



Dear Sturminster Newton High School Community

As we approach the Easter break, I would like to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to everyone. May this Easter be filled with joy, peace, and cherished moments with your loved ones.

I express my gratitude to all of you for your dedication and commitment to ensuring that Sturminster Newton High School remains a happy and successful place for our students to learn and grow. Your hard work and passion are truly appreciated, and it is because of your collective efforts that our school continues to thrive.

I have immensely enjoyed working at the school and witnessing the achievements of our students. From their successes in sporting endeavours to their generosity in fundraising for causes like Comic Relief, our students consistently demonstrate their exceptional character and compassion. Additionally, I have been delighted to see our students taking advantage of the many extra-curricular trips and opportunities provided by the school, enriching their educational experience and broadening their horizons.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the parents for their ongoing support and guidance. Your partnership with the school is invaluable, and together, we can ensure the success and well-being of our students.

At the end of this term, we bid farewell to two incredible members of our school community. Firstly, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to David Harris, our Deputy Headteacher, who has dedicated many years of service to our school. David's contributions have been invaluable, and his presence will be greatly missed. We wish him a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement, filled with joy and relaxation.

Secondly, I would like to congratulate Sarah Broughton on her new role as Head of Computing at Shaftesbury School. Sarah has been a dedicated member of our staff, and her passion for teaching and learning has had a positive impact on our students. We wish her the best of luck in her new endeavour, and we are confident that she will excel in her new role.

As we bid farewell to David and Sarah, let us take this opportunity to reflect on the profound impact they have had on our school community. Their dedication, leadership, and commitment to our students' success have left an indelible mark, and we are grateful for their contributions.

Once again, I extend my warmest wishes for a happy Easter and a wonderful break. May this time be filled with rest, rejuvenation, and moments of joy. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Sturminster Newton High School.

Warm regards

Donna London-Hill

Newsletter - Easter 2024  
[www.mysnhs.net](http://www.mysnhs.net)



## Sixth Form News

### Careers

As part of our ongoing careers program the 6<sup>th</sup> team took the entirety of year 12 to attend the BIC careers fair earlier in the month. 6<sup>th</sup> forms Joe had this to say about the experience. This is part of a month which included talks from a local CEO and an Apprenticeship expert, and we're preparing for next years visit to the Bournemouth UCAS

*'The BIC careers fair has lots of opportunity for people looking for all kinds of futures. Many companies offered talks and information from the NHS to hairdressing businesses. However, if you are looking for an apprenticeship to sign up for you may find difficulty as we are out of catchment for many of them. Colleges and universities offered information about their courses and campuses. If you're looking for somewhere to gain inspiration for your future career then it is certainly a good opportunity but as said before if an apprenticeship is what you're looking for you may want to look elsewhere.'*

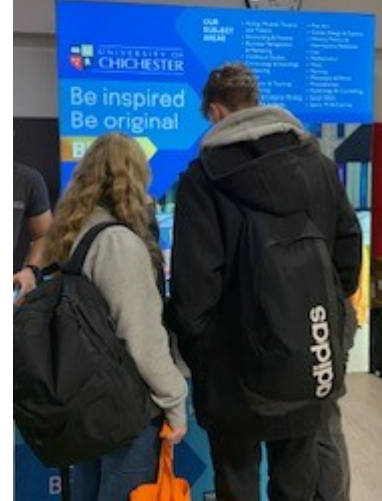
### Prom Fundraiser

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March our Sixth Form held 'Tom Day', a celebration of student Tom's utter commitment to monochrome simplicity.

Organised by the Sixth Form Student Leadership, and unknown to Tom himself they were able to coordinate almost the entire Sixth Form to pay homage to a humbler sense of style.

The ode to Johnny Cash was also in aid of the Sixth Form Prom, which has brought in an impressive £75, including a generous donation from Tom's own family who themselves took part in the day.

Prizes were also awarded, judged by Tom, for the Best Tom, and Most Tom Tutor Group, won by Ben and 12PD respectively.



