



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 27th September

Our First Day as a JRSO

Thank you for parking away on Park Away Day. We appreciate it on our first day as JRSOs!



We love the job. We helped Miss Telfer by telling people they can't park outside the school. Even though it was raining we put our coats on and popped our hi-vis jackets on and did the job.

We saw many children and parents and caretakers walking. We are very proud. We are lucky we had an umbrella. Each car went by and then we knew it was time to do our job as JRSOs. This is an amazing job to do. We are so thankful we got the job! We have meetings and many ideas to come. We have other JRSOs called Romi and James and we are excited to work as a team.

We hope that many people are walking or parking and striding. We are so excited for Park Away Days and many more. We are very proud JRSOs and hope it continues. As JRSOs, we respect people and we have the responsibility to be careful when crossing roads and standing doing our job.

JRSOs will help people park more carefully.

From JRSOs Bella and Lily-Sue, Year 6

Office Email

Please note that today we have changed our domain from 'stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk' to 'smcs.org.uk'. This means that our new office email address is now office@smcs.org.uk. Please note that the old email address will automatically redirect to this new address, but it may be worth saving this new address as a 'safe' email if you have high security filters on your email as this will be the address that all future emails come from.

We do not expect this change to affect our Year 4 to Year 6 children accessing Google Classroom for homework over the weekend, but if there are any problems then please get them to try logging in with the new domain 'name@smcs.org.uk' with their usual password and this should resolve any issues they may be encountering.

How to support your child's learning

Developing good learning habits is a life skill which supports children to develop a positive attitude to learning. Everyone is a life learner and we all learn something new every day!

In school we promote a positive approach to learning which includes children having a level of choice. This may be regarding the task they choose or the way they present their work.

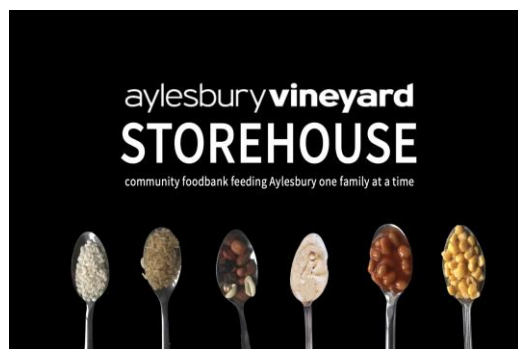


Our homework policy which reflects this message to help develop positive life learning behaviours. Undoubtedly children spend a significant amount of time learning in school and we set homework to help revisit some of the learning which has been covered already or to explore new ideas. The setting of homework and its submission may be on the class learning platform.

There is also an expectation that children will read at least 4 times per week. There is nothing better than sharing a book and showing an interest as you talk through what they are reading. This should not be seen as predominantly the place for those children learning to read. Being familiar with what your child is reading is important at any age. Good reading habits helps support all areas of learning.

While homework may remain a rather polarising topic here at Stoke Mandeville we believe it helps build resilience and reflection along with supporting parents in understanding more about their child's learning journey. Please can we ask for your support to ensure this is completed.

We are looking to explore how we can provide more information sessions to support our partnership. Please look out for upcoming further information of events, and if you have any suggestions of information you would like please let us know.



Harvest Festival

On **Monday 7th October**, we will be having our school Harvest Assembly. As part of this, we will be collecting donations for the Aylesbury Vineyard Storehouse. This is a local charity that supports people by supplying essentials, such as food, in times of need.

If you are able to contribute, please send your donations in with your child on or before **Monday 7th October**. We are happy to keep donations in our kitchen prior to the Harvest Festival so they are ready to be displayed in the School Hall for the Harvest Festival. Thank you for your support.

Currently, the Storehouse is in particular need of the following items:

- UHT milk
- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Instant noodles
- Tinned fruit
- Desserts (custard, angel delight, rice pudding)
- Spreads (jam, honey, marmalade etc)
- Microwaveable and normal rice

Young Voices 2025

For all children attending Young Voices 2025, a payment option has now been set up to order official t-shirts and audience tickets through School Gateway. Please note that as well as making payment online, you will also need to return a completed order form to Mrs Tong so she has a written record of all orders.



Cycle to School Week

Thank you to everyone who took part in Cycle to School Week. While we have had some setbacks with the weather and road conditions, we have been so impressed with how many children have stuck to their pledges, and there has been a lot of excitement in the afternoons when children have come to collect their prizes from the School Office if they have had a lucky tag waiting on their bike or scooter at the end of the day! Thank you for your support with this and we hope that families will continue to cycle or scoot to school in the mornings and afternoons after seeing the benefits of no traffic and no parking problems!



Parking

We have been notified of cars belonging to our parents causing obstructions to driveways this week. Please be respectful of our neighbours and do not block driveways. Please also do not park right next to our gates where we have taxis arriving and departing as this causes extreme difficulty for them when arriving or leaving the school site. Thank you.

Office Visits and Drop Offs

Please can we remind parents to send their children in with everything they need at morning drop off including packed lunches, water bottles, swim kit, PE kit and afterschool sport kit. We have been having a lot of these items coming into the office in dribs and drabs which means a lot of unnecessary trips to classrooms to deliver them during busy times for the office! Thank you.

ZKT Dance

This week an email was sent to our Dance Club about an upcoming Christmas Showcase on Sunday 1st December. We have experienced some difficulties with sending this, so if any members of the Club have yet to receive the email then please contact the School Office and we will resend it separately. Thank you.



Innovate

Please note that all Innovate orders should be placed through the ordering app by 11pm on Saturday night. If you are having any difficulty with gaining access to this, or have not received a registration link yet, then please email Innovate directly at primary@impactfood.co.uk.

