

Stowford School News



Welcome back!

9th September 2020 (1)

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our new academic year!

We are now adjusting to our new way of running and much effort has been put into ensuring the school is COVID safe for children, staff and parents.

It is wonderful to see all the children so enthusiastic and happy after so long and lovely to hear the sound of children talking and having fun. They seem genuinely pleased to be back and we are equally pleased to have them.

A special welcome to all the new families who have joined us this year with children in the Foundation Stage or throughout the school; I hope you as parents are finding out all the information you need. If in any doubt, please ask, we are happy to help and the website hosts a great deal of information.

Class Dojo will now be an invaluable source of information and you can contact teachers directly which should help if you have any class related queries during the school week.

Thank you for your co-operation in wearing facemasks at collection and drop off times and following the school guidelines. It does make a difference. Please also remember to exit the playgrounds quickly at drop-off and collection times in order to support social distancing.

As you know, we are currently limiting items brought into school. This means that it will not be possible to distribute sweets/gifts to your child's class for any birthday celebrations.

Clubs: At present, guidelines do not permit us to run our usual range of teacher-led after-school clubs. In addition, at this time of year we would usually be electing House Captains, School Council, Playleaders, Eco Warriors and Sports Council. However, due to the current situation, these groups will not be able to cross bubbles to perform their duties so we will not, for the moment, elect them. These groups will start later in the academic year when possible.

PE and Wild Tribe Information:

A big thank you to everyone for making sure that children are wearing the correct uniform and that they are prepared for the term ahead. Thank you for your support in sending the children into school in their P.E. Kit on their P.E. days (as advised to you all by the class teachers).

A warm coat and wellies are also required on their Wild Tribe days.

Wild Tribe information:

Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 classes have Wild Tribe throughout the year as follows:

Year 1 on Thursdays;

Year 2 on Wednesdays;

Foundation Wrens on Wednesdays;

Foundation Robins on Thursdays.

KS2 classes alternate between Wild Tribe and French as follows:

Wild Tribe/French timetable

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Yr3 Thurs	Wild Tribe	French	French	Wild Tribe	French	Wild Tribe
Yr4 Weds	Wild Tribe	French	French	Wild Tribe	Wild Tribe	French
Yr5 Fri	French	Wild Tribe	French	Wild Tribe	French	Wild Tribe
Yr6 Fri	Wild Tribe	French	French	Wild Tribe	French	Wild Tribe

Book Bags: We would really appreciate it if all children could have book bags. It not only keeps the books clean and tidy but also provides a useful vehicle for letters and slips when young children sometimes find it hard to carry a lot of things at the same time. These can be purchased from the school office for £5. (Plain book bags are available from Lawson's in Ivybridge). Water bottles are also available at the school office for £1. When purchasing, please have the correct money to reduce cash handling in the current climate.

School Website, Policies and GDPR:

The school website is a useful source of information www.stowford.devon.sch.uk for all parents and carers. Statutory school policies, including details of the complaints procedure and GDPR privacy notices, can be found on the website, under the 'About Us' tab. Safeguarding information is also available on the website under its own tab - this provides details of who to contact should you have any safeguarding concerns. The website is updated regularly and details of school events are included in the calendar.

Home School Communication:



Newsletters are sent by email and put on the school website. A paper copy can be collected from the school office. Please could you make sure you keep your records up to date and let the school office know of any changes to email addresses, addresses and mobile phone numbers so we can ensure you receive information from school.

Homework:

Homework will be set on Class Dojo and teachers will use the page alongside the Home School Diary for communication with parents and carers.

Data Collection:

Please note that the school continues to use 'Parent App Lite' to enable parents/carers to ensure all contact details are accurate and up to date. Many of you are already using this system successfully and invitations will be sent out to new parents/carers soon.

School Meals:

Universal Infant Free School Meals continue this year for all children in Foundation, Year 1 and 2 classes. The meals are good quality and we would encourage your child to take up this opportunity. Please do ensure that you speak to the office if you think you may be eligible for **Pupil Premium Free School Meals**. The application process is online via the Citizen Portal:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/supportforschools/services-and-contacts/free-school-meals>

It is worth registering if you are eligible as this attracts considerable extra funding for your child's education, even if your child doesn't actually have a school meal. Please also apply

even if your child is in receipt of UIFSM as the school will still receive additional funding which benefits your child.

