



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 17th December

Dear Parents/ Carers

I wanted to start this newsletter with my heartfelt thanks to you all.

This term has been a long, and at times, difficult term with much uncertainty. However, working together to support the children has meant they have been able to maintain consistency of school and a sense of 'normality'. As adults these strange times leave us all with additional worries in an ever-changing landscape, but your continued engagement has maintained our positive supportive environment. Thank you!

It is an immense privilege to work with a talented team of committed professionals who give so much to this career. This is seen in the many occasions staff go above and beyond to make sure our children are well cared for and are engaged in other opportunities. We have been immensely proud of the children this week, as we have been able to perform our Nativity in person, have our Choir perform at ASDA, and take the whole school to the pantomime. These events can't happen without a huge amount of additional work.

I must thank you for your very thoughtful and kind cards and gifts for myself and staff. Your recognition and appreciation is very humbling. Thank you.

And finally, may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful new year.

E Stewart

Proud of Bucks Community Awards 2021

The nomination window for Buckinghamshire Council's Proud of Bucks Community Awards 2021 closes soon – but more nominations are needed!

The Proud of Bucks Awards, generously sponsored by The Clare Foundation, are a fantastic way to celebrate all those who have gone above and beyond in their local community. The awards aim to shine a local light on adults, young people and community groups that deserve recognition for their contribution within Buckinghamshire's amazing communities. There's already been some incredible nominations through, but more are needed – particularly for the young person category.



With the deadline for this year's Proud of Bucks Awards nominations fast approaching, please consider submitting your own nomination for a young person who deserves recognition and praise for going the extra mile in your local community, and encourage friends and family to share their nominations too.

Deadline for nominations is **31 December**. For more information, including how to submit your nomination please take a look at the Proud of Bucks Community Awards webpage: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/proud-of-bucks-awards/>

Cinderella Pantomime

Mrs Tong wanted to tell all of our parents and carers how well behaved the children were at the Panto and during the journey to and from the Aylesbury Waterside. A huge thank you to all members of staff and volunteers who accompanied us and also the Office Team who held the fort back at the school!



Choir Performance at ASDA

The choir again performed magnificently in singing and signing the carols they have learned this term. The singing was much appreciated by all visitors to ASDA on Tuesday morning and a huge thank you from us to ASDA for inviting us to sing as we have done in previous years. Thank you also to our Choir leads Mrs Cole and Mrs Walker for all the hard work they have done this term with the children. We managed to raise £40 for the school from collections on the day which will go towards buying resources for the children next term.

Don't forget we have some [signing carol videos](#) on our website featuring Mrs Walker teaching the actions so your children can learn and sign along at home this festive season!

Nativity

Our Christmas Nativity was a huge success and we've been overwhelmed with the wonderful feedback we've received from parents, carers and other family members who were able to view the performance over Zoom. A huge thank you goes to Miss Jacob for organising the Nativity this year and of course to all of our Reception and Key Stage 1 teachers and teaching assistants for all of their efforts in preparing for the performance. It was truly wonderful to be able to invite parents and carers into the school, especially during such uncertain times, and we look forward to many more performances in the future when restrictions are a little more relaxed.

Chartwells Menu

Please find attached the new menu for Chartwells. Don't forget to make your menu selections by **Tuesday 28th December** for your child to have their normal school lunch on Wednesday 5th January. You can make these selections now if you would prefer to get it done before the Christmas madness starts!

The Menus are now live for the New Year along with the Theme Day - 'New Year Celebrations' - for the 20th January. If you have made your child's selections before today then you will need to log in again to check the menu selection for Thursday 20th January as this option has only just been uploaded to ParentPay by Chartwells.



Covid Update

Given the rising cases of the new Omicron variant in the UK and worldwide, our advice to our school community is to continue to complete LFT tests twice weekly during the school holidays and particularly immediately before returning to school in January. Tests can be ordered from the Government website or collected from your local pharmacy.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

Just as a reminder for next week please be extra vigilant and on the lookout for any symptoms of Covid, and particularly the Delta and Omicron variants, that your child may be displaying. As well as the usual Covid symptoms of temperature, continuous cough or loss of taste/smell, children particularly have exhibited other symptoms including vomiting, sore throat and runny noses with the Delta variant, and muscle aches and body rashes with the Omicron variant. If you are in any doubt then please get a PCR test from a local test centre and do not rely on an LFT (Lateral Flow Test) conducted at home. LFT tests are for alerting asymptomatic individuals if they need to take a PCR test if their LFT test is positive, but cannot be relied on if you or your child has symptoms.

Pupil Premium

If your circumstances have changed this year then you may be entitled to some extra help with funding school meals or other costs associated with school. Pupil Premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals due to receiving certain benefits
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

Please refer to the attached form which includes some FAQs as to whether you should claim or not. Please note that even if your child is eligible for Universal Free School Meals (Reception to Year 2), you can still apply for Pupil Premium which may help cover the costs for other expenses at school such as morning or after school clubs as well as school trips.

If you would like further information or would like to apply then please contact the School Office.

Sports Clubs

From January we have new clubs starting which have been funded by the school.



Premier - Multi Sports Extracurricular Club

This is open for years 3 to 6 starting Tuesday 11th January. Places are limited to 20 and available on a first come first served basis. Please see the attached poster and contact Premier directly using the link below to reserve your child's place.

Go to www.premier-education.com/parents and search for Stoke Mandeville Combined School to [book](#).

GameOn

After-school football will start back on Monday 17th January. Please note there are no sessions on **Monday 7th February** or **Monday 21st February**. Please see the attached poster and contact GameOn directly using the link below to reserve your child's place. [Book now](http://www.gameonsportscoaching.co.uk/school-clubs) at www.gameonsportscoaching.co.uk/school-clubs



Friends of SMCS

We hope your children enjoyed your chocolate gifts from the Friends of SMCS as an extra special gift to say thank you this term with all of your fundraising activities!

Letters Sent Home

FSM Recipients – Multi Sports Christmas Camp	Whole school – Panto reminder
Individuals – Nativity Zoom Links	Whole school – Proud of Bucks Awards
MAC/ASC Users – Payment Reminder	Whole School – Dangerous Parking
Whole school – Christmas Performance Details	Reception – Confirmed Covid case

Dates for the Diary (these can also be found on our website under 'Upcoming Events')

<https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/upcoming-events> (New dates are written in RED)

Tuesday 4 th January		Inset Day
Wednesday 5 th January		School open for Spring Term
Tuesday 11 th January	3.15-4.15pm	First After-School Netball Club (Y5 & 6)
Tuesday 11 th January	2pm	Parent Forum
Wednesday 12 th January	3.15-4pm	First After School Dance Club (Y5 & 6)
Wednesday 12 th January		First Swimming Session (Y4 only)
Thursday 13 th January	3.15-4pm	First After-School Football Club (Y5 & 6)
Thursday 20 th January		Chartwells New Year Celebration Menu
Friday 21 st January		School Council: Break the Rules Day

Class Updates

We know how much you enjoy finding out what the children have been learning in our Weekly Updates. This has been another fun packed week. You can find this information by selecting the link below to your child's class.

Year R – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-r/what-are-we-learning>

Year 1 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-1/what-are-we-learning>

Year 2 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-2/what-are-we-learning>

Year 3 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-3/what-are-we-learning>

Year 4 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-4/what-are-we-learning>

Year 5 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-5/what-are-we-learning>

Year 6 – <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/class-pages/year-6/what-are-we-learning>