

Stowford School News



September 2023 (1)

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to welcome everyone as we begin our new academic year. 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.

Stowford School Ofsted Report June 2023:

I was very pleased to share with you the Ofsted Report from the school inspection in June 2023. I really hope that you have had chance to have a look. It is testament to a very hard working and caring team who put the children at the forefront of everything we do.

School Buildings and RAAC:

I trust that everyone received the email regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and that this has served as reassurance. There is a copy of the email on the website in case you missed it.

Clubs:

Information regarding extra-curricular clubs will be issued on Monday 18th September. The sign-up deadline for clubs is Wednesday 20th, and acceptance slips will be sent home with the children on Friday 22nd. Clubs will commence week commencing 25th.

I hope you will agree there are lots of lovely activities available across this academic year for the children to enjoy.

Thank you to all the staff who give their time to provide children with enrichment opportunities.

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 Monday 18th September at 4.00pm. 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 are also Open Evenings at Ivybridge Community College on Wednesday 27th September and Tuesday 3rd October at 5.30pm. If you require more information about these Open Evenings, please contact ICC on 01752 691000.

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 13th November at Stowford School.

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 Lawsons in Ivybridge). Water bottles are also available at the school office for £1. Cash payment is required for these items and the correct money preferred as change is not always available in the school office.

School Meals:

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) continue this year for children in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2. Children in Year 3 and above must pay for school meals. The cost of school meals has increased to £2.53 (in line with DfE pricing) and all meals should be pre-ordered via ParentPay please. The existing Devon Norse Menu continues until the October half-term holiday.

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: [Citizen Portal - Sign in \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/citizen-portal). It is worth registering if you are eligible as this attracts considerable extra funding for your child's education, even if your child does not 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:

Please see the School Attendance Policy for detailed information and guidance.

Regular attendance at school is essential to ensure that children 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, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Requests for absence should be submitted on an S2 form, available from the school office or to download on the website.

Where a request is not authorised this does not prevent you from taking your child out of school, but schools are required to notify the Local Education Authority if a student has unauthorised absences. If your child has unauthorised absences from school, this could result in a school absence penalty notice being issued. 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 the school office 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. Telephone: 01752 894163. **Please do not advise absence via ClassDojo.**

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.

PE/Sports:

Earrings: due to the difficulty that some children have in removing earrings for PE, and the potential loss of earrings once removed, we would request that children do not wear earrings on PE days. We would greatly appreciate your support with this as children can become upset when asked to remove their own earrings if this is something they are not used to doing. 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.

Following guidelines, balls must be size 3 or 4; no one will be allowed to use a size 5 ball. To support this, school will supply appropriate balls. Please do not bring balls from home.

Wild Tribe:

Wild Tribe (outdoor education) will continue this year, but there are some changes to the method of delivery and the timetable for this subject.

Foundation - Wild Tribe will be part of the continuous provision on a daily basis. Both Mrs Lamerton and Mrs Hill are qualified practitioners.

Year 1 - Wild Tribe will be led by Mrs Tickner and will be weekly. Parents will be notified of the start date in due course.

Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 - Miss Kee will teach a unit of Wild Tribe in the second half of the summer term based on fire skills. In addition to this, each year group will have a full Wild Tribe day in the autumn term and in the first half of the summer term. This full day will provide the opportunity for total immersion in the Wild Tribe experience. Dates for these will be shared with parents nearer the time.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE FOR Y2.

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. The children will also require wellies; these should be in a named bag in school as they are also required for lunchtime play.

Reading:

Congratulations to the 84 Stowford children who completed the Ivybridge Reading Challenge! This is a lot of reading!! The librarians have spoken very highly of the children so well done to you all!

Accelerated Reader:

This year, children who are reading books from the Accelerated Reader (AR) scheme will be able to choose from a wider band of books.

Children will complete their Star Reader tests at the start of every half term. This will give them a range, e.g., 2.3 -3.3. Children can read any book within that range and will be quizzed on it once finished.

Please do let your child's teacher know if there are any issues with AR books.

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. Items with a school logo can also be purchased at Lawsons in the village.