### UCAS Discovery Day

Yesterday year 12 headed to Bournemouth University for the UCAS Discovery Day, UCAS Discovery events offer a one-stop shop for prospective students to explore University options in one setting. This year students were able to talk to around 100 universities from across the UK and beyond.

Over this term, year 12 have had the opportunity to explore, discuss and investigate options at The BIC Apprenticeship & Careers Fare, along with a talk from The ASK Apprentice programme giving them loads useful information about their next steps.



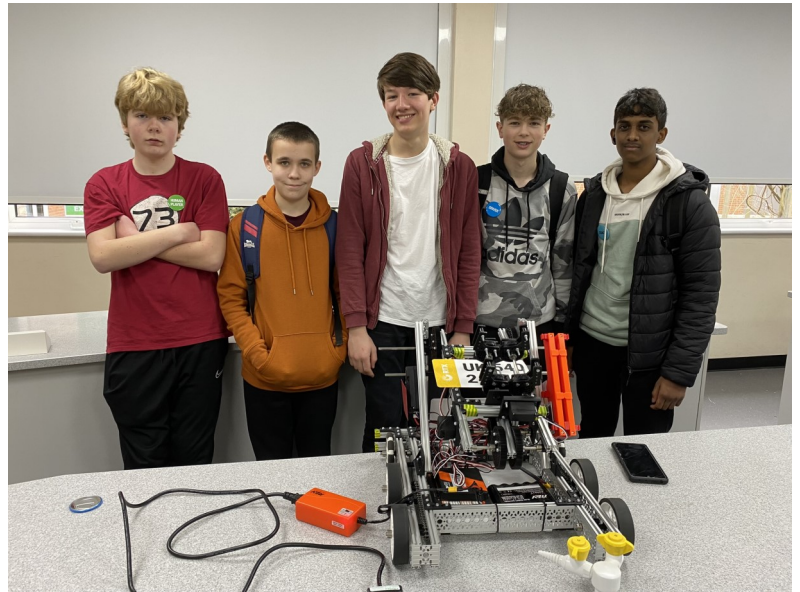


## SNHS Robotics

### First Tech Challenge UK

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March, a team from Sturminster Newton High School took their robot ('SturBot') to the First Tech Challenge UK SW Qualifying Tournament at Bournemouth School for Girls.

As first time competitors in the challenge, this had been the culmination of many weeks of hard work over lunchtimes and after-school robotics club to design, code and refine their robot. Showing resilience and determination, they embraced the technical challenges of the event. This included navigating around a course collecting hexagon shapes and their drone launch, an inspiring design using 3D printing, which sadly couldn't defeat the more experienced robots on display.



They faced stiff competition from over 15 other schools, in both the design of their robot and the pursuit of valuable points for navigation and driving success. The team came away with plenty of ideas for a more refined and polished entry at next year's challenge. Congratulations to the team on such an impressive entry – we're looking forward to their efforts next year!

### First Lego League Challenge

Following this, on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March, the Sturminster Newton High School 'Hexagons' competed against 7 other schools in the First Lego League Challenge in Exeter. Ten of our students in years 7 and 8 worked tirelessly to design, build and code their Lego robot 'Hexy', from conception to implementation. Their commitment and determination over the preceding weeks developed their resilience and proved an excellent team-building exercise. As they prepared to take on the challenges of navigating their robot through its moves, they displayed their robot and innovation projects to a panel of professional engineers, who were very impressed with their knowledge and presentation skills.





## Robotics Cont.

This challenge ignited their passion for problem-solving; developing valuable communication and collaboration skills along the way. Their efforts were rewarded with the award for best robot design and are already planning how to develop next year's entry! Well done to everyone involved.

### Coding Roadshow

Working in collaboration with Twin Science, a sustainability-focused STEM company, Students from across SAST schools are taking a coding and robotics roadshow out to local primary schools to help run sustainable coding workshops.

