



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 21st November

Children in Need – Thank You

We wanted to say a huge thank you to our school community for all of their efforts in fundraising for Children in Need this year. From a combination of cash and online donations we have managed to raise a fantastic

£334.15!



Stir Food Theme Day: Festive Fun!

Don't forget to order your child's lunch on the Swift Kitchen app for our Christmas Lunch day on **Wednesday 17th December**. We have been advised by Stir Food that the cut off for ordering meals for this day will be Friday 12th December so that enough food (and Reindeer Biscuits!) can be ordered and prepared in time. If you ordered earlier in the term then you may need to check that you still have an order placed and that this has not been wiped when the Christmas menus were uploaded.

Phonics Information Session

On **Wednesday 26th November** our Key Stage 1 team will be holding a Phonics Information Session for parents to attend. This is open to parents from across the school, although the information is primarily aimed at those with children in Reception and Year 1. As this session is taking place at the end of the school day, children and younger siblings are also welcome to attend if they are supervised by an adult.

Park Away Day

Next **Friday 28th November** we will be holding our monthly Park Away Day. 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.

Club Attendance

Please can we remind parents that if their child cannot attend a sports club after school, that the School Office are made aware either in writing or verbally. In some cases a message given to your child's class teacher may not reach the office staff who maintain the club registers, so please let us

know if your child isn't attending that week so that we are not looking for them at the end of the day. If your child no longer wishes to attend the club then please let us know at the earliest opportunity so that a place can be offered to another child if there is a waiting list.

Nativity Tickets

As a reminder tickets for this years KS1 Nativity, '*Christmas with the Aliens*', will be available via the School Gateway app from **Monday 24th November** onwards. These are limited to two tickets per family in the first instance, but additional tickets will be released after 8th December in a second round of ticket sales once all families have had a chance to purchase tickets.

HAF Programmes

If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, they will be entitled to receive free Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programmes throughout Bucks over the Christmas Holidays. All parents whose children are in receipt of free school meals will receive a letter from Buckinghamshire Council stating the unique HAF code that parents will need to make the booking. If you do not receive this code for Christmas 2025 and think you are eligible then please contact the School Office on office@smcs.org.uk. For details of the providers running these programmes please head to our website where we will upload flyers as and when they are shared with the School Office <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/pupilpremium/haf>.



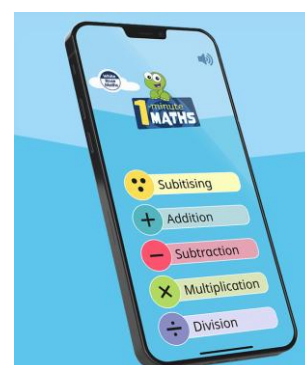
Headlice and Nits

This week we have had another case of nits reported in Year 1. Please [click here](#) for NHS guidance on finding and treating headlice and nits. Don't forget that after the initial treatment this must then be followed up with **wet combing on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 to catch any newly hatched head lice**. You will then need to check again that everyone's hair is free of lice on day 17. As a reminder some treatments need to be repeated after a week to kill any newly hatched lice.

Maths App for Whole School

Our Maths Lead, Mrs Tong, wanted to let parents know about a free maths app which is linked to our maths scheme. It can be downloaded onto phones and tablets and there is no need for any log ins <https://whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths#download>

It is aimed at mainly KS1 but it does multiplication tables practice on it too which is useful for all year groups in KS2.



Throat Lozenges

If any children need these for sore throats then please remind them that these must be given to the teacher at start of the day and collected at the end of the day. These must not be kept in bags or pockets or consumed without a staff member being aware.

Aylesbury Town Council: Christmas on the Cobbles

Jingle all the way to Aylesbury on **Sunday 23rd November** for Christmas on the Cobbles – the best way to kickstart your festive season!

All things merry and bright will be taking over Aylesbury Town Centre across the day in Market Square, Kingsbury, The Exchange and Friars Square shopping centre.

12-5pm

- The Chiltern View Ice Rink stage will feature live music acts and entertainers to bring festive magic to Market Square.
- Games, crafts, activities and performances can be found in Friars Square shopping centre, including Captain Christmas by Unbound Theatre and face painting by Zoomania, Lego building, and a visit from festive walkabout acts.
- The Exchange will be transformed into a Christmas market with a range of stalls offering the perfect opportunity to make a start on your Christmas shopping.
- Kingsbury will be the home of a festive fun fair with free rides for all the family.

