



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 28th November

Year 4 Dance in a Day

On Thursday, the whole of Year 4 went to Princes Risborough Secondary School to take part in 'Dance in a Day' which was led by Year 9 students. The children learnt 5 different dances which were then put together to form a final performance. It was a day filled with excitement and the children were incredibly well behaved. Mrs Tong, Mrs Danel and Mrs Hutson were extremely proud of their hard work and behaviour.



Christmas Post Box

Our Christmas Post Box will be ready to start taking deliveries from **Monday 1st December!** Please make sure that you write the name and class of the child that the card is for (a surname initial is always helpful as well if there is more than one child in the class with the same first name!)

KS2 Cross Country

On Saturday a group of keen runners arrived at Turnfurlong JS in the cold and damp ready to represent the school in cross country. After a quick tour of the route they would be running they warmed themselves up and lined up ready for their races. Everyone focused on running their own race and achieving the best time they could and I'm proud of how everybody did. A notable mention should go to the children that ran on their own within their age groups and to Edie in Year 3 who led the pack the whole way round and came first.

Mrs Griffiths

Young Carers Assembly

This week our Young Carers led a brilliant assembly on what it is like to be a Young Carer for the whole school. This may lead to some children asking if they can join our Young Carers Team. To qualify as a Young Carer, children need to have a family member that has additional needs. They do not necessarily have to care for them in a literal sense, but they will be affected in other ways e.g. less able to go on family outings, less time with parents as other siblings need more care or a parent who feels quite overwhelmed at times.

Please contact the School Office if you would like to refer your child to Young Carers and we will help you to complete a referral form.

Sports Clubs

The last week for school-led Sports Clubs will be **w/c 8th December**. External providers (Handball, Premier Gymnastics and ZKT Dance) will continue for our last week in school (please see the 'Dates for the Diary' section below for further information). MAC and ASC will continue as usual until the end of term with the last ASC being Thursday 18th December and the last MAC being Friday 19th December.

Netball Club will recommence on **Monday 12th January**. We will email Football Club members at the start of next term to confirm when Football Club will be starting again.

We will also be in touch in due course with details of after school sports clubs run by external providers (Premier Gymnastics and ZKT Dance).

Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Poppy Appeal. We managed to raise an incredible **£283.25** for the Royal British Legion which is a fantastic amount and has beat last year's total by nearly £30!

Nativity Tickets

As a reminder tickets for this year's KS1 Nativity, '*Christmas with the Aliens*', are now available to purchase via the School Gateway app. 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.



Phonics Information Session

Thank you to the parents who attended the Phonics Information Session after school on Wednesday. The information shared is now available on the school website <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/handouts/phonics>

If you have any questions please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Hampers

A huge thank you from The Friends of SMCS for the fantastic selection of hampers that have been delivered by our class representatives this week. Don't forget to return your hamper raffle tickets with money to the School Office (or via your child's class). If you have any unused tickets please also return these to the School Office for selling in the lead up to the Christmas Fayre.

Advent Calendar

This year each class has been given an advent calendar and every child will have the opportunity to have a chocolate from the calendar (there are spare chocolate coins to supplement these as we realise there are only 19 days of December before term ends for the Christmas break!). If you have

any objections to your child having an advent chocolate in school one day in December then please speak with your child's class teacher or contact the School Office.

MAC and ASC Booking Links

The booking links for next term's MAC and ASC wraparound care have been sent out this week to our current users. Please ensure that all requests are received by **Monday 8th December** so that bookings can be opened up to people on our waiting list on Tuesday 9th December. Please note that in order for booking forms to be processed this term's fees need to have been paid in full.

Family Hub Network Parenting and Youth Programmes

The Family Hub Team have just released new dates for their parenting and youth sessions for Jan – March 2026. These sessions are designed to help parents, children, and young people build stronger relationships, improve emotional wellbeing, and develop practical skills for everyday life.

Please find attached posters with further details about the courses available and a QR code to book your place.

Parent Courses

- **The Nurturing Programme (3–11 years)**
Learn new ways for parents to connect with their child, manage behaviour calmly, and strengthen family relationships.
- **Talking Teens (11–18 years)**
Support for parents to improve communication with their teenager and reduce conflict.
- **Keeping Your Child in Mind (All Ages)**
For parents who want to reflect on their own relationships and parenting style to make changes that can positively impact your child's emotional wellbeing

Young People's Courses:

- **How to... Build Confidence and Self-Esteem**
Help your teenager feel better about themselves, build resilience, and navigate peer pressure and social media.
- **How to... Cope with Stress, Anxiety and Low Mood**
Equip your teenager with tools to manage their emotions and take steps toward a more positive future.

Children's Courses:

- **Wellbeing Matters (Ages 7–11)**
A fun one-day workshop to help children understand their feelings, build confidence, and learn how to get along with other

All sessions are free and delivered by experienced practitioners in a welcoming, inclusive environment. For more information or to book a place, parents can visit [View our courses, groups, and support | Family Information Service](#).

Newspaper

Thank you to everyone who has brought newspapers in for our rabbit hutch. We're still happy to keep accepting donations if anyone has any going spare!

