



# Stoke Mandeville Combined School

*Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together*

## *Weekly Update Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December*

### **Friends Christmas Hampers**

This morning we drew the Christmas Hamper raffle – congratulations to our winners who have all been contacted and another big thank you to our Parent Forum reps who created the hampers, raising a fantastic £564 for the Friends of Stoke Mandeville Combined School. The winners were: TT (Rec), IP (Yr 1), LD (Yr 2), OT (Yr 4), XC, PT, JF-G (Yr 6)

### **Class Christmas Crafts**

You may have already seen on Seesaw (KS1) or Google Classroom (KS2) the Christmas Crafts that the children have been busy making in school. These have all been funded by the Friends, and you can purchase these via Paypal (to email address [friends.smcs@gmail.com](mailto:friends.smcs@gmail.com)) or in cash via the labelled envelope which was sent home this week (please use the same box as for the advent trail and hamper raffle). Christmas crafts will be £2 per child with the exception of Year 6 who have made mugs which will be £3 per child.

### **TikTok Update Parental Controls with Family Pairing Feature (SWGfL)**

TikTok is used by many teenagers and sometimes children younger than that 13 despite its terms and conditions. Using the new Family Pairing feature can allow parents to guide their child's TikTok experience in a safer way. Features include:

Search: Decide what can be searched for. This includes content, users, hashtags, or sounds

- Screen Time Management: Sets how long your teen can spend on TikTok each day
- Discoverability: Decide on the account being private (you decide who can see their content) or public (anyone can search and view content)

To find out more information about TikTok's Family Pairing feature and to download a helpful poster to share with pupils and parents, go to: <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/tiktok-update-parental-controls-with-family-pairing-feature>

### **Break the Rules Day**

Today we have seen our first ever 'Break the Rules' Day, the children have certainly been very enthusiastic about it! Well done to everyone who has taken part.

### **Christmas Lunch**

We are unable to hold our annual Christmas lunch in the hall. Instead we will be inviting children to bring their Christmas packed lunch on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Children will still be given a Christmas cracker each and as a special treat we will be relaxing the rules around healthy lunches for the day so a treat is perfectly acceptable (please still make sure you observe our 'Nut Free' policy).

## Last Day of Term

Please note that we will finish earlier on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Please see class release times below:

Year	Time	From
Year 1	1.10	Hall
Reception	1.10	Class Fire exit
Year 2	1.15	Hall
Year 6	1.20	Class Fire exit
Year 5	1.20	Class Fire exit
Year 3	1.20	Hall
Year 4	1.25	Hall

## Christmas Cards

Due to limiting contact between bubbles we would ask that Christmas Cards are brought into school by the 14<sup>th</sup> December latest so that cross-class cards can be quarantined before being handed out on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. We will not be able to accept any Christmas cards after the closing date.

## Housepoints

Congratulations to Claydon who have won the free mufti day next Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December!

Chequers	Claydon	Hughenden	Waddesdon
5102	5212	5101	5089

## Letters Sent Home

End of term COVID alerts letter

## Dates for the Diary

Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Claydon mufti-day
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunchbox day
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	School Closes at 13.30pm for Christmas Break
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Spring Term starts normal time

## Class Updates

### Year R – Miss Poole



Christmas arrived in Reception this week. The children were very excited to decorate the class Christmas Tree, hanging the decorations carefully. The next day the children came in to find that Sparkle and Jingle, our class elves, had climbed the tree! The following day the tree had been knocked over and was upside down by a drawer unit! Sparkle and Jingle were trying to hide under it but lots of wide-eyed children spotted them!



We have looked at the Nativity story, linking it in with some of the songs we learned for the Christmas play. Using our imaginations, we even had a visit outside from Santa and also helped him to build a sleigh! We have also been busy writing letters to Father Christmas.



In our maths work we have been looking at vocabulary linked to time. We have thought about different activities and whether we do them in the day or at night. We talked about the days of the week, discussing which our favourite days were and why. Using the language of first and next we have looked at sequencing different events like making a cake and brushing our teeth.

In phonics this week we have used our whiteboards a lot, focussing on our spelling skills of different words using the sounds that we have learned. We have looked at how you can have the same middle and end sound but by changing the initial sound you create a new word.