There is also a clothes rail of pre-loved, donated uniform located in the school reception stocked with good-quality items available to purchase for a small donation to Stowford Friends PTA.

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.

Volunteers in school:

We are keen to have volunteers in school and grateful for the help that parents and carers offer. Volunteers are asked to complete an application form and will have an appointment with Mrs Williams to make them aware of safeguarding procedures and guidance and agree an area in which to volunteer. 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).

School Photos:



The Tempest photographer will be here to take school photos on **Friday 6th October 2024**. This year the photos will be taken with siblings together, but if you would prefer your children photographed individually please send this request to the office in writing or to the admin email address in advance. 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

Harvest Festival:



There will be a special Harvest Festival assembly for the children in school on **Friday 20th 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 school hall. We will again be giving the donations received to the Ivybridge Foodbank <https://ivybridge.foodbank.org.uk/>
Thank you for your support.

On behalf of the residents of Dunsterville Road:

We request that parents park respectfully when dropping off and picking up children from the Dunsterville Road entrance. The garages at the end of the road are private property and the residents would appreciate it greatly if access could be left clear at all times. Thank you.

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.

House Captains 2023/2024:

These will be decided when the children return from Beam House and names will be shared after that.

School Councils 2023-2024

Children will soon be elected/appointed to our school councils. The school councils are made up of one representative from each KS2 class. The children who make up each council will be from Year 3 upwards. List of councilors to be advised.

Staff Updates:

I am delighted to share with you the news that Mrs Marks has had her baby. Harry Marks was born on Sunday and mother and baby are doing well.

This term Swifts class will be taught by Mr Tim Wills while Mr Nute is absent from school. We welcome Mr Wills and send Mr Nute our best wishes.

We welcome Mrs Claire Godley back as a Meal Time Assistant. And our congratulations to Mrs Sue Russ, formerly Miss Saunders, who got married during the summer holidays.

And finally, 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

Dates for Your Diary Autumn 2023

September 2023	
11/09/2023	Y6 go to Beam House (PM)
11-13/09/2023	Foundation Parents- individual information meetings from 1.45pm-4.00pm
13/09/2023	3.20pm Y1/2/3 'Meet the Teacher'
14/09/2023	3.30pm Y4/5 'Meet the Teacher'
15/09/2023	Y6 return from Beam House (PM)
18/09/2023	Clubs letters out
18/09/2023	4pm Y6 parents/carers - ICC transition meeting - Stowford school hall
20/09/2023	3.30pm ROOSTERS CLOSED due to staff safeguarding training
20/09/2023	7pm Stowford Friends AGM
21/09/2023	Y5 swimming - session 1 of 10
25/09/2023	Clubs start this week
26/09/2023	Y1 visit to Ivybridge Village
27/09/2023	5.30pm Year 6 Open Evening at ICC
29/09/2023	Y5 trip to the Moors
October 2023	
03/10/2023	5.30pm Year 6 Open Evening at ICC
06/10/2023	Individual School Photos
10/10/2023	Mental Health Awareness Day
16/10/2023	NO CLUBS THIS WEEK
17/10/2023	3.30-6pm Kestrel's Parents' Evening (1 of 2)
18/10/2023	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening for all classes
19/10/2023	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening (NOT Kestrels)
20/10/2023	Harvest Festival Assembly - Food Bank
20/10/2023	Last day of Term
23/10/2023	Half Term Holiday
	High 5 Holiday Camp
30/10/2023	Non Pupil Day - School Closed
31/10/2023	Deadline for applications to Secondary School
31/10/2023	Return to School
November 2023	
10/11/2023	Remembrance Day Assembly (in school)
13/11/2023	Assessment Week
13/11/2023	Flu Immunisations
15/11/2023	Primary School applications open
17/11/2023	Children in Need
30/11/2023	Y5 swimming - final session
25/11/2023	Stowford Friends Christmas Fair TBC
27/11/2023	Last week of clubs
December 2023	
08/12/2023	AM KS2 to watch KS1 Christmas production rehearsal
11/12/2023	KS2 Carol Service Rehearsal - Church AM
12/12/2023	AM Nursery Christmas
12/12/2023	1.30pm KS2 Carol Service
12/12/2023	6.00pm KS2 Carol Service
13/12/2023	Christmas Jumper Day
13/12/2023	Christmas Lunch
14/12/2023	AM KS1 Christmas production
14/12/2023	PM Foundation Nativity
14/12/2023	6.00pm KS1 Christmas production
19/12/2023	Last day of Term
20/12/2023	Christmas Holiday

