



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 24th October

Parents Evening and Book Look

Thank you to all of our parents and carers who came into school to attend a Book Look session this week as well as our parents' evenings. It was lovely to see so many Proud Clouds being completed and we received some wonderful feedback from parents over the course of the two evenings.

Break the Rules

Thank you for all of your generous donations last Friday for the School Council's fundraising 'Break the Rules Day'. We are delighted to announce that we have managed to raise a fantastic **£355.47** and will update you with how this will be spent after the School Council have met to discuss their ideas.



Term Dates

Our list of term dates for the 2026-27 academic year has now been updated on our website. Please head to <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/news-and-events/term-dates> for further information about term dates and Inset Days.

Be Bright Be Seen Mufti

On **Tuesday 4th November** we will be holding a 'Be Bright Be Seen' Day. Children are to come into school in their usual school uniform, but are encouraged to wear anything bright or hi-vis with their uniform. This could include a hi-vis vest, reflectors, flashing lights, bright hair accessories or anything to make them more visible to cars on darker mornings and afternoons on the walk to and from school.



Lockers

Please can we remind parents that children in Key Stage 2 should not be bringing in large, bulky rucksacks to school. We have lockers in place for Years 3 to 6 to help keep the corridors tidy, and these are expected to hold a packed lunch (for those who do not have a hot school meal), PE kit and school coat. For information the size of each locker is as follows and we would appreciate your help in ensuring that your child's bag fits inside these dimensions.

Width: 25cm

Depth: 35cm

Height: 42cm

Netball and Football Clubs – Time change

Please note that after the half term break, Netball and Football Club will finish at **4.15pm** due to the darker afternoons.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

We have now received our selection of Poppy merchandise from The Royal British Legion and will be taking these around the classes from **Monday 3rd November** onwards. We have only been supplied with a small selection of goodies so it will be first come, first served and once they are gone - they are gone!

Here are the suggested donations:

- Stick-on poppy 50p
- Poppy reflector 50p
- Festival wristbands £1.50
- Snap band £1.50
- Poppy stickers 20p



Piano Lessons

If your child would be interested in having piano lessons at school then please contact the School Office so that your details can be passed on to our piano teacher, Rebecca Sackman-Smith.



Longest Sweet Mufti

On **Friday 7th November** we will be bringing you the 'Longest Sweet Mufti Day'. Children will be invited to come into on this day school in full mufti.

In exchange we ask that the children bring in long sweets and chocolates (no nuts please). These will then be laid out around the school in house group lines and the houses will be awarded house points for the length of their lines (100 points for the house with the longest line). You are welcome to provide as many sweets/chocolates as

you would like - we know that secretly the parents are just as competitive as the children - but we ask that they are all kept as individual items and not taped together (it takes us a very long time to unstick them all!).

These treats will be used as prizes for the Friends of SMCS Christmas Fayre which will be held on **Friday 5th December**.

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](#)

Parent Volunteers

A huge thank you to the parents who have contacted the School Office this week to volunteer their time following our appeal last week. We will be following up on this after the half term break to begin the process of applying for DBS checks for parents who will be working with our pupils. If there are any other parents interested in any of the following roles then please email the School Office and we will respond after the half term break:

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

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.

Healthy Packed Lunches

For parents who send their children to school with packed lunches we wanted to put a reminder of the foods that we encourage children to have as part of a healthy balanced lunch. Please see the diagram below for some healthy lunchtime inspiration!

Love your packed lunch!
Create a healthier packed lunch by choosing foods from the 5 main food groups below:

1 Starchy Carbohydrates to re-fuel your body
Base your lunchbox on starchy carbohydrates.
Choose ONE EVERY DAY from:

- ✓ Bread, rolls, bagels, wraps, pitta or baguettes
- ✓ Pasta
- ✓ Couscous
- ✓ Noodles
- ✓ Potatoes

Choose wholegrain

2 Fruit and Vegetables to keep you healthy
Pack one portion of fruit and one portion of veg every day.
Choose TWO EVERY DAY from:

- ✓ Apple, banana, pear, orange, plums
- ✓ Small pot of mixed berries or grapes
- ✓ Prepared melon or mango
- ✓ Chopped vegetable sticks: carrots, cucumber, pepper, celery, mange tout, mini corn
- ✓ Salad vegetables
- ✓ Vegetable Soup

Add salad to your sandwich

3 Dairy and Alternatives for healthy teeth and bones
Don't forget the dairy!
Choose ONE EVERY DAY from:

- ✓ Milk
- ✓ Cheese – hard cheese, soft cheese, cheese spread
- ✓ Yoghurt or Fromage Frais
- ✓ Custard

Choose low sugar dairy products

4 Protein Foods for growth and repair
Pack a protein punch!
Choose ONE EVERY DAY from:

- ✓ Meat
- ✓ Fish
- ✓ Eggs
- ✓ Non-dairy protein e.g. lentils, chick peas, beans

Keep processed meat to a minimum

5 Drinks to rehydrate your body

- ✓ A large glass of water
- ✓ Semi skimmed milk – or skimmed milk for children over 5 years.
- ✓ 150ml of fresh unsweetened fruit juice/smoothie

Milk, water or 150ml juice

Occasionally!
Meat products such as sausage rolls, pies, sausages
Plain cakes/sponges and biscuits of appropriate portion sizes

For more healthy packed lunch ideas and recipes visit www.phunkyfoods.co.uk/recipes

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www.phunkyfoods.co.uk

Communications Home

Individuals: Parents Evening – Video Calls

Netball Club: Netball Cancelled

Football Club: URGENT Football Cancelled

Whole school: Traffic

Whole school: REMINDER – Park Away Day

Whole school: Book Looks – Today and Tomorrow

Whole school: School Office – Today

Year 6 Individuals: REMINDER River Dart 2026 - Deposit

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2025/26

ASC Users: ASC 2025/26

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
Fri 24 Oct		Staff Inset Day
Mon 3 Nov		Autumn Term 2 starts
Tue 4 Nov		Be Bright Be Seen Day – <i>children to wear bright or reflective accessories with their school uniform</i>
Thu 6 Nov	9.15am	Reception 2026 Open Event – <i>for pre-booked parents</i>
Fri 7 Nov		<i>Longest Sweet Trail - children to wear mufti in exchange for bringing in sweets or chocolate for our Christmas Fayre</i>
Mon 10 Nov		<i>Odd Socks Day – information to follow</i>
Fri 14 Nov		<i>Children in Need Mufti Day and Pudsey Fair – children to wear mufti in exchange for cash donations for Children in Need. Spots and Pudsey-themed clothes welcomed!</i>

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.