

Stowford School News



December 2020 2nd edition (4)

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, what a strange year it has been! This time last year, as we packed into the church for the annual carol service, who would have ever guessed that the world would look like it looks today. Thank you so much to all our staff, parents and children for being so cheerful, adaptable and flexible as we have had to live by ever changing rules and regulations.

Christmas 'Virtual' Performances:

We were very sorry this year not to have been able to perform our usual Carol Concert in the church and the various nativity plays and craft shares. However, we hope that you have enjoyed all the carols and Christmas songs that have been shared on Class Dojo.

Class Dojo:

Class Dojo is a fantastic platform for sharing events and learning in school. We have also found that it is a fantastic tool for communication between home and school and vice versa. We would ask parents to remember that our teachers work very hard and need their time off too so although you can message any time you wish, teachers do not have to reply after 6pm or at weekends. Remember that information regarding absence and medical appointments must be advised to the office in the first instance and not via Class Dojo.

Selection Boxes for Ivybridge Foodbank:

Ivybridge Foodbank were delighted to receive almost 200 selection boxes so generously donated by parents and carers of Stowford School (see photo on school website). A huge thank you to everyone in our school community for bringing some Christmas cheer to our neighbourhood.

Christmas Jumper Day:

Christmas lunch went smoothly and all the children enjoyed their delicious festive meal eaten in their classrooms with their teachers, accompanied by Christmas music and colouring sheets. Thank you to Stowford Friends for providing the wooden decorations for all the children as an eco-friendly alternative to Christmas crackers. Children came to school in mufti with Christmas jumpers and donations for 'Save the Children' totalled £244.23. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Olympic and Paralympic Values: Seven children from each class have been awarded certificates representing the values: Respect, Excellence, Friendship, Courage, Determination, Equality and Inspiration. Well done to all award winners.

Staffing news:

Farewells: We say goodbye and good luck this Christmas to four members of staff. Firstly, Mrs Vosper, who has been a Teaching Assistant at Stowford School for 12 years. Mrs Vosper has worked tirelessly to support the children and staff of Stowford School. Good luck Mrs Vosper. We will miss you.

Secondly, we say goodbye to one of the great unsung heroes of the school, Mrs Heywood. Mrs Heywood has been cleaning the school for the past 16 years and has seen many changes here over the years. We wish you a happy semi-retirement!!

Thirdly, we say goodbye to Mr Poole who has been part of Stowford's teaching team this term. We wish you well in your new life.

Finally, we also say thank you and goodbye to Ms Thomas, who has worked as a Meal Time Assistant at the school for 7 years.

Our best wishes for the future to all our leavers.

Welcome: we are also pleased to welcome some new members of staff who have recently joined the school or will be joining us in January 2021.

Recent appointments to the teaching team are:

- Miss Burt who will be teaching Curlews class after Christmas and has recently been working with groups for COVID catch up
- Mrs Blair, who is teaching 2 days a week in Foundation to free existing school staff in support of COVID catch up.

In January, we will also welcome:

- Mrs Stuart as a full time teacher who will be working with groups for COVID catch up
- Mrs Warnes who joins the Premises team
- Ms Stewart who will be a Teaching Assistant as part of the Nursery team
- Mrs Webley who will join the Roosters team and Mr Opie will be part of the Early Birds team.

Welcome to all new staff!

Next Term:

As we move into 2021, continuing to work in accordance with Government guidance for schools in relation to COVID-19, we will carry on the temporary adjustments to the start and finish times of the school day that were implemented in November. As a reminder, the times are as shown in the table below:

Year Group	Drop off time	Pick up time
Year 6	8.50 - 9.00 am	3.20pm
Year 5	8.40 - 8.50 am	3.10pm
Year 4	8.50 - 9.00 am	3.20pm
Year 3	8.40 - 8.50 am	3.10pm
Year 2	8.50 - 9.00 am	3.20pm
Year 1	8.40 - 8.50 am	3.10pm
Foundation	No change	No change
Nursery	No change	No change

We will also continue the policy for children to come to school in smart P.E. kits on the days when their class has P.E.

As you know, today (Thursday 17th December 2020) is the final day of the term and tomorrow is a non-pupil day following the DfE directive. We have been told by the Trust that there are no plans to add a replacement day so there are no further changes to the dates for this academic year.

The term dates for 2021-2022 have just been approved and are provided at the end of the newsletter.

And finally, thank you to you all. Your contribution to our school community makes an enormous difference and is always genuinely appreciated. Thank you for all the kind words, complimentary emails, Christmas gifts and cards we have received. On behalf of everyone at Stowford School, may we wish you a wonderful Christmas and all best wishes for your health and happiness in 2021! We look forward to seeing everyone when we return on **Tuesday 5th January 2021**.

Have a fantastic holiday!

Sue Williams

Headteacher

School Crossing Patrol:

Devon County Council are still looking for a crossing patrol person so if any parents, grandparents or school support staff wish to apply, DCC would love to hear from you.

There is more information about working as a crossing patrol person on their webpage:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/safe-travel/road-safety/schools/school-crossing-patrols/>

Stay safe everyone!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY SPRING TERM 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
21/01/2021	Stowford LGB Meeting
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 TBC
March 2021	
01/03/2021	Secondary School National Offer Day
04/03/2021	World Book Day at school
18/03/2021	Stowford LGB Meeting
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 TBC
April 2021	
01/04/2021	Stowford Friends Easter Egg Competition TBC
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 TERM 2021

April 2021	
19/04/2021	Return to School/1 st Day of Summer Term
May 2021	
03/05/2021	May Bank Holiday - School Closed
06/05/2021	Stowford LGB Meeting
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 TBC
22/06/2021	F/KS1 Sports Day
23/06/2021	Nursery Sports Day
24/06/2021	KS2 Sports Day
24/06/2021	Stowford LGB Meeting
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 TBC
14/07/2021	3.30-4.30pm - Report discussion session
15/07/2021	1.45pm & 6pm - Yr 6 production TBC
16/07/2021	Yr 6 visit to Woodlands TBC
19/07/2021	Stowford Friends: Yr 6 Leavers' Disco TBC
20/07/2021	9.30am Yr 6 Leavers' Assembly - Yr 6 parents/carers invited TBC
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



STOWFORD SCHOOL



THE SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022

School Term/Holiday Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2021	SPRING TERM 2022	SUMMER TERM 2022
Monday 6 September & Tuesday 7 September Non-Pupil Days	Tuesday 4 January First day of Term	Monday 25 April First day of Term
Wednesday 8 September First day of Term		Monday 2 May Bank Holiday
To	To	To
Thursday 21 October Last day of Term	Friday 18 February Last day of Term	Friday 27 May Last day of Term
Friday 22 October Non-Pupil Day	HALF TERM HOL (21 - 25 Feb inc)	
HALF TERM HOL (25 - 29 Oct inc)	Monday 28 February Non-Pupil Day	HALF TERM HOL (30 May - 3 June inc)
Monday 1 November First day of Term	Tuesday 1 March First day of Term	Monday 6 June First day of Term
To	To	To
Friday 17 December Last day of Term	Friday 8 April Last day of Term	Friday 22 July Last day of Term
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (20 Dec '21 - 3 Jan 2022 Dec '21 inc)	EASTER HOLIDAY (11 Apr - 22 April inc)	Monday 25 July & Tuesday 26 July Non-Pupil Days
		SUMMER HOLIDAY