



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Updates Friday 8th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome or welcome back to our new school year. This week has flown by and the children have all settled so well into their new year groups. It has been a real bonus to have such lovely weather to return to school and the children have been able to make full use of the school grounds! We are all looking forward to another exciting year of learning and working with you to support the children.

We welcome to the school team Miss MacKellar as our Year 5 class teacher and Mrs Cruickshank as the Teaching Assistant working with Year 2. We also welcome Mrs Wakeling who is completing her teacher training by working alongside Miss Jacob in Year 1. We will be offering a 'Meet the Teacher' evening after school on Wednesday 20th September where you will be able to come into school to see the classroom and informally meet the class teacher. This excludes the Reception class of children who have already had these meetings over this last week.

Hopefully you have been able to enjoy the Ice Lolly sale provided by our wonderful 'Friends' team this afternoon. Their first meeting of the term will be the AGM on Tuesday 26th September and we very much hope you will come along and join this amazing group who fundraise throughout the year. As has been said before "Every little helps!"

Here's to a great year working together.

Kind regards

E Stewart

Mrs Eileen Stewart, Headteacher

Upgraded crossing improves safety for Stoke Mandeville pupils

Over the summer holidays our existing crossing was upgraded to a parallel or 'Toucan' crossing which allows both pedestrians and cyclists to cross the road safely together. The works were carried out by Buckinghamshire Highways and were funded with money from the HS2 Road Safety Fund.

Mrs Stewart has said "As a Silver Award Travel Plan School, this new crossing is a welcome addition to our school environment



and will improve safety for pupils. It will further encourage our children and their parents to consider sustainable travel options such as walking, cycling or scooting instead of using the car.”

Summer Reading Challenge

A huge well done to all the children who completed the summer reading challenge during the holidays. Housepoints will be awarded and added to the totals for next week. Some children will also be receiving certificates in recognition of all the work they completed. Please keep up the good work as we start a new academic year!



Medication in School

All medication should now have been returned to school if pupils need it administered during the school day by special arrangement. If you have not yet brought medication in e.g. inhalers, then please ensure you bring this directly to the School Office and it is accompanied with a new healthcare plan form which you should have been given at the end of last term.

Seesaw logins

New Seesaw logins for Years 1 and 2 have been created and will have been sent home with your child this afternoon.

Snacks

If your child chooses to bring in a snack for break, please ensure that this is fruit or vegetables only. As a reminder we are a nut-free school so no cereal bars or products containing nuts please.



Homework

No homework has been set for this week and will start from next week. As usual homework will be set on a Thursday and is expected to be completed and handed in the following Tuesday.



Vacancies

We are currently recruiting for a Finance Officer to join our Office Team. The details of this can be found on our [website](#) or please click on the following link which will take you to the Buckinghamshire Council jobs website.

[BUC09883 Finance Officer](#)

Pencil Cases

Please note that pencil cases are no longer required for all years as stationery (including handwriting pens) is now provided by the school.

School Gateway Communications

Please can we remind parents not to contact the school via the School Gateway app. This inbox is not monitored and any important messages may be missed. All communications should please be sent via email to office@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk.

Phones

If your child walks to or from school alone and you would like them to bring a phone to school for safety reasons, please ensure that they are told to hand this in at the School Office when they come into school. After they are released at the end of the school day they must then walk round to the School Office to collect it before leaving the school site. As a reminder phones must not be switched on in school for safeguarding reasons.

Secondary Transfer Test

Our Year 6 class will be taking their Secondary Transfer Test (11+) next Thursday and we wish them the very best of luck with this.

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We have been informed that Aylesbury Grammar School are holding an open evening on Monday 18th September for current Year 4, 5 and 6 boys. If your child is in Year 5 or 6 and would like to start looking around potential secondary schools then we would recommend checking local school websites for details of any open events being held as some require places booking in advance.

Signing Choir

Mrs Tong and Mrs Walker will be leading the Signing Choir this year and lunchtime sessions will begin from next week. This is a hugely popular club in school and new members are welcome to join.

School Photographs

This year we are welcoming a new school photography company for our individual and sibling shots on **Tuesday 19th September**. The new company is [Imago](#) and we are hoping that their style of photography will prove to be popular with our parents and carers. There will be the opportunity for younger siblings who do not yet attend Stoke Mandeville to be included in sibling photographs, and further details about this will be sent out in due course.

After School Sports Clubs

School-led clubs will begin the week beginning **Monday 18th September** which will again include netball, dance and football. Further details are to follow next week about days and timings.

For those who have booked clubs with external providers, please make a note of the start and finish dates for these which are as follows:

GameOn (Football) – Monday 18th September to Monday 4th December

Premier (Gymnastics) – Tuesday 12th September to Tuesday 12th December

Sports Factor (Multisports) – Thursday 21st September to Thursday 19th October



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Bringing High Quality Portraiture into Nurseries & Schools at Affordable Prices.
SCHOOLS NURSERIES FAMILY CORPORATE & MARKETING PHOTOGRAPHY

We will be taking individual images on
Tuesday 19th September

VIEW & PURCHASE ONLINE: A few weeks after your shoot you will receive a contact sheet via your school with your login details on (not all of your images are on your contact sheet).
Please login to view/purchase your images.

LOST LOGINS:
A SAFEWORD will be sent to you from your school, please use this if you lose your login.

FREE Delivery period:
We offer a free delivery period, after this time orders can still be placed but a delivery charge will apply.

