



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 22nd January 2021

COVID Cases

We would ask that, irrespective of whether your child is currently attending school or not, you continue to keep us updated of any positive COVID cases by emailing confidentially to covid@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk so that we can support families and maintain a record of the impact of COVID on our school community. Alongside this will be the understanding that children who may be unwell at home may not be able to access the same level of learning.

Parent Forum

We are holding our next Parent Forum meeting soon. We are very lucky to have Parent Forum representatives who share views with the Senior Leadership Team in school. We really appreciate the feedback and discussions that support improvement in opportunities and communication across the whole school community. Ideally we would like a representative for every class to attend the meeting (via Zoom). If anyone would be interested in joining our existing member in representing any of the year groups (there is no limit to numbers), please let the School Office know. We would especially like a representative for Reception as we do not have one currently.

As a reminder, your current representatives are: Year 6 – Mrs Hayers Year 5 – Mrs Brown and Mrs Potter Year 4 – Mrs White Year 3 – Mrs Norris and Mrs Bailey Year 2 – Miss Whitworth Year 1 – Mrs Griffiths

Home Learning

The skills all children have developed over the lockdown period have been huge in regards of their technology usage. So many of the children across the school are now able to log into their learning and submit their work after a lesson. The live parts of our lessons have been successful for most children and the ongoing positive feedback suggests this way of learning is supporting most children in making progress. Live lessons are live and any background noise is shared in class with the children in school and the teaching staff. With this in mind it is perhaps important for parents to have an awareness of conversations they may need to have relating to their work. You may not want the class to hear these conversations and the mute button should be used.

We would encourage everyone to share positive feedback and solution focused issues which will help make this style of learning easier for everyone.

Device Support

We have been provided with a very small number of devices from the DfE – please contact us if you feel that your child would benefit from the loan of equipment in order to complete their home learning.

Childline - not just a phone call

The Childline website has lots of valuable information, but one area that may be beneficial to children currently is their Calm Zone. The activities aim to help children feel better when they are feeling anxious, scared or sad. Although children could be encouraged to visit the website themselves, these are good techniques for adults use with children. Ideas include; breathing exercises, a 'let it go' box and creating a 'sense drawer'. Go to the Childline website here: <https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

Hazard Alley

Hazard Alley, on behalf of Parentzone, are running a free online Digital Families Quiz, aimed at helping families enjoy a more positive digital life. The quiz is aimed at parents - or anyone with parenting responsibility – and secondary age children, as well as testing tech knowledge, it encourages families to share experiences, build communication and close the digital gap between young people and their parents. The session is running on Monday 25th January at 7pm, it lasts approximately one hour and is split into three rounds of questions, all people need is a connected device and a pen/paper. If anyone is interested they can email directly, katherine@safetycentre.co.uk, and she will share a password protected zoom link for the session.

Housepoints

Congratulations to Claydon who are leading the Housepoint competition so far this term!

| Chequers | Claydon | Hughenden | Waddesdon |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 751 | 848 | 797 | 791 |

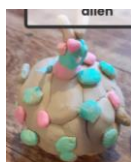
Dates for the Diary

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Friday 12 th February | School closes for Half Term |
| Monday 22 nd February | School re-opens after Half Term |

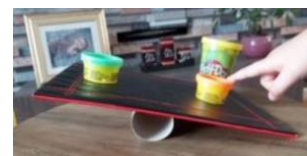
Class Updates

Year R – Miss Poole

It has been a jam-packed week in Reception with lots of learning going on. This week our 'Light and Dark' theme has taken us to space and to the moon! We have used the book 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy to support some of our learning. We have been so impressed with the different space ships, rockets, aliens, planets and even robots that have been made, designed and played with this week. Like Baby Bear we have planned what we would take with us to the moon and have written lists of these, using our sounds carefully. It sounds like lots of the Reception children (and their families) will be visiting the moon this weekend!



