



Welcome to Foundation at Stowford School

Stowford School has two Foundation classes that work together and have access to the outside as part of their learning environment. Foundation is the first and vital step at the beginning of school, which continues and develops the learning started in nursery and pre-school settings.

INFORMATION, DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND SETTLING INTO SCHOOL:

In the first few weeks of the autumn term, the children will be getting to know their teachers, teaching assistants and peers across the setting. Once settled your child will be allocated to a class, either Wrens Class or Robins Class. For the first few mornings, your child will be able to choose activities in either room when they first come to school in the morning. Once your child is settled, you will then have an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher.

ENTRY INTO SCHOOL - SEPTEMBER 2020:

The children will have a staged entry into school to help them adjust to new routines and new people. Please see the table below for the timings for the first two weeks of school.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Timings</u>
Thursday 3 rd and Friday 4 th September	Morning session 8.45am-12.00 noon
Monday 7 th to Wednesday 9 th September	Morning session plus lunch 8.45am-1.30 pm
Thursday 10 th and Friday 11 th September	All day 8.45am-3.15 pm

UNIFORM:

PLEASE ENSURE ALL UNIFORM IS NAMED.

- Navy sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo - available to order online from School Trends* or to purchase from Lawson's in Ivybridge town centre.
- White polo shirt.
White and blue polo shirts with the school logo are available to order online from School Trends* or to purchase from Lawson's in Ivybridge town centre.
(NB plain blue polo shirts without the school logo are not permitted).
- Grey trousers or shorts for boys.
- Grey skirt or pinafore or trousers for girls.
- Gingham blue and white dress (spring/summer term).



- Black, brown or navy sensible closed-toed shoes. (No trainers or boots.)
- Grey socks for boys.
- Navy, grey or white socks/tights for girls.
- School coats and fleeces are available to order for outside wear.
- See section on PE kit below.

School sweatshirts, cardigans and polos are available to order online from School Trends:

***www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/stowfordschoolpl210bg**

Jewellery is not permitted in school. Hair must be tied back at all times. Children who have pierced ears may wear simple, plain stud earrings only. During PE sessions earrings must be removed or preferably not worn to school on the day of PE

PE KIT:

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL PE KIT IS NAMED.

Indoor PE: Your child will need a white t-shirt, black shorts and white socks.

Children do dance and PE in bare feet but will require trainers for outdoor PE (usually during the summer term).

Many children keep some spare pants in their PE kit just in case.

Physical activity takes place every day with structured PE in several sessions, which could be in the hall, outside or in the classroom - so sometimes children will change, and other times they may just remove socks and shoes.

PE kits should be brought to school at the beginning of term and will be sent home during the holidays.

SCHOOL MEALS:

All children in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) scheme. There is no need to apply for UIFSM. Each day children can choose between a main meal, a vegetarian meal and jacket potato. The majority of children take advantage of this offer and we would strongly encourage your child to do so.

Meals should be ordered online via ParentPay. A menu and instructions for ordering via ParentPay will be issued during your child's first week in school in September.

No chocolates, sweets or nuts are permitted in packed lunches or at break time. We are a nut free school because we have children with severe allergies.

PUPIL PREMIUM (PP):

To apply for Pupil Premium Free School Meals (not UIFSM): Parents and Carers with children in KS1 (Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2) at a Devon school should complete a Free School Meal check online to establish entitlement via the Citizen Portal:

https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCCSCitizenPortal_live

You should apply if you are receiving any of the qualifying benefits listed below and you do not have an existing PP Free School Meal claim (younger siblings are automatically added to existing claims).

Applications should only be made if you believe you meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)



- Income Support (IS)
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA)
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Pupil Premium is additional funding from the government for schools. This additional funding is given to state-funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers.

Any qualifying family that registers their eligibility (based on the Free School Meal criteria) will help raise Pupil Premium money for the school. For 2020/2021, the additional funding will be £1,345 for a primary school, for each registered child. For further information, as to how the funding is used at Stowford School please see the school website.

Please refer to the Devon CC website for more information:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals/new-starter-pupil-premium>

FRUIT SCHEME:

Every day your child will receive a piece of fruit or vegetable at snack time. This supports our healthy school ethos and forms part of a valuable circle time activity developing personal and social skills.

WATER:

Please send your child with a named, transparent water bottle to use during the day. It is important that your child is well hydrated to ensure that learning is at its best. Please note that only water is allowed in class throughout the day, no squash or fruit juice etc. Water bottles can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £1.00.

