



# Stoke Mandeville Combined School

*Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together*

*Weekly Update Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October*

## **Ella Beaumont Assembly**

On Wednesday, we had a visit from Ella Archer, who is a wheelchair basketball player. She and her mum led an assembly where she talked to the children about resilience and growing up with a disability.

She explained that she had attended a school just like ours and she spoke about all the sports she has played. The children also had the opportunity to ask her questions. Following these, Ella demonstrated how to transfer from her chair, which she does every time she wants to get into her car, onto the sofa etc.

After the assembly, the Year 6 children were able to talk to her further and they enjoyed having a go in the sports chairs she had brought with her. Ella and her mum were very impressed with how easily the children were able to turn in the wheelchairs!



## **Parent Forum**

Our next Parent Forum is being held at 9am on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November**. Please can all classes ensure they have a representative attending. Thank you.

## **Parents Evening**

Don't forget to book your child's parent meeting appointment for this coming Tuesday or Thursday if you have not yet done so. If you are having any difficulty with accessing the [SchoolCloud](#) system then please refer to our website in the first instance (<https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/parentmeetings>). If you have any further difficulties then please contact the School Office.



## **Phonics Information Session**

Thank you to all the parents who attending the Phonics Information Session with Miss Poole on Thursday. The PowerPoint slides from the presentation have now been uploaded to the school website for any parents who would like to see what was discussed. To access this information please go to <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/handouts/phonics>.

## Year 6 River Dart – Deposits

This is a reminder for Year 6 parents that they have until **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October** to pay their deposits in order to secure their child's place on this trip. If you have not yet returned a signed behaviour agreement then please ensure you do this by next week at the latest. If your child is entitled to Pupil Premium funding and you would like to enquire about financial assistance with this trip then please email the School Office in confidence for the attention of Mrs Stewart.



## Hazard Alley

On Thursday our Year 5 class travelled to Milton Keynes for their class trip to Hazard Alley. The children really enjoyed this trip and were great ambassadors for Stoke Mandeville Combined School. We hope to be able to share photographs of this trip with parents at a later date.

## Friends Second-hand Uniform

Thanks to an overwhelming number of clothing donations, the Friends are asking that we temporarily pause accepting second-hand uniform! The second-hand clothing website is being updated with uniform to purchase and will go live shortly (a link will be shared with parents when it is available). As always, if your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium funding and you would like to receive second-hand uniform free of charge, then please contact the School Office in confidence and we will organise this on your behalf.

## Be Bright Be Seen Mufti

Next **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October** we will be holding a 'Be Bright Be Seen' Day. Children are to come into school in their usual school uniform, but are encouraged to wear anything bright or hi-vis to their uniform. This could include a hi-vis vest, reflectors, flashing lights, bright hair accessories or anything to make them more visible to cars on darker mornings and afternoons on the walk to and from school.



## Park Away Day

Next **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October** we will be holding our last Park Away Day of the half term. Please walk, scoot, cycle or park & stride to school as we work towards encouraging parents and children to make their way to school in a more sustainable way.

## Parking

We had a particularly bad incidence of parking this week when the Phonics Information Session was taking place. This car caused a dangerous hazard at the entrance to Marsh Lane and this photograph will be shared with Buckinghamshire Council by our Travel Plan Coordinator as part of our request to have zig zag lines painted along Marsh Lane. Please can we again request that parents do not park along the upper part of Marsh Lane, as this causes an obstruction for cars entering and leaving the road, as well as a danger for pedestrians trying to cross.



## Harvest Donations Update

We just wanted to say a massive thank you to the school, your pupils and their parents for the generous harvest donation.

Thanks for your continued support.

Ashleigh Stroud  
Head of Storehouse






## Football Next Week

Please note that there will be no football club next **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October**. Football Club will continue after half term from the first week back.

## Online Safety

Ofcom's latest Media Use and Attitudes Report states that most children can watch streamed films on a mobile device both in and out of the home, with 80% of UK children watching films

on phones, tablets or laptops   That's a lot of youngsters who might be using their own gadgets to watch something suitably spooky this

Halloween season  or perhaps, something a little too frightening.

With older children in particular, it can be difficult knowing how to manage their increasing interest in more mature content – including horror films, in many cases – let alone knowing how best to safeguard them from inappropriate material. This guide offers expert advice not only on the risks of exposure to horror films and other potentially upsetting content, but also on preventing young viewers from seeing this material or protecting them from being too deeply affected by it if they do.



## Staffing Update

Next week we will be joined by a new staff member, Mr Sterling, who will be visiting classes across Key Stage 2 during his induction week. We know that our pupils and parents will all offer him a warm welcome during his first week!

## Stoked2Dance

We are excited to share with you the details of some new weekly performing arts classes taking place at Stoke Mandeville Combined School on Wednesdays at 5.45pm. This is for Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6) girls and boys and you can find further information at <https://www.stoked2dance.com/> and in the attached leaflet.



## Half Term Fun at Discover Bucks Museum

Discover Bucks Museum have family crafts and activities running every day throughout October half term which we have been asked to share with our families:



Monday 28<sup>th</sup> - Learn how mummies were made in Ancient Egypt by making your very own (and see a real mummified creature!)



Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> - Try out some weird and wonderful experiments with our Spooky Science workshop



Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> - Sculpt a diya out of clay for Diwali, the Festival of Light



Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> - Trick or Treat in the oldest building in Aylesbury with our interactive trail



Friday 1<sup>st</sup> - Write your very own spooky story with our writing workshop or create a seasonal collage to take home



Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Join us for spooky Halloween storytelling with Terrie Howey, The Red Phoenix: get ready for ghosts, ghouls and things that go bump in the night! Try out our free Halloween crafts and don't forget to wear your costume for a free museum trail and badge

For more information please head to <https://www.discoverbucksmuseum.org/>.

## An Update from The Friends



Thank you to everyone who lugged bags of clothes to school on Monday. We again had a HUGE pile on the green and it weighed in at just over 100kg.

We are waiting to hear how much that has raised!



## **Winter Shopping Evening**

**Friday 15th November, 5:30-7:30pm**

We have lots of stalls booked in to join us at our shopping evening in November as well as the Signing Choir opening proceedings with some festive tunes. One of the stalls we will be running is a bottle and treats tombola. We will be asking for donations of bottles and treats (such as boxes of chocolates and sweets) to be brought into school on *Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November*. We hope that you will be able to join us on the evening.

## **Advent Calendar Raffle**

We will be holding an advent calendar raffle again this year and we hope to be able to offer lots of wonderful prizes. If you know of a business or company who might be willing to sponsor a calendar then please let us know via email, [friends@smcs.org.uk](mailto:friends@smcs.org.uk). The draw will take place on *Friday 29th November* and tickets will be on sale in the week before - further details to come.

Our next meeting will be on *Wednesday 20th November*, we welcome anyone to attend. It will be in person and via Zoom. Let us know if you would like to join via Zoom and we will get the link sent to you.

## **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...

### **Where does Thomas sleep at night?**

Napford

*Leo in Year 4*

### **Why did the gummy bear want to go to school?**

Because he wanted to be a Smartie!

*Azzurra in Year 4*

### **Knock knock**

Who's there?

**Boo**

Boo who?

**There's no need to cry it's only a joke!**

*Rosie in Year 1*



## Housepoint Totals this Week

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

<b>Chequers</b>	<b>Claydon</b>	<b>Hughenden</b>	<b>Waddesdon</b>
5276	5273	5282	5319

Well done also to Year 2 who won the Tidy Award for this week and to Danika in Year 3 who was the recipient of the Values Cup!

## Communications Home

**Whole school:** TODAY – Phonics Information Session

**Whole school:** Friends of SMCS - Family Bingo Night

**Reception:** Bucks Herald – First Class

**Reception and Year 6:** REMINDER Reception & Year 6 Height and Weight Measurements

**MAC Users:** MAC/ASC Booking Reminder

**Dance Club:** ZKT Show Reminder

## Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

**MAC Users:** MAC 2024-2025

**ASC Users:** ASC 2024-25

**Year 4:** Swimming – Autumn Term 2024 (*extended to 31/1/25*)

**Year 6:** River Dart 2025 – Deposit (*deadline 31/10/24*)

**Individuals:** SMCS Football vs Weston Turville (Home) (*deadline 22/10/24*)

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

Date	Time	Event
Mon 21 Oct	AM	Reception & Y6 - Height and Weight Screening by School Nurses
Tue 22 Oct	3.30-6pm	Book Look
Tue 22 Oct	3.40-6pm	Parents Evening (in-person appointments)
Wed 23 Oct	8-8.30am	Book Look
<b>Wed 23 Oct</b>	<b>1.45-2.30pm</b>	<b>Reception 2025 Open Event (<i>pre-bookings only</i>)</b>
<b>Thu 24 Oct</b>		<b>Park Away Day</b>
Thu 24 Oct	3.30-5pm 6-8pm	Parents Evening (in-person appointments) Parents Evening (video appointments)
<b>Thu 24 Oct</b>		<b>No Football Club</b>
<b>Thu 24 Oct</b>		<b>Be Bright Be Seen Day (<i>school uniform with bright or hi-vis accessories</i>)</b>
<b>Thu 24 Oct</b>	<b>3.20pm</b>	<b>School ends for half term break</b>
<b>Fri 25 Oct</b>		<b>Staff Inset Day</b>
<b>Mon 4 Nov</b>		<b>Autumn 2 Term Starts</b>
<b>Mon 4 Nov</b>		<b>APDRs – Year 1 (<i>individual pupils only</i>)</b>
<b>Tue 5 Nov</b>		<b>APDRs – Year 3 &amp; Year 4 (<i>individual pupils only</i>)</b>
<b>Wed 6 Nov</b>		<b>APDRs – Reception, Year 2 &amp; Year 6 (<i>individual pupils only</i>)</b>

Thu 7 Nov		APDRs – Year 5 ( <i>individual pupils only</i> )
Thu 7 Nov	9-10am	Parent Forum
Fri 15 Nov		Pudsey Fair ( <i>during school day</i> )
Fri 15 Nov		Children in Need Mufti ( <i>full mufti – spots recommended!</i> )
Fri 15 Nov	5.30-7.30pm	Friends of SMCS: Christmas Shopping Evening 5.30pm Signing Choir to perform
Fri 29 Nov		Friends of SMCS: Advent Calendar Raffle Draw ( <i>during assembly</i> )
Sun 1 Dec	TBC	Friends of SMCS: Brunch with Father Christmas ( <i>details to follow</i> )

### **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](mailto: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.*