5pm

An epic Illuminated Parade will light up the High Street and Market Square. We'll be joined by Santa in his sleigh, Aylesbury Waterside Theatre pantomime stars, local community and dance groups plus, after the weather sadly forced the cancellation of the parade in 2024, the brand-new Illuminated Parade Spectacle will finally be revealed! Following the parade, the Town Council's Christmas lights will be switched on, and the event will end with a stunning firework display.

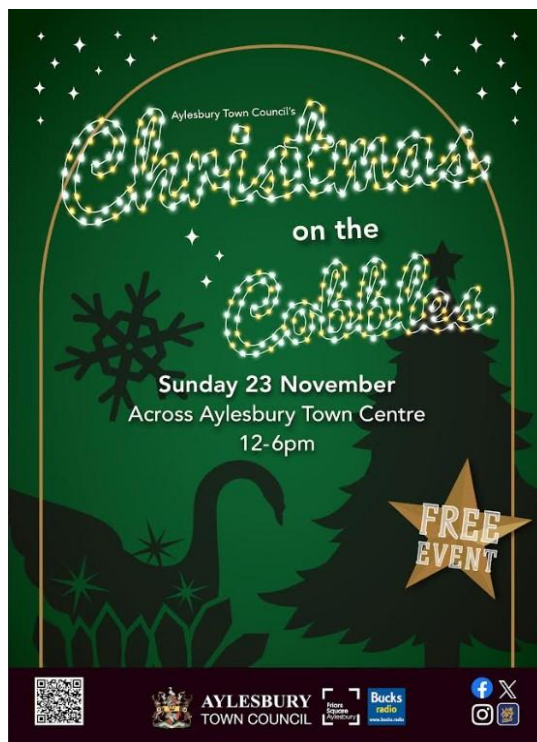
Full event details can be viewed [here](#) and the event accessibility information is available [here](#).

Ready to Light Up the Court? Join the GLOW IN THE DARK HANDBALL Tournament!

Bucks Mavericks Handball is delighted to be hosting a special evening event for children across the community. This promises to be a memorable night of glowing goals, neon vibes, and nonstop fun!

- **Date:** Monday, 11th December
- **Time:** 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- **Venue:** Aylesbury Grammar School HP21 7RP
- **Ages:** Under 8s, Under 10s, and Under 12s
- **Cost:** Just £3.00 per player
- **Note:** No prior experience is needed—this is a brilliant opportunity to come and learn the basics of handball in a fun environment!

We would love for the children to join us and make this a night to remember! Please do encourage them to tag their teammates and spread the word. You can email BucksMavericks@gmail.com or call **07964 170636** if you have any questions.



Winter Water Safety

Always follow the WATER SAFETY CODE



Beware of wooden and rocky surfaces as they may be slippery

Animals may run onto the ice so keep dogs on a lead when near ice and slippery banks

Don't go onto the ice to help someone else. Follow the Water Safety Code

Ice is always thin near the edge and around pipes, trees, and plants



For more resources and advice visit www.rlss.org.uk

Winter Water Safety

When the temperatures plummet and the outdoor water spaces and waterways form ice, their idyllic looks can deceptively make them look like a great place to play. However, according to a national report in 2022, accidental water-related fatalities are 3 times higher at inland locations than at the coast in winter.

Let's keep our friends and families safe this winter by remembering the **Water Safety Code**



Stop and Think

Keep back from slippery banks and wear footwear with a good grip.
Stick to well-lit areas - the reduction in daylight in the winter adds to risks around water. Plan your walks in daylight or along well-lit paths.
Ice can be extremely vulnerable even during periods of prolonged cold. Never go onto the ice.



Stay Together

Keep children within reach and teach children not to go onto the ice.
Keep dogs on a lead near ice and slippery banks.
If out enjoying a winter walk, walk with friends.

In an emergency



Call 999

Call 999 – do not enter cold water or ice to rescue.
Try and reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.



Float

Fall in or become tired - stay calm, float on your back and call for help. Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.
If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Preserve heat by pressing your arms by your side and keep your legs together. Keep your head clear of the water.

An Update from the Friends of SMCS



On Friday 5th December the Friends of SMCS are proud to be hosting a Christmas Fayre. There will be market stalls, tombolas, the hamper raffle, games, a performance from the Signing Choir and more!

The games will be run using a wristband system, similar to the Summer Fayre. A wristband will cost £2 and will allow the wearer to play 6 games. We do hope that lots of you will stay to join in the fun!

