



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 16th October

Modeshift Stars Awards

Our school was nominated for the local authority Modeshift Stars Award. We were one of 210 schools nominated for the Stars Local Authority Award. The winners went onto the Regional Finals.

We won both the Local Authority Award for Primary Schools and the Regional Award! The Stars Regional Award winners were announced by Max Longley of Travel England.

We have been doing the Travel Plan and had a whole school commitment for 10 years now and have also had great community support over the time. We have great fun in all the activities we do including:

- Walk to School Week
- Bike to School Week
- Road Safety Week,
- Park Away Days every month
- and great fun riding bikes for Bikeability!

We are starting to do Footsteps training again which is teaching children how to cross the road safely and not stand in between 2 cars.

Our car usage over the years has decreased from 51% to 12.3%



From Ava, Meredith and Molly
Junior Road Safety Officers

Longest Sweet Mufti Day – Next Thursday

Next **Thursday 22nd October** we will be bringing you the 'Longest Sweet Mufti Day'. Children will be invited to come into on this day school in full mufti.

In exchange we ask that the children bring in long sweets and chocolates (**no nuts please**). These will then be laid out around the school in house group lines and the houses will be awarded house points for the length of their lines (100 points for the house with the longest line). You are welcome to

provide as many sweets/chocolates as you would like - we know that secretly the parents are just as competitive as the children - but we ask that they are all kept as individual items and not taped together (it takes us a very long time to unstick them all!).



These treats will be used as prizes for the Friends of SMCS Christmas Fayre which will be held on **Friday 27th November**.

No toys in school

We kindly ask parents to ensure that children do not bring toys into school. Toys can be distracting during lessons, may cause disagreements between children, and can easily become lost or damaged. Thank you for your support and cooperation in helping us maintain a happy, safe and focused learning environment.

River Dart – Deposit Reminder

This is a reminder for Year 6 parents that the deadline for paying deposits for the River Dart Residential is **31st October**. Please log in to your School Gateway app to make payment at your earliest convenience in order to give us an idea of numbers for this year's trip. Should the trip not be able to proceed due to low numbers then all deposits will be refunded to parents.

Book Look – Next Week

If you have an online appointment or cannot attend Parents' Evening in person, you are welcome to visit the Hall with your child on **Wednesday 21st October, 8–8.40am**, to look through their books and celebrate their progress.

Families attending face-to-face appointments on Tuesday 20th or Thursday 22nd October can also view books before or after their appointment in the Hall.

Halloween Party

The Stoke Mandeville Parish Council are hosting a Kids' Halloween Party on **Friday 30th October**. Please find attached a poster for this with further details

Tempest Photographs – Order Reminder

Have you ordered your child's school individual or sibling photo yet? A polite reminder that the closing date for **free delivery** back to school is **Sunday 18th October 2026**. Order through the Tempest website (www.tempest-orders.co.uk) using the unique link that is on the paper order form brought home by your child last week.

TEMPEST
PHOTOGRAPHY

If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest Photography at customerservice@htempest.co.uk

Stir Food - Update

A Stir Food menu and dietary needs email was sent out to all parents earlier today. Please can we advise parents to read through this carefully as it contains information about our processes for registering dietary needs and cultural requirements. Menus for Autumn 2 are now live on the Swift Kitchen app. For further information about our hot school lunches from Stir Food please head to our website <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/school-lunches>.

Space Store Assembly

On Tuesday 6th October, Stoke Mandeville School were joined by Lea from the Space Store. She talked about jobs in space and how the astronauts lived in the space station. Miss Cooke volunteered to wear the astronaut suit and boots to show the children what it would look like. The children asked excellent questions. Space Store host virtual events at the Covered Market in Oxford.



Parent and Pupil Park Away Day

Don't forget that due to next Friday's Inset Day our next Park Away Day is **Thursday 22nd October**. Thank you for supporting us with maintaining our 'Outstanding' Travel Plan accreditation by travelling to school in an eco-friendly and sustainable way on this day.

Be Bright Be Seen

On **Monday 2nd November** we will be holding a 'Be Bright Be Seen' Day. Children are to come into school in their usual school uniform, but are encouraged to wear anything bright or hi-vis with their uniform. This could include a hi-vis vest, reflectors, flashing lights, bright hair accessories or anything to make them more visible to cars on darker mornings and afternoons on the walk to and from school.



