



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 22nd May

Year 6 River Dart trip

Members of our Year 6 residential arrived back this afternoon from their trip to the River Dart in Devon. They have had a wonderful week away taking part in outdoor pursuits and teambuilding exercises.

A huge thank you to all of the staff who accompanied the trip – Mrs Bentley, Miss Telfer, Mrs Swain and Miss Sims – without whom these residential visits would not be possible.



If you'd like to see a little bit of what the children have been up to this week (particularly those in Year 5 who will be heading to River Dart next year!) then you can head to our website using the following link:

<https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/year6/riverdartresidentialinformation/dailyupdates>.

Year 5 & 6 Activities Week

It has been an equally busy week for Year 5 and some members of Year 6 who have all had a fantastic time exploring Aylesbury for a Treasure Trail, having ice-cream at The Works, visiting Wendover, watching 'Hoppers' at the Odeon, enjoying a picnic in the park plus participating in a special cookie baking day provided by our caterers, Stir Food.

Another huge thank you to Mrs Stewart, Mrs Reed, Mrs Tong, Mrs Barlow, Mrs Walker and Miss Bracken, who have all worked hard to give the children a fun-filled week, as well as all of our parent helpers and our Governors Mr Buttery and Mrs McGinnity!

Hopefully all of Year 5 and 6 will sleep well this weekend!

Children's Tombola Bags

This week children should have come home with plain white bags for them to decorate, fill and return to school for our very popular Children's Bag Tombola which is held every year at our Summer Fayre. Please note that the deadline for returning these is **Friday 5th June**.

As a reminder please can these be filled with either toys, sweets (**no nuts or chocolate please**), stationery, balloons or any other items that you think a child would enjoy finding inside their winning bag! Please find attached some ideas from previous year's Summer Fayres for inspiration!

Hot School Meals - Reminder

Please remember to check if your child has hot school meals ordered for the first week back from half term. Orders for the week back after half term can be ordered up until 8am on Tuesday 2nd June.

Year 3 & 4 Trip to Verulamium

Last Friday, Years 3 and 4 had a fantastic trip to Verulamium Museum in St Albans. The Year 4 children enjoyed looking at real Roman artefacts and they were lucky enough to be able to touch them to examine them during a workshop.



Year 3 took part in a role play as market traders to learn a bit more about the Roman way of life.

We were fortunate with the weather when we walked up to the hypocaust, where we could see the underfloor heating system covered in a beautiful mosaic. The children were very well behaved and a credit to the school and their parents.

Online Safety – Minecraft

Minecraft remains hugely popular with young players, offering creative freedom and social interaction. This guide explores how features like public servers, in-game chat and multiplayer modes can introduce risks, including contact with strangers, exposure to inappropriate behaviour and privacy concerns linked to independent server hosting.

It also highlights issues such as griefing, in-game spending and potentially addictive gameplay loops. With clear, actionable advice, the guide helps parents and educators set boundaries, choose safer settings and support children in enjoying Minecraft responsibly while staying protected online.



Pedestrian Gate

Please can we ask parents to ensure their children (and younger siblings waiting at drop off or pick up) do not hang off or rattle the pedestrian gate. As well as damaging the gate this is causing a lot of distraction for the Year 1 class at the end of the day due to the sound it makes against the classroom wall.

An Update from The Friends of SMCS



Summer Fayre News – Saturday 13th June. 12-3:30pm. Free Entry

Plans are well underway for our Summer Fayre. This year we will be assigning a stall to each year group. We hope that this will make it easier for people to offer to help. Look out for details from your class representative in your class WhatsApp groups. Here are some of the things that you can be doing over the next couple of weeks:

Plant Sale – Are you able to grow some plants for us to sell at the plant sale? They could be fruits, vegetables or flowers. Please label donations so we know what type of plant they are and drop them off to school at any time during the school day on Friday 12th or Saturday 13th June in the morning.

Children's Tombola – Your child(ren) should have come home with a plain bag this week. Please get your child to decorate this and then fill it with small treats and toys. Please try and make these bags suitable for a range of ages and remember there must be **NO Nut products** included.

Teddy Tombola – We will be asking for donations of teddies and other soft toys from Tuesday 2nd of June. Please drop off **CLEAN** donations to the office from this date.

Bottle and Treat Tombola – One of the most popular stalls is the bottle and treat tombola. We will be asking for donations for this, in exchange for a mufti day, on Friday 12th June. Please bring your donations to drop off and leave them on the table out the front of the office. Please make sure all donations are in-date, sealed and are not cleaning products.

Raffle and Stalls – If you are able to provide a raffle prize or wish to have a stall at the fayre please send us an email (friends@smcs.org.uk)

Car Show – Do you own an interesting car/vehicle? An old classic? A modern little nipper? Then why not display it in our car show? Entries for vehicles are £6 and includes a food token. Please send us an email for a booking form (friends@smcs.org.uk)

Housepoint Totals This Week

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

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
4813	4814	4841	4881

The Values Award was given to Erin in Year 1 and the Tidy Award went to Reception.

Ice Pop'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 Ice Pop Friday so please do help your child by coming up with a (child-friendly!) funny joke for Fridays! The entries for this week are...



Why did the cow cross the road?

To get to the udder side
Erin in Year 2

When is a door not a door?

When it's ajar
Evie in Year 3

What do get when a fly lands in butter?

A Butterfly
Rupert in Year3

What is a man with no body and no nose?

Nobody Knows
Esmae in Year 2

Why did the boy take a ruler to bed?

He wanted to know how long he cold sleep
Isabelle in Year 4

Communications Home

Reception: Reception – Vision Screening
Year 2 Individuals: Year 2 – Maypole Letter
Years 2 to 6: Bikeability – Learn to Ride
Year 4: Multiplication Check Letter
Year 4 & 5: Secondary Transfer Test - Presentation
River Dart Trip: River Dart 2026 – Daily Update Details
River Dart Trip: River Dart 2026 – Trip Update
MAC/ASC Users: MAC/ASC Booking Reminder
Whole school: REMINDER Park Away Day
Whole school: Children's Tombola Bags
Whole school: Hot Weather – Friday
Whole school: Mrs Stewart – Retirement Plans

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2025/26

ASC Users: ASC 2025/26

Reception to Year 2: EYFS & KS1 Trip to Woburn Safari Park (*deadline 15/06/2026*)

Year 4 Individuals: AHS Visit – PP Workshop – 9 July 2026 (*deadline 15/05/2026*)

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

Date	Time	Event
Mon 1 Jun	3.20pm	Staff Inset Day
Tue 2 Jun	8.40am	Summer 2 Term starts
Tue 2 Jun	3.30pm	Premier Gymnastics Club to start
Wed 3 Jun		Year 4/5/6 Swimming to start
Wed 3 Jun	3.30pm	ZKT Dance to start
Mon 8 Jun		RSE Week
Mon 8 Jun		Handball Club to start Netball Club to start
Tue 9 Jun		M&M Productions: Treasure Island
Sat 13 Jun		Friends of SMCS: 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.