Pupils of the week are SA for always giving his best and IW always being a friendly member of class

### Year 1 – Mrs Gulliver and Mrs Moore

In year 1 this week, the children have been reading the book the Jolly Christmas Postman and it has inspired some lovely English work. They have written about characters in the book and have been learning to write letters – they have even written a letter to Santa!

In Maths, the children have been revising their learning from this term and have enjoyed an active Maths session, making numbers from 11 to 20 using concrete materials in teams! They have also been continuing to work hard at using the vocabulary of 'greater than', 'less than' and 'equal to' accurately when comparing numbers and number statements.

In Topic this week, year 1 have been continuing their learning about the History of Flight. They enjoyed role playing the reactions of witnesses and newspaper reporters to the Wright brothers' first flight, and wrote some fantastic sentences about Amy Johnson's achievements. In RE, the children have been discussing the gifts that baby Jesus received in the Nativity story and considering what special gifts they would give to him now.

Our preparations for Christmas continue, and the children have been learning Little Donkey for our in school virtual Christmas carol concert. They have been demonstrating beautiful signing, as well as singing, and are looking forward to seeing other classes perform their carols.



Pupils of the week are CB for excellent work in all subjects especially maths and ED for superb maths work all week.

## Year 2 – Miss Jacob



It's been a lovely week in Year 2. In English, we've focused our learning around the book 'The Christmasaurus'. We looked at the description of William and the Christmasaurus and talked about their differences and similarities. We then designed our own creature and explained how it was different. We wrote some excellent fact files and reports on our made-up creatures. We have also completed some comprehension challenges based on the text.



In maths, we have been revisiting addition and subtracting, consolidating methods to add and subtract two-digit numbers, including exchanging a ten. We solved lots of different problems and have started to use the column method, with apparatus.



In science, we went on a material hunt around school and outside. We found lots of natural materials and some man-made materials too. We talked about materials that could be both, like a desk made out of wood or a wall made from stone.

Our topic learning around castles has continued. We looked at some famous castles including Warwick, Windsor, Leeds and Corfe. We talked about which castle had the best protection and why. We thought about which ones we'd like to live in and where we would feel the most safe.

Finally, In RE, we have continued to work on the Christmas story and discussed the meaning behind Christmas.

Pupils of the week are LD for an amazing attitude in all areas and BD for excellent maths work.

## Year 3 – Miss Smith

In Year 3 this week we have been writing persuasive letters to help us battle the fight against single use plastic. We have written some very powerful letters using repetition, rhetorical questions and imperative verbs. We looked at specific pages from 'Out of the Blue' to help us think emotively and write diary entries from the point of view of the vulnerable sea creatures. We've also explored how we can be more eco-friendly around the festive time of year. We decided to make eco-friendly, plastic free decorations from bits collected from the woods. We have made miniature pinecone garlands, recycled cardboard baubles and holly leaf decorations.



We've been working as a team in Year 3 to create our own games to play at break times to keep us warm. We've loved going outside and playing Zing as a whole class. It's been great to see the class adapting other games or creating their own and then proudly explaining how to play them.

Pupils of the week are OS for great vocabulary in a diary entry and IE for superb effort with eco-friendly decorations.



## Year 4 – Miss Gouldstone

This week in English we have been doing some work around The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. We have worked on descriptive writing including action and some poems. I have been immensely impressed with the thought and detail that has gone into children's writing this week.

In maths we have continued to work on multiplication facts and their associated division facts. We enjoyed an active maths session in the hall creating fact families for different numbers.

In topic we looked at the Greek alphabet and wrote our own messages for each other to interpret. In science we played an Escape the lab game and applied what we have learnt in our topic this term to crack the code to escape.



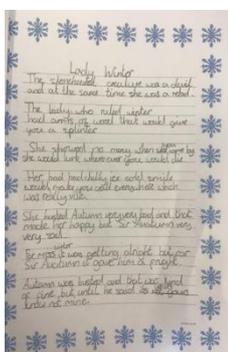
In DT we have been designing sandals, we have researched ancient and modern designs to get ideas for our own. We looked at how they join together and even started to practice our stitching skills.



