



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update 16th July 2021

End of Term message from Mrs Stewart

Dear Parents/Carers

The past year has seemed to blur in so many different ways, but throughout the uncertainties we have faced I remain incredibly thankful for your continued understanding and support. The difficulties everyone has had to navigate are without doubt the most challenging anyone can have faced in our lifetime.

In reflecting over the past year we must remember the amazing progress our children have made and the wonderful memories we have made together. Our efforts this week to hold some normal end of year events have given a heart back into the school, where we have seen children cheering and shouting for joy during the sports days.

This coming week we will be saying a very fond farewell to our Year 6 children. These children are the class who started at the school as I started in post as Headteacher and I feel it has been a privilege to see them grow for the last seven years. I am incredibly proud of each one of them and all they have achieved. They have grown so much and I hope they are excited to start their secondary school adventure. I hope they take so many fond memories with them and let us know of their future success. For those families who will be leaving us, thank you for your support.

Being the Headteacher of such a wonderful school comes from the whole community working together for every child in our care and I remain immensely proud of the whole staff team.

Whatever your plans for the summer break I hope you stay safe and enjoy making some good memories with your families.

We will see you when school opens again on Thursday 2nd September at the normal time of 8.45am.

E Stewart

Mrs Stewart

Current Opening Guidance

Looking forward to September, current guidance suggests we will be able to return to a 'normal school' day with less restrictions in place. We are mindful our priority is to make sure everyone is kept safe and we will publish in the days before school returns any changes which impact on parents and carers. One change we will implement for the Autumn term is for children to continue coming into school in PE kit on PE days as we have done over the last year. This will change in the Spring term and we will be sending a reminder about this closer to the time.

Next week

Hot Weather

As we are due to have some 'seasonal weather' for a change next week we would like to remind you to make sure the children come into school with a hat, named water bottle and with sun cream already applied. If your child needs to reapply their sun cream during the day then please make sure they bring a named bottle in their school bag.

Belongings, Medication and School Reading/Library Books

Don't forget to collect any belongings from your child's pegs or classrooms (there are still a few wellie boots and coats remaining!), as well as any medication that we are keeping for you. Please also return any library or school reading books etc. You may wish to send your child in with a plastic bag for bringing home any artwork or exercise books (Year 1 onwards only).

Prize Giving

We look forward to holding our Prize Giving Ceremony outside on Monday with Key Stage 1 (Reception to Year 2) before break time and Key Stage 2 (Year 3 to Year 6) after break. Unfortunately parents are not able to attend.

Leavers Assembly

On Tuesday we will have an outside assembly for our Leavers where we will celebrate the achievements of our Year 6 children.

Mufti Days

We are still going ahead with mufti days for all children on Monday and Tuesday next week with the uniform sale moving to an online platform. This is just a temporary measure put together by The Friends of SMCS until enough people are signed up to the School PTA website which will have a section for purchasing second-hand uniform. Please sign up to this as soon as possible at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofsmcs/?event=login>. You can sign up with the year your child is currently in and this will then automatically carry forward in September (parents of the current Year 6 therefore do not need to sign up).

As a reminder the details for the online Facebook page are <https://www.facebook.com/groups/150617347053587/>

UNIFORM SALE

The Friends of SMCS

... PLENTY TO SEE

All items will have a suggested donation price

Scan to find the group

ONLY ON FACEBOOK:
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/150617347053587

a little bit of everything

Holiday advice

Many families will want to take a holiday over the summer period, which may involve travelling abroad. As ever, parents should plan their holidays within school and college holidays and avoid seeking permission to

take their children out of school during term time. If parents take a holiday which then leads them to need to take a period of time in quarantine this will be recorded as unauthorised absence which could lead to a fine.

Pupil Premium

We are aware that some people within our community may have been affected financially during the Coronavirus pandemic. If your circumstances have changed and you feel that you may be entitled to additional support for your child by way of Pupil Premium then please contact the School Office. For further guidance about eligibility please refer to the Buckinghamshire Council web page <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/education/schools/free-school-meals/>

Primary Science Quality Mark

We were delighted to welcome Rob Butler MP to our school assembly this morning where he awarded the school with our Primary Science Quality Mark. This is a huge achievement for us and huge congratulations go to Miss Poole and the rest of the team for doing such an outstanding job. Photos from today's visit will be uploaded to the website shortly so keep your eyes peeled for these!

Covid Update

The changes to restrictions which start on the 19th July mean as a school we no longer need to complete track and trace over the summer holidays. The Covid email address will not be monitored from the 31st July and any possible cases should use NHS Track and Trace to allow close contacts to be informed of positive cases.

The advice to our school community is to continue to complete LFT tests if you have not had a positive test previously. If you have had a positive LFT test you need to follow up with a PCR and isolate for 10 days if this returns as positive.

Just as a reminder for next week please be extra vigilant and on the lookout for any symptoms of Covid, and particularly the new Delta variant, that your child may be displaying. As well as the usual Covid symptoms of temperature, continuous cough or loss of taste/smell, children particularly have exhibited other symptoms including vomiting, sore throat and runny noses. If you are in any doubt then please get a PCR test from a local test centre and do not rely on an LFT (Lateral Flow Test) conducted at home. LFT tests are for alerting asymptomatic individuals if they need to take a PCR test if their LFT test is positive, but cannot be relied on if you or your child has symptoms.

Staffing

MAC and ASC Clubs

Mr Gundry and Miss Mohammed have been with the club a short time and will be finishing on Tuesday having worked with the children since June. We thank them both for their help this term.

Teaching Assistants

Mrs Morgan who has worked at the school for a number of year will not be returning to school in September. Mrs Morgan has been a strength in supporting all our children with swimming and has worked tirelessly throughout her time here. Her passion for the role of TA has meant she has given up so much time to help at all the different events and residential children have undertaken. I am sure we all wish her a happy retirement.

Miss Pukalska will unfortunately be leaving us at the end of term as a different opportunity has arisen and she will be moving to Buckingham Park Primary. She has been an amazing TA while she has worked here and she has had a very positive impact on the children. She will be very much missed and we wish her every success in this new job.

Whilst we are sad to be saying goodbye to Miss Civilyte who is relocating to Leicester we are delighted to be welcoming Mr Cole and Mr Rolfe who will be joining us in September.

Teachers

Firstly we are very sad to say farewell to Miss Harris who has been such a wonderful addition to our team. She will be continuing with her traveling adventures and we thank her so much for being with us and working so hard throughout the year in school and remotely.

We also will be saying time for change for Miss Smith and Miss Curl who we hope will return as Mrs King and Mrs Andre respectively! We all wish them both the most wonderful wedding days which they have been waiting a long time for.

Letters home

MAC and ASC Users - Reminder to book MAC and ASC sessions for Sep-Oct 21

Whole School - sKIDS Bubble Study

Whole School – Friends of SMCS – Uniform donations

Whole School - PL Schoolwear – Summer Appointments

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is back! We would love for everyone to get involved in this great reading scheme which will be running throughout the summer break <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>