



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Updates Friday 10th November



Remembrance Day Assembly

This morning a special Remembrance Assembly was held for the whole school. Mrs Stewart talked to the children about the First World War and read the names of fallen soldiers from Stoke Mandeville Village, a number of them who died in Flanders Fields. She then read the poem 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae, followed by a two minute silence at 11 o'clock. Year 6 sang the moving Remembrance song 'Me and the Boys' which was requested by them after singing it as part of their Year 5 and 6 production last year.

We wanted to share with you an entry from our school log book from Armistice Day in 1918 which was read out to the children today and read:

Armistice Day November 11th 1918

There was great excitement in the school when the sirens in Aylesbury were heard, announcing that the armistice had been signed by the Germans. Work of the ordinary kind was suspended.

On consultation with the Chairman of the Managers – the Rev F.J. Winterton, it was decided to hold the afternoon session in school, the weather being very wet and miserable and with influenza so prevalent it was deemed better to be indoors. Therefore work was again suspended, singing, games and dancing being taken the whole afternoon. In this way many children were able to join in rejoicings, who otherwise would have been scattered with nothing to do.

This Sunday, our Head Boy and Head Girl, Neve and Harrison, will be accompanying Mrs Tong to the St Mary the Virgin Church Remembrance Service and laying a wreath in memory of our fallen heroes.

Thank you to everyone who has donated towards our Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Your generous donations through the purchase of poppies and other Poppy Appeal merchandise have been gratefully received and we will update you when we receive a final amount raised from the Royal British Legion.





Children in Need

On **Friday 17th November**, we will be holding a ‘Spots and Stripes Mufti Day’ to raise money for Children in Need. Cash donations will be taken on the gate at morning drop off and we will be setting up a JustGiving fundraising page for anyone wishing to donate online.

In the afternoon our Year 6 class and School Council members will be running their annual ‘Pudsey Fair’ with fun games in the Hall for the rest of the school to participate in.

Replies to Messages and Meeting Requests

Please can we remind parents that we have a 48-hour response policy to all emails and messages. For all urgent queries e.g. changes to collection arrangements, please telephone the School Office before 3pm each day at the latest to allow Office Staff time to get messages to classes. As a reminder our Office hours are 8am to 3.40pm and any messages received after this time will be picked up the following day.

Staff Changes

Sadly we will be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Bushay who will be leaving us on Friday 24th November. She will be leaving us to start a new career outside of education and we wish her all the very best in her new venture. We are looking at alternative options so that Dance can continue and will be in touch when we have some further information on this.



School Day

As a reminder our school day hours are as follows:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 8.40am | Gates open |
| 8.50am | Gates closed. Registers taken. |
| 3.10pm | Gates open |
| 3.20pm | End of school day. Children released to parents or ASC. |

Odd Socks Day

On **Monday 13th November** we will be holding an ‘Odd Socks Day’ which marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week. This is a fun day run by the school as an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or to buy expensive costumes. All your child has to do to take part is wear odd socks to school...it couldn’t be simpler!



Socks for Reception and KS1

Whilst we’re on the subject of socks....please can we ask for donations of good quality socks for Reception and Key Stage 1 classes? We have unfortunately run out due to lots of ‘muddy puddle’ incidents and are in desperate need of some donations please! Please can we remind parents that if their children have come home wearing spare clothes, these are please washed and returned to the School Office or their Class Teacher? Thank you.

Library Volunteer

We are still looking for anyone who would be able to work in our School Library! If you can spare a morning or afternoon on a weekly basis and would like to become one of our parent helpers then we would love to hear from you! Please email the School Office or speak with Mrs Tong for more information. Full training will be provided.



Contacting Staff

We thought it would be helpful to remind parents of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 processes for raising concerns about their child. This information can be found in our 'Complaints Procedure' policy on our [website](#), however we have also summarised it below as a reminder:

1. Brief chat with teacher at drop off or collection
2. Meeting arranged with teacher
3. Escalate to Key Stage leader to meet with both class teacher and KS lead
4. Escalate to meet with Deputy Headteacher and Class teacher
5. Escalate to meet with Headteacher and Class teacher

If the issue continues to be unresolved this can be escalated through the complaints process. As always we constantly want to work together with our parents to find the best workable solution for their child's wellbeing.

We would like to remind parents that abusive behaviour towards staff on the playground **will not be tolerated** and would again encourage all parents to familiarise themselves with the Parent, Carer and Visitor Code of Conduct which can be found in the [policies](#) section of our website.

Lunch Containers

Having gone through the Lost Property box this week, we have found nearly 30 plastic containers and drinks bottles from lunch boxes ranging in size from a small snack pot to large Tupperware boxes. Any that have been named have been reunited with their owners, however the remaining boxes are available for collection from school.



Please can we ask that parents name all plastic containers and water bottles in packed lunches so that they can swiftly be returned to their owners?



