

Stowford School News



Welcome back!

17th September 2021 (1)

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our new academic year! It's wonderful to see all the children so enthusiastic and happy. They seem genuinely pleased to be back! We are all so pleased to have a school that is back to affording everyone a bit more freedom, space and no bubbles. 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. 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.
www.stowford.devon.sch.uk

Clubs: Clubs will not start until the Spring Term this academic year. We will let you know the full range of exciting extra-curricular opportunities nearer the time.

ICC Transition for Year 6 Parents & Carers:

There will be a meeting for parents/carers of children in Year 6 at Stowford in the school hall on Tuesday 28th September at 4pm. This meeting is intended for parents/carers to attend without children so that there is an opportunity to ask any questions freely. The meeting will last approximately 45 minutes, depending on the number of questions!

There is also an Open Evening at Ivybridge Community College on Wednesday 29th September at 6.00pm. Parents/Carers and children at Stowford School are invited to attend the ICC evening - if you require more information about this, please contact ICC.

Harvest Festival: There will be a special Harvest Festival assembly for the children in school on Friday 1st



October. During this assembly, we will

be talking to children about how lucky we are to have food, clothing and families to support us,

in addition to thinking about children throughout the world and locally who are less fortunate. **We would be grateful if everyone could send in a donation for our Harvest Table. This year donations can be dropped off in the bike shed in front of the school.**

We will again be giving the donations received to the Ivybridge Foodbank

<https://ivybridge.foodbank.org.uk/>

Thank you for your support.

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 if preferred. 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.

Data Collection:

Please note that the school continues to use the programme '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.

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.

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 Meals:

There is currently a temporary lunch menu in operation, but some additional vegetarian options have been added to the system today. A full menu will recommence from Monday 4th October 2021.

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.

Pupil Premium Free School Meals: Please do ensure that you speak to the office if you think you may be eligible for benefit related 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 and the school.

For all children, please ensure that you pre-order school lunches via ParentPay. Please contact the school office if you require any help with this.

Attendance/Holidays in Term Time:

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.

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.

Supervision before and after school:

Parents are respectfully requested to supervise their children when on school grounds before and after school. Please do not let children climb through gaps in the fence on the Foundation playground; climb on the walls or on the climbing walls. We would appreciate your support in this. Thank you.

PE/Sports:

Earrings: due to the difficulty some children have in removing earrings for PE and the potential loss of earrings once removed we would ask children not to wear earrings on PE days thus avoiding the difficulties. On non-PE days, earrings should be simple studs only.

Football: children love to play football at break and lunch and we want them to have fun and keep fit. Children need to wear shin pads if they wish to play and if they are to be 'goalie' will need to wear gloves to protect their fingers. Children may bring their own (named) if they wish to and school will provide some spares.

Children may also bring balls if they wish but please be aware these, following guidelines, must be size 3 or 4. No one will be allowed to use a size 5 ball.

Wild Tribe: Mrs Kandes will continue to work with classes enhancing the curriculum with outdoor education including willow weaving, wood whittling, fire craft and many other lovely activities linked to class topics. These lessons will take place alongside Miss Kee's PE lessons. In order for the children to participate fully in Wild Tribe, it is imperative that children wear suitable clothing - tracksuit bottoms and fleece/warm top that can be worn over PE shirt and shorts. As Wild Tribe will take place outdoors (but under some cover) the children will also require wellies in a named bag in school as they do for lunchtime play. Your child's teacher will advise you as to when Wild Tribe sessions are for the class.

School Uniform Purchases:

All school sweatshirts, cardigans and polo shirts with the school logo are available to purchase online via the school trends website:
<https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/StowfordSchoolPL210BG>

Orders will be delivered to your home address. School sweatshirts can also be purchased at Lawsons in the village. (There is a small amount of remaining stock available from school). School water bottles (£1) and book bags (£5) can still be purchased at the school office - please bring the correct money if you wish to purchase items to reduce cash handling in the office. Thank you.

Volunteers in school:

We are keen to have volunteers in school and grateful for the help that parents and carers offer to the school. In line with good safeguarding practice, all regular volunteers must undergo an Enhanced DBS check; details of the DBS checks are recorded on the school's Single Central Record (SCR). Volunteers will also have an interview with Mrs Williams to make them aware of safeguarding procedures and guidance.

