



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 11th September

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.

Alerting Us to Absence

We recognise attendance in school is very important throughout the school year. We would hope everyone in our school community would remain vigilant to the symptoms of COVID. If you have any concerns your child may test positive we recommend you take medical advice.

Anyone undertaking testing 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.

Returning to Learning

As we have welcomed children back to school we are aware that there have been a huge range of experiences of lockdown. Staff are working with classes to return to a more familiar way of working. This week you should have received homework of reading books and spellings from Year 1 to Year 6. We are hoping that sending work home on Thursday with a deadline to return on Tuesday will help all children to complete on time.

Welcome Back video

We have added a new video to YouTube today to show everyone the school now that we have re-opened. The link is below, we hope you enjoy watching it!

https://youtu.be/L118U0xW_kU

Keeping everyone safe

We have implemented a one-way system around the school, which is helping to support social distancing. This remains a key piece of Government guidance and we would strongly urge everyone to support us with maintaining this while dropping off and picking up children.

Please remember the importance of social distancing whilst on the school premises, both for yourself and any children in your care. You may feel wearing a face covering at this time is another measure to stay safe.

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).

Parent Governor Vacancy

Hopefully you will have seen the letter sent out yesterday about the current vacancy for a Parent Governor. If you would like any further information about this please contact the School Office in the first instance. The closing date for nominations is Friday 25th September.

Message from Friends

We have an AGM on Wednesday 30th September 7pm (this will be a virtual meeting). 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

Reading Letter (Yrs 1-6)

Parent Governor Vacancy (Whole School)

Resuming sports in school (Yrs 5&6)

Class Updates

Year R

PE will take place on a Monday but please await further communication as this will not start until Miss Poole feels they are settled.



Wow!! What a fantastic first week the children have had. They have been fantastic at coming in independently, showing true resilience, something we are all very proud of! Long may it continue. It has been lovely getting to know all the children and to see them settle in so brilliantly.

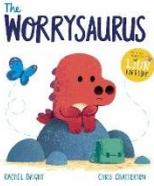
The children have spent time getting to know their classmates, learning names and finding out the different activities that they all enjoy. There has been lots of colouring, construction, drawing, painting, climbing and the Paw Patrol characters have been a real hit. The children worked brilliantly together to create an obstacle course around the outdoor area which all the children enjoyed exploring, demonstrating good balancing skills. The water tray has also been a popular choice, washing the babies, playing with the boats and filling up buckets to take the water around the outdoor area to clean in different places!



Pupils of the Week are the whole class for a brilliant first week in school!

Year 1

PE is on Mondays and Thursdays.



Year 1 have had a brilliant week and have been enjoying the book they are working on in English, 'Worrysaurus'. They have been learning to write lists and thinking about the lovely foods that they would take if they were going on a picnic. They have been learning how to label a picture of the different characters and have been thinking of adjectives to describe the Worrysaurus. Linking English to Skills for Life, the children were asked to design their own worry monster and use it to create a poster helping other children to know what to do if they are worried.

In Maths, the children have been working on place value, and in particular revising counting forwards and backwards, and counting one more and one less. They have also been sorting objects and learning to identify how numbers can be represented by pictures, objects and number lines.

In Skills for Life, the children have been learning about Rights, Rules and Responsibilities. They have been thinking about people in their lives who help them and they have also been looking at responsibilities they have at home and at school. The children learned about the 5 Rs and how following these helps us as a school community. The children have also created some wonderful self-portraits.



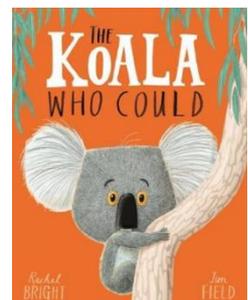
Pupils of the Week are PD for excellent enthusiasm and effort and JG for resilience and positivity within his work.

Year 2

PE is on Mondays and Thursdays

Year 2 have had a really positive return to school with lots of smiling faces and brilliant attitudes. It has been lovely to see everybody coming in independently and being very keen to learn. The children have settled well into class and are getting used to new routines and expectations.

This week, we have focused our work around the book 'The Koala Who Could', a lovely book focusing on big changes. Kevin only likes things a certain way. We have spoken about things that we find difficult changing and some new things that we could try.

