



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

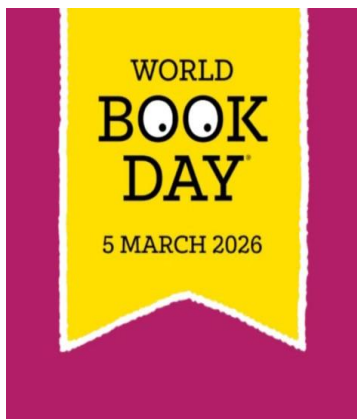
Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 27th February

World Thinking Day

World Thinking Day, formerly Thinking Day, is celebrated annually on 22nd February by Scout and Guide organisations all around the world.

To celebrate this day we invited all Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides to come into school wearing their uniform.



World Book Day – REMINDER

This year on **Thursday 5th March**, we will be joining in with the World Book Day celebrations across the country. This week, each child should have brought a book voucher home with them which can be redeemed in a number of shops in town.

Every class will be engaged in activities about a book which will be chosen by the class teacher. During the day, there will also be the opportunity for the children to read with their friends and children from other classes. We will be holding sessions of 'Drop Everything and Read' where we will all stop for 10 minutes in order to enjoy reading

books and magazines.

As always, we encourage the children to dress up on Thursday 5th March as a book character. Please do not go out and buy costumes as there are many 'costumes' which can be put together using resources from home. There are lots of ideas for homemade costumes online so have a browse for some inspiration! You may also like to look at our [online gallery](#) for inspiration from our pupils during World Book Day 2025.

School Trips – Meal Cancellations

Please ensure that you cancel your child's meal selections with Stir Food if they are due to attend any of the following school trips:

*Year 5 - Hazard Alley Trip – Wednesday 4th March
Year 2 and 3 - Science Oxford Trip - Friday 13th March*

Food ordering

We had a number of meals not ordered from Stir Food/Swift Kitchen this week. Please can we encourage as many parents as possible not to rely on ordering their child's food on the day that they require it and to instead order the night before wherever possible. If you need to order on the day for any reason then please can this be done by 9am at the latest in order to give the kitchen enough notice to prepare the food and deliver it to school. All menus are on the SwiftKitchen app (including theme days) up until the Easter break so can be ordered all at once to save you time.



Park Away Day

Thank you to everyone who joined in with our Park Away Day this morning. Thankfully the weather was good to us and it was a nice morning for a walk, scoot or ride to school!



We would like to encourage our school community to do this more often than one Friday a month and would invite families to try and leave their car at home at least one day a week for their school journey to and from school!

48 Hour Sickness Rule

Please can we remind parents that children should remain off school until 48 hours after the last incident of sickness or diarrhoea.

Head Lice – Year 1

We have had another case of head lice reported this week in Year 1. Please follow the guidelines specified on the NHS website, including wet combing on **days 1, 5, 9 and 13** to catch any newly hatched head lice. Check again that everyone's hair is free of lice on day 17. It is advisable to coordinate this across the whole class to reduce the risk of reinfection. Your class WhatsApp may be an advisable method to use for this.

Please can all children also be reminded that hair below shoulder length should be tied up and any head bands/scrunchies/hairbands must be in the school colours (blue, white or black).

Netball Cancelled – Monday 2nd March

This is a reminder that Netball Club has been cancelled for this coming Monday afternoon due to staff availability. The club is due to continue again on **Monday 9th March**.

Appointments

If arriving to collect children for medical appointments, please can we ask parents to arrive at least 5 minutes before the specified collection time. If your child is outside at break or lunchtime, or perhaps in a PE lesson, then this will allow the office staff time to locate them and bring them to the office.

River Dart 2026 – Payment 3

This is a gentle reminder that the third instalment for children going on the River Dart residential is due by **today** at the latest.

Maths

Please find below a link from our Maths Lead, Mrs Tong, which you may find helpful when supporting your child with maths homework.

