PARENT CARER BULLETIN

STOUR VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Week Commencing 23 November 2026







Anti-Bullying Week 2026

Working together to break the silence, promote kindness and support one another:

This week is Anti-Bullying Week, and we have been delighted to see so many students getting involved by submitting posters for our anti-bullying competition for this year's theme 'Break the Silence'. Thank you to all the students who have contributed to the poster competition so far and helped us continue to raise awareness of this important issue.

Last week, Mrs Cullen delivered assemblies to students focusing on what bullying is and where students can go for support if they are concerned about bullying. Students were reminded that they should always speak to one of their trusted adults, such as their form tutor or Pastoral Support Officer if they are worried about themselves or someone else.

Our school value 'Be kind' is especially important during Anti-Bullying Week, reminding us all of the positive difference kindness can make. Having a conversation at home with your child about bullying, kindness and what they can do if they have any concerns would be really helpful in reinforcing these messages.

Non-Pupil Day Reminder

School closed to students on Friday 27 November:

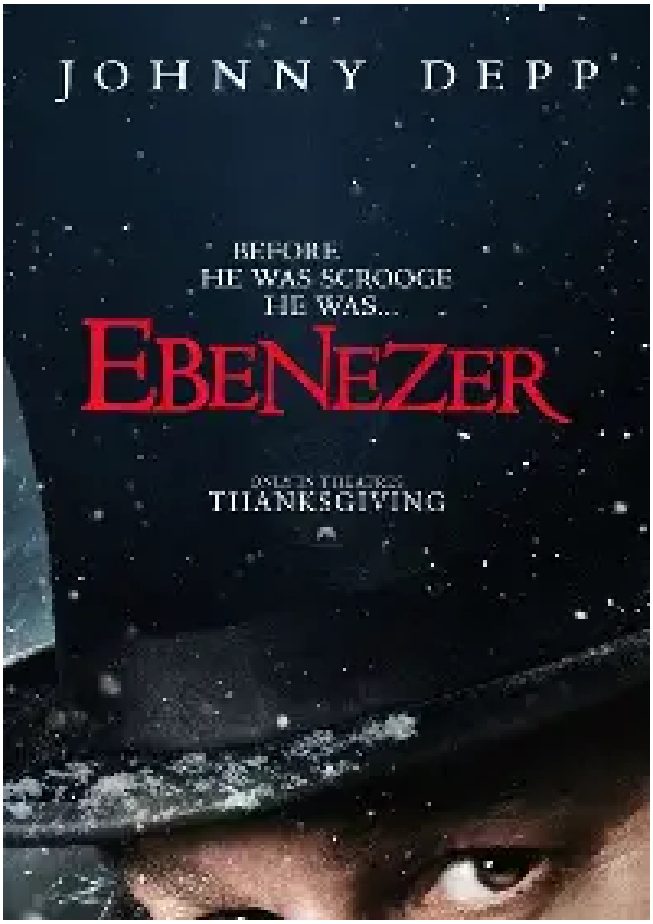
We would like to remind parents and carers that Friday 27 November is a Non-Pupil Day and the school will be closed to all students. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 30 November, when normal timetables will resume.

A Christmas Carol Comes to Life on the Big Screen

An opportunity for GCSE students to enhance their understanding of Dickens' classic novel through film:

A new film adaptation of A Christmas Carol has recently been released. For GCSE students, watching the film may help to deepen their understanding of the novel's characters, themes and key events. It can also serve as a useful revision tool by bringing Dickens' story to life and supporting students' recall of important details from the text.

Please note that watching the film is entirely optional, but we encourage students who are interested to see it as a valuable complement to their studies.



Your Futures Update

Available via our website:

https://stourvalley.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/FUTURES_Autumn_2_Weeks_1-2.pdf



Communication Routes & Pastoral Support

We want to ensure that parents and carers can access the right support promptly and that concerns reach the colleagues best placed to help.

- Subject or lesson-related concerns: Please contact the teacher in the first instance. All staff contact details are available on our school website.

