

STOPSLEY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 17TH JULY 2026

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Dear Parents and Carers,

We had a wonderful Sports Day on Wednesday and were fortunate the day started nice and cool so we could prioritise the longer races to occur first thing. The temperature then rapidly increased and depleted energy reserves but the re-fuelling of lunch and an earlier finish spurred everyone on. The students were so impressive with their support for one another but more importantly the athleticism they demonstrated. Thank you to Mr Swain and the PE department for coordinating and running the event but also to our Year 11 students who returned to support the day.

The Summer break is finally here, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their continued support throughout the academic year. There is lots to look forward to in the coming year. The auditions have already taken place for A Christmas Carol and the cast have begun rehearsing.

We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Friday 4th September. More details to follow on timings for different year groups.

I would ask that you keep our Year 11 students in your thoughts on Thursday 20th August when they will be coming to school to find out their GCSE results.

We, as a community, are so very proud of the efforts of our students. On behalf of all the staff here at Stopsley High School we would like to wish you all a happy and safe summer holiday.

With very best wishes,

Ms Hand

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE: HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

CULTURE DAY JARS

SPORTS DAY

GOLDEN TICKET WINNERS

TOP CLASS GOLD REWARDS TRIP

RSHE POLICY CONSULTATION

PARKING REMINDER

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

TERM ENDS - FRIDAY 17TH JULY

AUTUMN TERM 2026

STARTS TUESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER (INSET DAYS 1ST, 2ND, 3RD SEPTEMBER)

FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER - WHOLE SCHOOL RETURNS

ATTENDANCE NOTICE:

CAN PARENTS/CARERS PLEASE

INFORM THE SCHOOL IF YOUR CHILD

IS UNWELL AS WE ARE MONITORING

ATTENDANCE. REPORT THIS THE

NORMAL WAY BY CONTACTING THE

ATTENDANCE NUMBER: 01582 870912

OR THE EMAIL ADDRESS:

ATTENDANCE@STOPSLEYHIGHSCHOOL.CO.UK

WORK WITH US: 

CLICK HERE OR VISIT MY NEW TERM TO FIND CURRENT VACANCIES AVAILABLE AT STOPSLEY HIGH SCHOOL.

REMINDER

PLEASE ENSURE THE SCHOOL IS

MADE AWARE OF ANY CHANGES

TO EXISTING MEDICAL

CONDITIONS OR NEW MEDICAL

CONDITIONS FOR YOUR CHILD.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

CLICK HERE TO GO TO OUR

FACEBOOK. FOLLOW US FOR

UPDATES AND MORE.



Culture Day Jars

As part of our Culture Day celebrations, students in Art created colourful Culture Jars to represent their identity, heritage and the things that make them unique. Using symbols, patterns and meaningful designs, each jar celebrated individuality while highlighting the rich diversity within our school community. The finished pieces are a wonderful reminder that our differences are what make us stronger together.



Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day was a fantastic celebration of teamwork, determination and school spirit. Students gave their all across a range of events, cheering on their classmates and demonstrating resilience, respect and enthusiasm throughout the day. Congratulations to everyone who took part and helped make it such a memorable event. well done to our winning forms and PE extra curricular award winners



Golden Ticket Winners

Congratulations to all of our Golden Ticket winners! Throughout the term, students earned Golden Tickets by consistently demonstrating our school values and making positive choices. Their names were entered into a prize draw, with our lucky winners receiving some fantastic rewards. Well done to everyone who earned a Golden Ticket, you should all be incredibly proud of your achievements!



Top Class Gold Rewards Trip

As a reward for their outstanding commitment to our Top Class Gold standards, students enjoyed a fantastic rewards trip to Cineworld and Lane7. The day recognised those who have consistently demonstrated excellent attendance, positive behaviour, a strong attitude to learning and commitment to our school community. Students had a brilliant time watching Toy Story 5, enjoying friendly competition at Lane7 and celebrating their achievements together. Well done to everyone who earned this well-deserved reward!



RELATIONSHIPS, SEX AND HEALTH EDUCATION (RSHE) POLICY CONSULTATION

We are currently reviewing our Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSE) Policy and would like to invite parents and carers to share their views as part of the consultation process. RSHE plays an important role in helping young people develop the knowledge, skills, and understanding they need to build healthy relationships, stay safe, and make informed decisions as they grow up. As part of our review, we are keen to ensure that the policy continues to reflect the needs of our students and wider school community.

The draft policy is available to view on the school website or the link below:
<https://www.stopsleyhighschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=2936&type=pdf>
and we encourage all parents and carers to take a few moments to read it alongside Appendix one which provides a detailed overview of the RSHE topics and themes covered within our PSHCE curriculum.

