This can be done by skipping the first page asking you to set up a One Click payment then selecting the 'Add To Basket' button and then 'Other Payment Method' button.</p> <p>Low Balance Alert</p> <p>This week we have had a lot of students come to the Finance Office with no money on their lunch accounts.</p> <p>Please set an alert up on Parentpay so that you get a warning if your child's lunch account balance is low.</p> <p>Go to Communication, Alert Settings, Balance Alerts, Threshold - input £5 and tick email box. Email notifications are free.</p>
School		<p>Menus from January 2025</p> <p>Please find here our three week menu from Innovate as of the new year.</p>

School	Whole School	<p>Mental Health and Wellbeing Support Over the Festive Period</p> <p>It is difficult to believe that we are fast approaching the end of the year and for many of our students and their families 2024 has been a challenging time due to heart breaking events across the world and tragedy closer to home and in our communities. It is therefore understandable that for many, the end of the year and Christmas brings up complicated emotions.</p> <p>These organisations are available to support those of us who are struggling and they are available to access over the festive period. In addition, Kooth has created a video that contains some important signposting.</p> <div style="background-color: #f0e6ff; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><u>Childline</u></p> <p>Open 24/7 for under-19s, call 0800 1111 or chat online.</p> <p><u>Mind</u></p> <p>Their four helplines are open during the daytime Mon-Fri (except 25-26 Dec and 1 Jan).</p> <p><u>Samaritans</u></p> <p>Open 24/7 for all ages, call 116 123</p> <p><u>Shout</u></p> <p>Text SHOUT to 85258 for support over text message, open 24/7 for all ages</p> </div>
School	Whole School	<p>Mobile Phones</p> <p>We have had concerns in school this week about unkind comments and inappropriate content being shared by children outside of school on group chats. We have been grateful for the support from families when we have dealt with these concerns and we will continue to work together to educate children and keep them safe.</p> <p>With this in mind, we know that many of our children may have a mobile phone on their Christmas list this year.</p> <p>If you are thinking of giving your child a new phone, or their first smartphone, please help them keep safe online by setting up parental controls. Guidance on how to do this can be found at the UK Safer Internet Centre here. We ask that parents and carers regularly check their children's messages, images and Apps to make sure that they are safe and acting responsibly online. The UK Safer Internet Centre recommends having a family agreement that sets out what is acceptable in your home.</p> <p>Additionally, there is advice for parents about age appropriate Apps and we would not expect any children to have social media on their phone if they are not old enough according to each platform's terms and conditions.</p> <p>Please remember that as a school we have a strict mobile phone policy of 'not seen and not heard'. If a phone is seen or heard at school then it will be confiscated for 24 hours (a full weekend if this occurs on Friday). Phones must be off and in bags, not in pockets. Phones in pockets will be confiscated even if they are not in use.</p>

School	Whole School	<p>Free School Meals</p> <p>If you think you are entitled to claim a free school meal benefit because of your income or circumstances it's essential you apply. For each eligible child, the school receives funding for the next six years, even if their parents go back to full-time paid work. You can apply to North Somerset here. If you have any queries or would like the school to support you with your application please contact reception.</p>
School		<p>Free School Meals</p> <p>If your child is entitled to a free school meal they can receive breakfast in the canteen before 8.30. They will be able to choose from the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 pieces of toast with jam • fresh fruit with a juice drink • porridge with honey/syrup with a juice drink • cereal with milk • 1 crumpet with jam.
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Year 7	<p>Here are the practical lessons taking place next week for the following classes. All ingredients are set on Classcharts. Any problems, please let Miss H Smith / Mr Brochot know.</p> <p>Thursday 19th December - 7L - Pizza toast Thursday 19th December - 7R - Pizza Toast</p> <p>Please bring an apron and an airtight container to take your food with you.</p>
Ms Wild	Year 7&8	<p>All students in years 7 and 8 follow Accelerated Reader and are expected to have quizzed their books by now. Ask your child if they have quizzed, or when their next quiz is. For more information about Accelerated Reader, see this parent guide, and any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact wylldl@skdrive.org or wildi@skdrive.org.</p> <p>And, the Christmas holiday is the perfect time for your child to get stuck into a really good book - please remind your child to pop into the library and borrow extra books to last for the holidays.</p> <p>Plus, the school holidays are a great time to try out something new. If your child hasn't tried audio books yet, join the public library here for free, and download the Borrow box app, where they can listen for free. Please note, parental guidance in choosing suitable listening material is always important.</p>
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Year 8	<p>Here are the practical lessons taking place next week for the following classes. All ingredients are set on Classcharts. Any problems, please let Miss H Smith / Mr Brochot know.</p> <p>Monday 16th December - Year 8L - Cheese and Onion Pasties Tuesday 7th January -Year 8R - Cheese and Onion Pasties</p> <p>Please bring an apron and an airtight container to take your food with you.</p>
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Year 10	<p>Here is the practical lesson taking place next week for the following class. All ingredients are set on Classcharts. Any problems, please let Miss H Smith / Mr Brochot know.</p> <p>Tuesday 17 January - Year 10A - Burger Practical</p>

Please bring an apron and an airtight container to take your food with you.

