



# Stoke Mandeville Combined School

*Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together*

## *Weekly Update Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December*

### **Christmas Market**

Thank you to each and every person who came to support the Christmas Market last week. This was a hugely successful event and we're delighted to be able to share with you that we managed to raise an astounding **£2003!** This is an incredible amount and wouldn't have been possible without the Friends, school staff and parents. A huge thank you from the Friends also goes out to the Signing Choir, children helpers on the stalls and of course Santa and his helpers who made an appearance in the Grotto!



### **Christmas Decorations**

We still have some class Christmas decorations which were not purchased at the Christmas Market last week. If you didn't have the opportunity to buy your child's decoration and would still like to, then please bring £2 to the School Office and we will find it for you. If you are able to let us know ahead of time via email to [office@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk) that you are wanting this, then we will have it ready and waiting for you.



### **Cross Country**

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 25 children from across Key Stage 2 braved the sub-zero temperatures to attend the first Cross Country event of the year at Turnfurlong Junior school. This is an invitational event and only 17 primary schools were invited. The races are at different lengths for the year groups with Year 5 and 6 running a 1,450m course, Year 4 running a 850m course and Year 3 running a 650m course.

The schools all range in size which can put our school at a disadvantage against larger schools. However, we had a fantastic morning with some great results.

In the Year 6 Girls Alexa raced home with the Silver medal. In the Year 4 Girls Freya won the Gold medal in great time and well ahead of the field. We also achieved team Bronze for both the Year 4 Girls team and Year 4 Boys team.

Every child who attended the event received their cross-country running medal and we are very proud of the resilience they all showed to make sure they finished the race.

Well done to everyone who attended and we look forward to further great results in the County Cross Country event hosted at Ascot House in Wing on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March!**

## Signing Choir at the Chiltern Open Air Museum

We received a lovely thank you message from Chiltern Open Air Museum after members of our Signing Choir travelled there last Saturday morning.



*I just wanted to say a huge thank you to Stoke Mandeville signing choir for an absolutely wonderful performance on Saturday in very cold temperatures. Our visitors all commented on how fantastic you were.*

*It really made the day to have you with us and please do pass on our thanks to all of the children who performed and braved the cold weather.*

*Michelle Luttrell  
Events Coordinator*

If any parents are happy to share photos of the Signing Choir at the Chiltern Open Air Museum or Christmas Market then please send them to the School Office. We will ensure that any photographs shared on our website have the correct permissions.



## Year 2 Multi-Skills Festival

Year 2 had a fantastic time at the John Colet School Multi-Skills Festival on Thursday. They worked hard and demonstrated great teamwork during all the activities that they got to do. All the children followed the 5Rs throughout the morning and behaved brilliantly. Well done Year 2!

***Responsibility  
Resilience  
Respect  
Reflection  
Resourcefulness***

## Homework

As a reminder this is the last week that homework and spellings will be set. Reading is still highly encouraged until the end of term (and in the holidays of course!).

## Uniform

Staff have noticed that an increasing number of children are wearing boots or trainers to school. Please can we remind parents that proper school shoes should be worn with uniform, with exceptions only being made with permission from staff. If there is a reason why your child is unable to wear proper black school shoes then please communicate this to the office via email or speak to your child's teacher on the door.



## Christingle

On Tuesday morning the school went to St Mary's Church for our annual Christingle service. Year 6 had fun preparing the Christingle oranges beforehand for us all. There were two services and the Signing Choir sang at both. The children learnt about the meaning of Christingle and the importance of Jesus being the Light of the World. Hopefully the children have come home to tell you all about it and share the goodies if you are lucky! Thank you very much for your kind donations to the Children's Society.



If you would like to see more photographs then please head to our [School Photo Gallery](#).

## Lost Property

Please can we again ask parents to ensure all of their children's uniform is clearly named. We have had a few children come to look for missing items of clothing over the last couple of weeks, and the majority of the time when asked if the item is named the reply is 'no'. If you have labelled your child's uniform using name stickers, please can you check that these are still in place as we know that they can sometimes come off in the wash and may need replacing. Thank you.