School Photos:

The Tempest photographer will be here to take school photos on **Friday 8th October 2021**. Children will be photographed individually again this year, as this has proved a popular and successful system. If you are not resident with your child and require an order form for your child's photo, please request this via the admin email: admin@stowford.devon.sch.uk



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 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

Flu Immunisations:

This year children will again be offered a free flu vaccination in school and the immunisation team will shortly be sending communication via the school with regard to consent for this. The immunisations will take place on Monday 1st November at Stowford School.

However, there are some children that due to an underlying medical condition are at increased risk from the flu virus - if you believe that your child is in this category and you would like the opportunity to book them into an earlier community clinic, please contact the single point of access (SPA) on 0300 247 0082 or email vcl.immunisations@nhs.net.

School Age Immunisations Team
Virgin Care Services Limited

Dates for Your Diary Autumn 2021

September 2021	
13/09/2021	Y5 Space Dome (school hall)
13/09/2021	Year 6 go to Beam House
15/09/2021	3.20pm Yr 1/2/3 'Meet the Teacher'
16/09/2021	3.30pm Yr 4/5 'Meet the Teacher'
17/09/2021	Y6 Return from Beam House
20/09/2021	Letters out re Clubs
22/09/2021	Y4 Dartmoor Walk
23/09/2021	Governance Day inc LGB Meeting
27/09/2021	Y6 Evolution Dome (school hall)
28/09/2021	4pm Y6 parents/carers - ICC transition meeting - Stowford school hall
29/09/2021	6pm Year 6 Open Evening at ICC
30/09/2021	Y2 Visit to Plymouth Marine Aquarium
October 2021	
04/10/2021	Clubs start this week
05/10/2021	3.30pm Y3/4 Mixed Tag Rugby Festival (ICC) TBC
07/10/2021	7pm Stowford Friends AGM
08/10/2021	Individual School Photos
11/10/2021	World Mental Health Day Assembly
12/10/2021	3.30pm Y5/6 Boys Football Festival (ICC) TBC
15/10/2021	AM KS2 French Breakfast Cafe
19/10/2021	3.30pm Y3/4/5/6 Girls Festival (ICC) TBC
21/10/2021	Last day of Term
22/10/2021	Non Pupil Day - School Closed
25/10/2021	Half Term Holiday
31/10/2021	Deadline for applications to Secondary School
November 2021	
01/11/2021	Return to School
01/11/2021	Flu Immunisations
11/11/2021	Remembrance Day Assembly (in school)
12/11/2021	Children in Need
15/11/2021	Primary School applications open
15/11/2021	Last week of clubs
24/11/2021	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening
25/11/2021	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening
27/11/2021	Stowford Friends Christmas Fair TBC
December 2021	
06/12/2021	KS2 Carol Service Rehearsal - Church all day TBC
06/12/2021	KS1 to watch Carol Service Rehearsal PM TBC
07/12/2021	Nursery Christmas TBC
07/12/2021	1.30pm KS2 Carol Service - Church TBC
07/12/2021	6pm KS2 Carol Service - Church TBC
08/12/2021	6pm KS2 Carol Service - Church TBC
09/12/2021	AM Y1/2 Christmas production TBC
09/12/2021	PM Foundation Nativity TBC
09/12/2021	6pm Y1/2 Christmas production TBC
15/12/2021	Christmas Jumper Day
15/12/2021	School Christmas Lunch
16/12/2021	Last day of Term
17/12/2021	Christmas Holiday

Dates for Your Diary Spring 2022

January 2022	
04/01/2022	1 st day of Spring Term - Return to School
10/01/2022	Letters out re Clubs
15/01/2022	Deadline for applications to Primary School
17/01/2022	Clubs start this week
February 2022	
08/02/2022	Safer Internet Day
18/02/2022	Last day of Term
21/02/2022	Half Term Holiday
28/02/2022	Non Pupil Day - School Closed
March 2022	
01/03/2022	Return to School
01/03/2022	Secondary School National Offer Day
03/03/2022	World Book Day at school
07/03/2022	Devonport Swimming Gala TBC
14/03/2022	Last week of clubs
23/03/2022	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening
24/03/2022	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening
April 2022	
05/04/2022	Class and Team Photos
07/04/2022	AM/PM Dance Shows Parents/Carers invited
08/04/2022	Stowford Friends Easter Egg Competition TBC
08/04/2022	Last day of Term
11/04/2022	Easter Holiday
16/04/2022	Primary School National Offer Day



Please note these dates are intended to provide advance information and give you an idea of the events throughout the school year. Dates may be subject to change.

