

Stowford School News

December 2023 (3)



Dear Parents and Carers

Christmas Performances:

It was lovely to see so many parents and carers at the school Christmas performances and all the children sang and performed magnificently. During the past two weeks, we have held three church services, two KS1 performances of 'The Magical Christmas Jigsaw', Foundation's production of 'The First Christmas' and a nursery 'Stay and Play' morning. All the events have been very successful and many thanks to all involved. I feel both proud and privileged to be the Headteacher of such a wonderful school. Every child, whether they are 3 years old or 11 years old, tried their best and all have been so impressive during the past week. However, this does not happen by accident and I am also proud to work with such a committed, skilled and caring team of staff. Thank you to everyone who makes this a wonderful school community.

Christmas Fair:

What a fantastic event the fair was this year. Many thanks to the Stowford Friends for organising the event and thanks to all who were involved in any way; whether it was organising the fair, running stalls, donating items or turning up on the day and spending money! Please see the Friends news item below to find out the amazing total raised by the Fair and their other fundraising activities this term. I would like to thank the new committee for all their hard work and enthusiastic support of Stowford School.

Parents' Evenings:

The Parents' Evenings at the end of last half term were well attended. I hope everyone found the meetings useful. The next Parents' Evenings take place on 7th and 8th February 2024. Please remember that if there is anything that worries you or you would like to discuss a matter at any time, you don't have to wait for Parents' Evening. All staff are happy to make time for you to address any concerns or answer your queries, and I am available to talk to at the school gate as regularly as possible.

Sporting Events:

Thank you to all the children who have represented Stowford School in sporting events this term, notably the girls' football matches at Callington and the Year 5/6 netball team at the tournament at ICC on 5th December 2023. Well done everyone!

Admission to Foundation Stage September 2024:

Children born between 1/9/2019 and 31/8/2020 are due to start school next September. You can apply online at [Citizen Portal - Sign in \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/citizen-portal). Applications opened on 15th November 2023 and will close at midnight on 15th January 2024. If you cannot access the school admissions website, you can get more information by calling the Education Helpline on: 0345 155 1019 or email: admissions@devon.gov.uk.

Even if you have a child already at the school or in the nursery, you must apply for a place through the Admissions system. If you have a child who will start school in September 2024 and would like to come and look around, please contact the school office who will be happy to arrange this with you (Tel: 01752 894163). The Devon Schools Admission Service makes offers of places on Tuesday 16th April 2024.

Public Consultation: Devon School Admission Arrangements 2024-2025:

A DCC public consultation is now open inviting you to review the proposed admission arrangements for state-funded and some academy schools in Devon for the academic year 2025-26. To view the policies, please visit www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements. The consultation ends on 5th January 2024.

Attendance:

Attendance continues to be a focus for Stowford School and the weekly class competition explained in the last newsletter is proving very popular with the children. Our current school attendance figure for school age children is 96% but the school target is 97%. The main factor reducing the school figures is unauthorised holidays. Attached with this newsletter is a reminder letter to advise all parents of the law regarding attendance at school. This letter serves as a formal warning, which is part of the legal process when absences are unauthorised. Sadly, we are aware of some cases where the school has been advised that an absence is due to ill health when in fact the absence has been due to a holiday. Where the school is aware of dishonesty it is possible for such absences to be unauthorised and referred to Devon for legal proceedings.

Vision Screening for pupils in Foundation:

A member of the Orthoptics team from Plymouth Royal Eye Infirmary will be visiting the school on **Monday 8th January 2024** to conduct vision screening. Parents/carers will already have received letters regarding this in order to give permission or opt out.

Staff News:

Miss Luggar, class teacher of Finches, commenced maternity leave at the beginning of December and we wish her well and look forward to hearing news of baby's arrival in due course.

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to Mr Page who is leaving us to return to Milton Keynes and his former school, taking with him our good wishes for the future.

We recently said farewell to Mrs Michelle Harper (Administrative Assistant) who has left us for a new job opportunity and we wish her all the very best for the future.

In January, we will welcome some new faces to the team. Mrs Jen Chester will replace Mr Page as Swallows class teacher and Mrs Stacey White will join the admin team.