## KS1 Nativity Information

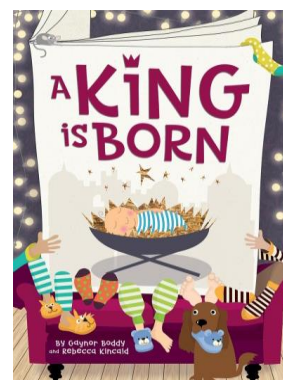
We have a few reminders ahead of our Nativity performances on Wednesday and Thursday. Please ensure you familiarise yourself with the day and time that you have booked to watch your child's performance.

### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

2pm (doors open 1.45pm)  
Playground parking available from 1.30pm  
Entry via the Hall doors at the back of the Hall

### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

9.30am (doors open 9.15am)  
Playground parking available from 9am  
Entry via the Hall doors at the back of the Hall



**\*Year 3 & Year 4 PLEASE NOTE** – Entry to the school on Thursday morning will be via the KS1 Door due to vehicles moving around the school site during this time\*

All tickets have been sold virtually via School Gateway so there are no physical tickets to collect, however there will be a spreadsheet with staff on the doors with a list of who has requested and paid for tickets via School Gateway. As our ticket sales have been so successful this year with nearly all parents taking their allocation of 2 tickets per child per performance, there will be no additional tickets available for either performance this year due to space restrictions in the Hall. Please **DO NOT** try to gain access without the correct number of tickets bought as this may result in entry for any tickets being refused.



As a polite reminder, if you have younger children coming with you then they will need to be able to sit on your lap; no pushchairs are to be taken into school and if your baby becomes distressed, we politely request for you to step outside to avoid disrupting the performers. If you require support with accessibility for a wheelchair or walking frame, please let us know in advance so we can make arrangements for this for your performance.

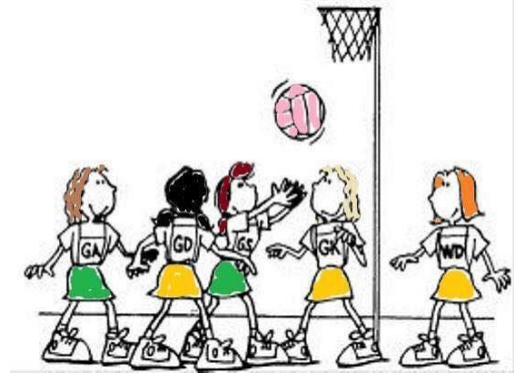
We are very much looking forward to having you all in school. We know the children have been working so hard and are very excited to show you their performances.

### **Netball at Kingsbrook**

On Tuesday our Year 6 netballers played in a tournament at Kingsbrook. We're delighted to be able to share the match reports with you from this fixture:

#### **Our Match That We Lost!**

This week on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, SMCS went to Kingsbrook to play netball matches. The team was Aanya, Amelia, Arra, Eva, Leah and Neve. We were half an hour late – I guess that didn't give us a good picture! Fortunately, we straight away were told to play Buckingham Park. Miss Telfer kept on calling them St Mary's (because we originally were meant to play them!).



Amelia was captain for this match, but unfortunately she lost to rock, paper, scissors so Buckingham Park started with the ball. They raced to our goal but luckily Neve batted the ball out of danger. She then passed to Leah, carried on the ball to Amelia and passed the ball to me – eventually throwing it to Eva who made a fantastic score! But that didn't last long. Buckingham soon caught up. The game intensified with them scoring a point.

That never stopped us from trying our best. Everyone made their effort, but Buckingham knew more. Left to right, right to left, and before we knew it, they were ready to score. They scored with ease, then we went back to our positions for what was coming next. Buckingham speeded through the court and gained an extra point. That didn't stop us from trying our hardest though. Sadly, the opposing players were too learned for our tactics, finally securing their final score. The game ended as 1-3 but we all tried our best. And that's all that matters.

Report by Eva, Arra and Aanya.

#### **Our Match That We Won!**

On Tuesday 5 December we played a Netball match, unfortunately we were half an hour late but we still persevered. Our team was me, Arra, Leah, Amelia, Aanya and Eva. After losing our first match we were even more motivated than ever. We were playing St Mary's. this was our second game of the league.

In the first quarter me and Neve were working together to bring the ball down to the netball hoop. After a few attempts I managed to score, making us one goal closer to victory. Eva, our Centre was one of the strongest players. Our hands were numb after the first match but we carried on.

