



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 18th September

Pupil Leadership School Elections

Today we have been fortunate enough for the school community to elect the school pupil leadership team.

We are very proud of the efforts of the children who have stood for election and know we have a very positive team to support the work of the school this coming year.

We are delighted to be able to share with you the following pupils who have been selected for these roles of responsibility:



Head Girl Phoebe	Head Boy Sebastian
Deputy Head Girl Bella	Deputy Head Boy Ahmad

The following House Captains have been selected from Year 6:

	House Captain	Vice House Captain
Chequers	Albie	Talia
Claydon	Owen	Freya
Hughenden	Sofia	Caity
Waddesdon	Eloise	Adam

Democracy is an important value at our school and pupils are given the opportunity to have a voice through the School Council. The election of School Council members is based on pupil votes after each child putting themselves forward has spoken to their classmates about why they would like to be a representative. We are happy to announce that the following representatives for this year are:

Year 1	Max and Poppy
Year 2	Evangeline and Charlie
Year 3	Teddy and Chloe
Year 4	Oliver and Lola
Year 5	Noah and Elsie
Year 6	Pupil Leadership Team

A Fantastic Achievement

We are delighted to share that, with your continued support, we have achieved an **Outstanding** accreditation for this year's School Travel Plan. We are 1 of only 7 schools from the Buckinghamshire area to achieve this!!



This achievement has only been possible because of your ongoing help and involvement — whether it was **Park Away Days, Bike to School Week, Road Safety Week, Walk to School Week, Bikeability**, or the many other activities we've had throughout the year. Your support and help has made this achievement possible and we cannot thank you enough.

We now have the challenge of maintaining our Outstanding status. We can achieve this, but only with your continued support and active involvement.

Miss Telfer, Travel Plan Coordinator

Parent and Pupil Park Away Day

Next **Friday 25th September** we will be holding our first Parent and Pupil Park Away Day of the academic year. This will be for all pupils and parents, as well as for any staff who live in the village. Please help to support your children with this by walking, scooting or cycling to school.

ASC Collectors

Please can we ask parents, carers and other 'ASC Collectors' to remember to bring a mobile phone to call the ASC number upon arrival (01296 612371 – Option 4). The School Office is unmanned after 3.45pm and there is no one to answer door buzzer.

Football Club – Update

We still do not have a planned start date for this due to the current state of the school field. We will be in touch with Football Club members once we have an update.



SEND Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who attended the Sensory Coffee Morning this week. Due to the success of this we will be holding another SEND Coffee Morning on **Thursday 1st October** from 9-10.30am with a visiting Educational Psychologist to lead the session. This will focus on 'Emotion Coaching – How can this help our relationships?'.

This friendly and informal session will explore how an evidence-based approach called **Emotion Coaching** can help us better understand and support our children, while developing even stronger relationships at home. Our SENDCO, Ms Hayden, will also be available during the morning to answer any questions you may have.

We can accommodate **up to 20 people**, so places are limited. If you would like to attend, please email the School Office at office@smcs.org.uk to secure your place using the subject line 'EMOTION COACHING'.

Year 6 River Dart Residential

For any parents who were unable to attend last night's Zoom call, please head to the [Year 6 class page](#) which has a YouTube link to the CRS Adventures presentation.

PE Jewellery and Hair Reminder

As part of our commitment to keeping children safe during PE, we would like to remind parents and carers of our expectations around jewellery and hair. In line with guidance from the Association for Physical Education (AfPE) and our school PE policy, **all jewellery, including earrings, must be removed for PE lessons**. Earrings should therefore be removed at home on PE days. If a child arrives at school wearing earrings, they will be asked to remove them before taking part in PE. Staff are unable to remove earrings for children.

We recognise that some children are still developing the confidence and independence to remove and replace their own earrings. We will allow a short transition period for this skill to be established, but this must be practised and supported at home. Please ensure your child is able to manage their own earrings independently before they are expected to remove them for PE.

The only exception is for children whose ears have been recently pierced. Earrings may be securely covered with tape for a **maximum of six weeks** following piercing. After this six-week period, earrings must be removed for PE.

Please also ensure that hair longer than shoulder length is tied back securely on PE days. Long fringes or hair that falls across the eyes must also be held back so that children have clear vision and can participate safely.

We really appreciate your support in helping your child come to school PE-ready. These expectations apply to all pupils and help us to ensure that PE lessons are safe, inclusive and run smoothly.

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Assembly will take place on **Tuesday 6th October**. All children will be involved in this, presenting songs, art work and other contributions. This is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together and celebrate the harvest season.

We would appreciate any harvest donations (see attached and below) that you are able to contribute. All donations will be given to The Vineyard to support local families.



Donation Guide

Tinned meat (e.g. bolognese, meatballs)	Custard/tinned desserts (e.g. rice pudding)
Tinned fish (e.g. tuna, salmon, sardines)	Biscuits
Tinned soup (e.g. meat, veg and tomato)	Teabags and coffee
Rice (dry) and microwave rice	Spreads (e.g. jam)
Pasta and instant noodles	Pasta/cooking sauce (e.g. tomato, curry, chilli)
Tinned tomatoes	Cereal
Tinned veg (e.g. peas, carrots, sweetcorn)	UHT milk (whole, semi skimmed, skimmed)
Tinned pulses (e.g. beans, chickpeas)	
Tinned fruit	

Please send donations into school by **Tuesday 6th October**. Thank you for your support.

Holiday Absences

For any parents requesting a leave of absence for their children due to exceptional circumstances, please be reminded that an absence request form must be submitted to the School Office 4 weeks before your planned dates of travel. A copy of this form can be obtained from the School Office or under the [Useful Forms](#) page on our website.

