



Nether Stowe School

Be Respectful. Be Ambitious. Be Resilient.

24 May 2024

Parental Update

Dear parent/carer,

As the half term draws to a close, I wanted to thank parents who have worked with school to ensure that your child attends regularly and engages with life at Nether Stowe School. To ensure that you are prepared when we return to school on the 3rd June 2024 I wanted to share with you some information as well as clarification around school standards and expectations.

Staffing Update

Mrs L Norman

I would like to congratulate Mrs. Norman on her successful promotion to the position of Assistant Headteacher, Behaviour and Culture. Mrs. Norman brings a wealth of experience as this is a role she has undertaken successfully in her previous school. You will be hearing more from her about the plans she has to drive forward the culture of our school.

Mr W Dransfield-Scott

Mr Dransfield-Scott will be leaving us at the end of this half term to seek new opportunities. We would like to thank him for his commitment and support to many of our students over the years. We wish him well for the future.

Key Dates

Firstly, I would like to share with you some key dates for your diary:

3 rd June	School Opens at 08:30 for all pupils
6 th June	Year 10 Parents Evening (15:20 – 17:50)
13 th & 14 th June	KS3 Reading Tests
13 th June	Year 8 Parents Evening (15:20 – 17:50)
W/B 17 th June	KS3 Assessment Week (Core Subjects)
18 th June	Year 10 Geography Field Trip
25 th /26 th June	Year 6 Transition Days
28 th June	Year 13 Prom
2 nd July	Year 12 Transition Day
5 th July	Staff Training Day – School Closed
10 th – 11 th July	School Show
12 th July	Sports Day
17 th July	College winners afternoon
19 th July	School Closes for the Summer Break

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Parental Feedback

As a school, we always welcome feedback from all stakeholders. We have recently received communication from some parents regarding a few of our school policies. We would like to share three policy areas with you including the Mobile Phone Policy, Access to Toilet Facilities and Summer School Uniforms.

Mobile Phone Policy

Over the last 10 years, the development of the Smart Phone has opened up a wealth of opportunities. Unfortunately, children do not always know how to regulate themselves with this. This sometimes poses safeguarding risks in school, as well as a distraction to teaching and learning. This has been recognised by government and they have issued guidance which supports the current policy we have in place. If you would like to find more out about this guidance, you can do here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65cf5f2a4239310011b7b916/Mobile_phones_in_schools_guidance.pdf

Access to Toilet Facilities

Students are in school for 6 and a half hours a day. We make the toilets available at 7 different points during this time. For those students that have a medical reason, we allow additional access to them. For medical exemptions, please refer to a letter which was sent out earlier this year. You can find it here:

<https://netherstowe.staffs.sch.uk/files/2023/11/Toilet-Passes-Nov-2023.pdf#toilet-passes-nov-2023/>

Summer School Uniforms

We have all been impacted by the 'Cost of Living' over the last few years. For some parents in our school community, it has been a very difficult time and the cost of providing one set of uniform a year is a challenge.

The student leadership group requested that we look at ways we could help them be cooler in school. To this end I have taken the decision to amend our approach to warmer days this year. On a planned warmer day, we will communicate with you the night before that students may attend in PE kit. The PE kit must be full Nether Stowe PE kit and not ad-hoc items of clothing or footwear. Nether Stowe leggings and hoodies will not be appropriate due to the warmer weather. Students who do not have PE shorts or PE skirts can wear school trousers or school skirts.

Access to Water Facilities

As the weather has started to get warmer, we have noticed a number of students asking for cups from the office. I would like to remind parents that a water bottle is part of the school equipment list in order to support health and hygiene. Furthermore, there is an increase in the number of students that are not taking the opportunity to fill their bottles up at lunchtime. Instead, they are missing valuable learning time wanting to fill water bottles up. I ask that parents remind their children that they use the time at lunch to fill their bottles up. The water fountains are turned off at the end of lunch to encourage students to get to lesson on time.

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School Uniform

The half term break provides an opportunity for parents to ensure students are equipped with the right uniform so that they can meet the standards we expect from all of our community. Please take the time to ensure your children have the right pieces of uniform, ready for the start of the final half term.

[School Uniform and PE Kit – Nether Stowe School](#)

Home/School Communication

We ask that parents always support decisions taken by the school when talking to their children. If you do feel that you need to talk to us about our decisions, we welcome positive discussion and communication. We welcome the opportunity to listen to your comments and clarify any aspects of our policies and procedures. Should you wish to meet with a member of SLT or Pastoral Leader, please feel free to contact the school to arrange an appointment. We kindly remind you that should parents arrive at school without an appointment, it is likely there may not be a member staff available to see you.

Finally, I wanted to share with you the positive effects that our rewards system has on the school community. We had a target to ensure that for every 1 negative event recorded by a member of staff, there were 3 positive events. Our students have exceeded this and we are now awarding 5 positive events for every 1 negative event. We will continue to make strides to ensure that we increase this ratio as it is important that we recognise that the vast majority of students behaviour well, every day, in every lesson.

Yours faithfully,

A Shaw

Mr A. Shaw
Acting Headteacher

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