In the third quarter the score was 3-1. We were overjoyed at the results we had played really well compared to our last match. With only a few minutes I scored I forgot all about my wrists which moments ago felt cold and stiff. At the end of the game the score was 4-1. We did it, we won!

Report by Leah, Neve and Eva

### **Panto – Dietary Restrictions**

As part of our package with the Waterside Theatre, children will be receiving an ice cream during the interval. If your child has any dietary restrictions which would mean they are unable to have a vanilla ice cream, please can you send them into school on this date with an alternative snack in a sandwich bag marked with their name and class.



### **Panto - Packed lunches**

Next week anyone who had a hot school meal booked has had their menu selection changed to a cheese roll packed lunch. If you have cancelled this then please remember to send your child in to school with a packed lunch. If you are unsure if your child will receive a packed cheese roll lunch then please check your ParentPay account. Your hot meal selection will still show on there, but we have been assured by Chartwells that any hot meals booked have been converted to the cold packed lunch option.

### **Parents**

This is a reminder that parents must NOT enter the school building unless signed in or invited by a teacher. If you are late for collection then please don't access the playground after 3.30pm as your child will have been brought through to the office to await collection. Additionally as outlined by Buckinghamshire Council any abusive or rude behaviour will not be tolerated by staff.

### **Parking**

We have had reports from parents and neighbours about inconsiderate parking again, particularly down Marsh Lane. This has included parking on the zig zag lines and in one case actually across a neighbour's driveway so they were unable to access their property! Please can we again remind parents:

**DO NOT** park across people's driveways  
**DO NOT** park on the zig zag lines  
**ALLOW** plenty of space for emergency vehicles to park

### **Nurturing Workshop**

Please find attached details about a Family Links Nurturing Programme for parents/carers, which we consider to be the **best parenting course** available and is being offered for **FREE**.

Please email the Office or let your class teacher know if you are interested and our SENDCo will make a referral.

### **MHST Workshop - Child Anxiety**

We are very excited to announce that the Bucks MHST will be running a virtual parent/carer group for all primary schools in our MHST network from *Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February*.

Please find attached a leaflet with further details about what the group can offer. If you would like to join the group then please email the School Office or let your class teacher know. Our SENDCo will then make a referral on your behalf.

### **Chartwells**

The menu for January to March is now live on ParentPay. If bookings have been made prior to receiving this information, please can we ask that the below dates are checked as these are their Theme Day Menus for those days:

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January - 'Pizza the Action'  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February - 'Pancake Day'  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March - 'Easter Celebrations'



If your child is entitled to Free School Meals or Universal Infant Free School Meals, you just need to click save and select more to store your order.

Booked meals will be highlighted green in the booking screen.

If you need to pay for meals, ParentPay will remind you to pay within two hours of booking.

All meals must be ordered including Free School Meals and Universal Infant Free School Meals.

### **Housepoint Totals this Week**

Well done to Chequers for earning the most housepoints this week.

<b>Chequers</b>	<b>Claydon</b>	<b>Hughenden</b>	<b>Waddesdon</b>
<b>11378</b>	<b>11329</b>	<b>11325</b>	<b>11201</b>

Year 6 won the Tidy Award for this week and Sophia from Year 3 was the recipients of the Values Award.

### **Communications Home**

Whole school: Christmas Disco – Further information

Dance Club: ZKT Street Dance – Spring 2024

Reception & Year 6 : School Nurse – Childhood Measurement Programme

Year 2 to 4: Premier Gymnastics – Bookings live tonight 6pm

Years 3 & 4: Sports Factor – Ball Games

### **Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway**

**MAC Users:** MAC 2023/24

**ASC Users:** ASC 2023/24

**Dance Club:** ZKT Street Dance – Spring 2024

**Year 6 Individuals:** River Dart 2024 – Payment 2

**Year 6 Individuals:** River Dart 2024 – Payment 3

**Year 6 Individuals:** River Dart 2024 – Payment 4

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Mon 11 Dec	PM	Signing Choir ( <i>Year 5 &amp; 6 members only</i> ) to Fremantle Court
Tue 12 Dec	10am	Signing Choir ( <i>selected children from KS2</i> )
Wed 13 Dec		School Christmas Lunch (Chartwells)
Wed 13 Dec	2pm	EYFS and KS1 Nativity – Performance 1
Thu 14 Dec	9.30am	EYFS and KS1 Nativity – Performance 2
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](mailto: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.*