



# Stoke Mandeville Combined School

*Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together*

## *Weekly Update Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December*

Dear Parents and Carers,

I must start with a huge thank you for the gifts, cards and good wishes which have been shared across the school. These gestures are incredibly touching and very humbling. Thank you.

As we near the end of our first term of this academic year, it is a good opportunity to reflect on how much has been achieved since September. Watching our KS1 children in their Christmas performance it is evident that the children have all been demonstrating our 5 Rs of Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Reflection and Resourcefulness. The children have all worked hard during the term and I hope they are beginning to recognise that effort really does lead to success. Many of the Pupil of the Week and Headteacher awards that have been handed out so far this term are rewarding children for their continued effort and their ability to uphold our values and I hope all our pupils will return in the New Year ready to build on the impressive start they have made.

It has obviously been an unusual and challenging Autumn term in many ways, and we have not been able to open our doors to parents as we usually would. However, within the school we have tried to make things as normal as possible and the usual Christmas activities and excitement have been a feature of the last few days and the children have responded with enjoyment. Now, as we head towards a much needed break I need to inform you of what to do if Covid symptoms develop in one of our pupils in the first days of the holiday. The school will still be involved with track and trace duties so you must inform us of a positive case. We would ask that you contact the school first rather than messaging other parents via social media. This should be done via

[covid@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:covid@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk)

This email address is continually monitored and advising us early means we can communicate with everyone concerned with all the relevant information to hand. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

We know that Christmas may be a bit different this year for some families and we hope that you have an enjoyable festive season. Hopefully we can all look to the New Year with the hope of better times ahead.

Thank you everyone for your ongoing support and appreciation for the incredibly difficult year we have been working in – your words of encouragement and recognition for the efforts of the whole team have helped to keep us galvanised throughout.

If there is any further information we receive during the Christmas break we will endeavour to inform you if there are changes to our expected return to school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at normal time.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

## Road Safety



This week we visited our crossing patroller Janice to wish her a Happy Christmas and thank her for keeping us all safe on our way to and from school.

## Reception Class Applications

Children born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 will be starting school in September 2021. Applications for the Reception Class are invited by Bucks County Council using the portal which open 2nd November 2020. The deadline for applications is 15th January 2021. For more information please see:

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/apply-for-a-school-place/>

## E-Safety – Being Social online this December

Access to new technology over the winter period can provide new opportunities for children and young people but can present risks. We have shared a link below to a guide so parents can support their child to be safer online this season by focusing on three key areas: viewing, sharing, chatting and friending.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/parents-guide-being-social-online/>

There is also a great guide of ideas to share the digital world with your child over the Christmas period here at:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/digital-xmas>

## Break the Rules Day

Thank you to everyone who paid their fines – our first ever Break the Rules Day raised £290 for the school!

## Letters Sent Home

Year 6 DT project costs

## Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Spring Term starts normal time
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## For a Quick Sale

We have some tea towels which are from the last academic year and therefore out of date. If you would like to purchase one of these tea towels at a significantly discounted rate of £1 please call into the school office