Thank you for your charitable contributions!

Thank you for all your charitable contributions this term. Thank you again for all the donations for Harvest festival that were donated onwards to Ivybridge Foodbank. Thank you for the donations to the British Legion Poppy Appeal which totalled £373.98 and to Children in Need when the children all enjoyed their cakes and 'shakes and raised an impressive £740.49. Thank you everyone for your support for these charities.

Christmas Jumper Day:

Christmas lunch went well on Wednesday and all the children enjoyed their lunches accompanied by Christmas crackers, music and much jollity. Thank you to the school cook and team for a delicious Christmas dinner.

The children came to school wearing their own clothes with a Christmas jumper or festive accessories in aid of 'Save the Children'. Donations for the charity totalled £135.42. Thank you again for your generosity.

Santa Dash:



Thank you to Miss Kee and the Sports Council for organising the Santa Dash on Wednesday!
Great fun for all!

Christmas Tree:

Stowford School would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to Mr and Mrs Howell of Lukesland Farm for donating the fabulous Christmas tree standing in the hall. It looks beautiful, especially with the new lights. We are immensely grateful to the Howells for their generosity to the school year on year.



We also thank the company Arborcure for their donation of a lovely tree for the school foyer and we are grateful to them too for their generosity.

And finally, this newsletter seems to be filled with "Thank You" messages! Your contribution to our school community makes an enormous difference and is always genuinely appreciated. On behalf of everyone, may we wish you a wonderful Christmas and all best wishes for your health and happiness in 2024. We look forward to seeing everyone when we return on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

Have a fantastic holiday!

Sue Williams
Headteacher



Defibrillator:

I am very pleased to let you know that the defibrillator installed at the school is now in service. Unfortunately, the previous box was faulty so a brand new replacement has now been installed. The defibrillator is by the front door of the school so that it is accessible to the wider community in case a need arises.

Devon Free School Meals Vouchers have been issued to families with children who are in receipt of benefit related free school meals.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) code letters have also been provided. Please click here for more details of the activities available:

[Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

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 \(devon.gov.uk\)](#).

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. Furthermore, this will entitle you to the holiday meals vouchers and activities as outlined above.

The Writing Instruments Recycling Programme



The Writing Instruments Recycling Programme



yes

- ✓ Ballpoint, gel and fountain pens
- ✓ Mechanical pencils
- ✓ Refills and cartridges
- ✓ Correction instruments (bottles, tapes and pens)
- ✓ Highlighters
- ✓ Felt tips, whiteboard and permanent markers

All brands accepted

no

- ✗ Glue sticks
- ✗ Rubbers
- ✗ Rulers
- ✗ Graphite and colouring pencils
- ✗ Sharp objects

When in doubt, leave it out.

Learn more at [terracycle.com/bic-uk](https://www.terracycle.com/bic-uk) or scan QR code



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Stowford School is a BIC® Community Champion (drop off location) to recycle used writing instruments. Using the scheme at TerraCycle, here at Stowford we can collect and recycle writing instruments helping to protect the environment from harmful plastic. Please feel free to drop off any of the writing instruments on the list to the reception area at Stowford School where there is a collection box.

The list:

- Ballpoint, gel and fountain pens
 - Mechanical pencils
 - Refills and cartridges
 - Correction instruments (bottles, tapes and pens)
 - Highlighters
 - Felt tips, whiteboard and permanent markers
- All brands accepted**

It would be lovely if you could support us in this adventure helping to protect the environment and raising money for charity.



Stowford Friends:

Wow, we can't believe that it is nearly the end of term already; it seems like only a couple of weeks ago that we held our AGM and appointed a new committee. It has been an interesting and hardworking few months. Your new committee has managed to undertake several events; we held our first cake sale for years 5 and 6 that raised a total of £388.27 for them to spend on items for their year.

December has been a busy month so far with Cauliflower Cards, our Christmas Fair on 2nd December and wreath making on 7th December. Both of these were well supported and we want to say a big thank you to everyone who volunteered or attended at either event. We are pleased to announce that the Christmas Fair raised a fantastic £2,042.91. The wreath making evening raised £501.50 and finally Cauliflower Cards raised £462.

