



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 7th November

Longest Sweet Trail

What an incredible morning it was seeing the corridors filled with all sorted of sweet treats! Thank you to everyone who sent sweets in with the children today to help their house win the Longest Sweet Trail. The reactions from the children who came out of the corridor to see the how the trails were looking were priceless! If you'd like to see the sweets after they have been laid out by their house captains then head over to our Facebook page to see our latest reel!



<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1813461362615569>

The winners were as follows:

1st Claydon, 2nd Hughenden, 3rd Chequers and 4th Waddesdon!

As a reminder these treats will be used as prizes for the Friends of SMCS Christmas Fayre which is due to be held on **Friday 5th December** from 3.30-5.30pm. Please see below in the 'Update from The Friends of SMCS' for more information.



Odd Socks Day – Monday

Don't forget that on Monday children are invited to wear odd socks with their usual school uniform. This is in conjunction with our Anti-Bullying Week and we are hopeful that by offering children the opportunity to celebrate their uniqueness this will help to deliver a message of individuality, acceptance and tolerance.

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. Please also find attached our latest list of Autumn Term Dates which gives lots of information about upcoming events for the remainder of this term.

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.

Volunteers

Thank you so much to all of the parents who have volunteered to help out with various tasks around the school. Mrs Tong is making her way through your offers of help and will be in touch next week.

WOW Challenge

Do you want to help win the school a prize?? WOW - who we do the Travel Tracker through - have set a little autumnal competition for schools. Between the dates of Monday 10th November and Friday 12th December, WOW have challenged schools to increase their engagement rates.

During these dates they will be looking at their schools to see who has the highest engagement rates. In order to do this, we need our pupils to record their journeys on the Travel Tracker on a daily basis, which most already do when they enter the classroom. The more pupils that record their journeys, the higher the engagement rate.

If two schools have the same engagement, they will look at which school has the higher percentage of ACTIVE travelled journeys; and whichever school has a higher active journey percentage would come out on top. There are 3 prizes up for grabs:

- 1st Prize £150 - voucher for school
- 2nd Prize £100 - voucher for school
- 3rd Prize £50 – voucher for school

Let's get our children walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling to school, AND record their journeys, for the chance to win some lovely vouchers for our school!!

Plea from the School Office

Please can we again ask that parents (and our older pupils) remember their lunch boxes, correct footwear, football/netball/dance kits, hats/scarves/gloves in the mornings? We are starting to have a lot of morning visits again from parents with forgotten items which then need to be taken to class.

Be Bright Be Seen Mufti

Well done to all of our pupils for putting so much effort into their 'Be Bright Be Seen Day' accessories! The school was certainly very bright on Tuesday and hopefully the children will continue to wear these on their journeys to and from school, particularly on darker mornings and afternoons.



Absences

Please can we remind parents to notify the School Office of absences before 9am. This can either be to the absence line (01296 612371 – dial 1) or email to office@smcs.org.uk. Please can we remind parents to advise us of the symptoms of any illness (rather than just 'not well'), and if children are attending medical appointments then an appointment letter or screenshot should be provided to the office.

Netball and Football Clubs – Time change

As a reminder please note that both Netball Club and Football Club are now finishing at **4.15pm** due to the darker afternoons.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

We still have a few remaining items of Poppy merchandise ahead of Remembrance Day on **Tuesday 11th November** if any children would like to bring donations in on Monday and Tuesday.



Here are the suggested donations:

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

Children in Need Mufti – Friday

Next Friday we are holding a Children in Need Mufti Day where children can come to school in their own clothes in exchange for a coin donation (we usually recommend £1 but will happily accept all donations). As always spots or anything yellow are encouraged!



Next Friday afternoon we will be holding a Pudsey Fair where children from Year 6, supported by School Council reps, will be running fun games for the rest of the school to take part in. These will all be run free of charge as a thank you for their mufti donation.

Year 5 and 6 Parents

Please can we remind parents to let us know if there is a change to collection arrangements for children, particularly for those who have children in Years 5 and 6. The Office needs to have written or verbal permission from parents if children are to make their own way home (unless a long-term arrangement has already been put in place) so please ensure you communicate this to us ahead of time so that staff can be made aware.

An Update from the Friends

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the buzz around school today by sending in sweets for the Longest Sweet Trail! We are grateful for all the donations, which will be used as prizes for the Christmas Fayre.



