



# Stoke Mandeville Combined School

*Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together*

## *Weekly Update Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September*

### **Pupil Leadership School Elections**

Today we have been fortunate enough for the school community to elect the school pupil leadership team. This was organised as a democratic process and only 4 votes could be cast for the leadership team. This did not take gender as the priority but rather the recognition of personal attributes which meet the criteria for the best candidates for the roles available.



This year we have been fortunate enough to be able to elect 6 pupils to the leadership team. Within this we have 2 head girls, 3 deputy head boys and 1 deputy head girl.

We are very proud of the efforts of the children who have stood for election and know we have a very positive team to support the work of the school this coming year

We are delighted to be able to share with you the following pupils who have been selected for these roles of responsibility:

<b>Head Girls</b> Mia and Abigail	
<b>Deputy Head Boys</b> Alfie, Jamie and William	<b>Deputy Head Girl</b> Katie

The following House Captains have been selected from Year 6:

	<b>House Captain</b>	<b>Vice House Captain</b>
Chequers	Emily	Jude and Casey
Claydon	Isabelle	Jack and George
Hughenden	Freya	Bella, Keeley and Caleb
Waddesdon	Evie	Florence and Georgi

Democracy is an important value at our school and pupils are given the opportunity to have a voice through the School Council. The election of School Council members is based on pupil votes after each child putting themselves forward has spoken to their classmates about why they would like to be a representative. We are happy to announce that the following representatives for this year are:

<b>Year 1</b>	Willow and Hugo
<b>Year 2</b>	Wilf and Amelia
<b>Year 3</b>	Rupert and Eloise
<b>Year 4</b>	Harry and Chloe
<b>Year 5</b>	Jack and Meredith

Our Year 6 representatives are made up of our Pupil Leadership Team.

New for this year we have welcomed children to apply for the role of Eco Councillors. The representatives selected for this are as follows:



Josh, Peyton, Ella and Jake

### **Homework**

Following discussions at Parent Forum during the summer term, we have recognised the importance of reducing the childrens' screen time. With this in mind, childrens homework is being sent home as workbooks for Maths and English. This recognises the importance of independently accessing homework without the necessity to do so through the use of a parent's device. Additional homework may be set on the learning platforms Seesaw and Google Classroom, but the move to workbooks was in response to your feedback.

We will continue to support all children in understanding a safe digital footprint and preparing children for their next stage of learning through the continued use of appropriate learning platforms and e-safety.

### **Clubs**

For those children signed up to participate in clubs run by external providers (e.g. Premier Gymnastics, ZKT Dance, Mini Handball) please can we request that these payments are made as soon as possible in order for us to pay their invoices. If you do not make payment by the deadline then your child may lose their place. A reminder of these deadlines can be found below under 'Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway'.

### **Uniform Stickers**

There is a HUGE amount of lost property that is unnamed in our front entrance. Please can we again plead with parents to label all items of clothing (including lunchboxes and water bottles), either with a laundry marker or name label.

As a reminder we have a fundraising arrangement with Stikins and Stampstastic whereby The Friends of SMCS can earn vital funds for every set of stickers or name stamps that are purchased!

Stampstastic - Purchase name stamps through [Stampstastic](#) (Put in this code at checkout to earn us commission: HP225XA)

Stikins - Purchase name stickers through [Stikins](#) (Put in this code at checkout to earn us commission: 22409)

## Travel Plan News

*I am happy to announce that this year we have managed to obtain a **Very Good** standard in our school Travel Plan and an improvement on last year. I would like to thank parents and children for helping reach this level.*



*Our goal is to obtain Platinum with your continued support. One of the ways to help is sustainable travel to get to and from school. This can be done by walking, cycling, scooting and 'park and stride' and by helping with events throughout the year like 'Road Safety Week', 'Be Bright, Be Seen', 'Walk and Cycle to School Week' and many others.*

*We also have the chance to deliver 'Footsteps Training' to the younger children of the school. This would help the children get to grips with road safety with some fun goals, helping them become a good pedestrian and improving children's knowledge and practical experience. The Footsteps Programme is the perfect way to start teaching the children how to think about crossing the road, a greater awareness of other road users and how to keep safe whilst learning how to be a responsible pedestrian.*

*We need volunteers to give an hour or two once or twice a week to take the children out. Full training will be given.*

*If you are interested please email the School Office with the subject title 'FAO MISS TELFER – FOOTSTEPS'.*

*Miss Telfer, Travel Plan Coordinator*

## Signing Choir

Signing Choir will be starting again this Thursday for children in Years 2 to 6 until Christmas. There is no formal sign up needed for this as it takes place during Thursday school lunchtimes

## Uniform Donations

If you have any good quality school uniform to donate to The Friends of SMCS for selling in their 'Preloved Uniform' shop, please put these in the purple Friends bin on the school playground.

