



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 12th February 2021

Half Term break

We hope the whole school community is able to take a well-deserved break over half term. We will return to school on Monday 22nd February.

We will continue to monitor the Covid mailbox over half term, please continue to notify us of any positive COVID cases by emailing confidentially to covid@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk so that we can support families and maintain a record of the impact of COVID on our school community.

New Website

We are delighted to have launched our new school website which is available here:

<https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk>

We hope you will enjoy exploring this new site and will find this a valuable source of up to date information about important dates, latest news and class updates (with lots of photos). We would welcome your feedback via office@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk.

Class Updates

We know how much you enjoy finding out what the children have been learning in our Weekly Updates. As of this week we will be adding this information to the class pages of the new website. You can find this information by selecting the link below to your child's class.

Year R – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-r/what-are-we-learning>

Year 1 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-1/what-are-we-learning>

Year 2 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-2/what-are-we-learning>

Year 3 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-3/what-are-we-learning>

Year 4 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-4/what-are-we-learning>

Year 5 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-5/what-are-we-learning>

Year 6 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-6/what-are-we-learning>

Pupil Premium

We understand that COVID pandemic has impacted on our families in many ways, one of which is financially. If you feel that your change in circumstances may mean that you are able to apply for Pupil Premium funding and free school meals for your child please do enquire with the school office. All enquiries will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence.

World Book Day

On March 4th 2021 we will be celebrating World Book Day. Children at school and at home can join in the fun by wearing a book character costume.

Technical Equipment Availability

If you feel that you do not have the appropriate technology to fully support your child's learning, or you have more than one child sharing a device, please contact the school to discuss the possibility of loaning a laptop. We have a small number available to provide to families who require this additional support.

Parents' Meetings

Thank you to everyone who attended their Parent Meeting this week, we hope that you found this opportunity to discuss your child's progress useful and informative.

Housepoints

Congratulations to Claydon who are leading the Housepoint competition so far this term!

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
2342	2487	2296	2334

Dates for the Diary

Friday 12 th February	School closes for Half Term
Monday 22 nd February	School re-opens after Half Term

You can also find this information on our website.

<https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/upcoming-events>

Letters Sent Home

No letters sent home this week

You can also find this information on our website with copies of letters.

<https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/news-and-events/letters-home>

E-Safety - Two Games Parents Should Be Cautious About

From the [Children's Commissioners 2019 report 'Gaming the System'](#) we know that around 93% of children in the UK play video games and this leisure time has benefits for their development. Despite these benefits, we know that some features of online games can and do present risks to children and young people.

Our team of online safety experts regularly review new and emerging games and stress test their parental and privacy controls. Our Safer Schools Network has brought us two games that are making waves in schools across the UK. This article explains how these games are played and presents our results on the efficacy of their safety and privacy settings.

Dragon City

Dragon City is a free to play game where users build a city populated with dragons. Users also raise and breed their own dragons, whilst building places for them to live. User's dragons are also used to fight other dragons. The game was released in 2013 and has been popular with children and young people on Facebook.



Age Rating PEGI 7 on Google Play iOS App Store: 4+

Dragon City's policy states that the game is intended for users over the age of 14, and those under the age of 18 will need parental permission. However, our online safety experts tested the game and signed in as age 9 with no issues.

- Completing different challenges allows users to gain money (in-app currency) to buy things within the game like gems, food for dragons and other pieces of kit
- You can connect with Facebook's Game Centre or Google Play to visit your friends' dragon cities, to swap or buy resources
- Once users reach level 10, they can fight against other users' dragons
- Using money to make in-app purchases means you will level up faster unlocking different aspects of the game
- Time and patience are required to breed dragons and grow food. In some cases, users will have to wait up to 20 hours for tasks to complete
- The game is colourful and fun and appears aimed at younger children. However, it relies hugely on advertising, access to social media via account linking.

Safety, Privacy and Risks:

- Dragon City has a chat feature which is unlocked as users progress. Dragon City's policy states that they do not assume any responsibility for monitoring or moderating interactions among users. Some parents have told us that they have deleted the game after reviewing the content of the chat
- Users are encouraged to share their personal details with various companies to get free gems
- Dragon City's privacy policy states that they collect, share, and may sell personal information to third parties for various purposes. Although the owner's state players must be 14 or over to play, no parental permission is actively sought
- The game works by building habits and prompting users to pay to unlock or progress through the game. We always recommend disabling any linked payment options when playing games with in-app purchasing
- This game is built to be addictive, so children and young people may spend long periods of time playing to achieve points and new levels

Cunch-line Chronicles

Cunch-Line Chronicles is a simple 2-dimensional game which promises users a realistic depiction of 'London gang life'. The game draws on themes such as UK gang culture, drug running, police chases, and trap houses (places where drugs are stored). Users essentially run through areas, jump over obstacles, deliver and collect drugs and escape police.



'Cunch' is a slang word for County, so the game is said to be based on the 'County Lines' phenomenon. The game was released in 2020 and has become popular with many young people throughout the UK.

County Lines refers to drug dealing and criminal activity that takes place across 'county lines'.

Age Ratings PEGI 18 on Google Play iOS App Store: 17+

The game features many adult themes not suitable for children, such as drug culture, violence, and references to intense alcohol, tobacco and other drug use.

- The aim of the game is to avoid obstacles, run and deliver/collect drugs, avoid the police and make money
- Users increase their score to earn trophies, money (in-game currency), reach new levels and unlock new features
- If the police catch you, you can pay bail to continue (if you have enough) or watch an advertisement to continue

Safety, Privacy and Risks

- Our online safety experts tested the game and were concerned that the content may glorify or normalise gang culture and criminal activity potentially influencing young people
- The game features adult themes and is not intended for children
- Cunch Lines has in-app purchases (these are connected to the store on your device) where users can buy and add extra points and new characters. In-app purchases are sold from the 'Trap House.'