



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 10th September

We have made it to the end of our first full week of school and what a week it has been! Scorching temperatures at the start and dark, stormy skies to finish (but with an ice lolly treat from the Friends of SMCS to keep up our spirits!).

It has been wonderful to see our new Reception starters settle in so well and we were particularly impressed with all of their lovely manners at the ice lolly stall this afternoon which several of the parent helpers commented on. Our Year 6 class have also set a shining example this week by coping so well with taking the Secondary Transfer Test as well as being excellent 'buddies' to the Reception children, taking them to the lunch hall and being a friendly face for them on the playground.

COVID Update

As we are all in unusual circumstances we would like to thank you for being patient as we tweak our procedures to keep everyone safe. Advice from central government changes rapidly and we continue to adapt with the published requirements.

As of 19th July as a school there is no longer a requirement for us to trace close contacts of Covid-positive cases and this is now the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. We have made the school decision however to continue informing classes if a positive test for one of its pupils has been received and the school has been made aware.

Just as a quick reminder of the procedure if you hear of a positive case in your child's class either from the School or via your own social networks:

- Whole classes no longer need to self-isolate for 10 days if there is a positive case within the class.
- If your child has been in **close contact** with the positive case for **more than 15 minutes** then you must book a PCR test for them and keep your child away from school until a result comes through.
 - o If the test is positive then you must keep your child away from school for the duration specified by the NHS app (10 days from the onset of symptoms or date of contact) and they will be set home learning which they are expected to complete if they are asymptomatic. Of course if they are feeling poorly as a result of the positive test then they will not be expected to complete the work.
 - o If the test is negative then your child must return to school, however we would recommend that you remain vigilant and continue to regularly test your child using LFT tests for 10 days as the virus can sometimes take a number of days to be detected.
 - o If your child tests positive and has a sibling at the school then we would recommend you also have the sibling tested at a test centre and follow the same guidance as above with regard to home learning until a result has been received.

For your awareness we have this week received confirmation of positive Covid cases in Years 2, 5 and 6 so please be vigilant for any symptoms and if you feel it would be worth booking a PCR test for your children this week to reduce any worries then please do so.

If anyone is undertaking testing then we would appreciate the whole household isolating until results are received. As with any absence this is confidential information and should not be shared on social media.

As schools have returned to a more 'normal' way of learning we also must follow the statutory policy on attendance. In the case of your child being away from school please inform us of absence by either calling the school on 01296 612371 and dialling 1 for the Absence Line or email the School Office office@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk. If you can give detailed information about your child's symptoms in either the email or voicemail then this would be much appreciated.

Parent Gateway

We still have a number of parents who have yet to download our Parent Gateway app. Please have a read through the attached information to find out a little bit more about how to do this.

Bikes and Scooters

Please can we remind parents that children must not ride their bikes and scooters on the school grounds, instead they should be safely wheeled off site. We appreciate your support in discouraging this.

Nut Free School

We are a nut free school, please remember this when packing your child's lunchbox and please do pay close attention to ingredients lists on items such as cereal bars and biscuits which may contain nuts (such as Kinder Bueno). Nutella and other chocolate nut spreads should not be included in lunches.

Birthday Sweets

We are happy for children to celebrate their birthdays in school by bringing in sweets for their classmates – please can we ask that sweets are wrapped and arrive in their unsealed outer wrapper (i.e. mini bags of Haribo inside the unsealed multipack bag).

Swimming

Swimming lessons will begin again for Year 4 on Wednesday 22nd September. Please keep an eye out for a letter being sent out to you next week for these sessions.

MAC and ASC

If you have any MAC or ASC requirements then please speak to the School Office and Mrs Gundry will be happy to deal with these. We do still have a few places still available so please ask the School Office if you would like a booking form.

Secondary School Open Events

We have this week been communicating information to Year 5 and 6 parents about Open Events coming up at our local secondary schools. Please note that the evening events tend to book up very quickly so if there is no availability then keep an eye out for additional dates which are added throughout the school year. Unfortunately we are unable to permit time out of school for children to attend Open Day events at local schools as this can be disruptive to their learning during what has already been a turbulent year for them.

Message from Friends

We have an AGM on Thursday 16th September at 7.30pm (this will be a virtual meeting).

Join Zoom

Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88273243445?pwd=WWVqZW5ZTDRCeXI3QUpsSWIJQT2MvQT09>

Meeting ID: 882 7324 3445 Passcode: Y8QUEi

Please do get involved if you would like to help with next year's school events. We would welcome lots of new members and we hope to see you at the meeting.

Letters Sent Home

Bikeability – Reception/Year 1

Year 6 – Details of Secondary School Open Events

Class Updates

We know how much you enjoy finding out what the children have been learning in our Weekly Updates. This has been another fun packed week. You can find this information by selecting the link below to your child's class.

Year R – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-r/what-are-we-learning>

Year 1 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-1/what-are-we-learning>

Year 2 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-2/what-are-we-learning>

Year 3 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-3/what-are-we-learning>

Year 4 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-4/what-are-we-learning>

Year 5 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-5/what-are-we-learning>

Year 6 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-6/what-are-we-learning>

You can also find up to date information on important dates on our website.
<https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/upcoming-events>