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/maths-with-michael>

This has also been added to the school website on the [maths curriculum page](#).

REMINDER Living Streets WOW Badge Design

Before the half term **break** an email was sent to all parents regarding a WOW Badge Design Competition for pupils.

This year's theme is **Walk the Senses** – Living Streets want you to show them what you see, hear, smell, taste or feel as you walk or wheel to school! Have you spotted a fluffy cloud in the sky or a cute dog passing by? Maybe you like the sound of feet walking. Or do you like the smell of flowers or wild garlic on the journey to school? Maybe it's the taste of your favourite yummy snack or it could be feeling the rain on your skin. Whatever makes you happy, grab your crayons or pencils and draw it!



The badge competition deadline for our school will be **Tuesday 3rd March**. If you do not have a printer at home then a paper copies can be requested from the School Office.

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! The entries from last week and this week are...

Which is a skeleton's least favourite room?

The Living Room
Priscilla in Year 4

What animal is the best at golf?

A birdie
William in Year 6

How do you find a princess?

Follow the foot prince
Noah in Year 4



Housepoint Totals This Week

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

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
7285	7230	7257	7272

The Values Award was given to Caleb and Georgi in Year 6 and the Tidy Award went to Year 3.

Communications Home

Netball Club: Netball Cancelled

Whole School: World Book Day Tokens

Whole School: Reading Open Morning

Whole School: REMINDER - Park Away Day

River Dart Individuals: REMINDER River Dart 2026 – Payment 3

Year 1: Headlice – Year 1

Year 3 and 4: Year 3 & 4 Musical Extravaganza

Year 5 Individuals: Hazard Alley – March 2026

Year 6: Year 6 – Geography Topic

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2025/26

ASC Users: ASC 2025/26

Year 2 & 3: Y2 & Y3 Science Oxford Centre Trip (*deadline 27/02/2026*)

Year 5: Hazard Alley – March 2026 (*deadline 27/02/2026*)

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

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

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

Date	Time	Event
Mon 2 Mar		No Netball Club
Tue 3 Mar	9-10am	Reading Open Morning
Wed 4 Mar		Year 5 Trip to Hazard Alley
Thu 5 Mar		World Book Day
Thu 5 Mar		Stir Food Theme Day: World Book Day
Thu 5 Mar	3.15pm	Friends Treat Sale: Popcorn
Sat 7 Mar	5.30pm Doors open	Friends Quiz Night
Thu 12 Mar		Science Oxford Centre to visit school
Fri 13 Mar		Year 2 & 3 Trip to Science Oxford
Fri 20 Mar		iRock Concert – <i>information to follow</i>
Fri 20 Mar		Red Nose Day – <i>information to follow</i>

An Update from The Friends

This term we have lots of events to look forward to. Here are some more details of what we have coming up...



QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 7th March
Doors open 5:30pm for 6pm start

£5 ADULT
£2.50 CHILD
(UNDER 12)

BRING YOUR OWN
FOOD AND DRINK

Email us to book your table
(max teams of 8):
friends@smcs.org.uk

Family Quiz Night - Saturday 7th March

Come and join us for a fun family evening. Doors open 5:30pm with questions starting at 6pm. Bring your own food/snacks and drinks. Tickets cost £5 adult, £2.50 child (under 12 years), with children under school age free. To book your tickets please email friends@smcs.org.uk

Treat Sale - Thursday 5th March

Celebrate World Book Day in style and join us for our first treat sale of 2026. Bags of popcorn will be on sale at the end of the day. 50p a bag - a perfect treat to take home and snuggle up with while enjoying a book.

Easter Egg Raffle - Thursday 26th April

Tickets will be on sale on the playground at drop off and pick up in the week leading up to the draw.

Later on in the term we will be having another clothing collection so keep hold of any unwanted clothes and look out for further details.

And further off into the distance - a date for the diary - keep **Saturday 13th June** free so that you can join us at our Summer Fayre.

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.