



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 20th March

Bye bye ducklings!

We bid a fond farewell to our ducklings yesterday after a week of cheeping, cuddles and giggles from both the ducks and children!

We have updated our [School Photo Gallery](#) with a few more photos from the week if you would like to see how much they have grown and also see some photos from their very first swim!



Lost Property

Please can we ask parents to come in next week to check for any lost property that your child may have mislaid. Any unnamed and uncollected items which can be donated to the Friends uniform stock or clothing collection in April will be removed at the end of the first week after the Easter break.

Y3 & Y4 Musical Extravaganza Timings

For the 4pm Monday performance, your child will need to remain in school and bring a suitable nut-free snack with them to have in the classroom. As the performance is due to last 50-60 minutes, children can be collected from 5pm for any parents who are not attending the show.

Collection after Tuesday afternoon's performance will be at the normal collection time of 3.20pm (unless they are due to attend ASC or Gymnastics).



FRIDAY 20 MARCH

Comic Relief

Thank you for all of your donations towards Comic Relief today. We have managed to raise **£167.10** from a combination of cash and online donations so far. Thank you as always for your generosity in supporting us with this worthy cause!

There is still time to donate online if you haven't had a chance to do so by heading to our Just Giving page where we have created a special fundraising link:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/stoke-mandeville-combined-school-9?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL.

Year 5-6 Dance Club

We still have a couple of spaces available in our Wednesday Dance Club so if you would be interested in registering your child for this then please email office@smcs.org.uk.

Nut-Free School

Please can we remind parents that we are a 'nut-free school' and as such children must not bring in snacks or packed lunches with products containing nut ingredients e.g. Nutella, Kinder Bueno, granola bars etc. We have a number of children with severe nut allergies and any products found will be removed by staff for the safety of other children.



River Dart - Payment Reminder

A gentle reminder to the parents of Year 6 children going to the River Dart. The final installment of **£149** is due for payment by next **Friday 27th March**.

House Mufti Day

This term **Claydon** house has been awarded a FREE mufti day on **Monday 23rd March** for receiving the most housepoints! Parents of children in this house will also receive an email to confirm this later this evening.



Monday – Handball Club and Netball Club

Please note that there will be no Handball Club or Netball Club this coming Monday. We will update parents next week with when clubs are due to start after the Easter break.



iRock Concert

Well done to all of the children who performed in our iRock Parent Concert this morning. We are so proud of their efforts and confidence in performing their songs to an audience.

There are some places available in our iRock bands for next term if there are any children interested in joining a group. For further information please go to www.irockschool.com/enrol.

48 Hour Sickness Rule

Please can we remind parents that we have a strict 48 hour policy for children with sickness and diarrhoea. This means that children should not be returned to school until 48 hours after their last incidence of sickness or diarrhoea.

Leave of absence

A polite reminder that **all absences must be reported through the school office** and should not be given directly to class teachers or staff members on the gates.

Absences such as holidays, weddings, or other planned events must be accompanied by a completed Leave of Absence form - <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/usefulforms>. For absences relating to medical appointments, please ensure that an appointment card or confirmation is provided. This is to ensure that the school registers, which are a legal document, are completed accurately.

Children are often very open when discussing their absences, so we kindly ask that you are honest and clear when informing the school if your child will be absent.

PIP and RIP Policy

At Stoke Mandeville Combined School, we use PIP and RIP as a behaviour management strategy. This is used by many schools based on the idea of handling positive and negative behaviours differently. Here is what the acronyms stand for:

PIP: Praise in Public. This means celebrating a child's positive behaviour or accomplishments openly, in front of their peers or the whole class. This approach is used for several reasons:

- **Reinforces good choices:** By publicly praising a child, the school reinforces the specific actions and positive behaviours they want to see more of.
- **Sets an example:** Other children can learn from the praised child's behaviour, seeing a clear example of what is expected and valued.
- **Boosts confidence:** Public recognition can significantly boost a child's self-esteem and encourage them to continue making good choices.

RIP: Reprimand in Private. This means that when a child does something wrong or breaks a school rule, the teacher addresses the behaviour with the child quietly and privately. This approach is used to:

- **Protect dignity:** By correcting a child in private, schools avoid shaming them in front of their peers, which helps protect their self-respect and dignity.
- **Maintain positive relationships:** A private conversation minimizes confrontation and allows for a more constructive and respectful dialogue between the adult and child.
- **Avoid providing negative attention:** For some children, negative attention (even in the form of a public reprimand) can reinforce bad behaviour. A quiet, private correction removes this incentive.