Pupils of the week are SM for writing a fantastic poem about the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and JI for working hard to create suspense in writing.

## Year 5 – Miss Curl

In English, this week we have continued working on observation poetry. We looked at a poem called 'Sir Autumn' by Grace Nichols. To create powerful imagery, she used personification. We were inspired by her poetry to write our own 'Lady Winter' poems. We worked really hard to produce poems with fantastic images.



In maths, we finished our topic on multiplication and division. We have learnt lots of new vocabulary in maths including integers, composite numbers and factors. Ask us to see if we can remember what they mean.

In computing, we finally finished our websites. Finally, we got to look at each other's websites. You'll find the links on google classroom. In our topic lesson we also got to look at Viking Runes. This was the alphabet that Vikings used to write. We had a go at writing secret messages that we had to decode for each other.

In PE, we held a mini hockey tournament between the houses. We all played really well with all teams winning extra house points. The winning house was... Claydon and Waddesdon. It was tie. Well done to all teams!



In science, we carried out an investigation into thermal insulators. We were asked to design a new lunchbox and find out what material would be best at keeping our lunch cool. We were given ice and we had to choose different materials and work out what material kept the ice solid.

In DT this half term, we have been busy creating prototype boats ready for creating our own Viking Boats. This week we finally got the opportunity to create our own Viking boats. Check out google classroom for photos of our boats!

Pupils of the week are RI for continued commitment to reading at home and EO'D for working hard to improve spellings.

## Year 6

### Mrs Tong and Mrs Cole



This week we have had two WOW days based on our topic of World War 2. This was a huge success, with the children really dressing for the part and taking part in our activities with great enthusiasm. Our English work this week was based on The Christmas Truce. We watched the advert from Sainsbury's that depicted this and discussed how this event would be in people's minds during the Second World War and would fill them with hope. We had a red and green week surrounding this which allowed us to select our own work to complete.



We spent our WOW day Maths looking at lessons that would have been completed during WW2. We had a look at the use of clothing coupons and had to try and re-clothe ourselves and our family based on having 48 coupons throughout the year. We found that this would have been extremely challenging which is why there was such a big focus on Make Do and Mend.

We also looked at food rationing. We worked out how much food we would be able to buy for a family of 4 and how much this would also cost (using pounds, shillings and pence). We looked at the recipes we could make using these rations. In the afternoons we made clay tiles to represent an aspect of the war and to remind us of the soldiers who were fighting. We painted the relief portions of our tiles and they have turned out really well.



We had a chance to cook this week. We each chose a recipe that would have been made during WW2 and followed the recipes ourselves. The spiced biscuits, oaty biscuits, carrot cookies and carrot buns all turned out really well and were enjoyed by the children and their families (when they managed to share!).

### Miss Daly

This week was a very exciting week for Year 6, as we had our WOW days on Monday and Tuesday. It was lovely to see that the children (and parents) had gone to a lot of effort to come dressed as WW2 evacuees: right down to the dirty faces and homemade gas mask boxes. The day began with the whole of the Year 6 in the hall, reciting the school motto and singing the national anthem 'God Save the King'.



In English we watched the Christmas Truce advert, about the real-life events that took place on Christmas Eve and Day in 1914 during the First World War, between the British and German soldiers. and our writing activities for the week were based on this. The children have produced some fantastic descriptive writing; including letters to loved ones, diary entries about the events that took place and created detailed drawings of the characters and designed book covers based on the story. A number of which have received head teacher awards for the efforts.

The maths activities involved clothes and food rationing and calculating what items to buy with the ration coupons in order to cloth a family of four who have lost everything because of the bombing. Children also used their maths skills to weigh out the ingredients to make a number of different ration recipes; including spiced biscuits and carrot buns. All of which tasted pretty good!

All of the children created some small clay war memorials and 'Blitz' inspired art work and enjoyed the new rules that they had to follow in the 1940's classroom, which included standing up for all adults entering the room and making sure they carried their identity cards around with them at all times.

Pupils of the week are TW for excellent work in maths and NH-S for excellent writing and artwork in response to the Christmas Truce.