Secondhand Uniform

If you would like to purchase items of good quality, secondhand uniform, please contact The Friends of SMCS who are able to source this for you. Please email friends@smcs.org.uk for further information and price details.

If your child is entitled to Pupil Premium then they can get their secondhand uniform for free. You can do this by one of two ways. Either email The Friends directly using the email address above

and say that your child is eligible for pupil premium; or alternatively you can email the School Office (office@smcs.org.uk) with your secondhand uniform requirements (if you could include sizes this would be helpful), and we can then communicate with The Friends on your behalf if you would like for your child's name to remain anonymous.

No photographs on school site

Please can we remind parents that no photos are allowed to be taken whilst on the school site. This includes both inside the classrooms and on the school playground at collection and drop off. Thank you.



Zones of Regulation

As a reminder we will be running a parent information session on **Wednesday 2nd October** at 2pm to explain the Zones of Regulation in further detail. All parents are invited!

The aim of the session is to make sure that parents understand the terms that we use in school to deal with emotions. This strategy was introduced at the end of last year so now we are looking to embed it more thoroughly. We hope that parents can use the same strategies at home, to help their children learn to name, understand and ultimately deal with their own emotions. We have 4 zones that we use in school to divide our emotions into groups. We then use different strategies to help us deal with our emotions, depending on the zone e.g. if I am feeling tired I will probably need some fresh air or to stand up and move myself a little. These strategies are used throughout the school from Reception to Year 6.

The session will be for about 45 minutes with time afterwards to discuss issues raised and ask further questions. For further information please contact Ms Hayden via the School Office.

If you know you will be attending then please send a quick email to the School Office (office@smcs.org.uk) so that we can be prepared for how many people to expect. Thank you.



Reception 2025 Open Events

In the Autumn Term 2024, Stoke Mandeville Combined School will be holding a series of Open Events for parents of children due to start Reception in September 2025:

Wednesday 23rd October 1.45-2.30pm

Wednesday 6th November 9.10-10am

Wednesday 20th November 9.10-10am

The format of the event will be a talk by the Headteacher, Mrs Stewart, followed by a tour of the school. Please book your place below so that we have an idea of what numbers to expect ahead of the day. Preschool children are also welcome to attend and do not need a place booking.



Maternity Cover – Cleaner

We have a cleaning position open for maternity cover which is due to start after October half term. If you know of anyone who would be interested in assisting us with this then please get in touch with Mrs Stewart via the School Office for further details. The position is to cover 2 hours per day which can be either before or after school.

Hot Chocolate's Joke of the Week

Every week we bring you the very finest jokes and riddles 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?

He wasn't peeling well!
Hugo in Reception

Why did the bicycle stop going?

It was too 'tired'
Thanula in Year 6

Knock knock

Who's there?

Boo

Boo who?

My joke wasn't that bad!

Felicity in Year 2

Knock knock

Who's there?

Wooden

Wooden who?

Wooden't you like to know!

Caity in Year 4

Housepoint Totals this Week

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

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
2629	2624	2678	2780

Well done also to Year 5 who won the Tidy Award for this week and to Erin in Year 1 who was the recipient of the Values Cup!

Communications Home

Whole School: Park Away Day - Friday

Whole School: Food Allergens – Urgent Message

Whole School: Lower Road Closure

Whole School: URGENT Lower Road Update

Whole School: Harvest Festival

Whole School: REMINDER Park Away Day

Reception: Bucks Herald – Photo Consent 2024

Year 6: River Dart – Video Presentation

Year 6: REMINDER River Dart Meeting - Tonight

Dance Club: ZKT Dance Academy – Christmas Showcase

Netball Club: Netball Today

Football Club: Football Training Tomorrow

Football Club: Years 5 & 6 – Football Club 2024-25

Individuals: IMPORTANT Pupil Premium

Young Voices Choir: Young Voices – T-Shirts and Audience Tickets

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2024-2025

ASC Users: ASC 2024-25

Reception: Bucks Herald – Photo Consent 2024 (consent deadline 1/10/24)

Individuals from Years 1 & 2: Sports Factor Y1&2 Multi-Skills – Autumn 1 2024 (payment deadline 27/9/24)

Individuals from Years 2 to 4: Premier Gymnastics – Autumn Term 2024 (**extended to 23/9/24**)

Individuals from Year 3 & 4: Sports Factor Y3&4 Multi-Skills – Autumn 1 2024 (payment deadline 27/9/24)

Year 4: Swimming – Autumn Term 2024 (**extended to 27/9/24**)

Individuals from Years 5 & 6: Years 5 & 6 – Football Club 2024-25 (consent deadline 2/10/24)

Young Voices Choir: Young Voices 2025 – T-Shirt Order (payment deadline 3/10/24)

Young Voices Choir: Young Voices 2025 – Audience Tickets (payment deadline 3/10/24)

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

Date	Time	Event
Wed 2 Oct		Flu Immunisations with School Nursing Team
Wed 2 Oct	2-2.45pm	Zones of Regulation Meeting – <i>all parents welcome</i>
Mon 7 Oct		Harvest Festival
Fri 11 Oct		Secondary Transfer Test Results Day (Year 6)
Mon 14 Oct	9am latest	Bag2School Charity Clothing Collection
Thu 17 Oct		Year 5 School Trip to Hazard Alley
Thu 17 Oct	3.45-4.30pm	Phonics Information Session

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@smcs.org.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 and this may be extended to 5 days during particularly busy times. For all urgent queries please telephone the School Office.