Dates for Your Diary Summer 2022

25/04/2022	1 st Day of Summer Term Return to School
May 2022	
02/05/2022	May Bank holiday
03/05/2022	KS1 Test period begins
03/05/2022	Club letters out
09/05/2022	KS2 SATS week
09/05/2022	Clubs start
23/05/2022	Y4 Forest Expedition
24/05/2022	Y4 Forest Expedition
25/05/2022	Y4 Forest Expedition
27/05/2022	Last day of Term
30/05/2022	Half Term Holiday
June 2022	
06/06/2022	Return to School
06/06/2022	Yr 1 Phonics Screening Week Y4 Multiplication Assessment period
21/06/2022	F/KS1 Sports Day
22/06/2022	Nursery Sports Day
23/06/2022	KS2 Sports Day
24/06/2021	Last week for Clubs
July 2022	
06/07/2022	F/KS1 Reserve Sports Day
04/07/2022	Yr 5 Bikeability Week
05/07/2022	School Transition day TBC Yr 6 Transition at ICC TBC
07/07/2022	KS2 Reserve Sports Day
11/07/2022	Reports to parents
13/07/2022	AM Nursery Graduation TBC
13/07/2022	3.30-4.30pm - Report discussion session
14/07/2022	1.45pm & 6pm - Yr 6 production TBC
15/07/2022	Yr 6 visit to Woodlands TBC
21/07/2022	Stowford Friends - Yr 6 Leavers' Disco 7-8.15pm TBC
22/07/2022	9.30am Yr 6 Leavers' Assembly - Yr 6 parents/carers invited
22/07/2022	Last day of Term
25/07/2022	Non Pupil Day - School Closed
26/07/2022	Non Pupil Day - School Closed
27/07/2022	Summer Holiday

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Community Notices

Train to Teach | Get into Teaching Event

Thursday 7 October 2021 | 1700 to 1900 | West Exe School, Exeter

Are you thinking about a career in teaching? Or do you know someone who is thinking about training to be a teacher?

If you have a passion for your subject and you are passionate about inspiring children and young people of the future, we would like to invite you to join us at our [free](#) Train to Teach information event to find out more about teacher training.

You will be able to meet and chat with **Primary and Secondary Teacher Training Providers from across our region**, including Universities, School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT's) and School Direct colleagues and ask questions and get advice about the best teaching training programme to suit you.

But firstly, you can find out more on our Teacher Training events website page [here](#) and in the attached information flyer.

Follow us on Twitter for further updates and news at [@ColytonTsh](#) | [@KingsbridgeTsh](#) | [@SouthWestIFT](#)

We look forward to meeting you and guiding you on your teacher training journey.

Best wishes for this new school year,
SWIFT ITT Team



www.sw-ift.org.uk | [@KingsbridgeTsh](#) | [@SouthWestIFT](#) | #2591 (Kingsbridge Community College)

Ivybridge Theatre Company

"Out of work and lonely, the characters from pantomime are desperate to return to the stage...but they can't! They're trapped in Pantoland! They need that special Pantomime Magic to bring them to life but first they must all work together. If they are to succeed they will also need some very special children for the audience - children willing to step back to a world of bad jokes, ridiculous costumes, laughter and noise to save pantomime forever!"

Watch some of your favourite Panto characters: Buttons, Cinderella, Dick Whittington, Dame Trott, Daisy the Cow and many more, as they perform some of their most memorable moments in this 'Mini Panto'. This interactive Family Show - 'Adventures in Pantoland', performed by Ivybridge Theatre Company, is on at The Watermark October 16th & 17th at 2pm & 4pm (performance running time approx 60mins)

Tickets on sale from 20th Sept.

Tickets: £3.50 Children, £4.00 Adult, £12.00 Family (2 A + 2 C)



South Hams Community and Voluntary Service are offering a free, six week mindful art course in Ivybridge. It runs on Thursdays, 2.30pm – 4pm @The Beacon Room, The Watermark. Six consecutive weeks starting Thursday 23rd September.

For all the details please see <https://devonrlc.co.uk/courses/doodle-your-recovery-3/>