Netball Volunteer

Please can we again ask parents if anyone would consider helping Miss Telfer with running our Year 5 and 6 Netball Club during Tuesday training sessions from 3.30-4.30pm? You don't need to know how to play the game or even have a child at the club. We just want people who are enthusiastic and willing to be an extra adult on the court to help run practices. Unfortunately if we don't have any volunteers to

help then the number of children in the Club will need to be reduced as Miss Telfer will be unable to continue with 16 children on her own. Please email the School Office or speak with Miss Telfer for more information.

Christmas Advent Window Trail

It's that time of the year when we try to think of exciting things to do at Christmas. Some of our school community have decided to bring back an old favourite, the Stoke Mandeville Living Window Trail.

Like a normal advent calendar, 25 village windows need to be decorated for this to work. A couple have been booked in already, including the hairdresser and the Church. It will only cost the amount you want to spend on your window.



If you live in the village and want to take part, please let the organisers know by emailing smlivingadvent@gmail.com. They will need your address so they can start planning the route and will give you a number to display on your window.

Feel free to send questions their way and they will be more than happy to help!

Communications Home

Whole school – School Photographer

Whole school – Christmas Hamper Raffle Tickets

Whole school - Odd Socks Day

Year 3 – Outdoor Learning Day

Year 3 – Tasting Snack Bars

Year 5 Individuals – REMINDER Hazard Alley – November 2023

Years 5 & 6 – WhatsApp Guidance

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2023/24

Year 5: Hazard Alley – November 2023

ASC Users: ASC 2023/24

Whole School: Panto 2023 Trip

Year 4: Year 4 Swimming – Autumn Term 2023

The Friends of SMCS

It may still feel a long way off, but the Friends are beginning to get festive with all the Christmas activities we have coming up. Please read on to find out about the things we are organising over the next few weeks.



Hamper Raffle

Hopefully this week you have received two books of raffle tickets for our hamper raffle. Thank you to those who have already purchased and returned their tickets and to those who have requested further booklets. We have been hearing exciting things from the Class reps who are putting together the hampers and will hopefully have some pictures of the prizes you could win very soon. There is no obligation to buy the tickets that have been sent home so please return them to the office *as soon*

as possible if you do not wish to purchase them so that we can sell them at the Christmas Market.



Advent Calendar Raffle

Returning for a third year running is the advent calendar raffle. This will be held on **Friday 24th November** and tickets will be on sale at drop off and pick ups in the week preceding the draw. We have already had lots of calendar donations and still have more to purchase. Full details will be sent home next week.

Christmas Market

This year the Christmas Market will take place on **Friday 1st December 3pm-5:15pm** (please note the change of time from previously advertised details). There will be lots of exciting games, an opportunity to visit Father Christmas, market stalls and more. We are very excited to be serving hot dogs and burgers on the evening. Most of the stalls will be cash only so please remember to bring your pennies! If you feel you are able to help on a stall, with selling tickets or with any other part of the run up to the day or Market itself then please let us know as soon as possible!

Christmas Disco

Get your Christmas jumpers and sparkles out and join us at the Christmas Disco on **Friday 8th December**. Tickets will be £5 and will include entry to the disco, unlimited drinks, a bag of sweets and face painting. Look out for posters with full details. Since it will be Reception Class's first disco, a parent is welcome to stay, but no siblings please.

Secretary for Friends of Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Email: friends@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk

Facebook: Friends of Stoke Mandeville Combined School

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/758922361131091/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FriendsOfSMCS>

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

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

Date	Time	Event
Mon 13 Nov		Odd Socks Day (<i>no donation needed</i>)
Tue 14 Nov		Flu Immunisations (School Nursing Team)
Tue 14 Nov	10-12pm	Have Fun Be Active Festival at The Mandeville School (<i>selected children from Year 3 and 4</i>)
Fri 17 Nov		Spots and Stripes Mufti for Children in Need (<i>optional £1 donation</i>)
Tue 21 Nov		Year 5 trip to Hazard Alley

Thu 23 Nov	3.30-4pm	EYFS and KS1 Phonics Information Session <i>(KS2 Parents also welcome to attend)</i>
Fri 24 Nov		Park Away Day
Fri 24 Nov		Friends Advent Calendar Raffle
Fri 24 Nov	3.15pm	Treat Friday
Fri 1 Dec	3-5.15pm	Friends Christmas Market
Sat 2 Dec	9.00am-12pm	KS2 Aylesbury Vale Cross Country Competition at Turnfurlong Junior School
Tue 5 Dec		Christingle Service for children at St Mary's
Wed 6 Dec		Reception & Year 6 Measurements Check (School Nursing Team)
Fri 8 Dec		Friends Christmas Disco
Wed 13 Dec		School Christmas Lunch (Chartwells)
Fri 15 Dec		Panto Trip to Aylesbury Waterside
Tue 19 Dec	1.30pm	Close for Christmas Break

Class Updates

We know how much you enjoy finding out what the children have been learning in our Weekly Updates. You can find this information by selecting the link below to your child's class.

[Reception](#)

[Year 1](#)

[Year 2](#)

[Year 3](#)

[Year 4](#)

[Year 5](#)

[Year 6](#)

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.