



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 2nd October



Autumn Term Dates

Please find attached an updated version of our Autumn Term Dates list. Please note that we have made a few changes to dates (highlighted in red) as well as updated the document with some new dates. Please particularly note that there is no Football Club next week due to staff availability, and there has been a change to planned the Christmas Lunch date and KS1 Nativity performance timings.

GDPR Form and Parent Pledge

Last week we sent home a blank copy of our GDPR form for parents to complete. This also includes a QR code linking you to a new Parent Carer Pledge which can be found on our school website.

Thank you to all of the parents who have returned this so far. Please can all parents return a signed copy of the GDPR form as soon as possible to indicate you are happy to continue to receive notices via our communication system, and to confirm what your photo consent permissions are. Without receiving this your child cannot be featured in any internal or external photographs (which will include their class photograph later in the year), so it is imperative that we receive a record of this from all parents within the next week in order for us to update our records.

Absence email

New for this academic year we have set up a school absence email for parents to notify the School Office of the reasons for their child's absence. Please can we ask that all absence-related emails now be directed to our Absence Inbox - absence@smcs.org.uk. If emails of this nature are sent to the School Office then you will receive a response asking you to resend to the new email address.

Please note this new email address is also for any term-time leave requests due to exceptional circumstances. For parents wishing to instead leave a voicemail giving the reason for their child's absence, you may also continue to call 01296 612371 (option 1).

For all other queries please contact to email office@smcs.org.uk.



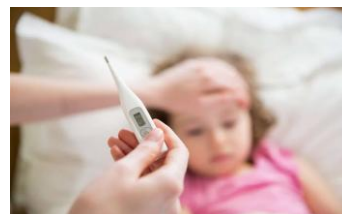
Bikeability – Learn to Ride

Last week we wrote to parents who previously registered interest in their child taking part in a 'Learn to Ride' course early next year. We have now secured funding for this and would like to invite parents to sign up to this so that we can confirm numbers with Bikeability. The subsidised cost of this course will be £5 per child and will be payable via School Gateway. This opportunity is now available to all children in Years 3 to 6 if you would like them to learn to ride their bike during school time.

Please note that for children who can already ride their bikes there will be opportunities later in the year to gain experience riding on the road as part of our Bikeability Level 2 qualification.

Keeping Our School Community Well

We would like to remind parents and carers that children should **not be sent into school if they have a temperature or are unwell and require Calpol (or other fever-reducing medication) before coming to school.**



If your child has needed Calpol to reduce a temperature or help them feel well enough to attend school, please keep them at home and allow them time to recover. Medication can temporarily mask symptoms, and your child may still be infectious or not well enough to manage the school day.

We appreciate that deciding whether your child is well enough to attend can sometimes be difficult. Our priority is to protect the health and wellbeing of **all our pupils and staff**, and to help prevent the spread of illness within our school community.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Signing Choir – After Half Term

We are excited to announce that our 'Signing Choir' will start again on **Monday 2nd November** and will continue to run every Monday lunchtime for children in Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

We have some exciting events booked already, which some of the children will have the opportunity to sign up for including: The Florence Nightingale Volunteers Christmas event on 24th November and The Wheelpower Christmas Shopping event at Stoke Mandeville Stadium on Thursday 26th November. The whole Signing Choir will then have the opportunity to perform at our school Christmas Fayre on Friday 27th November. We hope to see you there!

Mrs Atkinson, Mrs Walker and Miss Bracken

Front Gates

We are making every effort to keep our front footpath gates closed during the school day (they will be opened at the start and end of the days for parents to come through). If you have a need to come to the school during the day, please endeavour to close the gates wherever possible. Thank you.

 *Cycle to School Week is back for 2026!* 

From **Monday 5th to Friday 9th October 2026**, schools and families across the nation will be taking a new route to the school gate — one that's quicker, healthier, cheaper and a whole lot more fun. Cycle to School Week is a national celebration of everyday cycling. Whether you're already rolling or just getting started, it's your chance to build confidence, try something new, and discover how good the school run can feel on wheels.