## iRock Drop Off

Please can we remind parents that the drop off time for morning sessions with iRock is **8.15am**. We cannot let children into school any earlier than this unless they are attending MAC.

## Reception - Entry in September 2026

This Autumn Term 2025, Stoke Mandeville Combined School are holding a series of Open Events for parents of children due to start Reception in September 2026:

**Thursday 9th October 2-3pm**  
**Wednesday 15th October 9.15-10.15am**  
**Thursday 6th November 9.15-10.15am**

If you have a child due to start school next September and would be interested in attending one of these then please complete the following Google Form: <https://forms.gle/uKQSne2JGgecmNk7>

## Online Safety: Group Chats

Group chats are an increasingly common way for children to stay connected with their friends, often forming the backbone of their social lives online. While these digital spaces can be fun and inclusive, they can also become sources of stress, confusion or even harm. From being deliberately left out of a chat to witnessing or being targeted by unkind comments, the emotional effects of group dynamics online can mirror – and sometimes magnify – those experienced in the real world.

This week's guide focuses on the potential pitfalls children might encounter in group chats, such as peer pressure, inappropriate content and privacy concerns. With practical suggestions for setting healthy boundaries, managing notifications and encouraging safe sharing habits, this free guide is a useful tool for parents and educators who want to empower children to navigate online chats with kindness, confidence and caution.



As a reminder, we have saved a variety of Online Safety guides for parents to refer to and they can be found in the following location: <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/onlinesafety>.

## WE NEED YOU!

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



The Friends AGM has been scheduled for 7pm on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September. All are welcome to attend (please email [friends@smcs.org.uk](mailto:friends@smcs.org.uk) to let them know if you be attending).

The Friends also have a Facebook group which is a useful source of information for upcoming school and fundraising events. Please [click here](#) to be taken to their group page which you can request to be a part of.

## 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>
746	660	762	778

The Values Award was given to Aiden in Year 1 and the Tidy Award went to Year 6.

## Communications Home

**Whole school:** Vacancy – Kitchen Assistant

**Years 1 to 6:** Data Collection and GDPR Consent

**Year 3 & 4:** Premier Gymnastics – Bookings live today 6pm

**Year 3 & 4:** Years 3 & 4 – Handball Taster Session

**Year 5 & 6:** Football Trials – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September

**Year 5 & 6:** Netball Club 2025-26

**Year 5 & 6:** Dance Club 2025 – Sign Up Sheet

**Year 6:** River Dart – Initial Meeting

**Gymnastics Club:** PAYMENT SET UP – Premier Gymnastics – Autumn Term 2025

**Dance Club:** PAYMENT SET UP – ZKT Street Dance – Autumn 2025

**Individuals:** Medical Information 2025/2026

## Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

**MAC Users:** MAC 2025/26

**ASC Users:** ASC 2025/26

**Year 3 & 4:** Years 3 & 4 – Handball Taster Session

**Year 4:** Year 4 Swimming – Autumn Term 2025 (*due 24/9/2025*)

**Year 5 & 6:** Years 5 & 6 – Football Try-Outs

**Premier Gymnastics Club:** Premier Gymnastics – Autumn Term 2025

**ZKT Dance Club:** ZKT Street Dance – Autumn 2025

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

Date	Time	Event
Mon 15 Sep	3.30-4.30pm	Netball Club to start – Years 5 & 6
Mon 15 Sep	3.30-4.30pm	Handball Taster Session
Tue 16 Sep	3.30-4.30pm	Premier Gymnastics to start– Years 2 to 4
Wed 17 Sep	3.30-4.30pm	ZKT Dance to start – Years 5 & 6
Wed 17 Sep	5pm	River Dart Residential meeting for Year 6 parents (Zoom)
Thu 18 Sep	3.30-4.30pm	Football trials – Years 5 & 6
Fri 19 Sep		Skipping Ninja Workshop ( <i>details to follow</i> ) All children to come to school in PE kit
Mon 22 Sep	AM	School Nursing Team: Flu Vaccinations
Wed 24 Sep	AM	School Photo Day: Individuals and siblings (Tempest)
Tue 30 Sep	7pm	The Friends of SMCS AGM (Meeting Room)

## **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.*