



# Stoke Mandeville Combined School

*Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together*

## *Weekly Update Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January*

### **Congratulations to our ARP!**

Today (Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January) our KS2 Hearing Support pupils from the ARP (Additional Resourced Provision) participated in the Panathlon's Deaf Ten Pin Bowling competition at Rogue Bowling in Aylesbury. This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to meet other deaf children from the local area and beyond and compete on equal terms.

We're delighted to share with you that our team came first and the children were all very happy to come and show their medals to Mrs Stewart upon their return!



### **Parents Evening**

Bookings for our upcoming Parents Evening will go live at **8pm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January** via SchoolCloud <https://stokemandeville.schoolcloud.co.uk/>. We would advise that you set a reminder for this as appointments will go on a first served basis. Appointments will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February as follows:

#### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

3.40-5pm Face-to-face appointments in school  
6-8pm Virtual appointments online

#### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

3.40-6pm Face-to-face appointments in school

### **Resources plea from Year 6**

Our Year 6 staff have asked us to send out a plea to any parents/grandparents/family members who may have spare wood and who could saw some blocks of wood (10cm x 10cm x 3cm approx) for their art project? This will be used as a base for their 3D wire models. They would need 32 altogether ideally **by Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January**. Please do get in touch with Year 6 staff directly or the School Office if you think you are able to help.



### **Zebra Crossing**

We have been contacted by a parent who was unfortunately hit by a car on the zebra crossing this week. They were crossing from the opposite side to a group of parents and the car that hit him didn't see him. He has asked us to share this with parents to be aware of drivers when crossing and to make sure you have been seen first before crossing as we don't want to see another accident of this nature.

## MAC and ASC

If your child was booked in for MAC or ASC last week, this should have now been credited to your account due to the school closure. If there is still anything remaining on your account over these dates then please contact Mrs Gundry in the School Office.

## Lost Keys

We have been contacted by a plowholder at the allotments who has lost a set of keys. The keyring has 4 keys on it as well as a pair of miniature green boots. If you have found these please contact the School Office as soon as possible and we will put you in touch with the owner.

## Smartphone Safety Tips for Young People **(attached)**

One in three 8-year-olds in Britain own a smartphone and that proportion rises to more than 90% by the time children reach 12. This concerted increase – driven by factors both personal (blossoming independence) and practical (the transition to secondary school) – makes it all the more valuable for young people to know how to use such devices safely.

Indeed, more than half of parents (52%) surveyed by Ofcom admitted to worrying about their child being bullied via their mobile phone – and with hazards like scams, screen addiction and inappropriate content to consider, that's far from the only risk around. The attached guide pulls together some simple but solid smartphone safety tips which we wanted to share with our parent body.



## Author Visit – LAST CALL for signed book

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.



She will be signing her latest children's book *Beastlands*, the first instalment in an epic new fantasy adventure series.

**IMPORTANT** – Parents, this is your last call to order the book from Our Bookshop. This will remain available until

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February** – please click below...

<https://www.ourbookshopring.co.uk/product/beastlands-race-to-frostfall-mountain/> The signed books will be given to your child on the day which 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.*

## Reception Class Survey

Every year we like to ask the parents of our Reception Class how they have found the settling in process to SMCS and ask for feedback on what has worked well and what can be improved upon for the future. This week we sent out a short questionnaire to Reception parents and are inviting as many parents to complete it as possible by **Tuesday 23rd January**. This should only take around 2 minutes to complete. Thank you for your assistance with this and to everyone who has already responded. These answers all help to inform future decisions and suggestions for improvement are invaluable. As a reminder the survey link can be found here:

<https://forms.gle/7zCpFPGq7BkmeArD8>

## Chartwells

Our school meal providers, Chartwells, have kindly agreed to issue a refund to all parents who had school lunches ordered for last week. This will apply to all parents with children in Years 3 and above who pay for their meals.

## Netball Timings

Miss Telfer has asked for the message to be passed on to parents that up until February half term, netball will be finishing at **4.15pm** rather than 4.30pm due to the light conditions.

