Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 6th November

Remembrance Weekend – Families Welcome



This weekend, Stoke Mandeville will be coming together to mark Remembrance Weekend, and all school families are warmly invited to attend the village events.

- **Saturday 7th November, 10am:** Official inauguration of the new War Memorial, with the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire in attendance.
- **Sunday 8th November, 11am:** Remembrance Service at the War Memorial.
- **Sunday 8th November, 6pm:** Remembrance Sunday service at St Mary's Church.

These are special opportunities for our community to come together, remember those who served and sacrificed, and pay our respects. **All families are very welcome to attend and take part in any of the events.**



Be Bright Be Seen Mufti

Well done to all of our pupils for putting so much effort into their 'Be Bright Be Seen Day' accessories! The school was certainly very bright for our first day back and hopefully the children will continue to wear these on their journeys to and from school, particularly on darker mornings and afternoons.

BSL in Year 5 and 6

We are delighted to welcome Mary Fallon from YDA (Young Deaf Activities) into school this half term. Mary is the Youth Club Manager and has been teaching families signing and communication methods for over 15 years. She has taught many classes in BSL and is Level 6 herself. Mary will be teaching our children in Year 5 and 6 alongside our ARP team until the end of term. She is a well-known face at school and we are excited for this fantastic opportunity for the children.

Signing Choir

It was wonderful to see so many children attend our first Signing Choir of the year. As previously mentioned we have some exciting events coming up this term with the first on ***Tuesday 24th November***. We will be performing for all the wonderful volunteers at Florence Nightingale during their Christmas gathering. Children in Year 5 and 6 will be attending and if your child came to Signing Choir this week you will have received more information via email. There are other events coming up including the Christmas Fair, where all children that would like to, will be able to perform.



Pumpkin Donations

A huge thank you to our parents for filling the pumpkin boxes provided by Pearce Family Turkeys on Marsh Lane. This fantastic recycling initiative has given the turkeys a tasty treat instead of the pumpkins going to waste, as well as supporting local farming in our community.

To see the turkeys enjoying their pumpkin treats, follow @pearcefamilyturkeys and @stokefarms on social media, or visit www.farmgatetoplate.co.uk.

Food Magazine Request

Miss Banks has asked for donations of any food magazines or newspapers featuring images of food as part of a project that Year 4 will be working on shortly. If you have any please can you bring them to the School Office where they can be passed on to Year 4.

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. This is for all absences including illness, appointments, religious holidays or leave requests for exceptional circumstances.

Please ensure that **all absence-related emails are now sent to our Absence Inbox**. If you have a query for the Office in addition to notifying us of your child's absence, please ensure that this is written in a separate email to the office.

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

Reminder about Cabin donations

We are still looking for good-quality, new or pre-loved donations to help kit out the inside of our new 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 have any good quality and durable items of furniture that you think may be of use then please get in touch with the School Office. Please bring any suitable donations to the School Office upon our return to school, clearly labelled 'Cabin Donations'**.**

Flu Vaccination Reminder

On Monday 9th November the School Nursing Team will be coming to school as part of their annual flu immunisation programme. Please don't forget to sign into the Portal to complete this, even if you are DECLINING the vaccination.

1. Click the link https://www.buckschildimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu
2. Enter the Unique School Code EE110249
3. Complete the form (one per child).

Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day



On ***Friday 11th December*** we will be supporting Save the Children's 'Christmas Jumper Day'. Christmas jumpers (or festive decorations!) can be worn with school uniform to raise money for Save the Children in exchange for a suggested £2 donation to Save the Children. Closer to the date we will advise you of the JustGiving link for this.

REMINDER Allotment Parking

Please can we remind parents that parking at the allotments is no longer permitted by the Parish Council. Please try to walk from your home address whenever possible if it is within a 15 minute walk of the school, or alternatively make arrangements to park at other locations such as Eskdale Community Centre and then walk the remainder of the way.

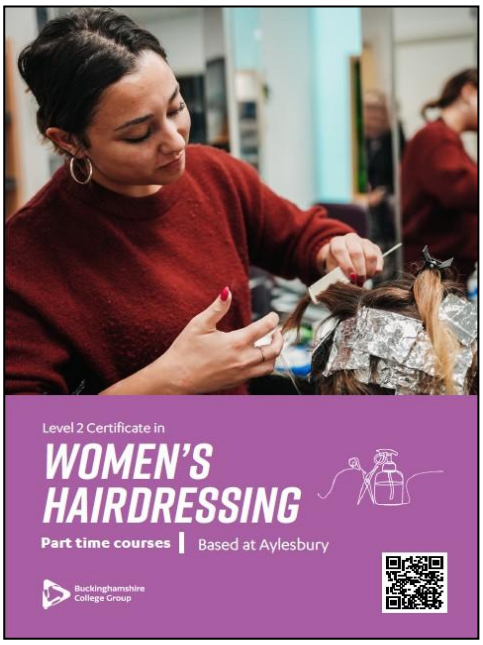
Christmas on the Cobbles – Sunday 22nd November



Kickstart the festive season at Aylesbury's free Christmas on the Cobbles event! From 12–5pm, enjoy live entertainment, festive market stalls, family activities, crafts, face painting and free funfair rides across Market Square, Kingsbury and Friars Square.

