



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 18th July

Big Top Circus Skills

On Tuesday 15th July we were visited by 'Circus Sensible' who gave a performance to the whole school in the morning, followed by two lessons in circus skills to each class throughout the day. The classes then had an opportunity at the end of the day to share their new skills with the rest of the school!

This was funded partially by the ASDA Cashpot scheme, with the remainder funded by The Friends of SMCS. The buzz of excitement from everyone was palpable and it was lovely to see every child try to push themselves and be engaged with the performances.

A huge thank you to The Friends of SMCS for agreeing to the funding for this and for helping to give such a wonderful memory for all the children to take away into the holidays.



Summer Reading Challenge

This week your child will have come home with a 'Summer Reading Challenge' booklet. This is to be completed over the summer break. Details of what to do are included in the booklet. Please return the completed booklets to your child's class teacher in September to earn the many housepoints on offer!

Year 5 & Year 6 Performance

This week our Year 5 and 6 classes have treated the school as well as their families to some fantastic performances of their musical 'The Greatest Show'. The Year 5 and 6 team would like to thank all parents for their support with the production. They have produced fantastic costumes and provided props too which really added to the overall effect of the show.

Residentials Questionnaire - Feedback

Many thanks to all those parents of children in Key Stage 2 who completed the questionnaire regarding a residential visit during Year 6. We had 93 responses in total and these were largely extremely positive.

99% of those who responded said they are in favour of the school running a residential visit in Y6. 74% said they supported a visit taking place over 5 days and 4 nights.

95% said that they thought the visit sounded like good value and/or they would feel happy paying given enough notice (based on this year's costs)

When asked about the destination, 28% said they would be in favour of a venue closer to home.

31% said they would be in favour of a venue closer to home if it meant the cost was reduced. 41% said they would not be in favour of a venue closer to home.

Comments from parents of this year's Year 6:

"Memories for life to take into Year 7 and a new school. For me this is a rite of passage before the move to secondary school"

"This trip is amazing for the children to go on. They learn to overcome so much on this trip. Cost will always be an issue. However, all I can say is I'd pay no matter what the cost. It's well worth it"

"As this is the only residential trip the pupils get at this school, I feel that the venue, location, duration and cost is worth it and a special memory of their time in primary school. It is something the pupils really look forward to when starting Year 6"

"My daughter said it was amazing and the best part of Year 6. If she could do it again, she would!"

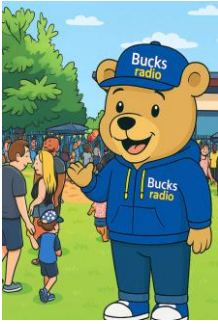
"The River Dart is always great.... The technology break and the time away from home is good for them and my daughter had the best time"

WE NEED YOU!

The Friends of SMCS play a vital role in supporting fundraising for many parts of the school. In September The Friends will be looking for a new Chairperson. This must be filled as without this role The Friends do not have a committee. The commitment includes attending meetings across the year and being part of the organisers for The Friends whole school events. Also you will meet with the school to discuss dates and plans ahead of sharing at meetings. You may already be doing much of this role by attending meetings.



If you would be interested in taking on this role or would like to find out more about what it entails then please email friends@smcs.org.uk and one of our committee members would be happy to talk you through it.



Bucks Bear Cubs

We were again visited by Bucks Radio this week who were recording their latest instalment of the Bucks Bear Cubs with Year 3. These recordings will be aired in the week beginning **Monday 24th August** and later in September.

Library Books

This is a final call for library books. If you have any remaining at home please ensure your child brings them back into school on Monday.

Medication in School

Please can we ask all parents and carers that if your child has medicine held in school then this must be collected by the end of school (1.30pm) on Tuesday *at the latest*. Medicines cannot be left at the school during the summer period and anything left will be taken to the pharmacy to be destroyed.

If your child has an existing condition and still has the need for medication to be taken in school from September onwards, then please collect a new healthcare plan from the office at the same time as collecting your medication.

Ice Cream Treat

Thanks to the funds raised from our Break the Rules Day this term, the School Council have chosen for pupils to have an ice cream van come to school on Monday for a special treat! This will take place during the school day and will be fully funded so there is no need for children to bring any money into school.



Classes are aware of dietary requirements and ice cream/ice lolly selections will be chosen in accordance with these. If you have any objection to your child receiving a treat on Monday afternoon then please contact the School Office as soon as possible.

Lost Property

All lost and found items will be on display outside the front of the school for pupils to be reunited with. Any unclaimed branded property by the end of school on Tuesday will be donated to The Friends of SMCS for future preloved uniform sales. Other non-school branded items will be donated to charity as we are unable to continue storing these.

Communications Home

Whole school: Medication in school

Whole school: School Council – Ice Cream Treat

Whole school: School Nursing – Flu Immunisations

Whole school: Online Safety

Whole school: Lost Property

Year 3: Year 3 – Swimming in Year 4

Year 5: Residential Trip – Year 6

KS1 Individuals: CoolMilk – Update

iRock Parents: iRock Concert Arrangements

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2025/26

ASC Users: ASC 2025/26

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

Date	Time	Event
Fri 18 Jul	Doors open 5.50pm	Friends of SMCS: Summer Disco KS1 (Reception to Year 2): 6-7pm (doors open 5.50pm) KS2 (Year 3 to Year 5): 7.15-8.30pm Year 6: 7.15-9pm
Mon 21 Jul	9-10.15am 10.30am-12pm	Key Stage 1 Prize Giving (<i>by invitation only</i>) Key Stage 2 Prize Giving (<i>by invitation only</i>)
Mon 21 Jul	2pm	Ice Cream Treat for all pupils <i>The van will stay on site until collection time if any parents would also like to purchase an ice cream after school</i>
Tue 22 Jul	9am	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Tue 22 Jul	1.30pm	Finish for Summer Break
Wed 23 Jul		Inset Day

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.