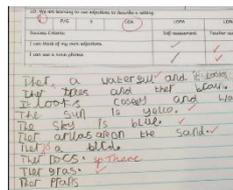


In maths, we have been concentrating on the values of numbers, using a range of equipment to represent, add and partition different numbers.

We have enjoyed making a start on our 'Skills for Life' and talking about feelings and emotions, creating some lovely artwork too.



It has been great to see some of the children trying hard to join their handwriting too; it is looking very grown up!



Pupils of the Week are NB, RB and KB for a fantastic first week in school.

Year 3

PE is on Tuesdays and Fridays

In Year 3 we have been exploring the text of 'The Mindful Dragon' by Steve Herman. We have been helping our worry monster solve his problems and become more mindful by writing letters and exploring emotion wheels. In DT we got creative when designing and creating our own worry monsters from gloves, they all looked amazing!



We have also been scientists and explored the effects of tea in different mediums. We discovered the tealeaves floated due to the air content of the bubbles!

Pupils of the Week are MM for being very engaged in Science and giving an in-depth explanation and BB for showing respect for his own work and that of others in art.

Year 4

PE is on Monday and Wednesday

What a fantastic start to Year 4! I have been amazed with all the hard work already completed and how many children have come back with such a positive attitude. We have focused on the book Ruby's Worry in Literacy this week. Children written some great diary entries as Ruby and written some lovely letters of advice for someone who has a worry. I cannot wait to get some of this work onto the displays in our room. We have had a super week of science by carrying out a whole school science experiment with tea bags and different liquids and starting our new science topic of Sound with a bang.



Pupils of the Week are TT for a positive start to Year 4 and NC for a fantastic diary entry.

Year 5 – Miss Curl

PE is on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

In Year 5 this week, we have been busy starting our new topic 'The Vikings'. In Geography, we used Google maps to explore Scandinavia, which is where the Vikings originated from. In History, we found out all about life in Britain before the Vikings invaded. In Science, we carried out an investigation to find out how the temperature of the water affects how tea leaves settle in the water. We found out that the hotter the water the better! In English, we wrote letters to someone new starting our school to give them some advice on their worries. In Maths, we have been learning all about the place value of 4 and 5 digit numbers and rounding them to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000.



Anglo-Saxons ate whatever they could grow or kill
(for example cows, pigs, geese, ~~chickens~~) there were no
rabbits or hares at the time. They drank beer and bread
mostly.

Pupils of the Week are DH for his determination to complete his English work and JW for showing great resilience in English this week.

Year 6

PE is Wednesday and Friday for the whole of Year 6

Mrs Tong, Mrs Cole



Our English work this week has been based on the book 'After the Fall; How Humpty Dumpty got back up again'. We have used this story about Humpty Dumpty after he fell off the wall as inspiration to write a diary entry, a letter and to plan our own story involving a different nursery rhyme character.

In Maths this week we have focussed on place value and have been working with numbers up to 10,000,000. We have represented these numbers in different ways, including using digits, words, bar models, part-whole models and place value grids.

We completed our whole-school science experiment on Monday and looked at how the temperature of water affects the way tea-leaves behave in water. We used thermometers to measure the temperature of the water and then observed the tea-leaves over time to see what happens. We concluded that 'tea needs to be made with hot water'.



We were focussing on happiness this week in Skills for Life. We talked about what made us happy when we are feeling down and we thought about how music can help to make us happy. We chose some songs that make us happy and made some Zentangles in our art lesson, which are calming.

Miss Daly

This week 6D have been learning about the resilience and determination of Humpty Dumpty in our class book 'After the Fall, How Humpty Dumpty got back up again'. We have been focussing on Humpty's feelings, creating emotion graphs, diary entries and planning and writing a story about another nursery rhyme character and their own struggles.

In maths this week, we have been revising their place value knowledge and extending their learning with numbers up to 10,000,000. Looking at different representations of numbers; in words, using place value headings and counters and in bar models and comparing them.

As part of our whole school science investigation this week, we have studied teabags and created our own question to investigate: What will happen to the tea leaves in different temperatures of water? We measured the temperatures of the water using thermometers and observed the different cups of water and tealeaves over a period of time.



As part of our skills for life work, we have been exploring what makes us happy and how we can help ourselves when we are experiencing negative feelings. We have also discussed what it means to be in Year 6 and created our own class rules.

Pupils of the Week are CM for working hard and giving 100% in everything she does and HC for resilience in all his work.