Dates for Your Diary Spring 2024

January 2024	
03/01/2024	1 st day of Spring Term - Return to School
08/01/2024	Letters out re Clubs
15/01/2024	Deadline for applications to Primary School
15/01/2024	Clubs start this week
February 2024	
05/02/2024	NO CLUBS THIS WEEK
06/02/2024	Safer Internet Day
07/02/2024	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening
08/02/2024	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening
09/02/2024	Last day of Term
12/02/2024	Half Term Holiday
19/02/2024	Non Pupil Day - School Closed
20/02/2024	Return to School
26/02/2024	Y5 Bikeability Week
March 2024	
01/03/2024	Secondary School National Offer Day
05/03/2024	Y5 Space Dome
07/03/2024	World Book Day at school
08/03/2024	Red Nose Day TBC
11/03/2024	Assessment Week
18/03/2024	Last week of clubs
28/03/2024	Stowford Friends Easter Egg Competition TBC
28/03/2024	Last day of Term
29/03/2024	Easter Holiday



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 2024

April 2024	
15/04/2024	1 st Day of Summer Term Return to School
16/04/2024	Primary School National Offer Day
18/04/2024	Y4 swimming - session 1 of 10
18/04/2024	ICC Presentation at Stowford for Y5 parents/carers
22/04/2024	Clubs letters out
29/04/2024	Clubs start
May 2024	
06/05/2024	May Bank Holiday - school closed
07/05/2024	Class and Team Photos
07/05/2024	AM Nursery Individual Photos
13/05/2024	KS2 SATS week
24/05/2024	Last day of Term
27/05/2024	Half Term Holiday
June 2024	
03/06/2024	Return to School
03/06/2024	Y4 Multiplication Assessment 3 week period commences
10/06/2024	Y1 Phonics Screening Week
11/06/2024	Y6 Evolution Dome
17/06/2024	Assessment Week
17/06/2024	4.00pm New Intake Meeting for September
21/06/2024	Stowford Friends Summer Fair TBC
24/06/2024	Last week of Clubs
25/06/2024	AM KS1 Sports Day
26/06/2024	AM Nursery Sports Day
27/06/2024	Y4 swimming - final session
27/06/2024	Brickfields Athletics Event
28/06/2024	AM KS2 Sports Day
July 2024	
08/07/2024	Annual Reports home
10/07/2024	Opportunity for parents to discuss Reports
10/07/2024	AM Nursery Graduation
11/07/2024	1.45pm Y6 Production
11/07/2024	6.00pm Y6 Production
19/07/2024	9.30am Y6 Leavers' Assembly - Y6 parents/carers invited
19/07/2024	Last day of Term
22/07/2024	Non Pupil Day - School Closed
23/07/2024	Non Pupil Day - School Closed
24/07/2024	Summer Holiday

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.



Stowford Friends AGM
Wednesday 20th September 2023
Come along and join the in the fun!

Cost of living Help and guidance



Are you worried about the rising cost of energy bills, food and transport?

You are not alone, the cost of living crisis is affecting many of us.

You may want help accessing grants and debt advice, support getting all the money you are entitled to, or simply want to know more about the government's recent support measures. South Hams District Council want to reach out to residents to make sure you are aware of support available.

Household Support Fund

This will be available from April 2023 to provide short-term financial support to help meet the needs of those struggling to afford food, energy, water bills and other related essentials.

Applications can be made online.

