



# Stoke Mandeville Combined School

*Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together*

## Weekly Update Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

### Skipping Ninja

Today we were joined by Pete Thompson – a Guinness world record holder in speed skipping! He gave an assembly to the school following by individual lessons with each class throughout the day. The children (and staff!) have had a fun day learning from him and will hopefully be bringing home a few new skills!

We will be creating an online album of photos from throughout the day which we hope to have on the school website next week.

For more information about Skip Beatz or to purchase any merchandise you can head to his website <https://www.skipbeatz.com/>.



### Free School Meal Vouchers

The Helping Hand team at Buckinghamshire Council is available to help direct people to the support that is right for them. If anyone is worried about access to food, fuel or other essentials, please contact Buckinghamshire Council's Helping Hand team on 01296 531151 or complete the [online contact us form](#) and someone will be in contact. For families entitled to free school meals with Pupil Premium then vouchers for the half term break will be sent out via email or text on Monday next week.



### Roving Bookshop

On Thursday we had a visit from the Roving Bookshop who set up a library full of exciting new books in one of our classrooms.

We're delighted to say that children and parents spent over £1200 on book purchases throughout the course of the day which has meant over £200 in commission for the school to spend on new books for our classrooms and library! Thank you for your support with this.

### ASC Phonline Update

Our phone has finally been reconnected in the MAC/ASC Room so parents can call the usual number upon arrival which is the school number 01296 612371 (dial 4).

## World Thinking Day

On **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** it is 'World Thinking Day' which is celebrated annually on 22nd February by all Scout and Guide organizations around the world. Again this year we are inviting all of our uniformed organisations (Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides) to wear their uniforms on this day to school. Alternatively, members are welcome to proudly wear their sashes or display their promise badges on their usual school uniform.



## River Dart

For children travelling to River Dart in May, a new kit list is available on the school website in the following location: [www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/year6/riverdartresidentialinformation](http://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/year6/riverdartresidentialinformation).

## Parents Evening

Appointments for Parents Evenings went live on [SchoolCloud](#) on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**. Please note that bookings will close at 10am on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**. If you require any assistance with booking your appointment or adding another parent to a video call then please head to our website which has some handy [SchoolCloud guides](#). Alternatively please email the School Office if you are having difficulties and we will do what we can to help.

Please note that children are not invited to the actual consultation with the teacher, however they may sit quietly on the stage reading a book for the duration of your appointment.

**Book Looks:** Books will be available in classrooms for parents to look through until 5pm on Wednesday and 6pm on Thursday after school. They will also be available for parents to look through on Thursday morning from 8 until 8.30am. Please note that during the morning Book Look teachers and assistants will be preparing for the day ahead so any discussions about your child's work and progress should wait until your allotted appointment time.



When accessing the school for face to face appointments please enter via the Key Stage 1 door. You will be asked to sign in and sign out on the class register by a member of staff who will be at the door. Please can we remind parents and carers that phones must not be used in the school and photographs must not be taken of any internal displays. Thank you.

## Clubs Next Week

Due to the Hall being in use for Parents Evening meetings there will be no Dance Club on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February** and no Ball Games (Sports Factor) on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February**. Football Club will continue as normal on Thursday afternoon.

Dance Club will resume after half term on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February** and Sports Factor will commence their lessons on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February** (sign up required for this).

## KS2 Cross Country Championships at Ascott House

Parents of Key Stage 2 children (Years 3 to 6) have been sent an invitation this week for their children to participate in the KS2 Cross Country Championships at Ascott House in Wing. This is not a compulsory event for children to take part in and the invite has gone out to all KS2 children

in order to be fully inclusive and welcome children to compete from a wide background of abilities. If your child would like to take part then please head to the Payments section of School Gateway to give your consent.

### Thank you from Year 6

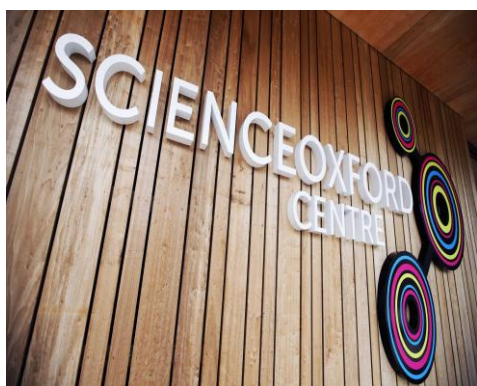
Mrs Tong would like to say a huge thank you to the parents who have made wooden blocks for the Year 6 art project. These have been gratefully received and the class look forward to using them to display their artwork.



### SEN Coffee Morning

*Save the date – 9.30am Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March*

This coffee morning will mainly be focusing on Child Anxiety but parents of all children with SEN are welcome.



### Science Oxford Centre

We are still asking for parent volunteers from Year 2 and 3 to accompany the children on their school trip to the Science Oxford Centre. Please can we ask for any interested parents to email the office by Tuesday afternoon if they would be able to come along on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March**. If we do not have enough offers of help from Year 2 and 3 parents we may ask other year groups if there are any adult volunteers so please feel free to email the office to register your interest if you would like to come along.

