



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 26th January

Author Visit

Today we had a visit from the zoologist, television personality and author Jess French. She came in to speak about her adventures and to inspire the children to write their own books like her own recent release 'Beastlands'. Check out our school photo gallery for some more photographs from her assembly and book signing.



If any parents missed out on the opportunity to purchase a signed book from Jess then ['Our Bookshop'](#) in Tring have agreed to keep

a number of signed copies if you would like to visit their shop and purchase one. Please call 01442 827653 to reserve your copy to avoid disappointment.

Lost Property – Monday

On Monday The Friends will be sorting through our Lost Property trunk and displaying unnamed items on the playground at collection time. Please come along to have a look. Any uncollected items will be donated to the Friends secondhand uniform collection for selling online. Any unbranded items will be donated to the upcoming Bag2School Collection on Friday 9th February. Can we please again ask that parents clearly mark their childrens' uniform and coats/hats/bags so that lost property can more easily be reunited with their owners!



Bikeability

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to the Bikeability courses that were released this week and we're sorry if any children have missed out due to the limited availability.

Please don't forget even if you have paid online and given your consent, paper copies of consent forms still need to be handed in to the School Office for passing on to Bikeability instructors (or these can be completed electronically and emailed back to office@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk). If you do not have access to a printer please contact the School Office and we will be happy to give you a paper copy.



Smoking and Vaping

Please can we remind parents that smoking and vaping is not permitted on school grounds. This includes on the playground at drop off and collection, as well as on the school field during sporting events and clubs. Thank you.

Parking

We have unfortunately received two local resident complaints this afternoon about parking on Marsh Lane and in the layby. Staff members had to go outside to assess the situation during this busy period and ask cars to move. Three cars were parked on the zig zag lines and cars were parked on both sides of Marsh Lane seriously limiting access to cars and causing obstruction to any larger vehicles needing to pass. In an emergency fire engines or ambulance would not have been able to pass. Particularly on lovely afternoon like today there is no reason why parents cannot park further away and walk to avoid the serious congestion we had outside school this afternoon. Please consider walking, scooting, parking further away or car sharing. As always please photograph and report these instances of bad parking to both ourselves and the police or local authority and challenge bad parking where you see it.

Skipping Ninja

On **Friday 2nd February** we have Pete Thompson visiting the school - a Guinness world record holder in speed skipping! 'Skip Beatz' promote health through skipping to music, and are visiting the school to complete a demonstration and teach all of the children to jump, skip and lead healthy lifestyles! The skipping performance will include a show by a skipping ninja superhero! Skipping ropes, Ninja headbands, Ninja suits and skipping ropes will be on sale on the day of the workshop, with a shop at the end of the day accepting cash or card.



This will be a day when children will need to be in sports kit for the day. Children will be sent home with their PE kits on Thursday afternoon (or sooner if there is no PE lesson on Thursday). For more information about Skip Beatz please head to <https://www.skipbeatz.com/>.

Roving Bookshop

On Tuesday children will bring a small envelope home with them linked to the Roving Bookshop which is visiting the school next Thursday (**Thursday 1st February**).

All classes will have the opportunity to visit the bookshop during the school day. If you wish to give your child the opportunity to purchase a book at the bookshop during the day, please could you put some money into the envelope, put your child's name on it and return it to school in the morning. Your child's class teacher will collect the envelopes in and then hand them out to the children when it is time to visit the bookshop. We have been informed that a lot of the popular books cost in the region of £7-£10 although there are also a number of half price books in the region of £3.50.

If you would prefer to choose a book with your child either before or after school, the bookshop will be in the room next to Year 5 from 8.30am and it will also be open after school from 3.15-4pm. If you would prefer to do this, then there is no need to return the envelope.

Books cannot be saved but if a title sells out, a paid order can be placed and the book will be sent later.

Online Safety - MyLOL

"The #1 teen dating website in the world"

That's the claim of MyLOL, which offers 13 to 19-year-olds the chance to rate each other's pics, send private messages and contact strangers online. If that sets your alarm bells ringing, you're far from alone: law enforcement agencies and schools in several countries have seen fit to issue warnings about the platform.

Among the main issues is the fact that MyLOL doesn't have a reliable age verification method – meaning there's no foolproof way to stop anyone outside the platform's intended 13–19 audience signing up for an account under a false age. The attached guide from National Online Safety also highlights potential concerns around in-app purchases and the use of geolocation for sinister reasons.



This guide as well as other useful online safety guides can be found on our website by clicking on the following link: <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/onlinesafety>.

School Uniform

Please can we remind parents that children should not be wearing boots in school. As a reminder of our uniform policy please check out the [School Uniform](#) section of our website.

End of School Visitors

Again please can we ask that parents and younger ones only use our toilet facilities at the end of the day in an emergency. This is a very busy time of day for the office to be having additional guests signing in and out and in the school building.

Hot Chocolate's Joke of the Week

Every week we bring you the very finest jokes straight from the Meeting Room to your inboxes! Mrs Stewart will be choosing her favourite joke shared by children during Hot Chocolate Friday so please do help your child by coming up with a (child-friendly!) funny joke for Fridays! This week's entries are...

Did you hear about the fire at the circus?

It was in tents
Rosie in Year 5

What do you call a small fortune teller being chased by the police?

A small medium at large
Tabitha in Year 5



Vacancies

If you would be interested in registering your interest for a reading volunteer, Midday Supervisor or Teaching Assistant position, then please contact the School Office at office@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk or telephone 01296 612371 for further information.

Housepoint Totals this Week

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

| Chequers | Claydon | Hughenden | Waddesdon |
|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| 3231 | 3251 | 3006 | 3001 |

Year 3 won the Tidy Award for this week and Riley from Year 5 was the recipient of the Values Award.

Communications Home

Reception: Reception Post Box Walk

Reception and Year 1: Bikeability Balance (R and Y1)

Years 3 and 4: Bikeability Level 1 (Years 3-4)

Years 5 and 6: Bikeability Level 2 (Years 5-6)

Year 6 Individuals: PAYMENT REMINDER River Dart 2024 – Payment 2

Whole school: Children’s Mental Health Week

Whole school: Roving Bookshop

Whole school: Skip Beatz – Skipping Workshop

Whole school: Parents Evening – Bookings Live 8pm Tonight

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2023/24

ASC Users: ASC 2023/24

Reception and Year 1: Bikeability Balance (R and Y1)

Years 3 and 4: Bikeability Level 1 (Years 3-4)

Years 5 and 6: Bikeability Level 2 (Years 5-6)

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 29 th Jan | 3.10pm | Lost Property Collection (School Playground) |
| Tue 30 th Jan | | Year 3 and 4 Girls Football Festival (<i>all Year 3 and 4 girls</i>) |
| Thu 1 st Feb | | Roving Bookshop |
| Fri 2nd Feb | | Skipping Ninja – All children to wear PE kit Pop up merchandise shop after school |
| Tue 6 th Feb | | Skipping Rope Festival (<i>selected children only</i>) |
| Wed 7 th Feb | 3.40-5pm 6-8pm | Parents Evening – Face to face appointments in school Parents Evening – Virtual appointments online |

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|--------------------------------|----------|--|
| Thu 8 th Feb | 3.40-6pm | Parents Evening – Face to face appointments in school |
| Fri 9 th Feb | 8am-9am | Bag2School Collection (Village Green in front of school) |
| 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 |
| Fri 23rd Feb | | Park Away Day |
| Thu 29 th Feb | 7.30pm | Friends of SMCS Meeting |
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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.