Over the summer term, a group of Year 7 students will head out to our local primaries as they take over from Shaftesbury School students. We're incredibly proud of the work our students do to share their enthusiasm for coding and robotics and look forward to hearing all about their adventures in these workshops.





## Year 7 Textiles News

Students Leo and Benjamin reviewed their work on Pushy Pals

*'First, we designed a few ideas of how we are going to make our Plushy Pal. We created our templates on card and then we cut it out. We pinned the templates to the fabric. Cut out the templates onto the fabric using fabric scissors. We used either the sewing machine or hand stitching to add details. While we were doing that, we would perform quality control checks. Sewed the main body together. If we finished, we would extend our range by designing more Plushy Pals or accessories.'*



## Red Nose Day... By Student Lilly

### RED NOSE DAY

This year, for Red Nose Day, Sturminster Newton High School hosted a range of activities to try and raise money for comic relief: a worthy cause, we can all agree. Many students (and teachers!) added to the total amount of money raised for charity. In total £526.27 was raised.

Many events were held to try and raise money, such as: sponge the teacher, a cake sale, lucky dip, wheel spin and Nintendo Switch against the teachers. Sponge the teacher was a huge success, we must say a massive thank you to Mr Roca, Mr Mattocks and Mr Petit for getting wet sponges and freezing buckets of water lobbed at them! Another event that was held was a cake sale, thank you to Mrs Phipps and Miss Goodliff for baking tasty treats for the students to tuck into. The wheel spin (though incredibly noisy) was great fun to watch. Students would spin the wheel in anticipation of what prize they would win; well done to the lucky students who won the biggest of the prizes on display. Lucky dip proved to be a hit, with many pupils reaching into a massive container full of shredded paper, to pull out their prizes. Finally, Nintendo Switch against the teacher brought lots of friendly competition between the students and the participating teachers. In addition, the non school uniform day that was held was a great way to bump up the total amount of money raised.

Red Nose Day at Stur was a huge success, everyone had a great day; all of the activities held were great fun to participate in and witness. And most importantly, money was raised for the amazing charity who support local community organisations and brilliant change-makers here in the UK and across the globe: comic relief.



## News from the Science Department

It has been an exciting Spring Term in the Science Department. Many of the Y11 students started the term with a series of A level taster lessons in Biology, Chemistry Physics and Environmental science. They got a glimpse into how our sixth form lessons worked and worked successfully alongside our current sixth form students as they look towards the next step. Y11 have had the opportunity to attend after school revision sessions to consolidate their learning and to support their mock exams, (as well as the real thing in June of course!). We still have the opportunity to order revision guides for students who have not yet purchased theirs.

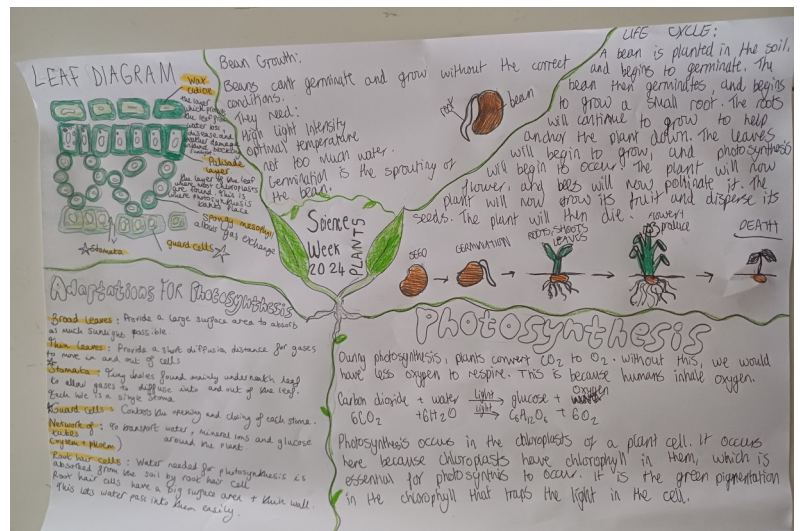
Year 10 have been continuing with their GCSE courses investigating reaction times, forces and rates of reactions. Y10 exams are the first week back, so the focus towards the end of term has been revision techniques and revisiting content from the start of their course.

