Stoke Mandeville Combined School

Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together

Weekly Update Friday 13th November

Children in Need Day

We wanted to say a huge thank you to our school community for all of their efforts in fundraising for Children in Need this year. From a combination of cash and online donations we have managed to raise a fantastic



£207.10!

There is still time to donate to this worthy cause if you haven't yet had a chance to do so by heading to our Just Giving page:

CLICK HERE!

https://www.justgiving.com/page/stoke-mandeville-combined-school-11?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Remembrance Day

On Sunday 8th November, our Head Boy (Sebastian) and Head Girl (Phoebe) joined Mrs Jones in representing Stoke Mandeville Combined School at the Remembrance Day service at St Mary's Church. They led the laying of the wreaths during the service and represented the school wonderfully, demonstrating the respect and maturity we encourage in all our pupils.



The service brought together members of our local uniformed groups and the wider Stoke Mandeville community in a moving act of remembrance. Sebastian and Phoebe stood alongside representatives from the Royal British Legion, local scouts, guides, and other community organisations, showing that our young people understand the importance of honouring those who have served our country.

This annual tradition is an important part of our school calendar, providing our pupils with the opportunity to engage with our local community and learn about the significance of Remembrance Day.

We would like to thank St Mary's Church for hosting this important service and for welcoming our school representatives so warmly.

Odd Socks Day – Monday



Don't forget that on Monday children are invited to wear odd socks with their usual school uniform. This is in conjunction with our Anti-Bullying Week and we are hopeful that by offering children the opportunity to celebrate their uniqueness this will help to deliver a message of individuality, acceptance and tolerance.

Road Safety Week – Safe People on the Move

Next week is Road Safety Week, and this year's theme is 'Safe People on the Move'. The theme reminds us that whether we walk, scoot, cycle or drive, we all have a responsibility to help keep ourselves and others safe on our journeys.

Your child will be bringing home a picture to colour, along with a road safety pledge for parents to complete with them. This is a great opportunity to talk about how we can all stay safe on the roads. Returned pledges will earn your child a house point!

For those who would like an extra challenge, children can also create their own poster showing how to stay safe on the road. These will be displayed around the school and on our noticeboard for everyone to see.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our children safe!

Stir Food Theme Day: Festive Fun!

Don't forget to order your child's lunch on the Swift Kitchen app for our Christmas Lunch day on ***Tuesday 15th December***. We have been advised by Stir Food that the cut off for ordering meals for this day will be Friday 11th December so that enough food (and Reindeer Biscuits!) can be ordered and prepared in time. If you ordered earlier in the term then you may need to check that you still have an order placed and that this has not been wiped when the Christmas menus were uploaded.

APDR Meetings – Next Week

If your child is on the SEND register, this week they will come home with an APDR (Assess Plan Do Review) plan. If you would like to discuss this document in greater detail with your child's class teacher, then there will be virtual meetings held next week. Appointments will be available to book on SchoolCloud from 7pm this evening (Friday) for the following dates:

Monday 16th November *- Year 1*
Wednesday 18th November *- Reception, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4*
Thursday 19th November *- Year 5, Year 6*

As a reminder you will need to login to SchoolCloud to make this appointment by clicking on the following link: https://stokemandeville.schoolcloud.co.uk/. Further guides showing you how to book your appointment online can be found attached to the original email sent on Thursday.

If you do not feel that you need to meet with your child's class teacher and are happy with the content of the plan then there is no need to book an appointment; please instead sign your child's APDR plan and return it to your child's class teacher.

PE Kit Reminder: No Hoodies Please



As the weather gets colder, we wanted to remind you about an important change to our PE kit requirements that came into effect in September.

Children should not wear hoodies for PE lessons.
We introduced this policy following a risk assessment that identified hoodies as a potential choking hazard.
We've had incidents where children have pulled each other by the hood during PE activities, which can be dangerous.

What to wear instead

These alternative options will keep your child warm whilst ensuring their safety during physical activities:

- A navy or black zip-up fleece (without a hood)
- A navy or black tracksuit top (without a hood)
- A navy or black crew-neck sweatshirt

What if my child already has a hoodie?

If your child currently has a hoodie as part of their PE kit, please replace it with one of the suitable alternatives listed above. We understand this may mean an additional purchase, but the safety of all our pupils is our priority.

If you have any questions about this policy, please don't hesitate to contact the School Office.

Starting school for the first time



Was your child born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023? If yes, Buckinghamshire parents can apply online for a school place from 4th November 2026.
You must apply even if your child is at the nursery attached to the school you would like them to go to. The application deadline is **15th January 2027**.

