



Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 23rd October

Longest Sweet Trail

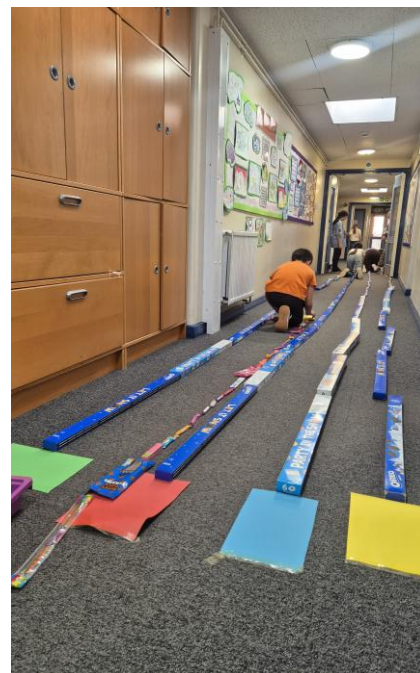
Thank you to everyone who sent sweets in with the children today to help their house win the Longest Sweet Trail. There was a lot of excitement from the children today as the house captains and their teams carefully laid out their house's donated sweets around the corridors!

We are happy to announce the winners were as follows:

1st Hugghenden (100 extra house points!)

2nd Claydon (80 HP), 3rd Chequers (50 HP) and 4th Waddesdon (25 HP)!

As a reminder these treats will be used as prizes for the Friends of SMCS Christmas Fayre which is due to be held on **Friday 27th November** from 3.30-5.30pm.



Reminder about Cabin donations

We're delighted to announce that our new Cabin is officially open! Thank you again to The Friends of Stoke Mandeville for their generous support.

We're now looking for good-quality, new or pre-loved donations to help kit out the inside of the Cabin. We would be grateful for **Lego/Duplo, small-world toys (e.g. dinosaurs and Playmobil), toy cars and beanbags** suitable for outdoor use. If you're having a clear-out this half-term, please bring any suitable donations to the School Office upon our return to school, clearly labelled 'Cabin Donations'.

No Homework over half term

As we want our pupils to have the chance to relax after a busy few weeks please note that there has been no homework set over the half term break.

Christmas Menu

Please note that the menu for our school Christmas Lunch on **Tuesday 15th December** is now available for ordering on SwiftKitchen.

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.

Parent and Pupil Park Away Day

Thank you for supporting us with maintaining our 'Outstanding' Travel Plan accreditation by travelling to school in an eco-friendly and sustainable way today.



Uniform Shoes

From after half term, children will be permitted to start wearing smart black boots as part of their school uniform. For further information about our school uniform please go to <https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/schooluniform>.



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.

Earrings

Thank you to those parents and children who have worked hard this half term to ensure that they are able to remove their earrings on PE days so they are safe for lessons. A gentle reminder that after half term children will be expected to remove them for lessons (unless different arrangements are in place), so please either remove them at home or ensure they are able to remove and replace independently. A small container, such as a box or envelope, kept inside their PE bag will give them a safe space to store them if they are removing them at school.

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](#)

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.

REMINDER Collection Arrangements

Please can we remind parents to let the School Office know at the start of the day if there are any changes to normal collection arrangements. If these are last minute arrangements then please ensure that after 1pm you call the School Office on 01296 612371 instead of emailing to ensure that the message is communicated to the classrooms in good time.

Football

This is a reminder that after the half term break Football Club will be moving from Fridays to Thursdays. This will start from our first week back on **Thursday 5th November**.

Pumpkin Recycling – Help Our Turkeys Feast! 🦃🍂

This autumn, we're inviting families to get involved in a fantastic recycling initiative to help feed the turkeys at Pearce Family Turkeys on Marsh Lane!

Instead of sending your pumpkins to waste, give them a second life as a tasty treat for the turkeys! From **31st October to 4th November**, you can drop off your cleaned Halloween pumpkins at the collection crate outside Stoke Mandeville Combined School.

Before donating, please remember:

- Pumpkins must be clean.
- Remove all candles, wax, paint, glitter and decorations.
- Only donate pumpkins that are free from these materials so they are suitable for animal feed.

It's a wonderful way to reduce waste, support local farming and help our feathered friends enjoy an autumn feast! To see the turkeys enjoying their pumpkin treats, follow @pearcefamilyturkeys and @stokefarms on social media, or visit www.farmgatetoplate.co.uk.

Parking Reminder 🚗

We kindly ask all parents and carers to be considerate when parking during drop-off and pick-up times. Please ensure that entrances and exits are kept clear for vehicles, and avoid parking on junctions to help keep everyone safe.

We also encourage everyone to park sensibly, leave sufficient space for others, and be mindful of fellow parents and local residents.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration in helping to keep our school community safe and accessible for everyone.

Housepoint Totals This Week

Congratulations to Chequers for having the most housepoints this half term!

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
6877	6505	6248	6210

As a reminder the house with the most housepoints at the end of the Autumn term will be awarded a free mufti day on **Monday 14th December**. The winning house will be announced on Friday 11th December so there's plenty of time to build up those housepoints next half term!

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

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

Communications Home

Whole school: Headteacher's Half-Term Update

Whole school: REMINDER Parent and Pupil Park Away Day

Whole school: REMINDER Longest Sweet Competition – Mufti Day

Whole school: Message from Stir Food

Whole school: REMINDER Book Look

Whole school: REMINDER Parents Evening

Whole school: Cabin Donations

Year 2: Year 2 – Great Fire of London Update

Year 6: REMINDER River Dart 2027 - Deposit

Individuals: Important Update: SchoolCloud Parents' Evening Appointments

Individuals: Parents Evening – Video Calls

Individuals: ACTION REQUIRED – GDPR Consent Form

MAC & ASC Users: MAC/ASC Autumn Term 2

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

Date	Time	Event
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 – <i>wear bright or reflective accessories with school uniform</i>

Class Updates

Please note there are no class updates this week as all teaching staff are having laptop reconfigurations over the half term and will not have access to these from Friday onwards.

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.