What a fantastic achievement for our first term. We are however, keen to improve on this and will be holding our next committee meeting on 24th January 2024 at 7.00 pm. Please feel free to join us to ensure you all have an active voice.

We will use our January meeting to explore what events to hold in the spring term, further information will be circulated soon.

Thank you for supporting us but please feel free to play a more active role and join as a volunteer. Also just a reminder that we are still looking for class reps. These roles purely help us to share information with parents of specific classes so if you are happy to add info to your class WhatsApp group then please let us know. We can be contacted via email: Friends@stowford.devon.sch.uk

We hope you have a fantastic Christmas break. Merry Christmas!

Sarah, Katie, Emma, Kirsty and the rest of the Stowford Friends

COMMUNITY NOTICES

A festive poster for a Christmas camp. The background is light blue with white snowflakes and green pine branches. At the top, there are various sports balls (soccer, baseball, tennis, basketball) and Christmas ornaments. The main title 'HIGH 5 CHRISTMAS CRACKER CAMP' is in large, bold, white and yellow letters with a blue outline. Below it, the dates '20TH - 22ND DECEMBER 2023' and location '@STOWFORD SCHOOL' are in similar bold fonts. A green banner in the top right corner says 'PRICES FROM £35 PER DAY' and 'PRICE INCLUDES ALL ACTIVITIES'. Below the dates, there's a paragraph: 'This December come and join us for an action packed few days of sports, activity, art and fun. In celebration of Christmas we have a cracker of a theme!'. Underneath that, it says 'Arts & Crafts Weekly Theme; Crimbo Crafts'. At the bottom, there's a call to action 'BOOK NOW @' followed by the website 'www.high5sportscamps.co.uk'. There are also social media icons for TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram, and a small award badge on the left that says 'AWARDED BEST IN SOUTH WEST CHILDRENS ACTIVITY PROVIDERS 2023'.

Stowford Xmas Camp 2023

Join us for our festive 3-day Christmas Cracker Camps happening from December 20th to 22nd. Hurry, as spots are filling up fast!

Having been honoured as the Best Children's Activity Company in the South West this year, our High 5 camps in Plymouth and Devon are geared to provide your children with an exceptional holiday experience.

We've got everything your child needs to kick off their holidays with excitement and embrace the festive spirit. This might even give you a chance for some child-free time to tackle those last-minute gifts and wrapping!

This year, your child can revel in up to 3 fantastic days featuring:

- A Yeti Snowball Attack Dodgeball tournament
- A (almost) Ice Hockey Tournament
- High-quality tennis or football coaching Masterclasses
- PLUS an opportunity to showcase their talents in our Christmas Cracker Talent Show

And, of course, no camp would be complete without an epic Christmas dance routine for everyone to learn. If that wasn't enough, we'll include as many different sports as possible while still making room for daily Christmas Crafts or team challenges for our older campers who may not be as enthusiastic about the crafts.

Don't miss out—secure your spot today by using the quick booking link below!

<https://campscui.active.com/orgs/High5SportsCamps?season=341693>

COMMUNITY NOTICES

BOUNCY FUN IN WARM SPACES

NO BOOKING REQUIRED

Brought to you in partnership with **TQ9: Together We Care Programme**

All donations will go to the 'TQ9: Together We Care' programme organised by Caring Town Totnes. Funded by the Paige Adams Trust.

Sessions available between 1pm - 4pm on:
 Monday 18th to Friday 22nd and
 Wednesday 27th to Friday 29th December

The sessions are on a pay-what-you-can basis (free if that is what you can afford). A collection tin will be on the reception desk and 100% of all donations will support the programme.

- No need to book but limited capacity.
- The sessions are parent supervised.
- The sessions are for families with children up to the age of 8.
- Sessions are in the Sports Hall at Totnes Leisure Centre.