In our maths work we started the week off making a 'teeter totter' like two mice did in a story we shared. The children all had great ideas about how they were going to make their teeter totter and definitely enjoyed investigating with them to find out all about heavier and lighter. We have had fun being human balances testing different pairs of objects to see which is heavier and which is lighter. We have then moved on to looking at capacity and exploring the language of full, empty, half full, half empty, nearly full and nearly empty! It really has been a busy week but with plenty of smiles in our learning.



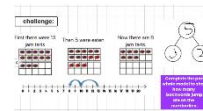
Our phonics live sessions have continued to go well and it is lovely to have the whole class together. We have started looking at some of the trickier long vowel sounds – ai, ee, igh and oa and the children are doing a good job of remembering these and listening out for them in different words. Pupils of the Week are OB for brilliant work on capacity and AW for always having a positive attitude.

Year 1 – Miss Harris

This week in Year 1 we have been reading the story 'The Way Back Home' by Oliver Jeffers. We've really enjoyed reading the story about a little boy that flies to space and gets stuck on the moon. We shared our opinions about whether the boy should stay on earth or go back to space to help the alien. We've also created some brilliant story maps to help us retell the story!



In Maths, we have been working on our subtraction skills using number lines and tracks, tens frames and part wholes to help us. We've solved some tricky word problems too! We can count back in ones and are working on counting back in bigger numbers.



We had an investigation in our science lesson, we found out whether 'The tallest people had the biggest feet'. Our children measured their feet and others with cubes, pasta and even some frazzles! We had so many different feet to measure at home and in school that we've found some different results!



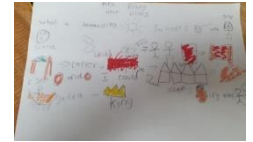
Pupils of the Week are KS for amazing work in English and Maths, and EB for being such a resilient online learner! Well done girls!



Year 2 – Miss Jacob



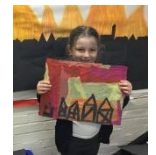
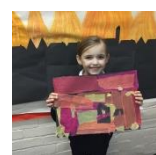
It's been another lovely week of learning in Year 2, both in school and at home. The children have been very creative with their learning, using resources well. In English, we have looked at Samuel Pepys's diary. We discussed how this was an important historical source because it helps to know what happened in the Great Fire of London. The children produced some fantastic role plays as if they were there. I was very impressed with their acting skills and use of props! They then created some story maps to help them write their own diary entries, using some pictures to help.



During maths this week, we have explored and investigated doubles, multiples of 2 and odd and even numbers, looking at the relationship between them. We were also surprised to find out about Mrs Stewart's extra job as a baker- we don't know how she has time!



In science, we read the book 'Traction Man is Here' and helped him get ready to go underwater. He needed a waterproof diving outfit so, using materials around the house and at school, we investigated which materials would be effective and which ones wouldn't. We came up with some interesting results and we don't think paper would be a very good idea at all!



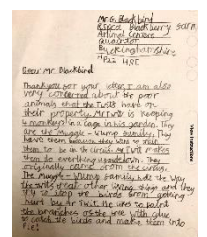
The children in school have created some wonderful artwork showing scenes from The Great Fire of London. We have also used our topic time to discover how London has changed from 1666 until now. Well done on another great week in school and at home.

Pupils of the Week are BP for enthusiasm online and LR for being an excellent role model.

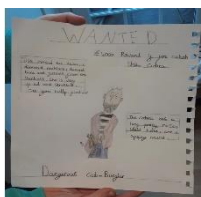
Year 3 – Miss Smith



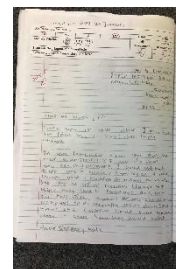
This week in Year 3 we have been storming through the book 'The Twits' in English. We've used this as a writing stimulus for many things from disgusting recipes and ghastly tricks to writing character descriptions. We received a letter in the week from a concerned Mr. Blackbird regarding the Twits animals. We worked incredibly hard to find answers to his questions in the text and



then wrote formal letters to reply to him. We've also made some fantastic WANTED posters with Mrs Ryan linking to the book we're reading with her, 'The Giraffe, the Pelly and Me'.



