



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 12th January

Dear Parents and Carers

This week has been another challenge for everyone across our school community. It has, at times, felt very surreal in having to return to remote learning.

I am incredibly grateful to every parent and carer who has still tried to continue to undertake their own work alongside supporting the children with remote learning. This thanks also includes all the extended members of families, grandparents, aunts and uncles or friends who have also stepped in to help.

I know we all recognise home life is always a busy balancing act and the added need to ask for your support this week will undoubtedly have caused additional problems to solve. I know you all understand the situation was beyond our control and we have been working on this all week. Clearly at this time of year it is imperative to have a warm building.

I am sure everyone will be pleased to return to school next week where staff will ensure everyone is up to date with their learning.

I must again thank you for the kind comments and understanding in what I know has been a frustrating time.

Kind regards

E Stewart

Homework

You will be aware that homework has been set this week. As we appreciate that the children have been doing all of their schoolwork from home this week, placing increased pressure on parents, the deadline for completion has been extended to **Tuesday 23rd January**. No additional homework will therefore be set next week.



Reception Application Deadline

This is reminder that if your child is due to start school in September 2024, the deadline for submitting your application to Buckinghamshire Council is this coming **Monday 15th January**. For further information please go to <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/apply-for-a-primary-school-place/>

Author Visit to Stoke Mandeville Combined School

We are overjoyed to have the brilliant author JESS FRENCH coming to our school this month.

Jess is an author, and a vet. She once ultra-sounded a snow leopard and has also looked inside a crocodile's stomach! Jess loves all animals. She loves the natural world they live in, too. She thinks it is very important that we all work hard to protect the natural world, so she writes books about how we can do that.

Jess will be talking about her life, work, and her latest children's book *Beastlands*, the first instalment in an epic new fantasy adventure series. She will then be signing books for the children afterwards.



IMPORTANT – Parents, you will need to order the book from 'Our Bookshop Tring' - please click <https://www.ourbookshoptring.co.uk/product/beastlands-race-to-frostfall-mountain/>

The signed books will be given to your child on the day (Friday 26th January) and will be brought with the author when she visits. This will be very exciting for all the children.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM BEN AT OUR BOOKSHOP - Please include your child's name and class so the books can be labelled up for the event. Postage is not required; we will deliver all the books on the day (please put the school as the delivery address).

GameOn – Saturday Morning Football at Haydon Abbey

Every Saturday morning, GameOn runs a football course for local children at Haydon Abbey. Their new Spring course is starting very soon and we have been asked to share the attached flyer with you giving further details.



Sports Clubs

Afterschool sports clubs will now be restarting next week. A reminder of these dates and times can be found in the table below. Please note that all clubs provided by external providers are booked with them directly (with the exception of Dance) and are currently fully subscribed. If your child is interested in joining any of these clubs then please contact the School Office and you will be placed on a waiting list.

Club	Provider	Day	Time	First date	Last date
Netball (Y5-Y6)	School-led (Miss Telfer)	Tuesday	3.30-4.30pm	Tue 9 Jan Tue 16 Jan	Tue 26 Mar
Dance (Y5-Y6)	ZKT Dance	Wednesday	3.30-4.30pm	Wed 10 Jan Wed 17 Jan	Wed 27 Mar
Football (Y5-Y6)	School-led (Mr Lack)	Thursday	3.30-4.15pm	Thu 11 Jan Thu 18 Jan	Thu 21 Mar
Gymnastics (Y2-Y4)	Premier	Tuesday	3.30-4.30pm	Tue 9 Jan Tue 16 Jan	Tue 26 Mar
Football	GameOn	Monday	3.20-4.25pm	Mon 8 Jan	Mon 25 Mar

(Y4-Y6)				Mon 15 Jan	
Ball Games (Y3-Y4)	Sports Factor	Thursday	3.20-4.20pm	Thu 11 Jan Thu 18 Jan	Thu 8 Feb

Communications Home

Whole school – URGENT School Closure
 Whole school – UPDATE School Closure
 Whole school – UPDATE School Closure – Wednesday
 Whole school – UPDATE School Closure – Thursday & Friday
 Whole school – Author visit to SMCS
 Whole school – Update to School Closure

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2023/24

ASC Users: ASC 2023/24

Year 6 Individuals: River Dart 2024 – Payment 2 (*deadline 31st January 2024*)

Year 6 Individuals: River Dart 2024 – Payment 3 (*deadline 29th February 2024*)

Year 6 Individuals: River Dart 2024 – Payment 4 (*deadline 29th March 2024*)

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

Date	Time	Event
Mon 15 th Jan		Reception 2024 Entry – application deadline
Fri 26 th Jan	3.20pm	Friends of SMCS Treat Friday
Fri 26th Jan		Author Visit – Jess French
Thu 1 st Feb		Roving Bookshop
Fri 9 th Feb	3.20pm	Spring 1 Term Ends
Mon 19 th Feb		Staff Inset Day
Tue 20 th Feb		Spring Term 2 Starts

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.