Have a family shoot with imago the comfort of your home. See our website or call us on 01252 728457

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01252 728457 www.imagojuniors.com @imago_PS

There are still some spaces available for Multisports after school on Thursdays which are available on a first come first served basis. Please find attached a poster which includes details of how to secure your child's place.

Year 4 Swimming

Swimming lessons for Year 4 will commence next Wednesday and a letter has been sent separately about this regarding coach contributions and what needs to be brought to lessons. Please ensure that all children have a swimming hat as they will not be allowed to swim without this. Children will only be allowed to wear goggles if a consent form is signed for this and returned to Mrs Khan or the School Office.

Uniform donation

If your child has outgrown any uniform that you would like to donate to the Friends to be sold in uniform sales in school or through their website, please put this in a tied plastic bag and place it in the Friends Uniform bin which is under the outside shelters on the playground. Thank you in advance for any donations received.



ParentPay

Chartwells Bookings

This is a reminder that menus are now live on the ParentPay website for parents to make their selections for children's meals.

Please note that the deadline to make these selections for the week commencing Monday 25th September is **11pm Tuesday 12th September**. If you currently pay for school meals but think your child may be entitled to free school meals through a Pupil Premium grant, then please download a Pupil Premium application form from our [website](#).

Communications Home

- Whole school – Return to school update
- Whole school – School Crossing Patroller
- Whole school – Frozen Friday
- Whole school – Welcome back from The Friends
- Reception – First and Second Week Timings
- Years 2 to 6 – External Sports Clubs
- Years 1 and 2 – Seesaw Codes
- Year 4 – Swimming Autumn 2023
- Year 6 – Secondary Transfer Test

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2023/24

ASC Users: ASC 2023/24

Year 4: Year 4 Swimming – Autumn Term 2023

Dates for the Diary (New dates or times are written in RED)

Date	Time	Event
Tue 12 Sep	AM	Practice Secondary Transfer Test (Year 6 only)
Thu 14 Sep	AM	Secondary Transfer Test (Year 6 only)

Mon 18 Sep		Travelwise Week
Tue 19 Sep	AM	IMAGO Individual and Sibling Photographs
Tue 19 Sep	5pm	River Dart Talk by CRS Adventures
Wed 20 Sep	3.30-4pm	Meet the Teacher Afternoon (Years 1-6 only)
Mon 25 Sep		Cycle to School Week
Mon 25 Sep	9am	Bag2School Clothing Collection
Tue 26 Sep	7.15pm	Friends of SMCS AGM
Wed 18 Oct	3.30-6pm	Parents Evening (Face to face in school)
Thu 19 Oct	3.30-5.30pm 6-8pm	Parents Evening (Face to face in school) Parents Evening (Online)
Thu 19 Oct	3.20pm	Finish for half term
Fri 20 Oct	All Day	Staff Inset Day
Mon 30 Oct		Autumn 2 term commences

The Friends of SMCS

A warm welcome back! We hope that you had a wonderful, fun-filled family time over the last 6 weeks.



We would like to thank you all again for your tremendous support last year which enabled us to raise over £7,000. We hope you feel we spent the money wisely - coaches for the whole school pantomime trip, upgrading the fish tank and aquatic environment in the hallway, counting equipment for maths lessons, BeeBots and end of term treats for every child, to name but a few.

We are looking forward to being able to support the school with lots more requests this year but to do this we need you!

We would love you to join us at our *AGM on Tuesday 26th September at 7.15pm* here at school. This will be an opportunity to give feedback on our events from last year and propose events for this year. If you would also like to become part of the main planning committee, we are always open to new members (please feel free to email us at friends@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk if you would like more information on what this would entail) but attendance at the AGM does not automatically commit you to being part of the committee. Please see the attached poster for more information.

It may only be the end of the first week back, but we have already been already busy arranging fundraising events. We hope that you enjoyed an ice lolly after school today to help cool off after a hot week. There will be lots more Treat Fridays to come! There is also a Bag2School clothing collection on *Monday 25th*

September. Please see the attached poster for details of accepted items (Clothing only). Tied bags can be left on the green outside the school before 9am.

You may be unable to support us by being part of the committee but you can support us in lots of different ways:

- * Become a supporter on EasyFundraising and raise funds for us as you shop <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fostokemcs/>
- * Sign up to Vale Lottery <https://www.valelottery.co.uk/support/friends-of-stoke-mandeville-combined-school>
- * Purchase name stickers through [Stikins](#) (Put in this code at checkout to earn us commission: 22409)
- * Purchase name stamps through [Stampstastic](#) (Put in this code at checkout to earn us commission: HP225XA)
- * Purchase second-hand uniform via our online shop <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofsmcs>
- * Donate good quality unwanted uniform via the clothing bin in the school playground
- * Help at one of our events
- * Be a supporter of our events

Thank you and here's to a fun year of fundraising and making new friends!

The Friends of SMCS

Chairperson Vanessa Swain

Secretary Alex Griffiths

Treasurers Amy Bailey and Chris Telfer

<https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/friendsofsmcs>

School Office

Opening hours: 8am to 3.40pm Monday to Friday

Email: office@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk

Telephone: 01296 612371



Please ensure all emails are sent to the School Office and not via School Gateway or classroom apps such as Seesaw or Google Classroom as these are not monitored and will not be responded to. Please note that we have a 48 hour response policy to all emails. For all urgent queries please telephone the School Office.