



# Stoke Mandeville Combined School

*Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together*

*Weekly Update Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January*

## **Hot Chocolate Friday**

Mrs Stewart had her first 'Hot Chocolate Friday' this afternoon with the lucky children who had been selected for demonstrating excellent behaviour this week.

The children were all very excited and enjoyed meeting with Mrs Stewart and their friends in the Meeting Room to enjoy hot chocolate and biscuits.

## **Break the Rules Day**

Thank you to all of our children (and staff!) who chose to 'break the rules' today to raise money for the School Council. Thanks to your 'fines' we have

managed to raise **£233.46** which is a wonderful effort and will go towards new playground equipment for the children.

## **COVID Update**

We currently have positive cases in Years 1, 2 and 5 at SMCS and the classes have been informed of these cases separately by email. Please do continue to carry out LFD (lateral flow device) tests on your children as often as you can. The majority of our children who have tested positive on these have been asymptomatic so please don't wait for symptoms before testing.

For classes where there is a positive Covid case then we would encourage you to test your child with LFD tests for 7 days after you have been informed.

To update you with current guidance, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 now have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a LFD test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education setting immediately on day 6. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#). If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

## **Medical Appointments**

For any children attending medical appointments with a specialist, please can you ensure that you provide the School Office with evidence of the appointment with a doctor or a hospital letter. We are happy to accept phone screenshots if you do not have paper evidence available.

## **River Dart Instalments – Year 6**

For all children who are attending the Year 6 residential trip to the River Dart, please note that instalment payments are now available on School Gateway. The first instalment of £90 is due by 4<sup>th</sup> February. If you



are having any problems with making the payment or would like to discuss the instalments in more detail then please speak to the School Office.

### **Swimming – Year 4**

A letter was sent out earlier this week regarding swimming sessions for this term which commenced on 12<sup>th</sup> January. Please note that we still require a contribution towards the cost of the coach hire which has been set up on School Gateway. We have so far only received payment from 9 parents so if you have any problems with paying the £26 contribution then please contact the School Office.

### **Vacancies**

Our vacancies are now live on the Buckinghamshire Council website. You can click through to this on the About Us/Vacancies page of our [school website](#), or alternatively click on the links below for more information.

[Teaching Assistant BUC04110](#) (Closing date: 4th February. Interview date: 10th February)

[Midday Supervisor BUC04113](#) (Closing date: 8th February. Interview date: 14th February)

### **Snapchat and WhatsApp**

We have been made aware of some unpleasant group chats and intimidating messages being sent on social media apps such as Messenger, WhatsApp and Snapchat in our Year 5 and 6 classes. Please can we remind parents that the legal age for Snapchat is 13 and for WhatsApp this is 16. Please head to the [Handouts/Information](#) section of our website where you can download useful guides from National Online Safety about the dangers of these social media apps.



### **Premier**

We have a new Gymnastics club starting after half term which is being run by one of our sports providers, Premier Inc. This is available free of charge to children in Years 2 to 6 on a first-come first-served basis. Places can be booked directly through Premier Inc at

<https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/869-745713/>

### **Horror Games**

Horror video games come in a such a variety that the genre can hard to define. The overlapping element is that these games are designed to scare or unsettle the player through gameplay, atmosphere, story, music, setting and 'jump scares'. The most common sub-genres are survival horror, action horror, psychological horror, jump-scare horror and reverse horror. These games originate from a range of developers, including smaller indie studios which release download-only titles (that is, they aren't physically sold in shops) and therefore aren't subject to age ratings. Please head to the [Handouts/Information](#) section of our website where you can download a useful guide from National Online Safety with tips on a number of potential risks such as adult themes, psychological horror and violent content.

### **Nurturing Minds Consultancy**

Thank you to those of you who have confirmed their place at our free virtual parent workshop. This online session will offer practical ways you can support your child's emotional wellbeing at home and is being facilitated by Dr Louise Field, Educational Psychologist. For all parents who have emailed the Office to request a place, we have today sent out the Zoom link for this meeting taking place on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January** from **6-7.30pm**. If you have not received this link and have confirmed your place then please email the School Office.

If you would still like to sign up then places are still available at this event. Please send an email to [office@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk) requesting a Zoom link be sent to your email address.

## **Letters Sent Home**

Year 1: Warn and Inform – Covid case

Year 2: Warn and Inform – Covid case

Year 5: Warn and Inform – Covid case

Whole School: Reading Newsletter

Year 4: Swimming

**Dates for the Diary** (these can also be found on our website under ‘Upcoming Events’)

<https://www.stokemandeville.bucks.sch.uk/upcoming-events> (New dates are written in RED)

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	2pm	Parent Forum Meeting
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February		Parents Evening
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February		Parents Evening
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March		World Book Day
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	6-7pm	Year 3 and Year 4 Musical Extravaganza

## **Class Updates**

We know how much you enjoy finding out what the children have been learning in our Weekly Updates. This has been another fun packed week. 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](#)