



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 19th April

Honeycomb Festival

On Friday 5th April a small group of girls participated in the Honeycomb Dance Festival at Waterside Theatre. Some of the girls overcame their fears to give a brilliant performance in front of a very large audience.

They all had a great time and gave it their all, smiling faces all round coming off the stage with lots of buzzing adrenalin wanting to do it again. They represented the school impeccably and it was an honour to watch them perform.

A huge thank you to all the girls for giving up time during their Easter holidays to perform, as well as dance teachers from ZKT Dance, Leah and Zoe, for coming along to support the girls on the day!



Miss Telfer

If you would like to see some more photographs from the day and performance then please head to our [school photo gallery](#).

School Allotment

Miss Cooke and SMCS would like to start using the allotment on Lower Road with the children. However we need to put a workforce together in order to get it to a useable state again before this can happen! Are there any green-fingered parents out there that would be interested



in volunteering to help with the first stage. It would

really benefit the children if we are able to make this more pupil-friendly. If you are able to help then please contact Miss Cooke via the School Office.



Many thanks to everyone who has registered their interest in helping with the allotment. Miss Cooke will aim to contact all interested at the beginning of next week with some dates and times.

Class Photographs

Next week we will be visited by Tempest Photography to take class and club/group photographs. If you have any kit at home from netball or football matches, please can this be washed and returned to school by Monday at the latest.

TEMPEST
PHOTOGRAPHY

Leave of Absence

We have had an increasing number of parents taking their children out of school for extended periods over term time and would like to remind you that the Headteacher can only authorise leave of absence in *exceptional circumstances*. Schools will take into account Government guidance when considering what the exceptional circumstances are.

Taking holidays in school time is not acceptable so please check [term and holiday dates](#) which can be found on our school website.

The following reasons are not considered to be exceptional circumstances:

- availability of cheap holidays
- availability of the desired accommodation
- poor weather experienced in school holiday periods
- periods overlapping with beginning or end of term
- If you take a leave of absence without the permission of the school or if your child fails to return by the agreed date if permission was granted, then this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and noted in your child's record.

For further guidance on requesting a Leave of Absence from school, please head to our website: <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/leave-of-absence>.

Bikes and Scooters

Please can we remind parents that children must not ride their bikes or scooters in the playground during drop off or collection. We have had a couple of near misses this week and would like to remind parents of this to avoid a collision and a member of our school community getting hurt.



River Dart – Final Information Meeting

On **Thursday 2nd May** at 5pm there will be a final information evening for the River Dart Residential which will be held in the Year 6 classroom. This will be an opportunity for parents to learn more about what the children will be doing during their week away, which adults will be accompanying them on the trip and also offer you the opportunity to ask any questions that have not already been answered.

For parents who have not already done so, please find below a link to a new Google form for you to consent to your child being administered with Calpol and/or Piriton during their trip away should it be required for any reason. It is essential that all parents complete this form (to indicate

if they do or do not consent) so please click on the link below and complete the form as soon as possible.

[Parental agreement for school to administer occasional non-prescription Calpol 6+ and/or Piriton](#)

Year 6 Hoodies

A huge thank you to Mr Webb for organising the Year 6 leavers hoodies which have been delivered to school this week. These will be given out to parents at the River Dart information evening on **Thursday 2nd May** and any hoodies not collected (or for children not attending River Dart) will be available to collect from the School Office after this time. If you did not get a chance to order your child a hoodie there is still time! Parents are invited to contact The Print Lab via email at info@theprintlab.co.uk to place any last minute orders.

Children will be able to wear their hoodies at the River Dart, but as they are not school uniform should not be worn in school.

Beavers

Miss Cooke runs a Beavers group on a Wednesday evening between 5.30-6.45pm and currently has spaces with no waiting list. Please contact the School Office if you are interested a space for your child (age 6-7) giving your name, email and your child's name. Miss Cooke will then contact you directly. There are also places available on a Monday which is run by a different Beavers leader. Girls and boys both welcome!



Parents

We have unfortunately received a phone call this week from a neighbour on Chestnut Way to complain about a rude parent who was very disrespectful and swore at their contractor in front of parents and children over a driveway dispute. Please can we remind parents to be respectful and courteous to our neighbours and be conscious not to block driveways. Thank you.

