



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 17th October

SEALR Visit

When we first arrived a safety talk was given and the children discovered how many people and different jobs were required to complete the road. So far there has been 1,482 with 60 new people per month working on the project.

Each child had a go at wearing VR equipment, enabling them to be able to see hazards that can occur due to not being safe. They learned about the “Red Zone” around certain equipment and why.

We got to see live drone footage of the new road and of the bridge on Risborough Road. Some children found it exciting to be able to see themselves on the screen via drone footage! A small handful of children were able to experience driving a digger with the aid of a simulator.

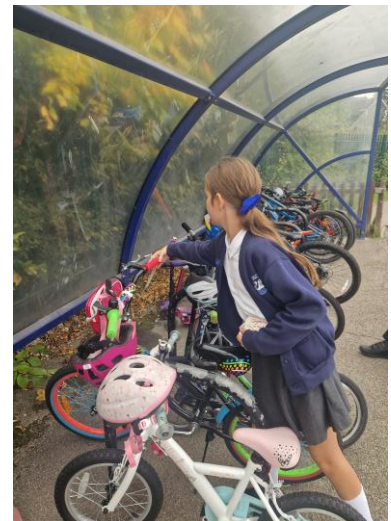
The children were also very excited to be the first children to drive down and stand on the new road.

For more photographs of the day please head to our [School Photo Gallery](#).



Cycle to School Week

Thank you to all of our parents and carers for supporting their children with cycling or scooting to school this week. We have had lots of bikes and scooters parked in our bike racks this week, and lots of very excited children at the end of the day with their free prize tokens!



Parents Evening

Don't forget to book your child's parent meeting appointment for this coming Tuesday or Thursday if you have not yet done so. As a reminder the booking system will close to parents at 5pm on Monday. If you are having any difficulty with accessing the [SchoolCloud](https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/parentmeetings) system then please refer to our website in the first instance (<https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/parentmeetings>). If you have any further difficulties then please contact the School Office.



Book Look

We will be opening classrooms for parents to look at their children's books on Tuesday afternoon from 3.30-6pm and Wednesday morning from 8-8.30am. Please note that books will not be available to view on Thursday evening. Please can we remind parents that phones must not be used whilst the school building. Please don't forget to complete a 'Proud Cloud' once you have looked at your child's work.

ASTRA SCITT

On Wednesday we had some trainee teachers visiting the school as part of their SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) training. We wanted to share with you the compliments we received from them over how kind and polite our pupils were. We had reports of children saying 'Good morning' when passing them in the corridors and also being polite and holding doors open.

Scooters

We have had concerns raised by parents and local businesses which also led to a visit from the police this week to share their concerns of children on scooters being unsupervised and riding off without a parent. They have been seen crossing driveways, heavy machinery crossings and even venturing into the road. Please can we encourage parents to keep close supervision of their children whilst making their way to and from school.



Parent Volunteers

We are looking for any parents who would like to come into school to volunteer their time and help with any of the following jobs:

- Tidying the Play Equipment shed
- Pumping balls up
- Listening to readers
- Library Assistant
- Allotment Team
- Cooking lessons with children
- Footsteps training
- School trips

If you would be interested in any of these volunteer roles then please contact the School Office via email (office@smcs.org.uk) and this will be passed on to the most suitable member of staff.

Allotment Update

This half term, all of Key Stage 2 have been to the allotment in small groups to continue the fantastic work of the parent working group. We have allocated plots to each of the classes who have been working to clear, dig and weed the different plots so that they will be ready for planting

some great produce and pollinators during the year. We are writing to request that children begin to bring in wellies on the days that their class is going to the allotment.

Year 6: Tuesday
Year 5: Wednesday
Year 4: Friday

Key Stage 1 (Reception to Year 2) and Year 3 are finalising their times and the older classes have been helping to prepare their beds as well as their own.

If you have any spare wellies that are too small for your child but are still waterproof then we would be very grateful of any donations to the school.

The allotment time benefits their Science learning and their understanding of the world.

Mrs Reed

Nut-Free Reminder

Please can we remind parents that all snacks and lunches should be nut-free. This includes Kinder snacks and chocolate hazelnut (e.g. Nutella) spreads in sandwiches.

Park Away Day

Next **Thursday 23rd October** we will be holding our last Park Away Day of the half term. Please walk, scoot, cycle or park & stride to school as we work towards encouraging parents and children to make their way to school in a more sustainable way.

