



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 10th October

Harvest Festival

Thank you so much to our parents and children for the wonderful generosity demonstrated on Monday with their Harvest Festival donations.

These were collected on Tuesday by The Vineyard Storehouse who were incredibly grateful and asked us to share their thanks with our school community.



Our Values

This year we have reviewed our values and considered how to help everyone keep them at the forefront of everything we do. We have come to the decision that having 3Rs (rather than 5) is appropriate for all our children to remember and be supported in learning how to use them. As a reminder our 3Rs Values are now:

Respect
Responsibility
Resilience

Cycle to School Week

Did you know that cycling instead of driving cuts emissions around your school? One less car = one more adventure.

It's that time of year again! Next week is 'Cycle or Scoot to School Week'. Children are encouraged to ride or scoot for the whole week. Each lunchtime the JRSO's will leave a Prize Ticket on selected scooters and bikes. The lucky recipients will then hand the ticket in at the office in exchange for a small prize at the end of the day.

**CYCLE TO
SCHOOL
WEEK '25**

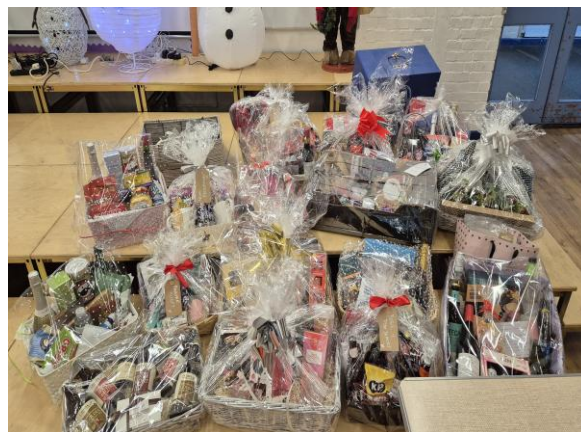
EXCITING NEWS: Your child/children will have the chance to design a poster for next year's Cycle to School Week! They will be bringing this home with them today. Each entry returned and submitted will gain an extra entry for the school to win 5 Squish balance bikes and 5 helmets.

All children who log a cycling or scooting journey will receive a certificate of achievement. This can be done using the daily Travel Tracker.

Happy cycling everyone!

Christmas Hampers

In our Parent Forum this morning, we have asked our Class Reps to begin gathering donations from parents for putting together their Christmas Hamper for this year's Christmas Fayre. This is always a very popular fundraiser for The Friends of SMCS and we look forward to seeing the hampers as they are delivered to the School Office! This year our Christmas Fayre is being held on **Friday 5th December** and hampers should be brought in by **Thursday 27th November**.



Reading

Please can we remind parents that we would like to encourage children to read at least 4 times a week. This is recommended in the front of their reading record and by teaching staff on a weekly basis. We would also advise encouraging your child to read aloud (even up until Year 6) to help to develop articulation, fluency and communication skills.

Year 4 – Headlice

We have had a report of headlice in Year 4 and have sent this in a separate communication to class. Please can we ask all parents to check their childrens' hair this weekend after washing and treat any nits or headlice if needed.

Parents Evening Bookings

Parents Evening is now live on [SchoolCloud](#). Please log in to select your preferred time to meet with your child's teacher on either Tuesday 21st October or Thursday 23rd October. Further details of how to make your booking can be found in the email sent out on Monday this week.

Message from SENDCo - APDR Meetings

This year we will be sending out new APDRs with the parents evening reports.

We will also discuss the new APDRs in the parent meetings as teachers feel that they have enough time to achieve this. Should you want a further meeting you will be able to book another meeting with them the week after half term. This can be scheduled after school and will be arranged directly with your child's teacher.

We are also able to offer meetings with our SENDCo, Ms Hayden, on **Tuesday 21st October** to discuss either APDRs or more generalised SEND concerns during the Parents Evening. Please contact the School Office directly if you would like to book an appointment with Ms Hayden.

Photo Reminder

Don't forget to order your child's school photograph 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

Reception - Entry in September 2026

It was lovely to see so many familiar faces at our Reception 2026 Open Event this week. We still have two more dates coming up if you would like to book a tour or if you know anyone who would be interested in seeing all that Stoke Mandeville Combined School has to offer.

Wednesday 15th October 9.15-10.15am

Thursday 6th November 9.15-10.15am

In order to register your interest in attending one of these Open Events please complete the following Google Form: <https://forms.gle/uKQSne2JGgecmNk7>

PIP and RIP Policy

At Stoke Mandeville Combined School, we use PIP and RIP as a behaviour management strategy. This is used by many schools based on the idea of handling positive and negative behaviours differently.

