



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 9th February

Half Term

Just a reminder that school is closed next week and children will be returning on **Tuesday 20th February** as there is a Staff Inset Day on the Monday.

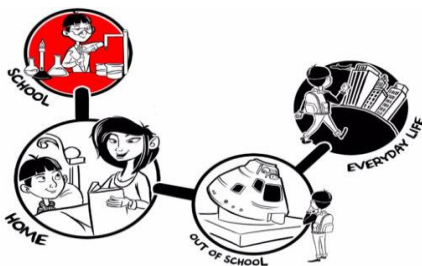
Parents Evening

Thank you to all of the parents who came to visit their child's classroom for Book Looks this week and for sharing such positive feedback about being able to come into school for this and the parents evenings. We're delighted that the new hybrid system of face to face and video appointments is working so well and look to continue this format going forward. The new system of releasing mid-year reports prior to parents evening appointments, as suggested during a Parent Forum meeting, has also worked well and we feel has been positively received all round.



Chartwells

When checking menu selections for our children for the first week back at school we have noticed a number of our usual children don't have meals selected. Please can we ask parents to check their selections on ParentPay and if your child has no meals selected for the week we return then ensure they are sent into school with a packed lunch.



Science Capital

Miss Poole has asked again if there are any parents who would like to come in and talk to children about how science is used in their job or career. If you would be interested in doing this then please email the School Office with the subject title 'FAO Miss Poole – Science Week'. Thank you.

MHST Child Anxiety Workshop

Following on from their successful offer of a parent workshop to support understanding and managing childhood anxiety, Bucks MHST (Mental Health Support Team) are repeating the workshop in February and offering two different times to support parents attending around family lives.

Please find attached a leaflet and sign up to which time you would like to attend by scanning the QR code on the leaflet. If you have already attended a previous workshop around childhood anxiety then this is a repeat of those workshops.

Attendance Letters

This week our Attendance Officer has been sending out letters to the parents and carers after it became apparent during a routine examination of our attendance registers that attendance amongst some of our pupils has dropped below the school average of 95% which while not ideal does not usually require further action.

We are aware that illness or other unforeseen circumstances can prevent students from attending school, however we feel that it is beneficial to make parents aware of the amount of child their children have missed. Research shows a direct correlation between attendance and attainment, and we would like to work with you and your child to ensure they do not fall behind.

As we're sure you will appreciate, each lesson covers essential teaching and it can be very difficult for students to catch up on work missed. Every effort is made to support our pupils and if you believe they are experiencing any significant difficulties which may be impacting their attendance then please contact Mrs Stewart to discuss.

Breaktime Skipping

We have been delighted to see so many children using their newly discovered skipping skills at break and lunch times this week after last week's skipping workshop! For more photos of last week's workshop classes then please head to our [School Photo Gallery](#).

Year 4 Swimming

We have been informed by Stoke Mandeville Stadium that they are unfortunately having to cancel the planned swimming lessons for Year 4 on **Wednesday 21st and 28th February**. These cancellations will be taken into consideration when arranging the coach fees for next term and will be deducted accordingly.

Attendance Ladder



Design a Wow Badge

The WOW Badge Design Competition is back for 2024! [WOW is the walk to school challenge](#) our school is taking part in. With WOW, pupils are rewarded with monthly collectable WOW badges for walking, wheeling, cycling, scooting or doing Park and Stride to school!

The reward badges are unique and designed by the pupils themselves. **This is our school's opportunity to enter the competition** and be in with a chance of winning incredible prizes and have our pupils' designs feature on the 24/25 WOW badges!

This year's theme, **Walk with Imagination** asks pupils to picture a different walk to school and draw where their imagination takes them! You could challenge your child to see the world from different perspectives. Imagine what it would feel like to be as small as an ant, or hop around like a kangaroo, or even moon walk like an astronaut. The possibilities are endless, we want to see how far their imaginations will take them on their walk to school.

Please find attached a copy of the entry form for your child to complete if they would like to take part. The top 3 designs chosen will be sent to Living Streets who run WOW badges and they will pick an overall winner from all the entries .

