



# THE STONEHENGE

## SCHOOL

### Weekly Newsletter

Issue No. 5 | 13th October 2023

#### UPCOMING DATES OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Fri 13th  
Matilda

Fri 13th  
Year 9 Geography Trip to  
Portsmouth

Wed 18th  
House Day/MUFTI

Wed 18th  
Final day of term

Thurs 19th to Fri 27th  
Half Term

Mon 30th  
TD Day

Tues 31st  
ALL Students return

#### November

Wed 1st  
Girls DofE training

Thurs 2nd  
Boys DofE training



#### Headteacher's message.....

This week we have had the opportunity to showcase our new building by holding our production of Matilda. This was the first true moment where pupils have been able to fully utilise the lecture theatre environment with the new quality of lights and sound that are available in order to show off their full creative talents. This has been the first musical that the school has held in years, with the drama and music departments working together in order to develop pupils acting and singing abilities. The different casts should be incredibly proud of their efforts. They have worked tirelessly, as have numerous staff members to ensure its success, especially Mr Woods and Mr Rogers the heads of Music and Drama. We hope that any of you who had the delights of watching the show fully enjoyed it.

The local primaries were invited to an afternoon matinee of the production on Wednesday and we had a lovely message from one of them to say: "On behalf of Amesbury Primary School, can I thank you for a fantastic performance of Matilda. Our pupils were awarded this treat from Years 4,5,6 for most points for good behaviour. They loved it and as you may have heard were singing along to some of the songs, as those in our choir had done some of these as part of a Musicals Medley. A fabulous treat."



Year 7 parents had the opportunity to come into school for their Year 7 settling in evening, allowing for an oversight of their attitudes to learning demonstrated so far. We hope that for those of you who attended you were able to gain the sorts of information that you wanting about their starting points, and also had the opportunity to explore anything else that you needed to discuss with your child's tutor.

Before we break up for the half term this week, may I thank you all for helping to support the school so far this academic year. We always have lots of positive conversations from some very supportive parents, and it is great to build those types of links between us.

It is worth being aware that we have had some severe staff absence this week, and that there may be some instances of emails and phonecalls that have gone to various staff that have not been answered. Can I ask that you have a sense of patience where some staff are going to be returning to work and will have to catch up on a range of things, and to have an awareness that in order to keep the school open and functioning for all year groups through the week many staff have been covering other people's roles, and therefore may not be on top of their own workloads. It is possible that this may not happen before the half term holiday. Obviously this is not ideal, but thank you in advance for your understanding.





On behalf of the cast, crew, and entire creative team, Mr Rogers and I would like to thank each and every member of the audience for helping us to finish our Matilda journey. We are very grateful for your support - you are just as vital as our characters, stage crew, lights and sound. I hope you have enjoyed the show, it was a pleasure to witness the true impact of the creative arts and see the lasting memories being formed for our young people. They have worked to such a professional standard and have filled me with pride. I hope to see you soon at the Christmas concert for more fun, talent and skill.

Mr Wood





We politely request that parents do not allow debt to build up on their Parent Pay accounts. When your account becomes overdrawn, you will receive a notification class charts to advise you of this. We request that this is cleared the next day in order for us to continue to allow your child to use the canteen. If your debt is not cleared by the following day, you will need to send your child with a packed lunch.


Parents should also ensure each day that their child is aware of the amount of funds they have on their Parent Pay account. This is due to the number of students queueing for food and we are no longer able to provide this information during busy break and lunchtime services.

Please make sure any top ups are done well before break as at times the information may take a while to feed through and will therefore not necessarily show up on the tills.

We are looking to purchase some electronic balance checkers that will be situated at various points around the school where your child can check their balance.

If you feel your child is overspending on a daily basis then please contact the school and we can arrange for your child's limit to be capped.

Mrs Wakeham  
School Business manager



### **Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze Award Ceremony**

We were proud to present bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Awards to 15 of our year 10 pupils at our first Award Ceremony last Thursday. Through their resilience, perseverance and great organisation, these dedicated pupils completed all 4 sections of their Award (volunteering, physical, skills and expedition) within one year. It has been a pleasure to see the personal development of these pupils throughout the year as they have gained new skills, overcome challenges and made a positive difference to our community and environment.