For all children, please ensure that you pre-order school lunches via ParentPay.

Attendance/Holidays in Term Time:

As you are aware, due to COVID-19 the Government relaxed the guidelines and rules on attendance from March to the 'end of term' last year.

However, this academic year, all attendance requirements have been reinstated and therefore regular attendance at school is essential to ensure that children catch up, achieve well and have a wealth of experiences across the curriculum. Holidays in term time are strongly discouraged, and you will no doubt be aware that Government directives do not allow for authorisation of holidays during term time. Schools are required to notify the Local Education Authority if a student has unauthorised absences. Should you choose to take your child out of school without the authorisation of the school, then Parental Responsibility Measures, which include the issue of a penalty notice could be instigated (for further information see <https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-attendance>).

Absence due to ill health:

If your child is unwell, please let us know before 8.45am on the day of absence in accordance with safeguarding requirements. A letter should follow confirming the reason for absence when your child returns to school. Please note that you must ring and leave a message every day that your child will not be attending school so that we can ensure all children are safely accounted for. There is an answer machine specifically for absence reporting and callers can leave a telephone message at any time when the school office is not open.

At the end of this letter, we have also attached a useful guide that might help with any questions about absences related to COVID-19.

Home time arrangements:

Please remember that in order to safeguard the children we need to be informed if there is a change to usual home time arrangements by the relevant parent. Please put the information in

writing in a letter or note in the home school diary. Last minute changes can be advised by phone. Children will not be allowed to go with another parent/carer unless we have been informed. We hope you understand that this is in your child's best interests.

Volunteers in school - DBS Checks:

We are keen to have volunteers in school and grateful for the help that parents and carers offer to the school. This is still possible under COVID guidelines. In line with good safeguarding practice, all regular volunteers must undergo an Enhanced DBS check.

Please note that as no volunteers have been in school during the last 3 months due to COVID-19, new checks will be required. Please ask at the school office for more information (tel. 01752 894163).

Governors:

The Local Governing Body (LGB) of Stowford School has a number of Governors whose terms of office are ending in the next few months. We are therefore looking for new Governors to join the LGB. If you would like to become a Governor and be part of the forward journey of Stowford School or perhaps you know someone who would have the time to give to this rewarding and important role, please contact the Clerk to Governors via email:

karen.kingscott@stowford.devon.sch.uk.

Thank you to those parents who have already expressed an interest following the July newsletter, we will be in touch!

School Photos:



The photographer will be here to take school photos on **Monday 12th October**. Please note that this year all photos will be taken individually

in accordance with the current operating practice of Tempest Photographers.

Staff News:

During the summer holidays, Mr Brooke Houghton had an 'out of the blue' amazing career opportunity and therefore resigned from his post as teacher at Stowford School. This was a surprise to us all and we wish Mr Brooke Houghton all the best in his new job.

We therefore welcome a new teacher to the school, Mr Poole, who moves here from Scotland! Mr Poole is the new teacher of Curlews class in Year 4.

Miss McIntosh, Teaching Assistant and Field Gun Leader, also left the school over the summer holidays with the chance to begin a new career. Thanks go to Miss McIntosh for everything she has done whilst at Stowford School, good luck in her new career and our best wishes for the future.

This is a very long newsletter! There are so many things to say. If there is anything that you want to know, any member of staff would be pleased to help and remember our website is a very useful source of information. I am also by the front gate before and after school whenever possible if you want to have a chat.

I am very much looking forward to another year and am proud to be the Headteacher of such a wonderful school.

With very best wishes

Sue Williams
Headteacher





WeST COVID-19 Related Absences Quick Guide

<i>What to do if...</i>	<i>Action needed</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Return to school when...</i>
My child has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not come to school Contact school daily about absence Self-isolate Get a test Inform school immediately about test result 	X	The test comes back negative, if child is well enough to do so. If they remain unwell start using I.
My child tests positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not come to school Contact school daily about absence Self-isolate for at least 10 days Inform school immediately about test result 	I	<p>They have isolated for 10 days and feel well enough.</p> <p>They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.</p>
Somebody in my household has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not come to school Contact school daily about absence Self-isolate Household member to get a test Inform school immediately about test result 	X	The household member test is negative.
Somebody in my household has tested positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not come to school Contact school daily about absence Self-isolate for 14 days 	X	The child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
NHS test and trace have identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not come to school Contact school daily about absence Self-isolate for 14 days 	X	The child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
We/my child travelled and has to self-isolate a part of a period of quarantine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not take unauthorised leave in term time Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel Provide information to school as per attendance policy <p>If returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not come to school Contact school daily about absence Self-isolate for 14 days 	X	The quarantine period of 14 days has been completed
We have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not come to school Contact school as required by the pastoral team Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again 	X	School inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again.