At 5pm, watch the spectacular Illuminated Parade along the High Street, featuring Santa, festive floats, pantomime stars and local community groups. The celebrations will conclude with the Christmas lights switch-on and a dazzling fireworks display. A fun-filled, festive day for all the family!

Full event details can be viewed here and the event accessibility information is available here.



VTCT Skills Level 2 Certificate in Women's Hairdressing course for adults aged 19+

This is a one-year, part-time course designed for individuals looking to develop the knowledge and practical skills needed to begin a career in the hairdressing industry. The course is due to start in January 2027 and will be delivered over two days per week at our Aylesbury Campus, from 9.30am to 2.30pm. The exact days are yet to be confirmed but will be either Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday and potentially fully funded, dependent on personal circumstances.

To find out more please email Claire Moriarty at Buckinghamshire College Group: CMoriarty@buckscollegegroup.ac.uk.



Hot Chocolate Friday

With the colder weather now well and truly with us, we enjoyed our first **Hot Chocolate and Biscuit Friday** today! It was lovely to spend time chatting with the children, hearing about all the wonderful things they had achieved this week and, of course, finding out why they thought they had been chosen. There were some brilliant reasons and lots to celebrate!

And now for this week's jokes… The children have certainly been keeping me entertained!

Abi: Why do you call a wallaby a wannabe?
Because it wants to be a kangaroo!

Eddie: What do you call a deer with no eye?
I've no idea!



Esme: Do you want to hear a builder joke? I'm still working on it!

Shakein: Why did the chicken cross the road?
He wanted to get to the chicken dance party!

Blake: What day are chickens afraid of?
Fry-day!

Emelia: What does a duck wear at a wedding?
A duck-sedo!

Housepoint Totals This Week

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

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
7218	7069	7138	7313

The Values Cup was awarded to Jude in Year 5 and the Tidy Award was given to Year 4.

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2025/26
ASC Users: ASC 2025/26
Year 3 to 6: KS2 Cross Country at Turnfurlong Junior - Sat 21 Nov *(deadline 9/11/2026)*
Year 4: Year 4 Swimming – Autumn Term 2026
Year 5 & 6 Signing Choir: Y5 & Y6 Signing Choir – Florence Nightingale Xmas Event
Year 6: River Dart 2027 – Deposit *(deadline extended to 21/11/2026)*

Communications Home

Whole School: Reminder Be Bright Be Seen
Whole School: Remembrance Weekend - Families Welcome to Attend
Whole School: Odd Socks Day - Mon 16 Nov
Whole School: Christmas Hampers
Whole School: Reminder School Nursing - Flu Immunisations
Whole School: Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
Whole School: Urgent School Lunches
Years 3 to 6: KS2 Cross Country at Turnfurlong Junior - Sat 21 Nov
Year 4: Year 4 - Food Magazines
Year 5 & 6 Individuals: Y5 & Y6 Signing Choir – Florence Nightingale Xmas Event
Year 6 Individuals: River Dart 2027 - Not Attending
Young Voices Choir 2027: Final Reminder Young Voices - T-Shirts And Tickets
Netball Club: Netball Today
Handball Club: Tomorrow - Handball Cancelled

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

Date	Time	Event
Mon 9 Nov		School Nursing Team: Flu Immunisations
Tue 10 Nov	9am	ARP Families Coffee Morning *(open to ARP Families only)*
Fri 13 Nov	6pm	APDR Bookings to go live on SchoolCloud *(individual children only)*
Mon 16 Nov		Odd Socks Day
Mon 16 Nov		APDR Meetings this week *(individual children only)*
Mon 16 Nov		No Netball Club
Sat 21 Nov	AM	KS2 Inter-School Cross Country at Turnfurlong Junior School
Tue 24 Nov	AM	Y5 & Y6 Signing Choir Event (selected children only)
Thu 26 Nov		Signing Choir at the Wheelpower Shopping Evening *(selected children only)*

Fri 27 Nov		Parent and Pupil Park Away Day
Fri 27 Nov		**Friends of SMCS Events:** Bottle and Treat Mufti Day Advent Calendar Raffle Christmas Fayre 3.30-5.30pm

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.