



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 3rd October

Author Visit – Ross Montgomery

Today the children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6) had a very exciting visit from the author Ross Montgomery.

Ross is the creator of the hit book 'I Am Rebel' and today he introduced his new adventure book 'Small Wonder'.

Pupils had the opportunity to take part in a fun, interactive activity where they began to create the foundations of their very own quest adventure together through the use of writing maps. Children were then able to have their purchased copies of the book signed.



Reception - Entry in September 2026

This is a reminder that our first Reception Open Event is next Thursday 9th October from 2-3pm. Our other events are then scheduled to take place on the following dates:

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>

Photo Reminder

Photograph proofs were sent home with children this week and can be ordered via the Tempest website for **free delivery** back to school for all orders placed before **Tuesday 14th October**.

You can order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk. If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3).

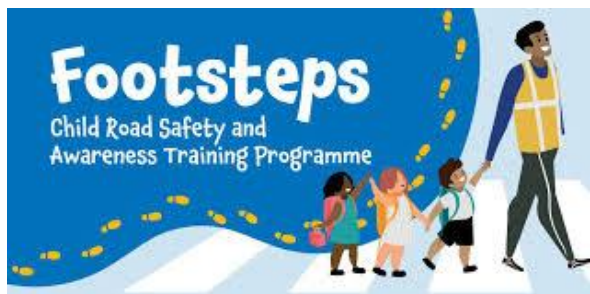
TEMPEST
PHOTOGRAPHY

Year 4 D&T Project

Please could Year 4 children bring in an empty rectangular tissue box and the inner tube of a kitchen roll by next **Thursday 9th October** if possible. If there are any other families who are able to save these for Year 4 then Mrs Tong would be very grateful for any donations!

Extracurricular Clubs

We still have a few spaces available in our afterschool Handball (Years 3 & 4) and Gymnastics (Years 2 to 4) Clubs. Handball takes place on a Monday and Gymnastics on a Tuesday. These clubs are subsidised by the school and cost £4 per session which is charged on a termly basis. If you would be interested in registering your child for one of these clubs then please contact the School Office.



Footsteps Training

We are still looking for volunteers to help us 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'.

We have had one parent come forward so far but would ideally like for the job to be shared between two or three parents if possible.

Harvest Festival

Don't forget this coming **Monday 6th October** we will be having our school Harvest Assembly. As part of this, we will be collecting food donations for the Aylesbury Vineyard Storehouse. This is a local charity that supports people by supplying essentials, such as food, in times of need.

If you are able to contribute, please send your food donations in with your child on Monday. We are happy to keep donations in our kitchen prior to the Harvest Festival so they are ready to be displayed in the School Hall for the Harvest Festival. Thank you for your support.

Currently the Storehouse is in particular need of the items in the poster to the right 🐾

Play Equipment

Please can we remind parents with younger children not to let them play on the adventure playground equipment at the start or end of the day. This also includes the rails outside the front of the School Office. Thank you.



Trophies

If your child was awarded a trophy at the end of last term, please can we ask that you return this to us by October half term? Thank you.

Year 4 Swimming

There are still a number of outstanding contributions for this term's swimming transport for Year 4 pupils. As a reminder this is now a £5 contribution which is a significant reduction from previous years. The payment has been reopened on School Gateway until **Friday 17th October**.

Breaktime Snacks for KS2

For parents of children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6) don't forget to send your child in with a healthy fruit or vegetable-based snack to eat at breaktime. Ideas for this could be an apple, grapes, satsuma, banana, pear, carrots, celery, pepper slices, cucumber, cherry tomatoes or raisins. Please remember we are a **nut-free school**.

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...

Knock Knock

Who's there

Atch

Atch who?

Bless you!

Leo in Year 5



Why is dark spelled with a K and not a C?

Because you can't see in the dark!

Abigail in Year 6

How do you turn dark chocolate into light chocolate?

Turn on the switch

Isla in Year 6

Knock knock

Who's there?

Hide and seek

Hide and seek who?

Shhh...we're trying to find you!

Alice in Year 2

Housepoint Totals This Week

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

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
5222	5286	5302	5362

The Values Award was given to George and Casey in Year 6 and the Tidy Award went to Year 5.

An Update from The Friends of SMCS

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for our AGM this week. It was a great opportunity to reflect on last year. With your fantastic support, we raised over **£7500**,



which meant we could fund a wide range of activities – culminating in the Circus Skills Day in July, which was a real treat for pupils and staff alike!

The Chair's Report and fundraising poster are attached to this newsletter if you would like more details.

Sal and I were voted in as Co-Chairs of the Friends, alongside our returning officers:

- Secretary – Alex Griffiths
- Treasurer – Amy Bailey
- Vice Treasurer – Chris Telfer

Vanessa Swain stood down as Chair, and we would like to express our deepest thanks for her dedication and hard work over many years. We are thrilled that she is remaining on the Committee. The AGM also saw us bid farewell to other former Committee members who were standing down. Thank you for the many ways you have supported us over the years – there are some *very* tricky shoes to fill!

We also welcomed lots of new and returning Committee members, who will help us continue raising funds and delivering fantastic experiences over the coming year. For those of you reading this who aren't on the Committee, we will continue to

ask for your support – and we are grateful for any time you are able to offer, no matter how casual or occasional. With the support of the whole school community, we can look forward to a truly fantastic year of events and fun!

Planning is already well underway for our Christmas events and beyond, and some dates for the diary may be included in the update below. We will share more details in future weekly updates.

Best wishes,
Mich Scott & The Friends

Communications Home

Whole school: StirFest – This Thursday

Whole school: REMINDER The Friends of SMCS – Meeting tonight

Reception: Reception 2025-26 – Parent Survey

Football Club: No Football This Week

Years 3 to 6: REMINDER KS2 Author Visit

Individuals: IMPORTANT Pupil Premium

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2025/26

ASC Users: ASC 2025/26

Year 4: Year 4 Swimming – Autumn Term 2025 (*extended to 17/10/2025*)

Year 6: River Dart 2026 – Deposit (*deadline 31/10/2025*)

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

Date	Time	Event
Mon 6 Oct		Harvest Festival
Mon 6 Oct	7pm	Parents Evening appointments to go live on SchoolCloud
Thu 9 Oct	2-3pm	Reception 2026 Open Event for prospective parents
Fri 10 Oct	9am	Parent Forum (Meeting Room)
Fri 10 Oct		Secondary Transfer Test (11+) Results for Year 6
Mon 13 Oct		Bike to School Week
Wed 15 Oct	9.15-10.15am	Reception 2026 Open Event for prospective parents
Fri 17 Oct		Parents Evening reports to parents
Tue 21 Oct	3.40-6pm	Parents Evening (in-person appointments)
Thu 23 Oct		Park Away Day
Thu 23 Oct	3.40-5.20pm 6-8pm	Parents Evening (in-person appointments) Parents Evening (virtual appointments)

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.