Look out for their bronze Award badges on their blazers. We look forward to seeing more DofE badges on lapels in the future - silver Award registration is open until 19th October for all year 10 pupils.

Congratulations to Olivia, Abigail, Robert, Camron, Jonas, Ellie-Anne, Josh H, Amy, Adam, Josh M, Charlie, Niyara, Erin, Oscar and Katie.



On our return in September we came back to some sad news. Two of our Year 9 boys had been diagnosed with cancer during the school holidays. One of them, has had to undergo Chemotherapy as part of the treatment and the side effect of this is that he has lost his hair.

In order to show our support and solidarity with him, myself, Mr Randall and some Y9 students will be shaving their heads during the Y9 assembly on Wednesday 1st November 2023.

Please help us to raise some funds for him, whereby it will allow him to choose how the money will be used, whether this is for a treat, a donation to charity or a combination of both.

We feel that it is important to support him to ensure that he feels that our community is thinking of him and anyone else who has faced this battle.

Mr Briggs  
Progress Leader Year 9



**HOUSE DAYS**

Next Wednesday is the first of our House days for years 7-10. The day will offer a range of House activities for the students to enjoy so that they have the opportunity to take part in House challenges, feel a sense of community and have fun. On this day, students are expected to wear sports MUFTI. Part of the day will involve a PE challenge, so they need to be comfortable.

Year 11 will not be part of these activities, but will be spending the day with the English department preparing for the poetry section of their exam. They are invited to wear any MUFTI they feel comfortable in, as long as it's appropriate for a school environment.

The charge for all students to wear MUFTI will be £1; payments to be made on Parent Pay. The money will be split between the school's charity, Dogs Trust, and to help support the costs associated with The Big House Day Out in July. More details of this to follow soon.

Mrs Blake  
Assistant Headteacher



## The importance of regular school attendance

Evidence shows that securing excellent attendance at school is an essential foundation of raising pupil attainment and is key to ensure positive outcomes for children and young people. Absence from school can seriously disrupt pupils' continuity of learning. Missing lessons leaves students vulnerable to falling behind, creating gaps in their learning, and diminishing their self-confidence. Not only do they miss out on taught lessons, but many children find it difficult to catch up academically and socially when they return to school.

95% attendance equates to half a day off every two weeks for a whole year.

90% attendance equates to a day off every two weeks for a whole year.

85% attendance equates to one and a half days off every two weeks for a whole year.

80% attendance equates to one whole day off every week for a whole year.

A secondary age pupil whose attendance is 80% will have missed **one whole year** of education by the time they leave school.

Good attendance habits must start from the earliest stages of education. Research shows that children who regularly miss school in Reception class will most likely go on to have poor attendance at secondary school and are five times less likely to achieve five strong passes at GCSE. We also know that poor attendance at school can lead to poor emotional health and wellbeing.

By not attending school regular children and young people are leaving themselves vulnerable to risks which can reduce their life chances. For example those who do not attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Leave school without any qualifications.
- Leave themselves at risk of other poor outcomes such as:
  - Poverty
  - Long term unemployment
  - Criminal involvement
  - Alcohol and substance misuse
  - Child exploitation
  - Social isolation and mental health problems

These are not the life outcomes and experiences we want for our children in Wiltshire. Attending school regularly is about so much more than academic attainment; it is about learning about the world, about relationships and about ourselves. It is about trying new things, making new friends, and finding our place in the world. To miss school is to miss the many, many experiences that shape the choices we make, the opportunities we have and the quality of life that we lead. Research tells us that children who attend school regularly go on to achieve better outcomes, to live healthier, wealthier and more enriched lives - and we want to make sure we are all doing everything that we can to make that happen for all of our children.



FREE ENTRY

# Fire Station OPEN DAY

Saturday  
14th October

10am-4pm

Amesbury  
Fire Station



- Meet Local Firefighters
- Special Visit from Blaze Bear
- Oil Fire Demonstration
- Silent Auction
- Various Fire Appliances
- Refreshments
- H's Ices
- RTC Demo
- Firefighters charity stall
- ...and much more!

Donations  
to the  
Fire Fighter's  
Charity



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE**



A small group of selected students in years 8 and 9 who have been to our SEN Lego group in the past and are on the SEN register had great time at Legoland last week, the 5th of October.