### Request a visit from an Energy Doctor

If you want to improve the energy efficiency of your home you can request a visit from a domestic resource efficiency officer (called an 'Energy Doctor'). Energy Doctors can:

- advise on ways that eligible households can reduce energy consumption and costs
- put in place suitable low-cost easy retrofit resource efficiency (LCERRE) measures

### Eligibility

To qualify for a visit your home must meet all of the following criteria:

- you rent the property through a private rental agreement, or own and live in the property
- your household has an income of £30,000 or less (before tax), is in receipt of means tested benefits such as Universal Credit and Council Tax Support, or a member of your household is disabled
- the domestic property you live in has an energy performance certificate (EPC) rating of D, E, F or G, or does not legally require an EPC

The Council will prioritise visits for those who meet these eligibility criteria and live in [Opportunity Bucks](#) areas.

### Request a visit

To request a visit, contact [Better Housing Better Health](#) by telephone 0800 107 0044 or email [bhbh@nef.org.uk](mailto:bhbh@nef.org.uk). For more details please [click here](#).

## ZKT Barbie Dance Workshop

Our new Dance instructors wanted us to share the details of a Barbie Dance Workshop they are running during half term at Downley Community Centre. This is open to all children aged 4-13 years. Please see the attached flyer for further information and details of how to book.



## Bucks Kickboxing Academy

After half term there are new kickboxing classes taking place at the school for both children and adults on Thursday evenings. Please see the attached flyer for further details.

## Swim School Offer

Stoke Mandeville Stadium is thrilled to offer a £20 discount on their online swimming lessons to all of the students currently attending swim lessons from Stoke Mandeville Combined School.



Swimming is not only a fun activity but also a critical life skill that every child should learn. It's time to start thinking about how to keep your kids active, happy, and healthy. Our skilled instructors can help you do just that by teaching your students how to swim. Our instructors are trained to teach children the necessary skills to become confident and competent swimmers in a fun and enjoyable way.

### Here are the details of this offer:

- £20 off joining online for any of our stage 1 - 10 swimming lessons
- Act fast, as the offer is valid until the 29th of February 2024
- Simply use the online discount code: **SMSchools**

The above code can be used when making the booking through their [website](#).

## 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...

### **Why did the cow jump over the moon?**

To go to the moovies!

*Isabelle in Year 1*





## An Update from The Friends



Don't forget to go through your wardrobes and cupboards this weekend to get together a bag of donations for our Bag2School Collection on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**. All bags will be collected at 9am so please get these to us as soon as possible on Friday morning!

Come and join us for an evening of fun at our **Family Quiz Night Friday on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April**. . 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. We will be holding a raffle on the night so if you have any unwanted and new Christmas presents that you would like to donate then please bring these to the School Office for safe keeping until the quiz night.

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

### **Communications Home**

**Pupil Premium Recipients:** Free School Meal Vouchers – February Half Term

**Whole School:** Science Capital

**Whole School:** Roving Bookshop

**Whole School:** URGENT Internet and Phones

**Whole School:** Communications Restored

**Whole School:** REMINDER Skipping Workshop

**Reception:** Parents Evening - Thursday

**Year 2 and 3:** Y2 & Y3 Science Oxford Centre Trip

**Years 3 to 6:** KS2 Aylesbury Vale Cross Country Competition – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Year 3 and 4:** Upcoming Sports Factor Club

**Year 3 and 4:** Sports Factor – Multi-Sports

**Year 3 and 6:** URGENT Parent Meetings – Year 3 and 6

**Year 5 and 6:** Film Making Course

**Year 6:** REMINDER Bikeability Level 2 (Years 5-6)

**Year 6:** PLEASE READ SchoolCloud Issue

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

**Dance Class:** Honeycomb Festival

**Dance Class:** URGENT Honeycomb Festival 2024

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

**MAC Users:** MAC 2023/24

**ASC Users:** ASC 2023/24

**Dance Club:** Honeycomb Festival 2024

**Year 2 and 3:** Y2 & Y3 Science Oxford Centre Trip (*deadline 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024*)

**Years 3 to 6:** KS2 Aylesbury Vale Cross Country Competition – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (*deadline 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024*)

**Year 4:** Swimming – Spring Term 2024 (*deadline 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024*)

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

**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
Tue 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Skipping Rope Festival ( <i>selected children only</i> )
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3.30-5pm 3.40-5pm 6-8pm	Book Look in classrooms Parents Evening – Face to face appointments in school Parents Evening – Virtual appointments online
Thu 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	8-8.30am	Book Look in classrooms
Thu 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3.30-6pm 3.40-6pm	Book Look in classrooms Parents Evening – Face to face appointments in school
Thu 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb		No Sports Factor After-School Club (Ball Games)
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 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb		World Thinking Day – <i>Guides, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers, Rainbows invited to wear their uniforms to school</i>
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb		Park Away Day
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb		Friends of SMCS: Treat Friday
Thu 29 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.30pm	Friends of SMCS Meeting
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar		Year 2 and 3 Trip to Science Oxford Centre
Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar		SEN Coffee Morning - Anxiety

**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.*