



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 9th October

Thank You for Your Harvest Festival Donations

A huge thank you to all our wonderful parents and families for your incredibly generous donations for this year's Harvest Festival. The donations were collected on Thursday by Vineyard Storehouse, who were overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity shown by our school community.

One of the volunteers collecting the donations commented on how incredible it is that such a small school could be so generous with its donations. We couldn't agree more! We told them that we are very fortunate to have such a wonderful, caring community here at our school.

Your generosity will make a real difference to those who need it, and we are so proud of the children, families and staff who continue to show such kindness and compassion.

Thank you for helping us make our Harvest Festival truly special.



Parents' Evening – Booking Appointments

Parents' Evening appointments will open for booking at **6pm this evening** via [SchoolCloud](https://www.schoolcloud.co.uk).

Parents can log in in advance using their email address, name and child's name/date of birth to check access. Please try variations of names if needed, as details may differ from those registered on our system e.g. Steven instead of Steve, Oliver instead of Ollie.

Please note: Only one appointment is available per child. For separated families wishing to attend the same video call, a second parent can be invited once the appointment has been booked. If separate appointments are required, please contact the School Office.

Helpful guides and further information are available on the [school website](https://www.stoke-mandeville-school.org.uk). If you experience any difficulties logging in or booking an appointment, please email office@smcs.org.uk for assistance.

Allotment Parking

We have been notified by the Parish Council Clerk that a few allotment holders have mentioned that parents are still using the car park during school drop-off and collection times. Please can we kindly ask that parents do not to park here and to instead make alternative parking arrangements.

Absence email

Just a friendly reminder that we have introduced a dedicated school absence email address to make it easier for parents and carers to notify the School Office of the reason for their child's absence.

Please ensure that **all absence-related emails are now sent to our Absence Inbox**. If an absence-related email is sent to the School Office instead, you will receive a response asking you to resend it to the new Absence Inbox.

This email address should also be used for term-time leave requests due to exceptional circumstances.

Who to contact

 **Absence or term-time leave requests**
absence@smcs.org.uk

 **To report an absence by voicemail**
01296 612371 — Option 1

 **All other enquiries**
office@smcs.org.uk

Thank you for helping us to ensure that absence notifications and requests are directed to the correct team.

School Gateway

Please can we remind parents not to contact the School Office or notify us of changes e.g. home address through the School Gateway messaging app. This is not checked and can lead to important information not being communicated in a timely manner. Please only use the office email (office@smcs.org.uk) or absence email (absence@smcs.org.uk).

GDPR Form and Parent Pledge

A couple of weeks ago 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.

Please can **all** parents return a signed copy of the GDPR form by Monday at the latest 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).

Ice Pop Friday!

It was lovely to see the children today for **Ice Pop Friday!** As always, I asked the children why they thought they had been chosen, and I was delighted to hear so many examples of our school values in action.



Their reasons included:

- Being sensible
- Showing good listening
- Following the Three Rs: Respect, Responsibility and Resilience
- Getting onto the Proud Cloud!
- Being nice to others
- Using indoor voices and walking around our school sensibly

Well done to all our children who are making Stoke Mandeville such a wonderful place to learn and grow. Keep up the fantastic work!

And now for this week's jokes...

Our brilliant joke-tellers have been busy again this week! Here are the latest offerings to make you smile:

Abigail asks: *What did the cheese say after it was attacked by flames?*

"I felt grater!"

Azzurra asks: *Why did the bicycle stop working?*

"It was tired!"

Zara asks: *What did the cow say to the chicken?*

"It's mooovie night!"

Henry asks: *What help do you get from lemons?*

"Lemonade!"

Madiha asks: *What do you call a shy bee?*

"A mumblebee!"

A huge well done to everyone who was chosen this week, and thank you to our joke-tellers for keeping us laughing! Keep showing our Three Rs every day — you never know, you might be joining us for Ice Pop Friday next week!

Housepoint Totals This Week

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

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
4318	4297	4311	4387

The Values award was given to Zack in Year 5 and the Tidy Award went to Year 3.

We apologise for the Values Awards being omitted from the first few Weekly Updates! Please find below a list of who these were awarded to so that they can receive suitable recognition for demonstrating one of our 3Rs – Resilience, Respect and Responsibility:

11th September – Aaliyah in Year 3
 18th September – Year 6 Boys
 25th September – Joanie in Reception
 2nd October – Isabelle and Chloe in Year 5

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 (*extended to 16/10/26*)

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

Communications Home

Whole school: School Nursing – Flu Immunisations

Whole school: Parents Evening – Bookings Live 6pm Friday

Whole school: REMINDER Harvest Assembly – Wednesday 7th October

Whole school: Tempest School Photos

Year 4: School Minibus Incident – Swimming Lessons

Year 4: Year 4 – Water Safety

Netball Club: URGENT Netball Cancelled

Football Club: REMINDER No Football

SEN Parents: Parents Evening – Meeting with SENDCo

MAC Users: MAC Booking Form Autumn Term 2 2026/27

ASC Users: ASC Booking Form Autumn Term 2 2026/27

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

Date	Time	Event
Fri 9 Oct	6pm	Parents Evening booking live on SchoolCloud
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.