



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 15th October

Be Bright Be Seen Week

Just a reminder that we are kickstarting our 'Be Bright Be Seen' campaign next week with a partial mufti day on Monday where children are invited to come into school in their school uniform with bright accessories e.g. hi-vis jackets, bright hair bands, reflective tags.

Modeshift STARS Awards

In September we were overwhelmed to receive a **Platinum** Award from Buckinghamshire Council and Modeshift STARS (Travel Plan Inspectors) in recognition of the contribution pupils, teachers and parents/carers have made to improving safe and sustainable travel to school. We are one of only **3** schools in Buckinghamshire to have been awarded a Platinum ranking and we are hugely proud of this achievement which couldn't have been possible without the hard work that has been put in by our School Travel Coordinator, Miss Telfer.

What is a School Travel Plan?

A School Travel Plan (STP) is a document which sets out how a school will promote safe, active and sustainable travel to school. The main emphasis is put on reducing single occupancy car use on the school journey. For a STP to be successful it must be supported by the whole school community, i.e. parents, pupils, teachers, governors and the local community. To keep it current and relevant it must be updated regularly.

Why do we need a STP?

Whilst reducing single occupancy car use to and from school is the main aim of the STP there are many other benefits.

- ★ **Reduce Congestion** - A STP encourages people to reduce car use and travel more sustainably. This helps to reduce the number of cars that need to park or travel near the school.
- ★ **Improving the Local Environment** - Less cars travelling near school means reduced carbon emissions and improved air quality.
- ★ **Health Benefits** - Travelling actively to school provides regular exercise to help pupils stay fit and healthy and makes them more alert and ready to learn.
- ★ **Safety** - 1200 school children a month are involved in road accidents near schools. STP's encourage pupils to take part in road safety training programmes giving them a greater sense of road safety.
- ★ **Improve Community Links** - The STP encourages schools to form links with Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), local residents, parents and Parish Councils to work together to make school journeys safer and healthier for all.
- ★ **Hidden Treasures** - Walking to school can help pupils build confidence and independence, and develop their knowledge of their local community.
- ★ **Fun and Social** - It's an ideal time for children and their families and friends to spend together.

Covid Update

We have been informed of an increasing number of Covid cases and we ask for your continued vigilance to help keep the whole school community safe. Please ensure that all children have LFTs daily if anyone in the household tests positive and ensure PCR tests are taken if a child is symptomatic or has a positive LFT.

While we are not required to 'Track and Trace', it is especially important during this time that all absences are reported accurately and promptly to the school. Please inform the School Office with details of your child's absence by calling the School Office on 01296 612371 (dial 1 for Absence Line) or send an email to the office (office@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk) with your child's name and year group in the subject title. ***There is no longer a Covid email address.***

A parent has this week informed us that they were asked whether their child had displayed other symptoms which are becoming more common in Covid-positive children, rather than the usual three (loss of taste or smell, high temperature or continuous cough). These other symptoms include headache, tiredness, vomiting/diarrhoea, loss of appetite, runny nose, sore throat and lack of energy so we are asking you to all be vigilant if your children display these symptoms and continue to test with LFT and PCRs where possible.

School Photographs (rescheduled date)

We have managed to reschedule our school photographs with Tempest Photography for **Friday 12th November**. Due to photographer availability they will only be able to offer individual and sibling photographs on this occasion.

Morrisons 'It's Good To Grow'

We're happy to announce that we have registered for the Morrison's 'It's Good to Grow' scheme. If you shop at Morrison's you can collect 1 token for every £10 you spend in store or online. These can then be donated to us and used against gardening equipment for the school!

For more information please head to www.itsgoodtogrow.co.uk.



Parental Warning: Squid Game

Further to our email earlier this week regarding the new Netflix series 'Squid Game' we would like to share this useful link with you which may help you to understand the basis of Squid Game and the potential risks to young people who might be exposed to it.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/wakeupwednesday/squid-game-trending-across-platforms-what-parents-need-to-know>

Parents Evening

We have sent out a reminder for parents and carers to book their Parent Evening appointments with their child's class teacher. Please can you make sure that you have applied for a time slot by Monday at the latest. In addition to this we have also sent out an email giving detailed instructions of how to access the video calls on the day. Please take the time to read through these and to test your connection on your preferred device ahead of time.

Book Look

On Tuesday evening between 3.30-6pm parents are welcome to come and look at their children's books. Entry to the school will be through the Y1-Y2 entrance where you will be required to sign in and out from this entrance. Additionally if you are unable to attend on Tuesday afternoon the books will remain available to parents on Wednesday morning between 8-8.45am before the start of the school day. Entry on Wednesday morning will be through the Main School Entrance and you will again be required to sign in and out. During these times please understand that class teachers will be preparing for the Parents Evening meetings and the school day so will be unable to talk to you about your child's work and this can instead be discussed during your appointment slot.

Half-Term Netball Camps

Please see attached for information about half term netball camps taking place in Aylesbury. For further information and to book please head to <https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/play/netball-youth-camps>

Lost Property

We will be putting out a table next Wednesday and Thursday with all of the lost property we currently have. Please come and have a check for any items that your child may be missing. Can we again please ask parents to check that all items of clothing are clearly named (particularly jumpers, cardigans, coats and PE kit).

Bikeability Next Week

Next Thursday 21st October we have our Level 1 Bikeability session for children in Years 3 and 4 who have booked a place. Don't forget to bring in bikes and helmets on Thursday morning and we will keep them safely locked up when they are not in use.