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.

MDS Vacancy

We are currently recruiting for the position of Midday Meals Supervisor at SMCS. This is a term-time position for 1.5 hours per day Monday to Friday. Please head to the Vacancies page of our website <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/about-us/vacancies> to download our job advert, job description, person specification and application form.



Please return completed forms either via email to office@smcs.org.uk or in person to the School Office. The closing date for applications is next **Friday 5th December** and interviews will be held on the afternoon of Tuesday 9th December.

Bikeability

We still have a few spaces remaining on our Level 1 and Level 2 Bikeability courses for the week beginning 19th January. All bookings are being taken directly by Bikeability so please follow the links that were given in the letter sent out last week (we have also included them below for ease of reference). Once we have names confirmed by Bikeability we will be adding payment options for parents on School Gateway hopefully by next week.

Level 1 (Years 3 & 4)	£5	Thu 22 Jan	https://consent.bikeability.org.uk/booth-era-film
Level 2 (Years 5 & 6)	£10	Mon 19 to Wed 21 Jan	https://consent.bikeability.org.uk/push-sal-black

Sustainable Travel in Buckinghamshire

You may have heard on Bucks Radio that Buckinghamshire Council has taken top spot in the Modeshift Stars leaderboard for local authorities and been recognised for outstanding work promoting sustainable travel to school. 31% of schools in Buckinghamshire are on board with the Modeshift Stars, us being one of them. It's a great feeling knowing that we are one of the schools who have helped achieve this and for that, we would like to thank you all for helping with the sustainable travel, whether your children are walking, scooting, cycling or park and striding. Every little helps.

Thank you to all the parents who worked with us in supporting our monthly Park Away Day today. We are so grateful for your support in walking/scooting/cycling to school at least one day a month in order to help us keep exhaust fumes to an absolute minimum around a busy period of the school day, thus supporting our children's health and wellbeing.

Year 5 Viking Day

On **Thursday 4th December**, Year 5 are having a 'Viking Day' in school. They will be allowed to come to school in either school uniform or Viking costume and will take part in a variety of activities during the day, including creating a Viking soup.

Please could Year 5 children remember to bring in a named container suitable for the soup during the week beginning 1st December.

Christingle

The school will be walking to St Mary's Church on **Tuesday 9th December** to take part in our annual Christingle Service. Key Stage 2 will take part in the first service, and Key Stage 1 will then walk over for the second service. As a reminder this is for our school pupils and staff only and unfortunately due to space restrictions we are unable to welcome parents to watch the service. Please return any donation envelopes for The Children's Society by Tuesday morning at the latest so that they can be taken over to the Church with the children. Alternatively, you can donate at by clicking on the following link <https://donate.childrensociety.org.uk/page/148834/donate/1>.

iRock Concert

If your child is due to perform at the iRock Concert on Friday 12th December and you haven't reserved your tickets yet then please ensure you email the School Office on office@smcs.org.uk as soon as possible. Please note that tickets are limited to 3 per family due to space restrictions in the Hall.

An Update from the Friends of SMCS

Don't forget next Friday we are holding a **'Bottle and Treat Mufti Day'** for the whole school. On this day children can wear their own clothes to school in exchange for a bottle (alcohol or soft drink) or box of treats (e.g. chocolates, sweets, biscuits or even quality gift sets!).

Next **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
5pm Hamper Raffle Draw

As well as stalls, games and more inside, we will be welcoming 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
12,623	12,531	12,622	12,577

The Values Award was given to Sofia, Freya, Rijul, Jude and Edie for running solo in their age categories at the KS2 Cross Country at the weekend. The Tidy Award went to Year 5.

Communications Home

Whole school: TODAY – Phonics Information Session

Whole school: REMINDER – Park Away Day

Reception to Year 2: Nativity Tickets 2025 – Allocation reminder

Year 1: Year 1 – Local Area Walk

Year 3 & 4 Individuals: Year 3 & 4 – Have Fun Be Active

Year 5 & 6: Year 5 & 6 - Christmas Fayre Helpers

Dance Club: Dance Club – ZKT Christmas Party

Nurture Group: Nurture Group – Advent Chocolate

Signing Choir Individuals: TONIGHT Wheelpower Seasonal Shopping Evening

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 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
Thu 4 Dec		Year 5 Viking Day (<i>children to wear school uniform or Viking costume</i>)
Thu 4 Dec		Football Club Cancelled
Thu 4 Dec	5.30-6pm	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>
Mon 8 Dec		Last Netball Club
Tue 9 Dec	Morning	School Christingle Service
Thu 11 Dec		Last Football Club
Fri 12 Dec	9-10am	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>
Mon 15 Dec		Last Handball Club
Tue 16 Dec	2pm	KS1 Nativity (Reception to Year 2)
Tue 16 Dec		Last Gymnastics Club
Wed 17 Dec	9.30am	KS1 Nativity (Reception to Year 2)
Wed 17 Dec		Last Dance Club <i>(make up session from 12th November)</i>
Wed 17 Dec		School Christmas Lunch
Thu 18 Dec		Park Away Day
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.