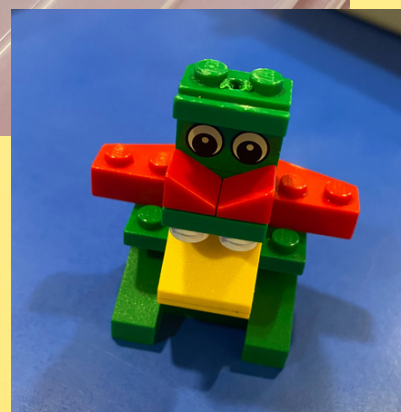
When we got there we started off with a story maker workshop where the students were given a character (A Lego dinosaur called Ollie) They then had to create a story board out of Lego. They had a great time making them and they had amazing imagination skills.

We then had a wander around the park going on all sorts of rides.

The students got me on the roller coaster eek, Mr Woods signed himself up to go on the water ride and got soaked!

Thank you for being great students on our trip!

Mrs Pascall





# For the attention of all parents

Will your child be transferring  
to a secondary school in  
September 2024?

You must apply for a secondary school place

Apply online at **wiltshire.gov.uk** or  
complete an application form, available at  
all Wiltshire Council offices.

The deadline for applications is

**12 midnight, 31 October 2023**

All forms must be returned to the school admissions  
team at County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

Contact customer services on **01225 713010**

For more information or to request our guide  
to finding a secondary school place in Wiltshire.



## **Make a difference - become a Parent Governor**

### **Why become a Parent Governor?**

Governors have an important part to play in helping schools to run effectively. They work as part of a team with the Headteacher and school staff to help provide a happy, safe and thriving learning environment and an excellent education for all the children. As a Parent Governor, you will be well placed to understand parents' views and have first-hand knowledge of how the school is run. You will have the opportunity to work toward improving the school experience not only for your own child but for children in years to come. This voluntary role can be challenging yet extremely rewarding and is a great way to build on your personal and professional skills. You will be supported in the role through a programme of training and mentoring allowing you to use your knowledge and experience to the full extent.



### **What will you do?**

You will work with the school to develop the school's vision and priorities, review educational performance and make strategic decisions.

Parent Governors are representative parents rather than representatives of parents. You will not be expected to gather the views of other parents and take them to Governors meetings or to personally become involved in individual concerns. You will need to be able to present a balanced and impartial view, based on the benefits for all children.

Governor meetings are held six times a year and may be combined with school visits focused on school priorities. You will receive reports from the headteacher and senior leaders and need to be able to question, challenge and support decisions. You will also be expected to visit the school as a governor which can be a quite different experience to visiting as a parent!

The governing body operates a code of conduct which sets an ethos of professionalism and high expectations of governors.

### **What are we looking for?**

We need enthusiastic and committed parents from a variety of backgrounds. You do not need leadership or education experience; just a desire to give back to the school and its community and a proactive approach to becoming involved as a member of a team.

### **Next steps**

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Kevin Taylor, Clerk to the Governors, at [taylork@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:taylork@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk)



## STONEHENGE MONUMENT

Did you know, local people can visit Stonehenge for free? As part of an historic agreement which English Heritage honours to this day, people living in the parishes surrounding Stonehenge can apply for a Local Resident Pass. Find out more and apply online at <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/plan-your-visit/stonehenge-local-residents-pass/>

November they are running an event in connection with Cambridge University which they are calling The Festival of Neolithic Ideas, details are below.

Come along to the very first Festival of Neolithic Ideas at Stonehenge on 11th and 12th November and get involved with an outstanding programme of hands-on activities, demonstrations, talks and tours, led by experts in the field.

From radiocarbon dating and ancient DNA, to astronomy and laser scanning, we will reveal how the latest advances in science and archaeological techniques have developed our understanding of Stonehenge and the people who built it. The festival will also explore the tools and technologies used by Neolithic people to understand and shape the world around them.

Included with General Admission ticket to Stonehenge. Book online and save 10%. <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/whats-on/stonehenge-festival-of-neolithic-ideas/>





**Amesbury police have asked us to write to all parents regarding anti-social behaviour that has been occurring in the local area over the past couple of weeks.**

The ASB (anti-social behaviour) has included violently kicking the front doors of dwellings bordering Harvard Park, Amesbury, banging on windows, shouting abuse at passing members of the public, spitting and suspected drug dealing. Several Stonehenge School pupils have been identified as being present in the park at the same time these offences have taken place, but so far police have not been able to directly associate them to the acts. The area currently remains on a Priority Patrol for all local Amesbury Police officers.

