



## Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we welcome the beginning of the summer holidays, for a period of rest and recuperation I wish you all a pleasant summer, whether that is full of activity, quiet periods of reflection or hopefully a blend of both! If you are seeking local activities, then please visit the link below. <https://www.medway.gov.uk/youthsummeractivities>

2022/23 has been a continuous drive for improvement following last summers Ofsted inspection. There have been ongoing professional development opportunities for staff and the leadership have reviewed where we had not met the standards. Back in March, our progress monitoring inspection highlighted that all standards had now been met.

Our fantastic teachers and support staff have ensured that the curriculum has been enriched with visits and have been working tirelessly to deliver subjects which have been requested by some students. Class timetables are being shared remotely today.

Reflecting on our newsletters this year, there have been so many opportunities for students, such as boxing, Lazer tag, golf, ice skating and bowling to name but a few. Students have responded well to the 'Track It lights' behaviour system, eager to know how many points they have received. Students have made progress both academic and socially. We know that many of our young people struggle to make appropriate choices and can also misinterpret communication – both reciprocal and intentional. We shall be focussing on these interactions next year to ensure students recognise the impact on others, whether purposeful or not.

School isn't just about academic attainment - although this is clearly a vital part! Our Middle Leaders are here to support the ongoing development on students and the school. We shall be welcoming all parents into school early next year to meet the Middle Leaders to discuss how their roles impact on our young people's academic and personal progress.

Behaviour & Attitudes - Sam G, Personal Development - Sam M, Quality of Education - Danielle

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to remind you to be vigilant of the activities your young people take part in – particularly through online games, social media, and livestreaming. Every internet provider can limit access to different categories and websites. If you log into your internet providers and search for 'parental controls', you can limit content. Some videos are on the link below, with some additional worksheets. Have a well earned rest to all of our pupils, staff and parents. Keeping Safe this summer:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/home-activity-worksheets/>

Graham Richards

### Notice

*Stratus have completed all their exams - congratulations to you and well done for all your efforts and hard work.*

### Farewell Notice

*We are saying goodbye to Leon and Isaac from Stratus class.*

*We wish you good luck on your new life journey. You will be greatly missed by all.*

### Designated Safeguarding Leads:

**Graham Richards** - Headteacher - Lead DSL  
**Sam Gracey** - Senior Teacher - Deputy DSL  
**Jo Higgins** - Proprietor - Overseeing Safeguarding

**NSPCC: 0800 800 5000**

[safeguarding@blueskiesschool.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@blueskiesschool.co.uk)

### Diary Dates:

05/09/2023 - students return to school

### Birthday Wishes:

07/08/2023 - Hayley  
17/08/2023 - Ash  
18/08/2023 - Rossi  
25/08/2023 - Mike  
29/08/2023 - Josh & Romany  
05/10/2023 - Lauren  
14/10/2023 - Jak

**Happy Birthday to you, from all at Blue Skies**

## Highlights Reel

### Chessington Trip 2023



### Archery Activity

### Term 6

- During this term, students practised their **cricket skills** in Physical Education lessons. On Monday afternoons (enrichment day), they had an opportunity to learn about the world of **Politics** which was lead by Graham. On Friday afternoons, students enjoyed their **swimming sessions** at Maths school in Rochester.
- Students who went to the theme park "**Chessington World of Adventures**" on Thursday 29/06/2023, had a great time there. They were all thrilled by the variety of rides that they could go on. They made so many lovely memories.
- Students enjoyed the following activities during our activity week:  
**Monday 17th July 2023** - Skyline, dinogolf and boats in Maidstone  
**Tuesday 18th July** - Imperial War Museum in London  
**Wednesday 19th July** - Beach games followed by lunch and activities in Whitstable  
**Thursday 20th July** - Outdoor Archery and Indoor Climbing Wall  
**Friday 21st July** - Assembly, Brunch Party and Ninja Warrior



*Special Congratulations to:*

*Ash*

*from year 10 - Alto class*

*for designing and completing their beautiful crochet project.*

*Well done, Ash.*



*We look forward to seeing more of your wonderful crochet projects.*

## Internet Safety

E-Safety is an important part of keeping children safe online.

We have security measures in place in school, which are constantly monitored, to help safeguard pupils from any potential dangers.

ESafety is taught to all pupils explaining and demonstrating how to stay safe and behave appropriately online. We can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you to ensure the e-Safety message is consistent.

Your help is needed to talk to your children about how they can keep safe and behave appropriately online. The widespread availability and use of social networking applications bring opportunities to understand, engage and communicate with audiences in new ways. It is important that we are able to use these technologies and services effectively and flexibly. You may find your children asking to engage with technology that you have no knowledge or experience of.

Children are accessing a greater amount of content online, than we were ever exposed to in our childhood. Remember that services like Facebook and YouTube have a minimum age limit of 13. They do this for a reason. If you choose to allow your children to have these accounts then you will want to discuss with them the boundaries you expect.

We have spoken to them in school about sharing their password with you, in order to keep them safe. If not, explain to them why not. You will find children can accidentally or deliberately be exposed to unwanted or unpleasant content or comments online and there are steps you can take at home to minimise this risk.

I have added a picture below to show the minimum ages needed to have an account on various social media sites.

## Social Media Age Restrictions



## Internet Safety

### What can parents/carers do?

#### **Ground Rules**

Discuss as a family how the internet will be used in your house.

Consider what should be kept private online (personal information, photos etc.) and decide rules for making and meeting online friends.

Make sure you know what your child is doing online much like you would offline.

#### **Online Safety**

Install antivirus software, secure your internet connection and use Parental Control functions for computers, mobile phones and games consoles to block unsuitable content or contact

Remember that parental control tools are not always 100% effective and sometimes, unsuitable content can get past them, so don't rely on them alone to protect your child.

Please find online guides for how to keep children safe online here:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

If you have any further questions or need any guidance, please contact [samuel@blueskiesschool.co.uk](mailto:samuel@blueskiesschool.co.uk)