4.30pm Signing Choir Performance
5 pm Hamper Raffle Draw

As well as stalls, games and more inside, we will be welcoming The Bull's Best Cellar from The Bull, Stoke Mandeville who will be in charge of providing drinks throughout the evening.

Housepoint Totals This Week

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

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
10,966	10,937	10,908	10,946

The Values Award was given to Amelia in Year 5 and the Tidy Award went to Reception.

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 can't you use a broken pencil?

Because it's pointless!

Mrs Walker in ARP

Why can't you play cards in the jungle?

Because it's full of cheetahs!

Felicity in Year 3



What's a robot's favourite music?

Heavy metal
Esme in Year 4

Why can't pirates play cards?

Because they always stand on the deck!
Jude in Year 4

How do you get Pikachu on a bus?

Poke-him-on!
Jude in Year 4

Why did the onion run round in circles?

It was an onion ring!
Jake in Year 3

What's red and bad for your teeth?

A house brick
Elwyn in Year 1

Communications Home

iRock Members: iRock Concert – Friday 12th December

Football Club: Football Club – Cancelled Dates

Football Club: REMINDER No Football

Reception to Year 2: Nativity Tickets 2025

KS2 Individuals: KS2 Cross Country at Turnfurlong – This Saturday

Year 3 & 4: Bikeability – Level 1 – January 2026

Year 4: Year 4 – Dance in a Day

Year 5 & 6: Bikeability – Level 2 – January 2026

Year 6: Year 6 – Christingle Making

Whole school: Pantomime 2025 Trip

Whole school: Stir Food – Christmas Lunch

Whole school: KS1 Phonics Information Session

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2025/26

ASC Users: ASC 2025/26

Signing Choir: Signing Choir – The Woolpack Christmas Market – Thu 4 Dec 25

Year 4: Year 4 – Dance in a Day (*deadline 27/11/2025*)

Year 6 Residential: River Dart 2026 – Payment 1 (*deadline 30/11/2025*)

Year 6 Residential: River Dart 2026 – Payment 2 (*deadline 31/01/2026*)

Year 6 Residential: River Dart 2026 – Payment 3 (*deadline 27/02/2026*)

Year 6 Residential: River Dart 2026 – Payment 4 (*deadline 27/03/2026*)

Whole School: Panto 2025 Trip (*deadline 05/12/2025*)

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

Date	Time	Event
Sat 22 Nov	Morning	KS2 Cross Country at Turnfurlong Junior School
Mon 24 Nov		Deadline for donations of teddies for Teddy Tombola
Mon 24 Nov		Tickets on sale for KS1 Nativity via School Gateway app
Mon 24 Nov – Wed 26 Nov		Advent Calendar Raffle tickets on sale at drop off and pick up
Wed 26 Nov	3.30pm	Phonics Information Session in school (Year 1 Classroom) <i>Pupils and siblings welcome to attend.</i>
Thu 27 Nov	9am-3pm	Year 4 – Dance in a Day
Thu 27 Nov	6-7pm	Signing Choir: Wheelpower Seasonal Shopping Evening (<i>signed up children only</i>)
Fri 28 Nov	Assembly	The Friends of SMCS: Advent Calendar Raffle
Fri 28 Nov		Park Away Day
Fri 28 Nov	11am-12pm	Signing Choir: Friars Square Christmas Event
Thu 4 Dec		Year 5 Viking Day
Thu 4 Dec		Football Club Cancelled
Thu 4 Dec		Signing Choir: The Woolpack Community Event (<i>signed up children only</i>)
Fri 5 Dec		Bottle and Treat 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 Signing Choir performing at 4.30pm (<i>all members welcome</i>)
Tue 9 Dec	Morning	School Christingle Service
Fri 12 Dec	9-11am	iRock Concert
Fri 12 Dec	9-10.30am	Parent Forum
Fri 12 Dec	6-8.30pm	The Friends of SMCS: Christmas Disco <i>6-7pm Reception, Years 1 and 2</i> <i>7.15-8.30pm Years 3 to 6</i>
Tue 16 Dec	2pm	KS1 Nativity (Reception to Year 2)
Wed 17 Dec	9.30am	KS1 Nativity (Reception to Year 2)
Wed 17 Dec		School Christmas Lunch
Thu 18 Dec		Whole school trip to the Pantomime at Aylesbury Waterside
Fri 19 Dec	1.30pm	End of term (<i>please note there is no ASC on this day</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.