- Pastoral concerns: Your child's Form Tutor should be your first point of contact. If further support is needed, our Raising Standards Leaders are Mr Craig for Years 7 and 8, Mr Kerley for Years 9 and 10, and Mr Sims for Year 11.

- Urgent concerns during the school day: You can telephone the school and ask to speak to the relevant member of our pastoral support team. Mrs Hare supports Year 11, Mrs Hearn supports Years 9 and 10, and Miss Abrey supports Years 7 and 8. As non-teaching members of staff, they are available to take calls during the school day.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Mr Sims and Mr Lee are our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs). Mr Craig, Mr Kerley, Mrs Hare, Mrs Hearn and Miss Abrey also support the safeguarding work of the school.

Students can speak to their Form Tutor or any member of staff if they need help, support or advice. Students and parents or carers can also raise safeguarding concerns by emailing safe@stourvalley.org.

Please do not hesitate to contact us when you need support. We want every student to feel safe, listened to and valued, and we recognise the importance of working in partnership with families to achieve this.

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Events this November

Keep track of important events this month:

- Friday 27 November – Non-pupil Day.

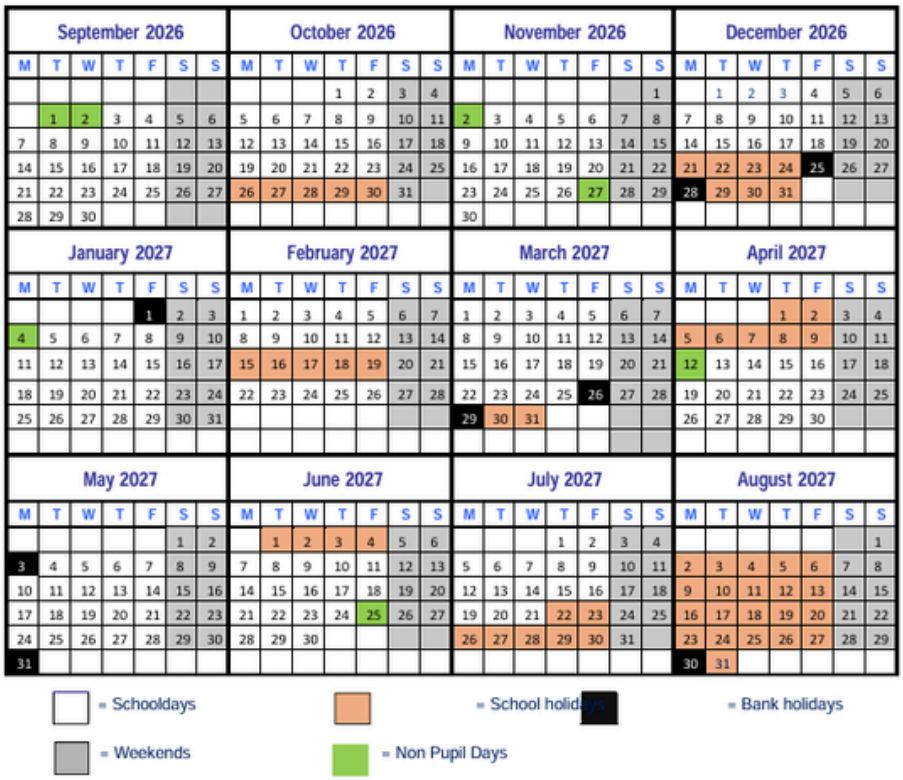
Autumn Term Dates

This season's term dates at a glance:

- 27 November 2026 – Non-pupil Day.
- 21 December 2026 – 1 January 2027 – Christmas Break.

Academic Year 2026-2027

Stour Valley Academic Year 2026-2027



Autumn Term:	Tuesday 1 September 2026 – Friday 18 December 2026 *Half Term 26 October – 30 October*	74 days
Spring Term:	Monday 4 January 2027 – Thursday 25 March 2027 *Half Term 15 February - 19 February*	54 days
Summer Term:	Monday 12 April 2027 – Wednesday 21 July 2027 *Half Term 31 May – 4 June, and May Bank Holiday - 3 May*	67 days
		195 days

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ANGLIAN LEARNING