What's available at the centre:

- Bouncy castle
- Soft play
- Music
- Warm space
- Seating area
- Tea and coffee, plus fruit for the kids
- Free wifi and charging points

Totnes Leisure Centre
 Borough Park Road
 Totnes TQ9 5XW
 01803 862992

Plymouth Science CHRISTMAS CAMPS 2023

FREE for children who are eligible for Free School Meals* or
 £22 per day (bring your own lunch)
 £25 per day (Lunch provided)

Venue: St Peters Primary School, Brentford Ave, Plymouth PL5 4HD
Dates: Wed 20th-Fri 22nd Dec
 Thurs 28th-Fri 29th Dec
Timings: 9am-3pm
Age: 6-11 years

SCAN TO BOOK

EACH DAY WILL HAVE IT'S OWN UNIQUE THEME. SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE...

- FOREST SCHOOLS
- CRACKERS
- CHRISTMAS COOKING
- MAKING SNOW
- STAINED GLASS
- FESTIVE EXPERIMENTS

THE FULL EVENT CALENDAR CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PLYMOUTHSCIENCECIC.CO.UK - PLEASE NOTE ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

To book your place visit our website and click on the poster or scan the QR code above
 For any questions, please email us (bookings cannot be done via email).
 Web: www.plymouthsciencecic.co.uk Email: plymouthscienceeam@gmail.com
 Tel: 01933 052506 (only during camp dates)

* Eligibility for free places is for children who receive Free School Meals. This DOES NOT include children in Foundation/Key Stage 1 who receive Universal Free School Meals. If you are unsure of your status, enquire with your school office. Eligibility will be checked by Plymouth City Council, and full payment will need to be made for sessions if your child is ineligible for Free School Meals. Terms and Conditions apply.

WHERE GETTING IT WRONG IS TOTALLY ALRIGHT.

THIS GIRL CAN CLASSES

Your Local Class Details:

Next 8 week course starts on
 Mon 8th January
 7.45-8.45pm
 at Quayside Leisure Centre,
 Kingsbridge, TQ7 1HH

£16 for the course or £2.50 a week Pay As You Go.
 To book call 01548 857100 or visit www.fusion-lifestyle.com

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LIVE PREMIER LEAGUE BASKETBALL

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT PLYMOUTH-CITY-PATRIOTS.COM

BRITISH BASKETBALL LEAGUE PREMIER

Dates for Your Diary Spring 2024

January 2024	
03/01/2024	1 st day of Spring Term - Return to School
08/01/2024	AM Foundation - Orthoptist visit for visual screening
08/01/2024	Letters out re Spring Clubs
15/01/2024	Deadline for applications to Primary School
15/01/2024	Spring Clubs start this week
18/01/2024	Stowford Friends' Years 3-4 Cake Sale
24/01/2024	7pm Stowford Friends AGM
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
26/09/2024	Y5 Bikeability Week
March 2024	
01/03/2024	Secondary School National Offer Day
01/03/2024	Stowford Friends' Quiz Night (adults)
05/03/2024	Y5 Space Dome
06/03/2024	Y5 (AM) & Y2 (PM) - Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue visit
07/03/2024	World Book Day at school
11/03/2024	Assessment Week
15/03/2024	Red Nose Day
18/03/2024	Last week of Spring 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.



Safeguarding:

Should you need any help or advice about safeguarding matters over the summer remember the telephone number for MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) is:
0345 155 1071

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	Summer Clubs letters out to parents
25/04/2024	Stowford Friends' Years 1-2 Cake Sale
29/04/2024	Summer 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
24/06/2024	Last week of Summer Clubs
25/06/2024	AM KS1 Sports Day
26/06/2024	AM Nursery Sports Day
27/06/2024	Y4 swimming - final session
28/06/2024	AM KS2 Sports Day
July 2024	
02/07/2024	AM Reserve Nursery Sports Day
03/07/2024	AM Reserve KS1 Sports Day
04/07/2024	AM Reserve KS2 Sports Day
08/07/2024	Annual Reports home
10/07/2024	AM Nursery Graduation
10/07/2024	Parent's 'drop-in' to discuss Reports after school
11/07/2024	1.45pm Y6 Production
11/07/2024	Stowford Friends' Foundation Cake Sale
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