Students in Year 9 have been investigating energy and have enjoyed experiments to find the best insulating material and the specific heat capacity of different metals. They have also taken a trip through the human body, looking at the digestive system and completing experiments to determine the nutrients in our food and how enzymes work at different pHs.

Sixth form have been advancing their knowledge on their A level courses. Year 12 Chemists have been learning the basics of organic chemistry, as well as getting to grips with the many different practical skills required. Our Physicists have been exploring electrical circuits and the properties of the components that make the circuits. They have also benefitted from taking part and planning lots of circuit building during practical tasks. Biologists have moved outside onto the school field in the warmer weather to conduct sampling using quadrats and transects. They have also enjoyed a resurgence of the 'Great Biology Bake Off' where they take it in turns to bake or decorate cakes with a Biology theme.

A highlight for the department every year has to be Science Week. This year all students in Year 7 and Year 8 took part in a national 10-day celebration of all things Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. We used the theme of 'Time' to look at how long it took for broad beans germinate and grow under different conditions. They also took part in virtual experiments to look at the rate of photosynthesis and they producing some outstanding posters to showcase their investigations. A couple of students in Year 8 even worked out the speed at which their broad bean was growing! We hope students enjoyed taking home their own infant broad bean plant at the end of the week. Hopefully they will grow into mighty beanstalks!

We look forward to welcoming back our students after the break.





## Library News

There were some amazing decorated windows to be seen following World Book Day. From Miss Havisham to The Gruffalo, there were a variety of genres covered and some recommendations for everybody. Participating rooms were judged and certified with all being commended in some way. Well done to everyone involved in creating these fabulous literary features.

## Students Visit BETT

A selected few students joined other SAST students on a trip to the BETT Show in London. We are so pleased that they enjoyed their time there so much.

“For me, the best part of the BETT show was the Esports and hardware section. I found it the most interesting, because the company's presenting their software let everyone test it out, featuring games like rocket league, Valorant and Aim Labs. I found it very interesting because they were also explaining the specifications of the computers and other hardware. It was an overall great experience!”

“A part of the trip I liked was when I saw a robot that you had to guide to the finish line of a racetrack using your finger. I assume the robot would have had movement and/or heat sensors to detect the finger and enable it to move around. Thank you for taking us on the trip.”

I really enjoyed seeing all the ideas and products that were being made. There was a lot of VR, which I thought would have been prohibitively expensive for education, so it is good to see that technology is getting cheaper as well as better. My favourite part was the ExCeL centre itself.”





## Sporting News

### YEAR 11 FINAL FOOTBALL MATCH

Year 11 boys had their last ever game of football for the school last week. They played against the Gryphon and it turned out to be a great game with all taking part in a very competitive and sportsmanlike manner. Thank you so much to Connor and Riley-Jay for managing the team. Stand out performances came from Oscar and Tom who were always a threat in attack.



## Year 11 Basketball

The Year 11 SNHS basketball team had an incredible game against Gillingham. After 40 minutes of play it went down to the wire with Jacka pulling off a last second three pointer! The team worked really hard and pulled together extremely effectively in defence and attack against a very good opposition.

## Year 7 Football

Year 7's played again last night, this time football against Gillingham. Great game played in some difficult conditions but the team played so well together, linking up in attack and putting some strong tackles in in defence! Man of the Match was Edward who was a nightmare for the opposition to defend against, flying down the right wing and crossing the ball in with venom! He also captained the game extremely well. Other stand out players were Alex and Meme in the midfield and Finn upfront.