In addition, our partners will issue food vouchers to families of children who receive free school meals so they can buy food through the school holidays. Keep an eye on our website for more information.

www.southhams.gov.uk/household-support-fund

South Hams Support Directory

An online support directory has been created to provide information on a wide range of support available from within the Council and our external partners.

www.southhams.gov.uk/support-directory

If you need any more information from the Council, then reach out to us through our 'Contact Us' page which will direct you to the information you are looking for.

www.southhams.gov.uk/contact-us

Free School Meals

Many people are not aware their children qualify for a free school meal. Check using this website – you do not need to tell the school yourself.

www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals

Your child will receive a nutritious two course meal each day.

School holidays can put increased pressure on finances but there are ways in which you can be supported through subsidised or free holiday clubs.

www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/family-support/haf-programme/information-for-parents

Healthy Start Card

If you are 10 weeks pregnant or more, have a child under four years old, or you or your family get certain benefits, you may be able to qualify for a Healthy Start card. The card has money on it to be used in shops to buy:

- plain liquid cow's milk;
 - fresh, frozen, and tinned fruit and vegetables;
 - fresh, dried, and tinned pulses; and
 - infant formula milk based on cow's milk.
- You can also get free vitamins.

See online to find out more and for ways to apply.

www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply

Food Support

The cost of living crisis has made it much more difficult for many people to afford food. If this is something you are experiencing, the Council have collated a list of food hubs on their website.

www.southhams.gov.uk/foodbanks

There is also support for your animals -

www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/costofliving/foodbank



Energy



Income



Home



Wellbeing

Struggling with your rent?



Try one of these two free benefit calculators to find out if you're eligible to claim Universal Credit, if you are working age.

www.turn2us.org.uk and www.entitledto.co.uk

If you are receiving Housing Benefit, or the Housing element of Universal Credit, and are struggling to meet the shortfall in your rent, or you have rent arrears, then our Discretionary Housing Payment Fund may be able to help. Visit the website to see what other help is available.

www.southhams.gov.uk/DHP

Help with your Council Tax Bill

Council Tax Reduction is a scheme to help people on a low income pay their Council Tax by reducing the amount they must pay. Check to see if you would qualify and to make a claim.

www.southhams.gov.uk/council-tax-reduction

For those already receiving Council Tax Reduction and still struggling to pay their Council Tax, further help may be available through our Exceptional Hardship Fund.

www.southhams.gov.uk/hardship-fund

In addition to Council Tax Reduction there may be exemptions or discounts available to you which could reduce the amount of Council Tax you have to pay. There is also information on how to view your account online, set up a direct debit and what to do if you need to report a change in your circumstances.

www.southhams.gov.uk/counciltax

Cost of Living Payments 2023-2024



The government has announced further Cost of Living Payments will be made between spring 2023 and spring 2024.

You can find more information here:

www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment#cost-of-living-payments-2023-to-2024

Energy Efficiency



Did you know you can refer to South Dartmoor Community energy for energy efficient advice and support?

They can support with free boiler repairs, grants to help you through a crisis, and how to access funds to improve your homes.

www.sdce.org.uk

Warm Spaces

The District Council are working with the local community and a partnership of voluntary and community sector organisations to support a network of warm spaces. These spaces will be available for people to use and visit during the winter period. They are free or low-cost options for people to use during the day if they are struggling with the cost of heating their home.

www.southhams.gov.uk/warm-spaces

Your Mental Wellbeing

The important thing is:

If you are struggling, ask for help – do not suffer in silence

The sooner you ask for help, the sooner you start solving the problem. You are not alone.

If you are concerned about your mental health or wellbeing, help and support is available:

TALKWORKS – www.talkworks.dpt.nhs.uk

SHOUT – text SHOUT to 85258 (free from most networks)



South Hams
District Council

www.southhams.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help



PRICES
FROM **£35** PER DAY
PRICE INCLUDES ALL EXTRA ACTIVITIES

SPOOKTACULAR
OCTOBER HALF TERM 2023
@STOWFORD SCHOOL
MONDAY 23RD - FRIDAY 27TH

This half term come and join us for an action packed week of sports, activity, art and fun. In celebration of **Halloween** we have a **Creepy Halloween** theme.

Weekly Themed Arts & Crafts; **HALLOWEEN**

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