Ms Tallis	Year 11 Art GCSE	<p>Students must complete all targets for both coursework projects before Tues 7 Jan when we start the exam project.</p> <p>This final exam project makes up 40% of the art GCSE grade & can make the difference between one grade & a higher one with hard work & commitment.</p> <p>Please continue to support your child to complete all art coursework targets by Tues 7 January.</p>
Mr Davies	Year 11	Mr Davies apologies that, due to illness, the year 11 course consultation meetings arranged for this week have been postponed. Affected students should please keep checking their emails from an updated meeting slot - the aim is to complete all of these before the end of Term 2.
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Year 11	<p>Here is the practical lesson taking place next week for the following class. All ingredients are set on Classcharts. Any problems, please let Miss H Smith / Mr Brochot know.</p> <p>Wednesday 18th December - Chocolate Yule Log as per recipe handed out.</p> <p>Please bring an apron and an airtight container to take your food with you.</p>
Mr Sugden	Year 11	Please encourage your children to refill their water bottles before/after school and during social time only. Students cannot compromise their punctuality by refilling water instead of getting to lessons promptly. This has been communicated to students in tutor time and they will be reminded of this in the new year also. Thank you for your continued support of our punctuality drive.
School	Year 12	Year 12 Health and Social Care students will have an external exam on the 10th of January 2025.
Mr Davies	Year 13	Students have been given the timetable for this year's January Exams, which include both external exams in vocational subjects, and internal (mock) exams in all other subjects. This is an extremely important process, and the only opportunity Year 13 will have to practise before their final summer exams. Find the full timetable at this link .

LETTERS - click [here](#) to see all letters

SPORT - click [here](#) to see updates via our X page or [here](#) for the PE @ SK calendar

WHAT'S ON NEXT WEEK!

PE Fixtures, Events, Clubs & Practices



Week 7 of 7: Monday 16 December – Friday 20 December (Week 1)

Dates and times for boys' and girls' fixtures & events (**bold**) as well as clubs and practices (*italics*) for this week. Details are always subject to change – please follow @StKathsPE on X for the latest information. Students can also login to Slack using their SK account details.

Day	Before or During School Hours	After School Hours
Monday	<i>LUNCH Daily60: Indoor Football</i> 9 Boys Rugby Tournament AWAY – leave 1145, return 1600 apx.	7 & 8 Indoor Cricket Trial Match (invite only) – finish 1730 apx.
Tuesday	<i>ARRIVAL Taught 9, 10 & 11 Strength & Conditioning</i> U14 Girls Football v Bucklers Mead AWAY – leave 1220, return 1730 apx. 9 Girls Netball Tournament AWAY – leave 1220, return 1615 apx.	9 Boys Basketball Tournament AWAY – return 1800 apx.
Wednesday	<i>ARRIVAL Open Strength & Conditioning</i> <i>LUNCH Daily60: Indoor Rowing</i>	9 & 10 Boys Basketball v Churchill HOME – finish 1715 apx. <i>9 Boys Rugby [1700]</i> <i>10 & 11 Girls Hockey [1630]</i>
Thursday	<i>ARRIVAL Taught 7 & 8 Strength & Conditioning</i> <i>LUNCH Daily60: Dodgeball</i> 9 Boys Rugby v Churchill HOME – finish 1600 apx.	7 & 8 Boys Christmas Wacky – finish 1700 apx. Girls Christmas Netball – finish 1630 apx.
Friday	<i>ARRIVAL Outdoor Running Club</i>	<i>Christmas Badminton & Table Tennis [1400]</i>
Weekend	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>



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UPCOMING EVENTS - TERM 2

18 Dec	New this week 1220-1400 Y11 Festive bake sale, tokens available on ParentPay or cash on the day
19 Dec	1220-1400 Christmas lunch, Canteen
20 Dec	END OF TERM 2 - School closes at 1230

UPCOMING EVENTS - TERM 3

6 Jan	INSET DAY
7 Jan	START OF TERM 3
22 Jan	1600-1900 Y10 Virtual Progress Evening
22 Jan	0835-1505 Y8 HPV vaccinations
27 Jan	0845-1000 Coffee with the Headteacher
27 Jan	0835-1505 Y9 Future Brunel WECA activity day
28 Jan	0835-1505 Y8 Future Brunel WECA activity day



3 Feb	Y10 BSO Concert, St Michael's Centre
3 Feb-6 Feb	0835-1505 Y12 Geography Field trip, Slapton Ley
12 Feb	1800-1930 Y9 Options Evening
15 Feb	Ski trip, Sestriere, Italy departs