## Sports News Cont.

### Year 7 Rugby

Year 7's had an amazing game of rugby against King Arthur's this week at SNHS. It went right down to the wire with both teams battling it out bravely. All players played well but special mention goes to Louka, Dan and Harley for stand out performances. Harley scored four tries!



### North Dorset Dodgeball Championships

On Tuesday 12 March two teams of boys, from Year 8 and 10 travelled to Gillingham for the now traditional North Dorset Boys Dodgeball Championships.

Teams of 6 face off against each other in 5 x 2 minute games, with the aim of hitting your opponents whilst avoiding being hit yourself. Players can also eliminate opponents by catching their throws.

Although highly competitive this is very much an event where sportsmanship and the way you play is as important as the result. The SNHS players worked hard in their teams and supported each other and their opponents, winning and losing with a smile on their faces.

Year 8 ( Harry, Samuel, Edward, Toby, Callum, Adam ) came third Year 10 ( George, Chase, Jake, Finn, Ivo, Rob) came fourth.



### Year 10 Football

Year 10 football team travelled to The Gryphon for a friendly fixture. After a number of drop outs and players unavailable for various reasons the team was not at full strength. Wet and miserable conditions greeted the team but the game was high spirited and well contested throughout. Unfortunately the SNHS team were on the wrong end of a 5 goal thriller. Special mentions to Charlie J for stepping in at the last minute to make the 11th player and Charlie H for playing in goal. SNHS team: Freddie, Charlie J, Cam, Ben (capt), Charlie H, Liam, Josh, Max, Fin, Harry, Henry.





## Ten Tors Training Diary

### 9th & 10th March 2024

The weather conditions were very challenging and unfortunately we were unable to camp out as planned. We managed to take shelter in a village hall for the night, the groups still had to cook their evening camp meal on the Trangia's. It was an early start on Sunday, waking at 4am. The groups started off in the rain but by mid morning the rain had eventually cleared and we even had some sunshine which raised everyone's spirits. The groups covered just under 30 miles over the weekend.



### 24th & 25th February 2024

The training team would like to congratulate all who took part in the Dorset Camp, it was a hard two days walking, especially with the challenging weather conditions on the Sunday.

On Saturday the three teams started walking from Povington Hill, taking in Kimmeridge, St Aldhelms Head, Windspit, Dancing Ledge and finishing at Leeson House in Swanage where the teams pitched their tents in the grounds, they had covered just under 14 miles. The weather had been kind and stayed mainly dry and sunny, except for a few short showers. After cooking their meals on Trangia stoves it was an early night ready for an early start on the Sunday.



After rising at 5am the teams made their breakfast and took down their tents, they left the site in dry weather with their first checkpoint at Worth Matravers, taking in Corfe Castle. By midday

the weather had changed to heavy rain. Two 35 teams were taken off the route after completing just under 10 miles and the 45 team after completing just over 12 miles due to the deteriorating weather conditions.



## Ten Tors Training Diary Cont.

**11th February 2024**

At the beginning of the Half Term break seven members of the training group walked a section of the South West Coastal Path from Lyme Regis to West Bexington, covering just under 17 miles carrying full personal kit and team kit. Well done to all who took part as this stretch of the coast is quite challenging.



visibility and strong winds, the mist finally lifted early afternoon with sunshine and cloud but the strong winds continued. It was a slightly shorter walk starting at Anthony Stile taking in Okement Hill, Steeperton, Hound and finishing at Shilstone.

**27th & 28th January 2024**

Training went well and the group covered just under 20 miles. We had an overcast day on Saturday with good visibility but a cold wind, starting at Holmingbeam and taking in Little Miss, White Barrow, Standon Bridge, Wilsworthy and finishing at Nodden Gate. The day finished with a hearty meal of chicken korma, jacket potatoes and nan bread and a mixed fruit crumble with custard.

Sunday started off misty with limited

visibility and strong winds, the mist finally lifted early afternoon with sunshine and cloud but the strong winds continued. It was a slightly shorter walk starting at Anthony Stile taking in Okement Hill, Steeperton, Hound and finishing at Shilstone.