Here is what the acronyms stand for:

PIP: Praise in Public. This means celebrating a child's positive behaviour or accomplishments openly, in front of their peers or the whole class. This approach is used for several reasons:

- **Reinforces good choices:** By publicly praising a child, the school reinforces the specific actions and positive behaviours they want to see more of.
- **Sets an example:** Other children can learn from the praised child's behaviour, seeing a clear example of what is expected and valued.
- **Boosts confidence:** Public recognition can significantly boost a child's self-esteem and encourage them to continue making good choices.

RIP: Reprimand in Private. This means that when a child does something wrong or breaks a school rule, the teacher addresses the behaviour with the child quietly and privately. This approach is used to:

- **Protect dignity:** By correcting a child in private, schools avoid shaming them in front of their peers, which helps protect their self-respect and dignity.
- **Maintain positive relationships:** A private conversation minimizes confrontation and allows for a more constructive and respectful dialogue between the adult and child.
- **Avoid providing negative attention:** For some children, negative attention (even in the form of a public reprimand) can reinforce bad behaviour. A quiet, private correction removes this incentive.

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.

Nail Varnish

Please can we remind parents that children should not be wearing nail varnish to school. If this is worn at the weekend please ensure it is removed on a Sunday evening ready for the school week.

Newspapers needed!

We are in need of spare newspapers for lining the hutches of our school rabbits! If you are able to donate these then please bring them to the School Office when you can. Many thanks.

Seesaw and Google Classroom

Please can we remind parents that these platforms are not for communication with your child's class teacher and direct messages will not be responded to. All communication should come via the School Office office@smcs.org.uk and will be forwarded to your child's class teacher.

Stoke Mandeville's Big Open Weekend

This weekend is Stoke Mandeville Stadium's big open weekend! They have lots of free activities available for you to book onto including free swimming lessons and a pool party! To get booked in please contact their Reception team on 01296 484848 or visit their website www.stokemandevillestadium.co.uk

Join us October 11th and 12th for our big open weekend!



Saturday 11th October

SEND Session
9am – 10am
Football
1pm – 2:30pm
Wheelchair Basketball
10am – 4pm
Table Tennis
10am – 5pm
Pickleball
10am – 5pm
Badminton
10am – 5pm
Bouncy Castles
10am – 4pm
Taster Swim Lessons
2pm – 4pm
Pool Party
4:15-5pm

Sunday 12th October

SEND Session
9am – 10am
Football
1pm – 2:30pm
Wheelchair Basketball
10am – 4pm
Table Tennis
10am – 5pm
Pickleball
10am – 5pm
Badminton
10am – 5pm
Bouncy Castles
10am – 4pm
Taster Swim Lessons
2pm – 4pm
Pool Party
4:15-5pm



Break the Rules

On **Friday 17th October** the School Council will be holding their annual 'Break the Rules Day'. Further information about this will be coming home early next week.

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...

What happened when the cheese factory exploded?

There was de-brie everywhere!

Jude in Year 4



What's the difference between an Indian elephant and an African elephant?

About 3000 miles!

Caleb in Year 6

What kind of key opens a banana?

A mon-key!

Erin in Year 2

What should you do if you're feeling cold?

Stand in the corner – it's 90 degrees!

Ahmad in Year 4

Why did the snowman climb into the box of carrots?

He wanted to pick his nose!

Evangeline in Year 1

Communications Home

Whole school: Important Safeguarding Notice: Children's 'Spy' Books

Whole school: REMINDER Tempest Photo Orders

Whole school: Parents Evening – Bookings Live 7pm TONIGHT

Year 3: Year 3 Skipping Rope Festival

Year 4: Head Lice – Year 4

Year 5: Year 5 – Handball Club

MAC Users: MAC Booking Form Autumn Term 2 2025/26

ASC Users: ASC Booking Form Autumn Term 2 2025/26

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 13 Oct		Bike to School Week
Wed 15 Oct	9.15-10.15am	Reception 2026 Open Event for prospective parents
Wed 15 Oct	10am-12pm	Year 3 – Skipping Rope Festival
Fri 17 Oct		Parents Evening reports to parents
Fri 17 Oct		Break the Rules Day (information to follow)
Tue 21 Oct	3.40-6pm	Parents Evening (in-person appointments)
Thu 23 Oct		Park Away Day
Thu 23 Oct	3.30pm	End of Autumn Term 1
Thu 23 Oct	3.40-5.20pm 6-8pm	Parents Evening (in-person appointments) Parents Evening (virtual appointments)
Fri 24 Oct		Staff Inset Day
Mon 3 Nov		Autumn Term 2 starts

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.