Parents' Evening – Booking Appointments

Parents' Evening appointments are now available for booking via [SchoolCloud](#).

Parents can log in 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.

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

Year 6 - Secondary School Applications

Just a reminder that parents have until 11.59pm on 31st October to submit their secondary school application online:

[Guide to moving up to secondary school | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

Our webpages contain important information, including:

- how to get the order of their preferences right
- how we allocate school places
- what to do if they are moving to a new house

Meeting the application deadline is extremely important and can be the difference between a child being offered a place at a preferred school or not. Please can we encourage our families to submit their applications on time.

Children with an EHCP

Please note that children with an EHCP have their secondary school placement arranged through a separate process and do not need to submit preferences through the secondary school application portal.

Ice Pop Friday!

It was wonderful to see the children for our **last Ice Pop Friday of this half term!** There were lots of brilliant reasons shared for why the children had been chosen, showing our school values of **Respect, Responsibility and Resilience** in action.

When I asked the children why they had been selected, they told me they had been chosen for:

- Following the Three Rs and listening carefully
- Being good and getting onto the Proud Cloud!
- Sitting quietly on the carpet
- Looking after others
- Being polite
- Doing super listening!



Well done to all our children for the wonderful choices they are making every day.

This Week's Jokes

Our final Ice Pop Friday of the half term wouldn't be complete without some brilliant jokes!

Ivy asked: Which dog writes about witches?

J.K. Growling!

Chloe asked: What do you call a magical breed of dog?

An Acra-Poodle!

Ahmed asked: What is the most feared animal in the sky?

A terror-dactyl!

An Update From The Friends

Thank you to everyone who donated clothes for the clothing collection at the beginning of the month. We had 219KG donated which has raised us just over **£98**.



Pre-loved uniform. We are unfortunately unable to accept any donations of uniform unless it is a good quality item with the school logo on (such as jumpers, cardigans and PE tops). Please put these in a plastic bag and drop them off in the wheelie bin under the shelter on the playground. Please do not donate items such as trousers, skirts or PE kit as we do not have the space to store these.

Even though it is still only October we are already looking ahead to our Christmas activities. Here is a brief look at what we have coming up.

Thursday 22nd October - Longest Sweet Mufti Day. Children can come dressed in full mufti in exchange for long sweets. The more the merrier! These sweets are then laid out in lines for each House group and the longest line wins 100HP. Last year the winning house managed to get a line so long it went all the way around the school! Sweets must be wrapped and cannot contain any nuts. Please do not tape sweets together as these can be difficult to pull apart!

Friday 27th November - Advent Calendar Raffle. Tickets for this will be on sale in the week leading up to the draw. Look out for further details.

Friday 27th November - Bottle and Treat Mufti. Children can wear full mufti in exchange for a bottle or a box of something tasty for our tombola. Please ensure all products are in-date, are nut free and are not cleaning products.

Friday 27th November - Christmas Fair 3:30pm-5:30pm. Join us after school for some festive fun. There will be lots to do, and maybe even a visit from Father Christmas. We will draw the winners for the Hamper Raffle on this day too.

Friday 11th December - Christmas Disco. Look out for further details closer to the time.

Housepoint Totals This Week

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

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
6017	6221	5963	6066

The Values award was given to Aleem in Year 4 and the Tidy Award went to Year 1.

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: Book Look – Wednesday 21st October

Whole school: Stir Food – New Menus and Dietary Requirements Update

Whole school: Young Carers

Year 1: Year 1 - Wellies

Year 4: School Minibus Today

Year 6: Year 6 – Walking Home Safely

Year 6: PE Kits - Tomorrow

Dance Club: URGENT – ZKT Dance Cancelled

Individuals: URGENT – GDPR Consent

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

Date	Time	Event
W/C Mon 19 Oct		Year 5 Allotment Week
Tue 20 Oct	3.40-6pm	Parents Evening (face to face)
Wed 21 Oct	8-8.40am	Book Look for parents with online appointments (or those unable to attend Parents Evening)
Thu 22 Oct		Longest Sweet Mufti Day
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 – School closed to pupils
Mon 2 Nov		Be Bright Be Seen Day – wear bright or reflective accessories with school uniform

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.