Year 6 River Dart – Deposits

This is a reminder for Year 6 parents that they have until **Friday 31st October** to pay their deposits in order to secure their child's place on this trip. If you have not yet returned a signed Behaviour Agreement then please ensure you do this by next week at the latest. If your child is entitled to Pupil Premium funding and you would like to enquire about financial assistance with this trip then please email the School Office in confidence for the attention of Mrs Stewart.

Harvest Collection

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous harvest donation.

Please pass on a huge Thank You to all your students, families and staff for all their contributions. Your food donation is very much appreciated and will go a long way in helping us bless our community by feeding families and individuals in need.



Aylesbury Vineyard Storehouse



Police plea for



Bucks Herald – Order deadline

For our Reception class, this is just a reminder that the pre-order deadline for the First Class Souvenir Edition is **Sunday 2nd November**. Souvenir editions of the Bucks Herald will be available in newsagents on **Wednesday 5th November**.

If you would like to place a pre-order then this can be done via their website bucksheald.eventbrite.co.uk, or by phone if you call 0330 403 3004 (lines open

9.30am-4.30pm Monday to Friday). The cost for the paper and postage is just £4.70 for one copy or £6.80 for two. This is a great offer including a 20% discount on the cover price plus postage!

Please note that only children for whom we have photo permission for external use will have had their photo taken.

Secondary School Applications

This is a reminder that parents have until midnight on **Friday 31st October** to make their secondary school application, which should be made via the Buckinghamshire Council website - [Guide to moving up to secondary school | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

Our pages include lots of important information, including:

- how to get the order of their preferences right
- how we allocate school places
- what to do if they are moving house

Children with an EHCP

*Please note that children with an EHCP have their secondary school placement arranged via a different process so do **not** need to have their preferences logged using this online application.*

Reception - Entry in September 2026

It was lovely to see so many familiar faces at our Reception 2026 Open Event this week. We will be holding our final Open Event on **Thursday 6th November** from 9.15am-10.15am if you would like to book or if you know anyone who would be interested in seeing all that Stoke Mandeville Combined School has to offer.

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

Water Bottles

Please can we remind parents and children that water bottles should contain water and not juice or squash. We had an incident in Year 1 this week where a knocked over bottle filled with strong squash caused coats and other items of clothing to be soaked through and unwearable for the rest of the day.

Housepoint Totals This Week

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

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
7649	7559	7571	7647

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

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...

Which snake knows how to do Maths?

An adder!

Tilly in Year 2

Where do dogs go to act?

Collie-wood!

Harry in Year 4

Which dog breed does Dracula love the most?

Bloodhound!

Owen in Year 5

Where's the skeleton's favourite place to visit?

A Scream Park!

Noah in Year 4

When does an egg wake up?

At the crack of dawn!

Sebastian in Year 5

What happens if you don't get an ice cream?

You get a melt down!

Hugo in Year 1



Communications Home

MAC & ASC Users: REMINDER – MAC/ASC Autumn Term 2

Reception Individuals: Bucks Herald – First Class

Year 1: Message from Year 1

Year 4: Year 4 – Water Safety

Year 5 Individuals: Year 5 – AHS Outreach Group

Year 5 and 6: REMINDER – SEALR Visit

Year 5 and 6: Year 5 & 6 – SEALR Visit

Whole school: REMINDER Break the Rules

Whole school: Cycle to School Week 2025

Whole school: Break the Rules Day 2025

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
Tue 21 Oct	3.40-6pm	Parents Evening (in-person appointments)
Tue 21 Oct	3.30-6pm	Book Look
Tue 21 Oct		No Gymnastics Club (due to Parents Evening in Hall)
Wed 22 Oct	8-8.30am	Book Look
Thu 23 Oct		Park Away Day
Thu 23 Oct	3.40-5.20pm 6-8pm	Parents Evening (in-person appointments) Parents Evening (virtual appointments)
Thu 23 Oct	3.30pm	End of Autumn Term 1
Fri 24 Oct		Staff Inset Day
Mon 3 Nov		Autumn Term 2 starts
Tue 4 Nov		Be Bright Be Seen Day – children to wear bright or reflective accessories with their school uniform
Thu 6 Nov	9.15am	Reception 2026 Open Event
Fri 7 Nov		Longest Sweet Trail

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.