Netball and Football

As we are now having lighter evenings with the clocks going forward both netball and football clubs will now finish at 4.30pm.

Friends of SMCS Update



House Treat Sale

Thank you to everyone from **Hughenden House** for donating cakes and sweet treats to the Hughenden Treat Sale today. We look forward to sharing with you how much was raised!

The next Treat Sale will be held by **Chequers** house on **Friday 17th May**. The remaining Treat Sales will be held by **Waddesdon** on **Friday 14th June** and **Claydon** on **Friday 5th July**.



Teddies

If you have any preloved teddies (or other cuddly toys) looking for a new home, please can you bring them to the School Office for entering into our Teddy Tombola!

Raffle Prizes

If you have any unopened, good quality gifts that you would like to donate to the Friends for raffle prizes then please bring these to the School Office.

Family Quiz Night

Next **Friday 26th April** we will be holding a Family Quiz Night in the School Hall. This is a hugely enjoyable event and we look forward to welcoming lots of members of our school community. To book your table (up to 8 people) please email friends@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk to secure your spot.

Bag2School Collection

On **Thursday 25th April** we have a Bag 2 School Collection booked for 9am! Bag2School is a company that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second-hand clothing and The Friends of SMCS have arranged for them to collect donations from our school. All the bags will be weighed and we will be paid for the total weight collected.



Please use your own plastic bags (there is no limit) and remember to tie them at the top before leaving them on the Village Green in front of the school.

The following good quality items for re-use are being collected:

Men's, ladies' & children's clothing

Paired shoes

Handbags, belts & accessories.

(No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please)

Please feel free to share this collection date with other local friends and families as the more they weigh, the more they pay!



At the end of April, Parent and Governor, Steve will be taking on his most demanding physical challenge to raise money for the Friends of Stoke Mandeville Combined School. He will be running the Ridgeway National Trail, a distance of 87 miles (or 3.5 marathons) in just two days!

Please sponsor him if you feel able.

<https://pay.collectiv.com/steves-ridgeway-challenge-99829>



Friday 26th April
6pm

£5 ADULT
£2.50 CHILD

TICKET

BRING YOUR OWN
FOOD AND DRINK
Tuck shop selling sweets available

Email us to book your table
(max teams of 8):
friends@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk

Contacting the School Office

Can we please again remind parents NOT to contact the School Office using the messaging facility on the School Gateway app. All email messages need to be sent directly to office@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk from your email address in order for queries to be received and forwarded in a timely manner. Messages sent from the app are sent to an inbox that is not routinely monitored and may mean that your message is not picked up for several days.

Housepoint Totals this Week

Well done to Waddesdon for earning the most housepoints this week!

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
1126	1107	1101	1245

Year 1 won the Tidy Award for this week and Owen in Year 6 was the recipient of the Values Cup.

Communications Home

Whole school: House Treat Friday

Whole school: Message from Mrs Stewart

Whole school: Aiming High – Request to Parents and Carers

Cross Country Participants: Final Details – KS2 Cross Country

Football Team: Football Timings

Hughenden House: Cake Sale – Fri 19 Apr

Year 5 : Year 5 – Tasting Activity

Year 6: River Dart 2024 – Information Evening

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2023/24

ASC Users: ASC 2023/24

Dates for the Diary (New dates or times are written in RED)

Date	Time	Event
Sat 20 Apr		AVPSAA KS2 Cross Country at Ascott House, Wing
Mon 22 Apr		First GameOn Football session (<i>booked children only</i>)
Tue 23 Apr		School Class and Club Photographs with Tempest Photography
Thu 25 Apr		First Sports Factor 'Team Challenge' session (<i>booked children only</i>)
Thu 25 Apr	By 9am	Bag2School Collection
Fri 26 Apr	6pm	Friends and Family Quiz Night
Thu 2 May	5pm	River Dart 2024 Residential – Meeting for parents
Mon 13-Thu 16 May		Year 6 SATs Week
Fri 17 May		Friends of SMCS House Cake Sale: Chequers House
Mon 20-Fri 24 May		Year 6 Residential to River Dart Year 5 Activities Week

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.