Adapted from: MEA Central Coronavirus related absences quick reference guide – 6th August 2020, (accessed from Twitter Account @MEACGrimes)

Dates for your Diary Autumn 2020

September 2020	
09/09/2020	First homework out
24/09/2020	LGB Meeting
October 2020	
12/10/2020	Individual School/Nursery Photos
22/10/2020	Last day of Half Term
23/10/2020	Non Pupil Day - School Closed
26/10/2020	Half Term Holiday
31/10/2020	Deadline for applications to Secondary School
November 2020	
02/11/2020	Return to School
11/11/2020	Remembrance Day Assembly (in school)
15/11/2020	Primary School applications open
16/11/2020	Anti-Bullying Week
25/11/2020	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening
26/11/2020	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening
28/11/2020	Stowford Friends Christmas Fair?
December 2020	
07/12/2020	KS2 Carol Service Rehearsals - Church
08/12/2020	AM Nursery Christmas
08/12/2020	1.30pm KS2 Carol Service - Church
09/12/2020	Flu Immunisation Programme: F-Yr 6
10/12/2020	AM Yr 1 & Yr 2 Christmas Performance
10/12/2020	PM Foundation Christmas Nativity
10/12/2020	6pm Yr 1 & Yr 2 Christmas Performance
16/12/2020	Christmas Jumper Day/School Christmas Lunch
18/12/2020	Last day of Term
21/12/2020	Christmas Holiday

Please note these dates are intended to provide advance information of events planned throughout the school year. Dates of events are TBC and subject to change or cancellation due to COVID-19.



Dates for Your Diary Spring 2021

January 2021	
04/01/2021	Non Pupil Day - School Closed
05/01/2021	Return to School/1 st day of Spring Term
15/01/2021	Deadline for applications to Primary School
February 2021	
09/02/2021	Safer Internet Day
12/02/2021	Last day of Half Term
15/02/2021	Half Term Holiday
22/02/2021	Return to School
22/02/2021	PM Yr 6 Junior Life Skills
March 2021	
01/03/2021	Secondary School National Offer Day
04/03/2021	World Book Day at school
24/03/2021	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening
25/03/2021	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening
31/03/2021	AM/PM Dance Shows/Parents & Carers invited
April 2021	
01/04/2021	Stowford Friends Easter Egg Competition
01/04/2021	Last day of Term
02/04/2021	Easter Holiday
16/04/2021	Primary School National Offer Day

Dates for Your Diary Summer 2021

April 2021	
19/04/2021	Return to School/1 st Day of Summer Term
May 2021	
01/05/2021	KS1 Test period begins
03/05/2021	May Bank Holiday - School Closed
10/05/2021	KS2 SATS week
28/05/2021	Last day of Half Term
31/05/2021	Half Term Holiday
June 2021	
07/06/2021	Return to School
07/06/2021	Yr 1 Phonics Screening Week
18/06/2021	Stowford Friends Summer Fair
28/06/2021	Yr 5 Bikeability Week
22/06/2021	F/KS1 Sports Day
23/06/2021	Nursery Sports Day
24/06/2021	KS2 Sports Day
July 2021	
06/07/2021	School Transition day
06/07/2021	Yr 6 Transition day at ICC
07/07/2021	F/KS1 Reserve Sports Day
08/07/2021	KS2 Reserve Sports Day
12/07/2021	Reports to parents
14/07/2021	AM Nursery Graduation
14/07/2021	3.30-4.30pm - Report discussion session
15/07/2021	1.45pm & 6pm - Yr 6 production
16/07/2021	Yr 6 visit to Woodlands
19/07/2021	Stowford Friends: Yr 6 Leavers' Disco TBC
20/07/2021	9.30am Yr 6 Leavers' Assembly - Yr 6 parents/carers invited
20/07/2021	Last day of Term
21/07/2021	Non Pupil Day - School Closed
22/07/2021	Summer Holiday