They have received multiple calls and reports to the location between 19:00-23:00 over the past two weeks, with officers deployed for each of these. On Saturday 23/09/2023, up to 40 x youths had gathered on the park area causing issues and needed to be moved on by officers as a result. Some were local to Amesbury, whilst others had travelled from Salisbury, Durrington, Larkhill and Bulford. Of concern to the Police was the fact that many stated they had told parents they were staying at friends for a sleep over, had gone to a club/group/cinema/organisation, or to the local shops. It is the police's belief that many parents and guardians are unaware of the exact location and nature of what their children are doing when out of the home address late in the evenings. During our patrols we have located youths aged between 14-17 years of age still causing ASB in Harvard Park past 22:00 at night.

The recent ASB, involving local youths aged 14-17 years, is having a hugely negative affect on local residents. It is parents' responsibility to ensure that they are aware of their children's whereabouts at all times, to consider what time is appropriate for them to be out in open public areas late at night unsupervised, and to have an awareness of the current Police interest in this issue.



# STAFF VACANCIES

Full details on all the above vacancies can be found on our website at  
<https://www.stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk/vacancies/>

## TEACHER OF ENGLISH

We require a qualified teacher of English to join an expanding department, for the delivery of English at KS3 and GCSE. As part of the English department and a member of The Stonehenge School, you will be part of a supportive and reflective team of dedicated professionals who continually improve and develop their practice in order to achieve the best for the young people at our school.

This is an excellent opportunity for an ECT seeking a first appointment, or a more experienced teacher.

## TEACHER OF ART

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and innovative Teacher of Art to work within our expanding Art and Technology department.

The post would suit an ECT or more experienced teacher. ECT statutory induction is provided and the successful candidate will be working within a supportive and experienced department, who continually improve and develop their practice in order to achieve the best for the young people at our school.

We are looking for colleagues with:

- A commitment to raising achievement
- The ability to engage and support students
- Enthusiasm and good knowledge of the subject/s
- A commitment to help all young people and staff to achieve their best is expected of all staff.

## Evening Site Operative

Required to start as soon as possible

Permanent Contract

Hours are to be discussed further and can be flexible, however we are looking for shifts to be covered from either 3pm - 8.30 pm, or 5pm - 8.30pm

Term time only including TD Days

Wiltshire Council pay grade D or E dependent on experience

Salary £12,315-£12,763 (£10.98-11.39 /hour)



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## Cover Supervisor

Required as soon as possible

32.50 hours per week/39 working weeks per year (this includes TD Days)

Permanent Contract

Monday - Friday 8.15m -3.15pm

Wiltshire Council pay grade F Point 9 - 11, (£12.02- £12.70 per hour)  
actual FTE salary £17,523 - 18,507 per annum

We are looking for a motivated and enthusiastic Cover Supervisor to join our dedicated team. You will be working to support young people and to cover for absent colleagues, and ensuring that they carry out the work tasks set by the teacher with designated responsibility.

The role will include being a Tutor for which training will be provided. You should be a good classroom practitioner with a genuine enthusiasm for teaching and learning. You should be able to work with pupils covering the full range of age and abilities at our school.

The position would be a beneficial experience for anyone who was considering following a teaching career. We have an incredibly strong record of 'growing our own' teaching staff, from roles with extensive support given in terms of professional and career development, in a collegiate and supportive environment. A comprehensive training programme will be provided to support and develop the successful candidate.

There are a variety of hours/working patterns available up to a maximum of 35 per week. Applications from part time candidates are welcomed as job shares will be considered.

Further details can be found on our website via the following link -  
<https://www.stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk/vacancies/>

## **EXAMS INVIGILATORS - PART TIME VACANCIES, TO START AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (WOULD SOMEONE WHO HAS RETIRED OR LOOKING FOR VARIED HOURS) SCALE B POINT 1, £10.50 PER HOUR (PAY AWARD PENDING)**

We are looking for people to join our team of invigilators. You would need to work varied hours during the school day, mainly during GCSE exam periods but also covering internal and modular exams throughout the year. Must be available to work from 8.30 am to cover morning exams.