

# Stowford School News

19th October 2020 (2)



Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach half term I am pleased to report that the autumn term at Stowford School has got off to a great start and all classes are working hard. Everyone has adjusted to the new ways of working in accordance with COVID-19 guidance and I am very proud of the attendance we have achieved and the positive attitude of our whole school community.

**P.E. Kit:** Similarly, thank you for ensuring that children attend in smart P.E. kit on the correct days for their class, it is important that the children wear their school sweatshirts and dark plain hoodies/fleeces as these are not mufti days. It makes a huge difference in class and helps us all to concentrate on the really important things in school.

## **Change to P.E. day for Year 3 and Year 6:**

Please note that there is a slight change to the P.E. timetable after the half term holidays. Year 6 will now have P.E. on a Thursday and Year 3 on a Friday.

**School Photos:** Individual school photos were taken on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October.



The children all looked very smart and I'm sure the photos will be lovely. Arrangements will be made separately for photographs for the children in

the Nursery. This year the preferred method for ordering photos is ONLINE please; we cannot process paperwork in the office due to COVID-19. Please therefore order online by 24<sup>th</sup> October if possible. Thank you.

**Health & Safety:** Stowford School was recently selected for a spot-check by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) to inspect our COVID procedures and precautions. We are delighted to advise you that they were very happy with the procedures that are in place at the school.

## **Parents' Evenings, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October:**

Due to COVID-19 parents' evening appointments cannot be held face to face but will be via telephone call from the class teacher, one call per child. Hopefully everyone had been able to make an appointment.

We are in the process of improving our Microsoft Teams facility and hope that Parents' Evenings in March will be via this system.

Please remember that we are always available to answer any concerns you may have. I am at the school gate most days and can also be contacted via the school website contact form or the admin email: [admin@stowford.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stowford.devon.sch.uk).

## **DfE Online Platform Provisioning:**

As mentioned above, we are currently in the process of establishing an improved online platform to facilitate remote learning via Microsoft Teams should it be necessary to close a bubble or the school in connection with COVID-19. The school was successful in bidding for a grant from the DfE to enable this.

**Applications for Secondary School 2021:** This is a reminder to all parents and carers of Year 6 children that the closing date for applications to secondary school is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. The easiest way to apply is online by visiting [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline)

## **Foundation 2020/2021 - Virtual Tour:**

Applications to DCC to start primary school in September 2021 open on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Due to COVID-19 we are currently unable to host visits to the school by prospective parents/carers and children. However, we are pleased to announce that we have produced a virtual tour of the school to showcase all that Stowford School has to offer. The video is pinned to the homepage of the school website: [www.stowford.devon.sch.uk](http://www.stowford.devon.sch.uk); the website is also a complete source of lots of useful information. The virtual tour focuses on the Early Years provision in Nursery and Foundation, describes our key values and gives a view of the classes and lovely grounds. The children are the



stars of the show! Prospective parents/carers are welcome to email [admin@stowford.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stowford.devon.sch.uk) or telephone 01752 894163 at any time with any specific questions they may have about joining Stowford School - educational or practical questions are all welcome!

#### **NHS Flu Immunisation Programme:**

The NHS Flu Immunisation programme is organised by the School-Age Immunisations Team of Virgin Care Services. The scheduled date for the immunisations to take place at Stowford School for all children in Foundation to Year 6 is 9th December 2020 (date allocated by Virgin Care). Please be aware that the school does not organise the programme and all sign up is via Virgin Care; the link to provide the consent was sent out in the summer term and is now closed. If there are any queries regarding the programme, please contact Virgin Care direct: **Telephone: 0300 247 0082.**

#### **A reminder regarding absence notification procedure:**

Children's attendance at school is governed by law and all absences have to be properly recorded and authorised.

**Absence due to ill health:** If your child is unwell please inform the school office by ringing to leave a message on the answer phone for this purpose (01752 894163 Option 1). A message should be left for every day of a child's absence.

Medical appointments should also be notified to the school office in writing.

Please DO NOT message the class teacher via Class Dojo to advise of an absence. There are many reasons for this including that the teacher may not have the chance to relay the message to the office or the teacher may themselves be off sick and unable to relay the information. It is important for safeguarding reasons to ensure all children are safe that there is a central point of contact for absences.

#### **Non-medical absence:**

Any other absence request should be submitted on an S2 Form at least a week prior to the event for which the request is made. The form is available to download on the school website or there are copies at the school office.