REMINDER – No Netball on Monday

This is a reminder that there is no Netball Club this coming Monday 16th November. Netball Club will resume on Monday 23rd November.

iRock Concert

On ***Friday 11th December*** our iRock bands are putting on two end of term iRock Concerts for their parents, followed by a performance to the whole school. Parents of band members may request up to 3 tickets per child via the School Office – please ensure you put the subject title as 'IROCK CONCERT' when requesting your tickets.

Swimming Lessons

Both Stoke Mandeville Stadium and Aqua Vale Swimming and Fitness Centre are running a special promotion to help more children learn this vital life skill and grow their confidence in the water.

Join for just £1 and pay nothing until 1st January!

This offer gives families an affordable way to get their children started on their swimming journey with expert, friendly instructors in safe, welcoming facilities.

Find out more and register here:

- Stoke Mandeville Stadium: https://www.stokemandevillestadium.co.uk
- Aqua Vale Swimming and Fitness Centre: www.buckinghamshireleisure.com/aqua-vale-swimming-fitness-centre

FREE ONLINE WEBINAR From Busy Gatherings to Bedtime: Supporting Your Child Through the Festive Season

Delivered by Dr Barney Gilbert, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist in conversation with Ash Ruddy, Co-Founder of Neuly.

Date: Thursday 19th November · 8–9pm **Where:** Online, free for all parents & carers

Sign up: Register for the free webinar here

The festive season can bring changes to routines, busy social calendars, gatherings and sensory demands. These changes can feel particularly challenging for neurodivergent children and young people, and for the parents supporting them.

During this webinar, leading expert Dr Gilbert will answer your pre-submitted questions and explore topics including your child's sleep, sensory needs, emotional regulation, routines and transitions. He'll share practical strategies to help you feel more confident supporting your child through the festive season and beyond.

Topics we'll cover:

- Understanding what the build-up to festive events and changes to routine can mean for your child
- Preparing your child for transitions, from term time to the school holidays
- Responding to sensory needs and navigating social expectations at performances, gatherings and meals
- Protecting sleep when late evenings and busy days disrupt bedtime routines
- Recognising early signs of overwhelm and supporting emotional regulation

Housepoint Totals This Week

Congratulations to Waddesdon for having the most housepoints this week!

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
7859	7653	7692	7875

The Values Cup was awarded to Amelia in Year 6 and the Tidy Award was given to Year 5.

Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway

MAC Users: MAC 2025/26
ASC Users: ASC 2025/26
Signing Choir Individuals: Signing Choir – WheelPower – Thu 26 Nov 26
Year 4: Year 4 Swimming – Autumn Term 2026
Year 6 River Dart: River Dart 2027 – Payment 1 *(deadline 30/11/2026)*
Year 6 River Dart: River Dart 2027 – Payment 2 *(deadline 31/1/2027)*
Year 6 River Dart: River Dart 2027 – Payment 3 *(deadline 27/2/2027)*
Year 6 River Dart: River Dart 2027 – Payment 4 *(deadline 27/3/2027)*
Whole School: Panto 2026 Trip *(deadline 4/12/2026)*

Communications Home

Whole School: Children in Need Mufti Day – This Friday 13th November
Whole School: REMINDER Children in Need Mufti
Whole School: Swift Kitchen Orders – 15, 16, 17 December
Whole School: Tempest Photographs
Whole School: Christingle Service – Wednesday 9th December
Whole School: Minibus Update
Whole School: Pantomime Trip 2026
Year 5: Year 5 – Viking Day
Year 6: Year 6 – Make Do and Mend
Signing Choir Individuals: Signing Choir – WheelPower – Thu 26 Nov 26
iRock Band Members: iRock Concert – Friday 11th December
Netball Club: Netball Cancelled – Mon 16 Nov
SEN Individuals: APDR Meetngs – Autumn Term 2026

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

Date	Time	Event
Fri 13 Nov	7pm	APDR Bookings to go live on SchoolCloud *(individual children only)*
Mon 16 Nov		Road Safety Week Anti-Bullying Week
Mon 16 Nov		Odd Socks Day *(children to wear Odd Socks with school uniform)*
Mon 16 Nov		APDR Meetings – Year 1
Mon 16 Nov		No Netball Club
Wed 18 Nov		APDR Meetings – Reception, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4
Thu 19 Nov		APDR Meetings – Year 5,Year 6
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	5.45pm meet	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.