PARENT CARER BULLETIN

STOUR VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Week Commencing 2 November 2026







Remembrance at Stour Valley Community School

Important Notice for all Parents and Carers:

On Wednesday 11th November, the whole school will observe a two-minute silence at 11am. Unless the weather is severe, this is usually observed outside and we will hear the church bells in Clare ring in the silence.

As it stands, the forecast is for a temperature of 11 degrees C and light rain. Please would all parents and carers ensure that their child comes to school with an appropriate waterproof coat. As it will be cool, gloves may also be welcome! We will be outside for a short period then straight back into the warm building as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your support in this.



Remembrance Day

Transistion Passes

A Message from the Pastoral Team:

We are writing to let you know in advance of a small change to our transition pass arrangements. Students will be informed of this change on Monday, and we wanted to ensure that parents and carers were aware beforehand.

Students with a transition pass will continue to be able to leave lessons a few minutes early to support movement around the school at lesson changeover times.

Following a review of our arrangements, we are making a small adjustment to the scope of transition passes. This is because we have identified some concerns about students being out of lessons and unsupervised at the start of break, lunchtime and at the end of the school day.

From Monday, transition passes will therefore be used for lesson-to-lesson transitions only, rather than for leaving unstructured times or departing early at the end of the day. Students with a transition pass will still be able to access the hall promptly at break and lunchtime and will be able to bypass the main corridor queue.

As is always the case, we recognise that some students may require different arrangements due to their individual circumstances. If you have any concerns about how this change may affect your child, please do get in touch so that we can discuss this with you and, where appropriate, review the support in place.

Black History Month at Stour Valley Community School

#BHM:

last month, our students celebrated and learned about Black History Month, exploring the achievements, experiences and contributions of Black individuals throughout history and in the world today.

As part of this learning, students engaged with a range of recommended books, films and documentaries designed to broaden understanding, celebrate diverse voices and inspire meaningful discussion. We are pleased to share these resources with our wider school community and hope they provide an opportunity for families to continue conversations and learning at home.



Black History Month: Pioneers



Olaudah Equiano
- Olaudah Equiano was born in Africa and was **enslaved as a child**.
- He later **bought his freedom**.
- He wrote a book about his experiences of slavery.
- He became an important **campaigner against slavery**.

Videos to watch:

Black Britons who paved the way | Black History Month 2020 | Newsround

Black History Month: Meet some of the UK's black pioneers | Newsround

Walter Tull – The Courage to Lead

Walter Tull
- Walter Tull was a **Black British footballer and soldier**.
- He played professional football for **Tottenham Hotspur**.
- He joined the British Army during **World War One**.
- He became one of the **first Black officers in the British Army**.





Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock
- Maggie Aderin-Pocock is a **British space scientist and engineer**.
- She has worked on equipment used to study **space and stars**.
- She has presented **The Sky at Night** on the BBC.
- She works to encourage young people to study **science and space**.

How can you celebrate?

Extra Information:

David Olusoga on Black, British History | Black History Month | Newsround

Kids Explain Black History Month

Hidden Figures | Official Trailer [HD] | 20th Century FOX













BOOKS

***Noughts & Crosses* – Malorie Blackman**
A powerful story about **racism, prejudice and inequality**. It encourages readers to think about what life might be like if society's power structures were reversed.

***The Boy at the Back of the Class* – Onjali Q. Raúf**
A story about **friendship, refugees and kindness**. It explores how young people can make a difference to someone's life.

FILMS & DOCUMENTARIES

***Hidden Figures* (2016)**
Tells the true story of Black women mathematicians who worked for **NASA** and helped with America's space programme.

***Black and British: A Forgotten History* – David Olusoga**
A BBC documentary series exploring the **history of Black people in Britain.**

MUSIC

Bob Marley – *One Love*
A famous song about **peace, unity and togetherness**.

Bob Marley – *Redemption Song*
A song connected to ideas of **freedom and overcoming oppression**.

Stormzy – *Blinded by Your Grace, Pt. 2*
A British song exploring **faith, hope and personal experiences**.

Dave – *Black*
A song exploring **Black identity and experiences in Britain**.

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.

Lunch Accounts Balance Reminder

Message on behalf of Vive Canteen:
Parents and Carers are kindly reminded to ensure student lunch accounts are kept at sufficient funds for purchases at Vive canteen.

This will ensure the queue's can move efficiently at break and lunch. You can set up alerts via your ParentPay account in 'Manage Alerts' and then set up a low balance text or email reminder.

Your Futures Update

Available via our website:

https://stourvalley.org/downloads/FUTURES_Autumn_1_Weeks_5-6.pdf

https://stourvalley.org/downloads/FUTURES_Autumn_1_Weeks_7-8.pdf



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Events this November

Keep track of important events this month:

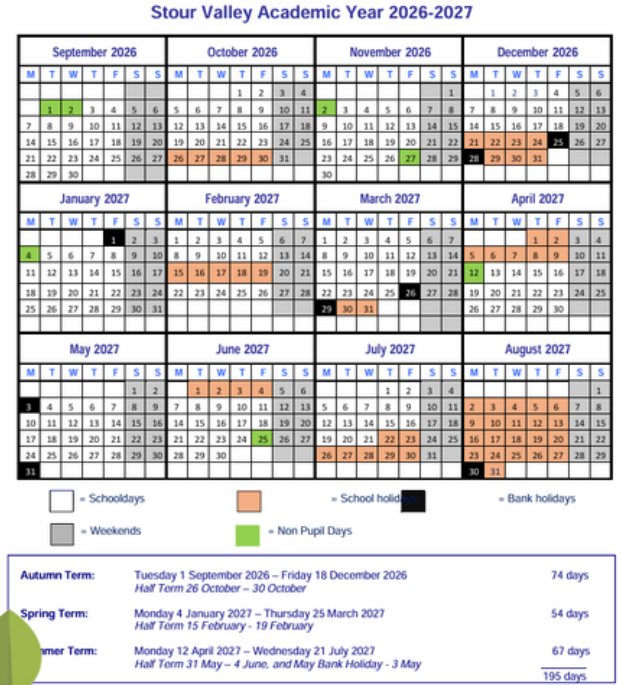
- Monday 9 November – Meet the Keyworker Event commences.
- Wednesday 11 November – Six the Musical at the Colchester Odeon, 10:30am–2:45pm approx.
- Thursday 12 November – Year 7 Thriftwood Parent Carer Information Evening, 6pm.
- Friday 13 November – Year 11 Mock Exams commence
- Tuesday 17 November – Whole school lockdown drill, 8:20–8:50am.
- Tuesday 17 November – Year 9 Of Mice & Men Theatre trip, 7:15–10pm
- Friday 20 November – Final day of Meet the Keyworker Event.
- 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



ANGLIAN LEARNING

Presents

PLATFORM 26

an exhibition of artwork from
Anglian Learning secondary schools

9 - 22 November 2026

Michaelhouse Café, Trinity St,
Cambridge, CB2 1SU

Featuring artwork from:

Bassingbourn Village College

Bottisham Village College

Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport

Linton Village College

Sawston Village College

Soham Village College

Stour Valley Community School



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