Applying for Primary School Places

If your child is due to start in Reception in September 2022 now is the time to start thinking about your application. Please visit the Council website to find out more about applying for your child's primary school place from 3rd November 2021 to 14th January 2022.

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/apply-for-a-primary-school-place/>

Applying for Secondary School Places

Year 6 parents should still apply for secondary school places by the 31st October deadline. A letter has been sent out to each of you this week with instructions for accessing the online portal and a unique identification number to do so ahead of receiving your child's results this afternoon.

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place/>

Statutory Consultation for Waddesdon C of E School

Please find attached a letter from Waddesdon Church of England School who have asked us to circulate their Statutory Consultation on proposed changes to the Admissions Arrangements for Waddesdon Church of England School to take effect from the beginning of the academic year 2023-2024.

Friends of SMCS

Coffee Morning: Thank you to all who attended the Friends Coffee Morning this Thursday. It was lovely to see some new faces and we are delighted to be able to run these events again at long last!

We are hoping to be able to hold another 'Coffee and Cake' event after half term. We will plan to hold this towards the end of the school day before pick up (younger siblings will of course be welcome to come along).

Cookie Sale: The after-school Cookie Sale is next Friday! Only 50p per cookie and there will be 4 different flavours to choose from! If your child attends ASC and you would like your child to have a treat then please send them in with 50p and a member of staff will take them to get their cookie at the start of their ASC session.

Scavenger Hunt: The Friends have put together a fantastic scavenger hunt for you to have fun with over the half term break (entry forms will be coming home in book bags today). Please collect as many of the autumn-themed items listed on the sheet as possible, add your details and don't forget your donation! Please hand in your entries by the end of Friday 5th November. We will be awarding House Points to everyone who completes the hunt!

Outdoor Christmas Market: We are inviting the parent reps to put together hampers for each year group to be raffled off at the Outdoor Market on 4th December. Parents are invited to be as imaginative as possible!

We are also running our first **Advent Calendar Raffle!** There is the choice of winning a Smiggle advent calendar, a Naked Marshmallow advent calendar, a Lego advent calendar, a Bomb Cosmetics advent calendar, a Fidget advent calendar or a colour-in Purple Fraise Advent Calendar pillow. Tickets will be £5 each and details on how to enter will soon follow.

We will again be running the **Advent Window Trail** in Stoke Mandeville village from 1st December. Please email the Friends if you would like to take part (friends@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk).

Nightingale's Rainbow Ceremony

You may be aware that there's been a huge new addition to the grounds of Stoke Mandeville Hospital recently. This is going to be Nightingale's Rainbow, a structure born out of an idea to create a permanent tribute to the community spirit, kindness and resilience, shown by the NHS and the people of Buckinghamshire throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. When complete, there will be 17,000 rainbow-coloured ceramic tiles attached to the Rainbow sculpture - it is going to stand out!

The Rainbow has been installed at the top of a large roundabout, near to the Ambulance Station. It has a backdrop of soothing mature trees, but the project team from Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity felt it would also benefit from a specially designed space around it, to allow people to visit and take time to reflect. So with the support of a grant from Aylesbury Garden Town and working in collaboration with a local landscape gardener and Chiltern Ranger, they have been devising plans to make this happen.



To support our local community Mrs Stewart this morning took a small group of pupils to help with planting plants and bulbs. The children behaved beautifully and were very excited to be included in the work.



Letters Sent Home

- Year 2 – Positive Covid Case
- Year 5 – Positive Covid Case
- Year 6 – Secondary Transfer Results – Portal details
- Year 6 – River Dart – Initial deposit
- Reception – Dough Disco
- Year 5 and 6 – After School Football
- Whole School - Squid Games
- Whole School - Parents Evening – How to Book
- Whole School – Parents Evening – How to access video calls

Housepoint Totals this Week

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

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
2444	2842	2335	2796

Dates for the Diary (these can also be found on our website under 'Upcoming Events')

<https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/upcoming-events>

Monday 18 th October		'Be Bright Be Seen' Mufti Day
Tuesday 19 th October	3.30-6pm	'Book Look' (entry via Y1-Y2 Entrance)
Tuesday 19 th October	3.40-5.50pm	Virtual Parents Evening
Wednesday 20 th October	8-8.45am	'Book Look' (entry via Main School Entrance)
Wednesday 20 th October	3.40-7.50pm	Virtual Parents Evening
Wednesday 20 th October	3.10-3.45pm	Lost Property available in School Playground
Thursday 21 st October	3.10-3.45pm	Lost Property available in School Playground
Friday 22 nd October		Year 3 Diya and Dance Workshop 3pm Performance for Year 3 Parents in School Hall
Friday 22 nd October		'Show Racism the Red Card' Mufti Day
Friday 22 nd October		Friends of SMCS Treat Friday: Cookies (50p per cookie)
Friday 22 nd October		School ends at normal time for October half term
Monday 1 st November		Staff Inset Day (School closed to pupils)
Tuesday 2 nd November		School starts at normal time
Tuesday 2 nd November	7.30pm	Friends of SMCS Meeting
Friday 12 th November		School Photographs for Individuals and Siblings
Thursday 18 th November	9.15-10am	Open Morning for Reception 2022 Parents
Thursday 25 th November	9.15-10am	Open Morning for Reception 2022 Parents
Saturday 4 th December	1-3pm	Friends of SMCS: Outdoor Christmas Market

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.