Make your pledge, get involved, and join thousands of children choosing a better way to travel. Click on the link to make a pledge and to be entered into the prize draw to win a Batch children's bike >>> <https://www.bikeability.org.uk/cycletoschoolweek>

A selection of bikes or scooters will be chosen at random each day with a ticket to receive a small prize from the School Office.

Meet our Junior Road Safety Officers!

We are delighted to introduce our Junior Road Safety Officers for this year: Ava, Meredith and Molly, all from Year 6.

Their first job was to distribute the Travel Tracker badges to the children who have earned them through their active and sustainable travel to school. If your child has earned a badge, they should be bringing it home today!



A big well done to all the children who have been working towards their badges, and a huge thank you to Ava, Meredith and Molly for getting involved and helping to promote road safety and active travel across our school.

Miss Telfer, Travel Coordinator

Football Club - Next Week

Please note that due to staff availability there will be no Football Club next **week (Friday 9th October)**.

REMINDER Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Assembly will now take place on **Wednesday 7th 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)
Tinned fish (e.g. tuna, salmon, sardines)
Tinned soup (e.g. meat, veg and tomato)
Rice (dry) and microwave rice
Pasta and instant noodles
Tinned tomatoes
Tinned veg (e.g. peas, carrots, sweetcorn)
Tinned pulses (e.g. beans, chickpeas)
Tinned fruit

Custard/tinned desserts (e.g. rice pudding)
Biscuits
Teabags and coffee
Spreads (e.g. jam)
Pasta/cooking sauce (e.g. tomato, curry, chilli)
Cereal
UHT milk (whole, semi skimmed, skimmed)

Clothing Collection

Don't forget we have a 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. For a reminder of what can and cannot be accepted, please click on the following link: <https://thelittlerecyclers.co.uk/acceptable-items>

Ice Pop Friday

It was another fantastic **Ice Pop Friday** at Stoke Mandeville this week! Our children have been working hard to demonstrate our **Three Rs – Respect, Responsibility and Resilience** – and live out our school values.

I asked some of our Ice Pop Friday children why they thought they had been chosen, and their answers were brilliant! They said it was because they had been **good in class, sitting nicely, following the Three Rs, being kind, showing our values, being patient** – and, as one child put it, “just being my wonderful self!”



It was lovely to hear the children recognising that the little things they do every day really do make a difference. Well done to everyone who earned an ice pop this week – keep showing those wonderful Stoke Mandeville values!

And now for this week's jokes...



Charlie: *What did the tree say to the wind?*

“Leaf me alone!”



Dexter: *What did the grumpy triangle say to the circle?*
“You're pointless!”



Jack: *How do you get a Pikachu on a bus?*

“Pokémon!”



Valeria: *What's a snake's favourite lesson?*

“Hisstory!”



Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2025/26

ASC Users: ASC 2025/26

Years 3 to 6: Bikeability ‘Learn to Ride’ – Years 3 to 6

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

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

Communications Home

Whole school: The Friends of SMCS – AGM Reminder

Whole school: Tempest Photography

Reception: Reception - Chickenpox

Reception Individuals: Keyrings from Pollyanna

Year 5: Hazard Alley – Further Details

Year 6: REMINDER River Dart 2027 - Deposit

Handball Club: CANCELLED – Handball Club – This Friday

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

Date	Time	Event
Fri 2 Oct	5pm	Friends of SMCS AGM
Mon 5 Oct		Year 2 Allotment Week
Tue 6 Oct	8-9am	The Little Recyclers Clothing Collection (Village Green)
Tue 6 Oct Wed 7 Oct		Harvest Festival
Fri 9 Oct		No Football Club
W/C Mon 12 Oct		Year 1 Allotment Week
Wed 14 Oct	9.15am	Reception 2027 Open Event (<i>attendees to register</i>)
Thu 15 Oct	2pm	Reception 2027 Open Event (<i>attendees to register</i>)
W/C Mon 19 Oct		Year 5 Allotment Week
Tue 20 Oct	3.40-6pm	Parents Evening (face to face)
Thu 22 Oct		Pupil and Parent Park Away Day
Thu 22 Oct	3.40-5.30pm 6-8pm	Parents Evening (face to face) Parents Evening (online only)
Thu 22 Oct	3.20pm	End of Autumn Term 1
Fri 23 Oct		Staff Inset Day 2

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.