



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 13th March

Our ducks have arrived!

The corridors have been full of the sound of cheeping (and squealing children!) this week as we have welcomed 4 baby ducklings to the school.

We look forward to sharing photos and videos of these with you over the coming week in our [School Photo Gallery](#).



Y3 & Y4 Musical Extravaganza

Tickets for the Year 3 and 4 Musical Extravaganza are now on sale via School Gateway. Please note these are limited to two per family in the first instance and we will let you know if there are additional tickets available for purchase next week.



Red Nose Day

Next **Friday 20th March** we will be holding a mufti day to raise funds for Comic Relief. Children may come into school in their own clothes on this day in return for a cash or online donation. We will be setting up an online fundraising page for this shortly and cash donations will also be welcomed on the day. Due to the nature of the style of Red Nose this year we have taken the decision not to sell these in school. Please can we ask that these are not brought into school if they have been purchased elsewhere.

KS2 Boys Toilets

We are delighted to announce that the refurbishment of the KS2 Boys Toilets has now been completed and after Celebration Assembly this morning they have officially been declared OPEN! As mentioned in previous Weekly Updates we are continuing to keep up pressure on Buckinghamshire Council to carry out much-needed refurbishment works on the KS2 Girls Toilets and will let you know as soon as we have an update on this.

Clubs – Attendance Reminder

Please can we again remind parents that they must notify the School Office directly if their child won't be attending an after school club i.e. ASC, Netball, Handball, Gymnastics, Dance or Football. If children are marked absent on the club register then staff are spending time calling parents to ascertain their child's whereabouts to ensure they are safe. If this is a last minute change then please either call 01296 612371 or pop into the School Office at the end of the day to make us aware so we are not looking for your child.

iRock Concert

Tickets for the end of term iRock concert on **Friday 20th March** are now available for booking. Please email the School Email office with ticket requirements with the subject title 'IROCK CONCERT'. Please note these are limited to three per family.



World Book Day

This week we have put together an album of photographs taken during lessons last week and these can be viewed in our [School Photo Gallery](#).

British Science Week

This week the children have really enjoyed the wide range of activities which have been undertaken, with the additional excitement of the workshop yesterday for Reception and Years 1, 4, 5 and 6 and school trip to Science Oxford today for Years 2 and 3.



HAF Clubs over Easter Break

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals then you will shortly be receiving HAF Vouchers directly from the Council. If you would like more information about these and what clubs are available to book in the local area during the Easter break then please head to our website: <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/pupilpremium/haf>

Online Safety Guide - Your Guide to Streaming Services

Streaming services have become the go-to entertainment choice for many families, with children often favouring on-demand platforms over traditional television. This guide explores the realities behind these services, from rising subscription costs and advert-supported tiers to the impact of autoplay and endless content libraries on young viewers' screen time and wellbeing.

It also highlights key safeguarding concerns, including age-inappropriate material, binge watching, algorithm-driven recommendations and phishing scams. With clear, practical advice for setting profiles, PINs and time limits – alongside tips for discussing algorithms and stereotypes – this guide supports promoting safer, healthier streaming habits.



Class WhatsApp Group Settings

We have been alerted that scammers are actively targeting WhatsApp class and community groups by posing as members, teachers, or parents to steal personal data, financial information, and hijack accounts. These scams often involve creating fake groups with official-looking logos to sell non-existent items or requesting verification codes to take over user accounts

How to Protect Yourself and Your Privacy Settings:

- **Restrict Group Invitations:** Change settings to restrict who can add you to groups. Go to **Settings > Privacy > Groups** and set this to **"My Contacts"**.
- **Enable Two-Step Verification:** Add a PIN to your account to prevent unauthorized access. Go to **Settings > Account > Two-step verification > Enable**.
- **Never Share Codes:** Never share the 6-digit SMS verification code with anyone, even if they claim to be a teacher, parent, or WhatsApp support.
- **Verify Identity:** If a "friend" or parent makes an unusual request (like asking for money or a code), call them directly on their regular phone number to confirm.
- **Use "Advanced Chat Privacy":** Use this feature to prevent others from exporting chats or auto-downloading media.
- **Report and Block:** Immediately report and block suspicious numbers or groups.

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 jokes 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 for this week are...

How do you get a mouse to smile?

Say cheese

Oscar in Year 5



Knock knock

Who's there?

I love the

I love the who?

I'm more of a Beatles man myself!

Alfie in Year 6

Knock knock

Who's there?

Nunya

Nunya who?

Nunya business!

Georgi in Year 6

An Update from The Friends of SMCS

Easter Egg Raffle: A reminder that tickets for the Easter Egg Raffle will be on sale in the school playground between 23rd and 25th March. The draw for this will be held during Celebration Assembly on *Thursday 26th March*.



Easter Activity Sheet: During the Easter holidays children will have the opportunity to complete an activity sheet which will be available to purchase for £1 each. Fully complete sheets will be entered into a prize draw to win a prize of **free disco tickets** in the summer term. Further details will be released shortly.

Housepoint Totals This Week

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

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
9116	9165	9105	9082

The Values Award was given to Alannah in Year 1 and the Tidy Award went to Year 5.

Football Training Player of the Session: Caleb in Year 6

Communications Home

Year 2 & 3: TOMORROW Year 2 & 3 – Science Oxford Visit

Year 3 & 4: Y3 & Y4 Verulamium Trip

Year 5 & 6 Individuals: Year 5 & 6 – Reward Dodgeball – Mon 23 Mar 26

Year 6: REMINDER Leavers Hoodies

ASC Users: ASC Booking Form Summer Term 1 2025/26

MAC Users: MAC Booking Form Summer Term 1 2025/26

Signing Choir Individuals: Signing Choir Events – March to June

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2025/26

ASC Users: ASC 2025/26

Year 3 and 4: Y3 & Y4 Musical Extravaganza – 4pm Mon 23 Mar 26 (*deadline 20/03/2026*)

Year 3 and 4: Y3 & Y4 Musical Extravaganza – 2pm Tue 24 Mar 26 (*deadline 20/03/2026*)

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
Fri 20 Mar		iRock Concert – <i>information sent to parents directly</i>
Fri 20 Mar		Red Nose Day – <i>information to follow</i>
Mon 23 Mar	4pm	Year 3 & 4 Musical Extravaganza – <i>Tickets available on School Gateway</i>
Tue 24 Mar	2pm	Year 3 & 4 Musical Extravaganza – <i>Tickets available on School Gateway</i>
Wed 25 Mar		No Dance Club
Thu 26 Mar		Park Away Day
Thu 26 Mar		Friends of SMCS: Easter Egg Raffle
Thu 26 Mar		Spring 2 term ends
Fri 27 Mar		Staff Inset Day
Mon 13 Apr		Summer 1 term starts

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.