Your feedback will help ensure that our RSHE curriculum remains relevant, responsive, and reflective of the needs of our young people. If you have any questions, comments, or would like to discuss any aspect of the policy in greater detail, please contact us:
mgatenby@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk .We welcome your engagement in this important consultation process.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

PARKING REMINDER

Reminder: When picking up or dropping students, please do not park on the yellow lines directly outside of school. Please park in the bays provided.





Bedfordshire

Fire & Rescue Service

bedsfire.gov.uk
 Southfields Road
 Kempston, Bedford
 MK42 7NR
bedsfirealert.co.uk
 @bedsfire

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important water safety message – please read and share

As we approach the summer holidays and periods of hot weather, it may be tempting for young people to enter rivers, lakes, canals, reservoirs or other open water to cool down. Please help us share the message that open water can be dangerous, even when it looks calm and inviting. The safest place to swim is at a swimming pool where there are lifeguards, or at the seaside on a lifeguarded beach.

This message is supported by **Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service** and local partners, including the **Police**, the **East of England Ambulance Service**, the Royal Life Saving Society UK, and **local authorities**, who may respond to water-related incidents during warmer months.

Open water areas can hide serious hazards, including:

- **Cold water shock** – sudden immersion can cause gasping, panic and breathing difficulties, even for strong swimmers.
- **Hidden dangers** – weeds, debris, strong currents, uneven ground and sudden changes in depth.
- **Risk of injury** – jumping or diving into unknown water can cause serious harm.
- **Difficulty getting out** – steep, slippery or unstable banks can make it hard to leave the water safely.

What to do in an emergency: Phone – Float – Throw

If someone is in trouble in the water, do not enter the water yourself. Remember **Phone – Float – Throw**:

- **Phone** – call **999**. Ask for the **Fire Service** for inland water such as rivers, lakes and canals, or the **Coastguard** at the coast.
- **Float** – encourage the person in the water to float on their back, keep their ears in the water, relax their breathing and call for help. Once calmer, they should try to swim to safety if they can.
- **Throw** – throw something that floats, such as a lifebuoy, throwline, football or empty bottle, and encourage them to hold on. Keep talking to them until help arrives.

Further information about water safety is available from **Respect the Water** at www.respectthewater.com and from **Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service** at www.bedsfire.gov.uk.

StayWise resources

StayWise provides free, curriculum-linked safety resources for teachers, home educators, parents, carers and community safety practitioners. The StayWise water safety and drowning prevention resources include age-appropriate videos, discussion prompts and activities to help children and young people understand the risks of open water, make safer choices and know what to do in an emergency.

EVERY CONTACT COUNTS
WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK
WE DARE TO BE DIFFERENT
WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE



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Families can use the resources to support PSHE, safety and wellbeing discussions before the summer holidays, and to revisit key messages throughout the warmer months. Resources can be selected by age group, subject or safety theme at **StayWise**.

Please take a moment to talk with your child about these key messages. A short conversation before the summer holidays could help them make safer decisions around water and enjoy the warmer months safely.

Kind regards

Stacey Moore
 Community safety officer
 Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service



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ALWAYS FOLLOW THE WATER SAFETY CODE



Whenever you are around water:

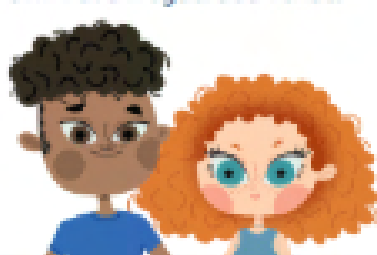
STOP AND THINK

Take time to assess your surroundings. Look for the dangers and always research local signs and advice.



STAY TOGETHER

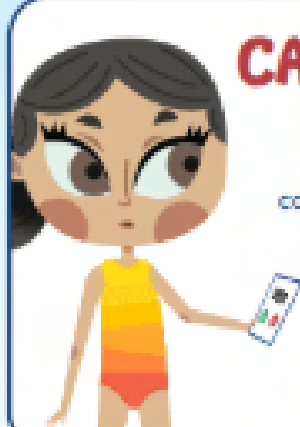
When around water always go with friends or family. Swim at a lifeguarded venue.



In an emergency:

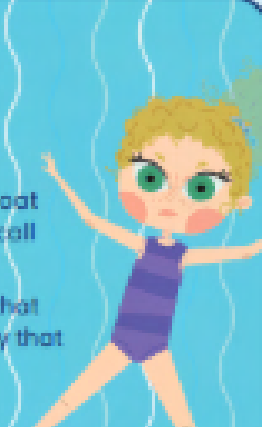
CALL 999

If you are at the coast, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard. Don't enter the water to rescue.



FLOAT

Fall in or become tired – stay calm, float on your back and call for help. Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.



Enjoy Water **Safely**

Learn basic lifesaving and CPR skills. Visit www.rlss.org.uk

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