Easter at Discover Bucks Museum

This Easter, Discover Bucks Museum is bursting with things to see, make and explore including the launch of their major new SAXONS exhibition opening with a big Family Opening Day on **Saturday 28th March**. The first week of the holidays is packed with Easter-themed craft and science family fun,

while the second week takes inspiration from the Saxons, with Saxon-themed crafts linked to the new exhibition. Plus don't forget to play, learn and explore in the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery. For more information please head to www.discoverbucksmuseum.org



An Update from The Friends of SMCS

Thank you to everyone who supported our quiz night at the beginning of the month. We had a great evening testing not only our general knowledge but our Creativity skills with extra family challenges! We raised almost £200!



Easter Egg Raffle

With Easter just around the corner our Easter Egg Raffle makes a welcome return. There are several wonderful eggs up for grabs so don't miss out on a chance to buy your ticket. These will cost just £1 each and can be bought at drop off and pick up Monday 23rd March - Wednesday 25th March (pick up only on Monday 23rd). The draw will take place on **Thursday 24th March**, during assembly. If your child will be attending morning or afterschool clubs on all of these days, then tickets can be purchased by sending the correct money in a

sealed envelope with your name, your child's name and their class on the front. Staff cannot accept loose cash as we have to be certain that an adult is purchasing the tickets.

Easter Activity Bingo Challenge

Next week all children will come home with an Easter Activity bingo card. On this card will be several challenges to get your children active over the holidays. From riding their bike to building an obstacle course, there is lots to keep them occupied. There is even a space for their own custom ideas! As your child completes an activity, get them to mark it off - can you complete all of them? Return the bingo cards by **Friday 17th April**, along with a minimum £1 entry. All returned entries (no matter how many activities have been completed) will help contribute to the House competition. The House with the most returned entries will receive 100hp, with the other Houses receiving 80hp, 50hp or 25hp. All entries with a 'full house' (they have a completely full activity grid) will be entered into a draw to win a FREE ticket to the Summer Disco for KS1 or KS2.

Clothing Collection

We will be having a clothing collection on **Tuesday 14th April** so please get collecting unwanted, but good quality, clothes over the holidays. We are unable to accept uniforms, towels and linen or items such as toys and bric-a-brac. Please

put all donations in a tied bag and leave them on the green outside the school by 9am on the 15th. We get a better amount per kg if our collection weighs over 200kg so please ask friends and family if they have any items for donation too.

Communications Home

Whole school: No Phones or Internet
 Whole school: URGENT Internet and Phone Outage
 Whole school: Internet Restored
 Whole school: REMINDER – Red Nose Mufti Day
 Year 1: Year 1 – Tasting Activity
 Years 2 to 4: Premier Gymnastics – Summer 2026 (Years 2-4)
 Year 3 & 4: Y3 & Y4 Musical Extravaganza – Final Details
 Years 3 to 6: Handball Club (Summer Term) – Years 3 to 6
 Years 5 & 6: ZKT Street Dance – Summer 2026
 Handball Club: Handball Next Week Cancelled
 iRock Parents: REMINDER – iRock Concert
 iRock Parents: iRock Concert Arrangements
 Individuals: Eid – Attendance Information
 Netball Club: Netball Club Cancelled – Mon 23 Mar
 Netball Individuals: SMCS Netball vs Haydon Abbey School (Away)
 Pupil Premium Pupils: Pupil Premium – HAF Clubs Over Easter

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2025/26
ASC Users: ASC 2025/26
Year 3 and 4: Y3 & Y4 Verulamium Trip (*deadline 01/05/2026*)
Years 3 to 6: Year 3 to 6 – Handball Club – Summer Term (*deadline 13/04/2026*)
Year 4: Year 4 Swimming – Spring Term 2026 (*deadline extended to 31/03/2026*)
Year 6 Residential: River Dart 2026 – Payment 4 (*deadline 27/03/2026*)
Dance Club: ZKT Street Dance – Summer 2026 (*deadline 02/04/2026*)

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

Date	Time	Event
Mon 23 Mar		House Point Winners Mufti Day - Claydon
Mon 23 Mar	4pm	Year 3 & 4 Musical Extravaganza (<i>collection at 5pm</i>)
Mon 23 Mar		No Netball Club
Mon 23 Mar		No Handball Club
Tue 24 Mar	2pm	Year 3 & 4 Musical Extravaganza (<i>collection at normal time 3.20pm</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.