## An Update from The Friends

A happy new year to you all! With the days getting longer it seems such a long time ago we were busy with all the Christmas events! We want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who supported us with our events at the end of last year, whether it was donating bottles for the tombola, helping at the market or disco, selling raffle tickets to family and friends or attending the events - we really couldn't have done it without you. The advent calendar raffle made £350, the Christmas Market made a massive £2,000 and the Winter Disco made just over £200.



With all that money being raised we are looking forward to exciting discussions with the school to see what projects we can help fund to enrich the children's learning. We are already discussing how we can support the fantastic events being planned for science week. Watch this space for updates on what we do.



Last night we held our first committee meeting of 2024 and began the task of beginning to plan the events for the year ahead.

Next Friday (26th January) will be our first Treat Friday of the year. We will be selling bags of pick and mix sweets for £1. They will be random

mixes of the children's favourite choices from the disco tuck shop. *If purchasing please can parents ensure the contents are suitable for their child as some items have been prepared in factories where nut items are produced.*

The following week we will be rummaging through the lost property box and putting all the lost items on display on the playground at pick up on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January**. Any unnamed items not claimed after this will be added to the second-hand uniform stock. Feel free to have a rummage through the box outside the office before this if you think your child has lost something.

Has your child had a sudden growth spurt? Winter clothes you no longer like? Already sorting through your summer wardrobe? Well let us help you out with your unwanted clothes! Bring them to school on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February** in tied bags and leave them on the green **by 9am**. Bag2School will be collecting from us that morning – the more bags they collect the more we raise for the school!

Hopping forwards to March, and we will be holding our popular Easter egg raffle. Would the company you work for be interested in donating an egg to us? If so please drop us an email: [friends@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:friends@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk)

One last date for your diary - **Family Quiz Night Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April**. Come and join us for an evening of fun. We are looking at having a fish and chip supper. Watch out for more details and how to book tickets and place your food orders.

Our next Friends Committee Meeting will be held on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February** at 7.30pm and all are welcome to join.

### **Housepoint Totals this Week**

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

<b>Chequers</b>	<b>Claydon</b>	<b>Hughenden</b>	<b>Waddesdon</b>
<b>2093</b>	<b>2431</b>	<b>2293</b>	<b>2001</b>

Year 2 won the Tidy Award for this week and Kaysen from Year 5 was the recipient of the Values Award.

### **Communications Home**

Reception: Reception 2023-24 – Parent Survey  
Year 3 and Year 4 Girls: Y3 & Y4 Girls Football Festival  
Year 3 and Year 4 Girls: Transport to Girls Football Festival  
Year 3 and Year 4 Individuals: Skipping Rope Festival  
Year 5 and Year 6 Individuals: Benchball Tournament  
MAC/ASC Users: MAC/ASC Telephone Number  
Whole school: Online Safety Workshops - Hazard Alley  
Whole school: Parents Evenings – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February

## **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 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024*)

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

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

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

Date	Time	Event
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	8pm	Parents Evening bookings go live ( <i>see above for more info</i> )
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan		Year 5 & 6 Benchball Tournament ( <i>selected children only</i> )
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan		Friends of SMCS Treat Friday – Sweetie Bags
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	3.20pm	Friends of SMCS Treat Friday
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan		Author Visit – Jess French
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	3.10pm	Lost Property Collection (School Playground)
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan		Year 3 and 4 Girls Football Festival ( <i>all Year 3 and 4 girls</i> )
Thu 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb		Roving Bookshop
Tue 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Skipping Rope Festival ( <i>selected children only</i> )
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3.40-5pm 6-8pm	Parents Evening – Face to face appointments in school Parents Evening – Virtual appointments online
Thu 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3.40-6pm	Parents Evening – Face to face appointments in school
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	8am-9am	Bag2School Collection (Village Green in front of school)
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3.20pm	Spring 1 Term Ends
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Staff Inset Day
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Spring Term 2 Starts
Thu 29 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.30pm	Friends of SMCS Meeting

## **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.*