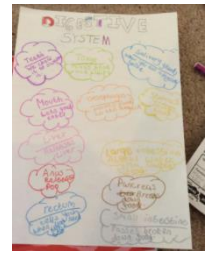
Friday has been our Art and Music themed day. We've used Earth by Hans Zimmer as a stimulus for English and Art. We listened to the music and put our thoughts onto paper using many mediums from chalks and charcoal to water paints and pastel. We'll add our artwork (from class and from Google Classroom) to a display in the corridor.



Pupils of the Week are TR for great resilience in home learning and KD for fab independence in all school learning.

Year 4 – Miss Gouldstone

This week in Year 4, we have continued to look at *The Firework Makers Daughter*. Children have really impressed me both in school and at home with the quality of work they have produced. We have focused on varying sentence starters and using fronted adverbials. Children have shown a real understanding and enjoyment of the book which has been great to see.



In Maths we have continued to focus on multiplication and division with children showing a huge amount of resilience when finding work tricky. It has been great to see how children have found resources to help them at home and shown some creativity.

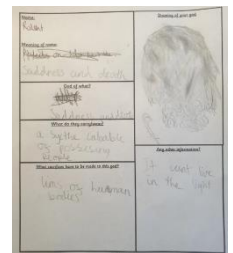
In Science we continued to look at the digestive system. We named and learnt the functions of all the different parts. Children then made some bright and fantastic posters to show this. In school we continued with our DT project and started to sew our sandals together. This has proved a challenge for some but has also been a lot of fun.

Pupils of the Week are GO for showing independence during maths and EJ for working hard in maths even when they found it tricky!

Year 5 – Miss Curl



Another busy week in Year 5, both in school and at home! In Maths, we moved onto a new area of learning looking at multiplication. We have been working really hard in becoming fluent in our times tables as that helps us with multiplying bigger numbers.



In English we looked at a book called 'The Promise' by Nicola Davies. It taught us many lessons including being thankful for what we have and how to appreciate our wonderful nature. In Topic, we looked at the Mayan Gods and how they were important. We got creative and created our own Mayan God. Some of us challenged ourselves to write our own myths about the God.

In school in PE we held a mini tournament of bench ball! We all were excellent team players. In Science we carried out an investigation into soluble and insoluble materials. We tried to dissolve all sorts of materials including sugar, charcoal and salt.



Pupils of the Week are ET for great improvements with multiplication and JW for a positive attitude towards all of his learning.

Year 6 – Mrs Tong and Mrs Cole

This week we have spent a day producing work based on the piece of music 'Earth' by the composer Hans Zimmer. We have written letters to planet Earth and produced some music in the style of Hans Zimmer. We have also completed art work inspired by the music.



In English, we read a real-life story about a girl who survived a plane crash. We retold the story from different points of view and created 'Blackout poetry' where we selected vocabulary we liked from a page of the story.



Violent pitching continued for nearly ten minutes, throwing the aircraft out of the window, one of the engines glowing brightly. moments later plunged into darkness, went into a steep nosedive, couldn't see anything, suddenly everything went silent, rumbling over and over and over, plummeting towards ,jungle, momentarily glimpsed, trees spinning, like a patch of giant broccoli.



Violent pitching this way and that.

Gripping her mothers hand, plunged into darkness steep nosedive. Suddenly everything went silent. Tumbling over and over and over, rush of cold air plummeting down towards the jungle. Glimpsed trees spinning like a giant broccoli wedged firmly. Struck by lightning.



This week, we also carried out a science experiment, investigating the relationship between feet length and height. Scatter graphs showed us the patterns and also highlighted results where we may have made mistakes with our measuring.

Pupils of the Week are HJ for a great piece of rock & roll music and MP for fantastic art in response to music.