#### **Plans for Christmas Celebrations:**

Staff are working on alternative plans for Christmas celebrations as we will be unable to have our usual nativity play and carol concert. Further details will be circulated soon.

#### **Parking:**

If you are dropping off children at Sue Robert's Before and After school club, please could you park with consideration as staff are arriving and trying to park at the same time? Please park in front of the large gates to the Year 5/6 playground while you drop children off in the morning. It would be much appreciated.

#### **School Lunches - no nuts/nut products policy:**

We would like to remind parents and carers to check the contents of lunch boxes for nuts. We have several children who are at risk of having an anaphylactic reaction to nuts even if it is on the breath of another child. Please do not send anything with nut content in a lunch box. Thanks for your help in keeping our children safe.

#### **Staff Vacancies:**

We are currently recruiting. Please see the advert below and also the school website for more information about all current vacancies.

As always please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office if you have any queries or concerns. Whenever possible I will be at the school gate at drop off and collection, so please do not hesitate to have a chat. It is always lovely to speak with parents and carers of Stowford School.

Best wishes  
*Sue Williams*  
Headteacher

P.S. Please remember to wear your face mask when you drop off or collect your child from the school Early Birds and Rooster sessions! Thank you.





## Westcountry Schools Trust STOWFORD SCHOOL



### **Teaching Assistant Post 1: (Fixed Term – Till 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021)**

**SALARY: Grade B 10 hours per week across 5 days, 38 weeks per annum (Term Time)**

### **Teaching Assistant Post 2: (Fixed Term – Till 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021)**

**SALARY: Grade B 29 hours per week, 38 weeks per annum (Term Time)**

This is an exciting opportunity to join the newly created Westcountry Schools Trust, currently employing approximately 1500 staff and growing. We are a dynamic organisation with our students and staff at our heart. Built on an extensive track record of excellence, the Trust combines a range of secondary colleges, primary schools and business units based in a variety of sites across Devon and Cornwall. We are also a stone's throw from some of the best beaches and countryside in the country.

Stowford School is a two-form entry primary school with an onsite nursery. We have a dedicated team of staff who are always seeking to improve both themselves and the outcomes for our children. We are looking for someone to join our team who will demonstrate passion and enthusiasm for achieving both the best for the children in their class and playing their part in our successful staff team on our forward journey.

We are looking for a creative, flexible and proactive Teaching Assistant with a strong knowledge of how to support learning, ideally with experience in Key Stage Two. The successful applicant should be

- able to demonstrate a patient, calm and encouraging approach
- able to build positive relationships with children and staff
- willing to work as part of a team
- willing to work flexibly in the school
- able to support children of all abilities.

Candidates should hold C (level 4) or above at GCSE in Maths and English.

For an informal discussion regarding either role, please contact Sue Williams (Headteacher) Tel. 01752 894163. You can also look at our website to find out more about the school. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 visits to the school in person will not be possible prior to interview.

If you believe you can demonstrate the dedication, skills and passion required to be successful, we look forward to receiving your application. Application forms, full job description and person specification are available from the school website: [www.stowford.devon.sch.uk](http://www.stowford.devon.sch.uk)

Completed applications should be submitted to [headteacher@stowford.devon.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@stowford.devon.sch.uk) by **9am on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020**.

Interviews will be held on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020**.

Start date: as soon as possible from 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

An enhanced DBS disclosure is required for this post.

## Dates for your Diary Autumn 2020

October 2020	
21/10/2020	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening
22/10/2020	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening
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
28/11/2020	Stowford Friends Christmas Fair?
December 2020	
09/12/2020	Flu Immunisation Programme: F-Yr 6
16/12/2020	Christmas Jumper Day/School Christmas Lunch
18/12/2020	Last day of Term
21/12/2020	Christmas Holiday

## Dates for Your Diary Spring 2021

January 2021	
04/01/2021	Non Pupil Day - School Closed
05/01/2021	Return to School/1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Day of Summer Term
May 2021	
01/05/2021	KS1 Test period begins
03/05/2021	May Bank Holiday - School Closed
06/05/2021	Polling Station at Stowford re: Police & Crime Commissioners Election plus Devon County Council Election
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
22/06/2021	F/KS1 Sports Day
23/06/2021	Nursery Sports Day
24/06/2021	KS2 Sports Day
28/06/2021	Yr 5 Bikeability Week
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

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.