**13th & 14th January 2024**

This was the first weekend that the team were carrying all their kit. We finally had a dry weekend, although it was bitterly cold it was quite firm underfoot, which made walking in the area between Great Kneeset and Row Tor a lot easier as this is normally a very boggy area. The group covered just over 21 miles over the weekend.





## School Council Parliament Report By Student Noah

On Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of March, the School Council were lucky enough to go on a trip to Parliament in London. After an early start, we got on the train at 6:40 am (we were all grateful for the Quiet Carriage!) and arrived in Waterloo at eight.

When we finally got through the airport-style security of Westminster, we were treated to a tour of Parliament – including being able to stand in the (in)famous green and red benches – as well as being shown how each House works and how a bill is made, with real-life examples. Some of us even met a member of the House of Lords; Baron Roberts of Llandudno!

Finally, we were given the opportunity to debate a bill of our own choosing. After a tough argument on whether or not kids should get free bus passes, we voted (under the expert leadership of Ruby in Year 10) to pass the measure.

After Westminster, there was just enough time for us to get some retail therapy in Covent Garden via Whitehall and have a quick look around the British Museum before we had to get on the train back to Gillingham. A good time was had by all!



## TEDx Shaftesbury 2024

On 9th March 2024, Sturminster student Noah Davidson took part in TEDx Shaftesbury.

Students were invited to apply during the autumn term and the line-up included speakers from six different SAST schools, young people from across the UK, as well as international speakers from Sweden and Switzerland.

Noah submitted a video of his proposed talk on 'The ultra-processed problem (and how to solve it)' and beat stiff competition to gain a coveted place on the TEDx stage. After many months of rigorous preparations, Noah spoke fluently and passionately about his subject.

This has been an fantastic opportunity for Noah and his success is testament to his hard work and determination to develop his skills as a speaker.

Huge congratulations to Noah on his success and thanks to his mentor Kaye, for guiding and supporting him on his remarkable journey. We are all incredibly proud of Noah's achievements and look forward seeing him flourish!



**TEDx**  
Shaftesbury Youth

9th March 2024

Noah Davidson is a 15-year-old student at Sturminster Newton High School who recently qualified as a Young Health Champion by the RSPH.

He is interested in geopolitics, economics, and how the two are intertwined; he is a member of the School Council and also volunteers as a Student



STURMINSTER NEWTON  
HIGH SCHOOL





*Unlocking Potential for Our Community*

## School News

Keep up to date with sports fixtures, notices and everything else you need to know on our Facebook and Instagram page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Sturminster-Newton-High-School-571299693043661/>

<https://www.instagram.com/sturminsternewtonhighschool/>



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Term dates for the whole year are in both your child's Planner and in the Essential Information Booklet for Parents and Students, please note that these dates are subject to change)

W/B Monday 15th April	Year 10 Exams Week
W/B Monday 15th April	NEA Exams
W/B Monday 29th April	MFL Speaking Exams
Thursday 2nd May	Year 10 Parents Evening
Friday 10th May	Ten Tors Event Weekend
W/B Monday 10th June	Year 12 Mock Week
Thursday 13th June	Year 7 Parents Evening
W/B Monday 24th June	Year 7, 8 and 9 Exams
Wednesday 26th June	Sixth Form Prom
Thursday 27th June	Year 11 Prom
Tuesday 2nd July	Awards Evening
Thursday 4th July	Sports Day
W/B 8th and 15th July	Year 10 Work Experience
Thursday 11th July	Year 6 Induction Day
W/B Monday 15th July	Activities Week
Wednesday 24th July	Last Day of Term 13:00 Finish



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Term dates for the whole year are in both your child's Planner and in the Essential Information Booklet for Parents and Students, please note that these dates are subject to change)

## 2023 - 2024 SNHS School Dates

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Other School Event
Parents Evenings
School Holidays / Bank Holidays



Correct at time of production.