READING BOOKS AND BOOK BAGS:

In Foundation it is expected that your child reads regularly with you at home. Research has shown that, in addition to helping your child learn to read, this has a huge impact on vocabulary development in these crucial early years. Please ensure that your child has a book bag to transport his or her books to and from school. Please bring the book bag to school everyday. Your child will have a reading record book [Home-School Diary] to accompany their reading book. Please sign the reading record book when you have read with your child at home. Feel free to add any comments about your child's reading. We aim to hear each child read at least twice a week in school. Your child will also bring a book home for you to read to them from the class book corner. Book bags can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £5.00.

Once your child has started school, there may be an opportunity for a meeting for parents to learn about how we teach reading and writing and how you can support your child. The meeting will be arranged in due course.



TOYS:

Children are allowed to bring one small pocket sized toy for break time. Please ensure that this is not a special toy in case it gets broken or lost. Sometimes children bring in things to show that are related to our topic and these remain in the classroom.

TIME KEEPING:

Delivering and collecting at the appropriate times is very important for a young child. The cloakroom doors open at 8.45am so that everyone is settled and ready to start the session at 8.55am. Please bring your child into the Foundation playground and wait for the teachers to collect the children and bring them into school ready for registration. School finishes at 3.15pm. Please collect your child from the gates by the Foundation area. Wrens class leave by the top gate on the decking and Robins class leave by the gate at the top of the steps. Please keep the decking entrance clear. Your child will not leave the decking area until they have seen you and you have been seen by the dismissing adult. As we recognise you, we will become quicker at dismissing the children - please be patient with us as we learn who picks up who! In the first couple of days in September we will dismiss all children from the top of the steps onto the Foundation playground, so please wait where you drop them off.

ILLNESS:

If your child is unwell, please ring the school office before 8.55am on the morning of illness to advise the school of the absence (01752 894163). There is an answer machine for this purpose. You must ring the school every day your child is away poorly. This is important for the safety of the children. If you do not ring, you will be contacted by the school office and if we are unable to contact you, we will instigate further safeguarding procedures. When your child returns to school please send a letter confirming the reason for the absence to the class teacher. This procedure applies throughout your child's time at Stowford School. Please note that where the absence is due to sickness or diarrhoea the school policy states that children must be clear of symptoms for 48 hours before returning to school.

ATTENDANCE:

It is important that children attend school regularly. Holidays during school term time will not be authorised. Any absences that are applied for should be on an S2 Absence Request form (available on the school website or from the school office).

APPOINTMENTS:

Should you wish to discuss any matter with the class teachers, please make an appointment at the office and we will try to see you as soon as possible. The end of the day is a more appropriate time for us.

PARENTS' EVENINGS:

There will be formal opportunities to meet the teachers in the autumn and spring terms at parents' evenings. You will receive a letter advising of the dates and times of the parents' evenings and will then be issued with a time to see the teacher that meets your preference and is coordinated with any sibling appointments. Please enter through the main school entrance for these meetings.



PARENTAL HELP:

Once the children are settled, we would be delighted for any help from parents or grandparents. Please see your child's teacher; parental help is very much appreciated in the classroom. There is an application form for volunteers and disclosure and barring checks are necessary for all volunteers in the class and those helping on visits.

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CLUB:

Additional childcare is available at our before/after school club, Early Birds & Roosters, which is run from the Nursery building. This facility is open from 8.00am-5.30pm and children will be escorted to and from school as part of this service. If you are interested then please look at our website for more details. An application form is enclosed with this booklet.

SCHOOL ROAD:

Please note that the access road to the school is closed daily from 8.30am-9.00am and 3.00pm-3.30pm to eliminate traffic and ensure that children can enter and leave school safely. Parents/carers with disabilities should contact the school office to discuss access arrangements. We ask all parents and carers to park their vehicles with due care and consideration for everyone in our local community.

SCHOOL WEBSITE:

Please visit the school website for further school information www.stowford.devon.sch.uk. Statutory school policies, including details of the complaints procedure, can also be found on the website, under the 'About Us' tab. The website also includes GDPR information for parents and carers as well as Privacy Notices. The website is updated regularly and details of school events are included in the calendar section.

EARLY YEARS NEWSLETTER:

You will receive a newsletter informing you of activities and events happening in Foundation as well as a whole school newsletter on a regular basis. Please ensure we have your email address so that these can be emailed to you. Copies of newsletters are also available on the school website.

Most of all: don't worry about September! If you have any concerns or questions, please speak to any member of the Foundation staff.

We look forward to meeting and getting to know you all.