Pokémon Club

A reminder that Pokémon cards, along with other toys, should not be brought into school, with the exception of approved sensory toys. This is because toys can be distracting during lessons and Pokémon cards can sometimes lead to disagreements when cards are swapped.



As an exception, our Year 5 and 6 pupils will be setting up a Pokémon Club, which will run on **Wednesdays and Fridays at lunchtime**. Year 5 and 6 pupils may therefore bring Pokémon cards into school on these days only.

Cards must remain out of sight and not be used outside of the lunchtime club. The club will run until the end of this half term, when we will review it and consider whether it can be opened up to other year groups.

Swimming

Swimming is such an important life skill, and we want to give as many children as possible the opportunity to learn, develop their confidence and become safe in and around water.

To support your school families, Stoke Mandeville Stadium are offering **all students from Stoke Mandeville Combined School an exclusive promotion:**

FREE trial swimming lesson and no joining fee when they sign up (Save £20)

To book or find out more, please contact Swim Coordinator Laura Sinclair (Laura.Sinclair1@serco.com). This is a great opportunity for parents to get their children started with swimming lessons alongside the start of the new school year.

iRock

Exciting news! Your child has the opportunity to join their very own band through fun weekly music lessons here at our school.

Through weekly band lessons, children can learn drums, electric guitar, keyboard or vocals, play songs they know and love, build confidence and enjoy making music with their bandmates. **All instruments are provided and no previous experience is needed.**

If your child would like to join, you can enrol them here:



[Click Here to Enrol Your Child](#)

(If you're not sure whether iRock is right for your child, all new starters are covered by a **first lesson money-back guarantee.**)

To find out more, iRock has created a short year-group guide showing what children can learn and achieve through the **iRock curriculum** at each stage of primary school.

Learn more about iRock by year

If you have any questions, the iRock team will be happy to help. Please contact them on 0330 174 2655 or info@irockschool.com.

Ice Pop Friday

It was lovely to see so many children joining me for Ice Pop Friday today! The children had worked hard throughout the week and were delighted to be recognised and rewarded for their fantastic attitudes and behaviour.

When asked why they had been selected, the children said they had been chosen for getting onto the Proud Cloud, showing resilience, being respectful, following our Three Rs – Respect, Responsibility and Resilience, listening well and showing kindness to others.

And, of course, we had some brilliant jokes this week!

What has four wheels and flies?

A garbage truck!

Dylan

Knock knock

Who's there?

Tango

Tango who?

It's actually a Tanga-roo!

David

What did zero say to eight?

Nice belt!

Hugo

Well done to all of this week's Ice Pop Friday children. I look forward to seeing even more children joining us next Friday!



Mrs Jones

An Update from the Friends



AGM

Please join us on **Friday 2nd October** for our AGM at 5pm. We would like to invite all our community members (which is you!) to join us for a short meeting to share what we did last year and vote in the new committee. We need at least about 2 people from each year group to attend to ensure that our voting process meets the requirements of our constitution so please do come along if you are able. While we always want to welcome new members, attendance at the AGM does not mean you have to join the committee.

Clothing Collection

We have another clothing collection booked for **Tuesday 6th October**. All donations need to be placed in tied bags and left on the green outside the school by 9am. All donations need to be in a clean, resalable condition. Please see the attached poster for full details of the items which are accepted.

Christmas Fair - Friday 27th November, 3:30pm

It may seem a long way off but save the date so that you don't miss out on the festive fun.

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2025/26

ASC Users: ASC 2025/26

Year 4: Year 4 Swimming – Autumn Term 2026 (*deadline 2/10/26*)

Year 5: Hazard Alley – October 2026 (*deadline 25/9/26*)

Year 5 & 6: Young Voices at the O2 – 19 Jan 27 (*deadline 23/9/26*)

Year 5 & 6: River Dart 2027 – Deposit (*deadline 31/10/26*)

Dance Club: ZKT Street Dance – Autumn 2026 (*deadline 16/9/26*)

Communications Home

Whole school: Harvest Assembly – Tuesday 6th October

Whole school: School Site Access – Start and End of Day Arrangements

Reception: Parent Forum – Reception Invite

Reception: Reception – End of Day Arrangements

Year 1: Year 1 – Multi-Sports PE Kit

Year 1 & 2: REMINDER Year 1 to 2 – Multi-Sports Club – Autumn Term 2026

Year 2: Year 2 – Village Walk

Year 3 to 6: REMINDER Year 3 to 6 – Handball Club – Autumn Term 2026

Year 4: Year 4 Google Classroom

Year 5 & 6: Young Voices at the O2 – 19 Jan 27

Year 6: River Dart – Initial Meeting

SEN Parents: Parent Coffee Morning – Emotion Coaching – Thursday 1st October

EYFS, KS1 and SEN Parents: REMINDER Sensory Coffee Morning – Wed 16 Sep

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

Date	Time	Event
W/C Mon 21 Sep		Year 3 Allotment Week
Thu 24 Sep	AM	School Photo Day: Individuals and siblings (Tempest)
Thu 24 Sep	PM	Year 2 Village Walk
Fri 25 Sep		Park Away Day
Fri 25 Sep	9am	Parent Forum
W/C Mon 28 Sep		Year 4 Allotment Week
Thu 1 Oct		Autumn Census Day Stir Food Theme Day: Stir Stars
Thu 1 Oct	9am	SEND Coffee Morning: Emotion Coaching
Fri 2 Oct		Year 5 to Hazard Alley
Fri 2 Oct	5pm	Friends of SMCS AGM

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.