This could win our school up to £500 worth of WOW resources and the winning badge will be featured in the 2024/25 badges.

THE WOW BADGE DESIGN COMPETITION IS FOR EVERYONE

WOW supports disabled pupils and those with special educational needs to enter the badge design competition. Step this way to [find out more](#).

The image shows the entry form for the WOW badge design competition 2024. It features a large hand-drawn outline of a hand, a hot air balloon, and a bird. The text includes: 'Badge design competition 2024', 'WOW - the walk to school challenge', 'WALK with IMAGINATION', 'WHO MIGHT YOU BE OR WHAT MIGHT YOU SEE? For this year's WOW badge design competition, we want you to imagine a different walk to school and draw it!', 'WHAT SHOULD YOU DRAW? Imagine what it would feel like to fly like a bird, hop around like a kangaroo, or even moon walk like an astronaut. Explore your surroundings and reimagine your walk however you like!', 'EXAMPLES MAY INCLUDE: • Extinct or wild creatures, such as the sabre-toothed tiger, dodo, or meerkat • Historical icons, such as explorers, scientists, or activists • Events or celebrations, such as protests or street parties', 'SUSTAINABILITY AND WOW BADGES Our WOW badges are made in the UK from repurposed plastic material, including old fridge trays, plastic plates and off-cuts of yoghurt pot material. WOW badges can also be recycled. Find out more: livingstreets.org.uk/recycling', 'CLOSING DATE TUESDAY 5 MAR 2024', and a form with fields for 'PUPILS' (Pupil name, Age, What did you choose to draw and why?) and 'TEACHERS' (School email, School name and address, Local authority).

Online Safety – Roblox

We have been warned about a scam on Roblox whereby children can be pressured into giving out personal information in a questionnaire in order to stop an alarm from sounding. Hacking and phishing scams like this can lead to key personal data being harvested. These types of attacks are becoming far more common place and security settings and passwords should be checked for all devices along with checking how children are accessing information.

As a reminder we have created a dedicated page on our website entitled '[Online Safety](#)' where we save all useful guides to apps and games that are popular with children.



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 banana go to the doctor's?

He wasn't peeling well!

Elsie M in Year 2



Why does a pro golfer always have a spare pair of socks with him?

In case he gets a hole in one!

Harrison in Year 6

Housepoint Totals this Week

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

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
4897	4993	4872	4881

Year 4 won the Tidy Award for this week and Max in Year 6 was the recipient of the Values Award.

An Update from The Friends

Bag2School: Thank you to everyone for their efforts in collecting bags of clothing donations this morning. We managed to collect **36 bags (130kg)** of clothing and shoes for Bag2School and look forward to sharing with you how much this has raised for the school.



Flash Uniform Sale: On *Monday 26th February* there will be a flash uniform sale at afternoon collection time. Every item of uniform will be sold for £1 each and all funds raised will go to The Friends of SMCS.

Come and join us for an evening of fun at our **Family Quiz Night Friday** on **Friday 26th April**. 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.

Communications Home

Individuals: Parents Evening – Video Calls

Year 4 Individuals: REMINDER Swimming – Spring Term 2024

Individuals: REMINDER Parents Evening

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 23rd February 2024*)

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

Year 4: Swimming – Spring Term 2024 (*deadline 9th February 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 19 th Feb		Staff Inset Day
Tue 20 th Feb		Spring Term 2 Starts
Wed 21 st Feb		Year 4 No Swimming
Thu 22 nd Feb		World Thinking Day – <i>Guides, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers, Rainbows invited to wear their uniforms to school</i>
Fri 23 rd Feb		Park Away Day
Fri 23 rd Feb		Friends of SMCS: Treat Friday
Mon 26 th Feb		Flash Second Hand Uniform Sale
Wed 28 th Feb		Year 4 No Swimming
Thu 29 th Feb	7.30pm	Friends of SMCS Meeting (<i>all parents are welcome to join</i>)
Fri 1 st Mar		Year 2 and 3 Trip to Science Oxford Centre
Thu 7 th 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

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.