We will be holding the Christmas Fayre on Friday 5th December, 3.30-5.30pm. There will be lots to do, including browsing our external stallholders, playing games, trying to win a bottle on the Bottle Tombola and there might even be an appearance from a very special guest in red! We are also pleased to be joined by The Bull, who will be serving drinks. The Signing Choir will be performing at 4.30pm and the Hamper Raffle will be drawn at 5pm.

We will be asking for donations for two more of our every popular stalls in the coming weeks - we will be collecting teddies (new or clean, good quality, second-hand soft toys) which can be donated via the office from Monday 14th November, as well as bottles and treats (such as boxes of chocolates etc) for our Bottle and Treats Tombola. The children will be invited to come in mufti on Friday 4th December in exchange for bottles or treats.

As the end of November draws in, the children begin to get excited about the prospect of Advent Calendars and we will be holding our Advent Calendar raffle again. The draw will be on Friday 28th November and tickets will be on sale before and after school Monday 24th - Wednesday 26th November. Further details will be sent out later.

Our final event of the year will be the Christmas Disco. This will be held on Friday 12th December. Reception and KS1 will be 6pm-7pm (Reception parents are welcome to stay in our parent room) and KS2 will be 7:15-8:30pm.

If you are able to help at the Christmas Fayre for an hour (or two!) or at one of the discos, please drop us an email to let us know friends@smcs.org.uk

Housepoint Totals This Week

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

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
9164	9140	9147	9136

The Values Award was given to all of the children who assisted with giving tours to parents this week during our Reception Open Event – Alfie, Mia, Abigail, Katie, William and Jamie. The Tidy Award went to Year 3.

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...



Why did the pizza go to hospital?

It got sliced!

Oliver in Year 3

What do you get when you cross a kangaroo and a sheep?

A woolly jumper!

Elsie in Year 4

Why did the cookie go to hospital?

It was feeling crummy!

Georgia in Year 4

Knock knock

Who's there?

Weirdo

Weirdo who?

Weirdon't know where we're going

Aaliyah in Year 2

What do you call a group of singing dinosaurs?

A trichorus!

Eliza in Year 4

What's sticky and brown?

A stick!

Evie in Year 3

Communications Home

Whole school: Stir Food – Theme Days

Whole school: Odd Socks Day

Whole school: REMINDER Be Bright Be Seen

ARP: Allotment Visit for the ARP

Signing Choir: Signing Choir – Autumn 2 Events

MAC/ASC Users: MAC/ASC Autumn Term 2

Dance Club: ZKT Dance – Wed 12 Nov

Year 4 and 6: Year 4 & 6 – Health Behaviour Survey

Year 5 Individuals: Year 5 – Rock Climbing

Year 5: Year 5 – Viking Day

Year 6: Year 6 – Make Do and Mend

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2025/26

ASC Users: ASC 2025/26

Signing Choir: Signing Choir – Friars Square Shopping Event – Fri 28 Nov 25

Signing Choir: Signing Choir – Wheelpower Seasonal Shopping Event – Thu 27 Nov 25

Signing Choir: Signing Choir – The Bull Community Event – Thu 4 Dec 25

Year 6: River Dart 2026 – Deposit (*extended to 7/11/25*)

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

Date	Time	Event
Mon 10 Nov		Odd Socks Day
Wed 12 Nov		Year 4 – Swimming: Water Safety Lesson

Thu 13 Nov		Stir Food Theme Day: Blast from the Past (<i>order via Swift Kitchen app</i>)
Fri 14 Nov		Children in Need Mufti Day and Pudsey Fair – <i>children to wear mufti in exchange for cash donations for Children in Need. Spots and Pudsey-themed clothes welcomed!</i>
Mon 24 Nov		Deadline for donations of teddies for Teddy Tombola
Mon 24 Nov – Wed 26 Nov		Advent Calendar Raffle tickets on sale at drop off and pick up
Fri 28 Nov		The Friends of SMCS: Advent Calendar Raffle
Fri 5 Dec		Bottle and Treats Mufti – <i>Bring a box of treats (sweets or chocolates) or a bottle (alcoholic or soft) on exchange for wearing full mufti</i>
Fri 5 Dec	3.30- 5.30pm	The Friends of SMCS: Christmas Fayre
Fri 12 Dec	6-8.30pm	The Friends of SMCS: Christmas Disco <i>6-7pm Reception, Years 1 and 2 7.15-8.30pm Years 3 to 6</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.