

Stowford School News

March 2024 (5)



Dear Parents and Carers

Another busy term is drawing to a close as we approach the Easter holidays. There have been lots of opportunities for our community to come together - in supporting charities with donations and participation in fundraising events for Stowford Friends; and in attending class and year group events such as the Year 4 Music Project, the Siskins class song share for parents and the Kestrels class sharing their song and their work on P-Bones this term. Thank you for your continued support as parents and carers of Stowford School.

World Book Day:

On Thursday 7th March, the children (and staff) all enjoyed coming to school and nursery dressed as their favourite Roald Dahl characters as well as other characters from books or as a word on Thursday 7th March. The Roald Dahl themed activities were a hit and a great day was had by all. There were so many amazing and inventive costumes too - thank you everyone for your support. I hope the children found a lovely book to buy with their token.

Comic Relief Day (Friday 15th March):

There was also more fun on Red Nose Day when the children had the chance to come to school in red mufti and take part in a competition to design a red nose. Congratulations to the inventive winners! The total raised for the charity was: **£465.03**. Wow!

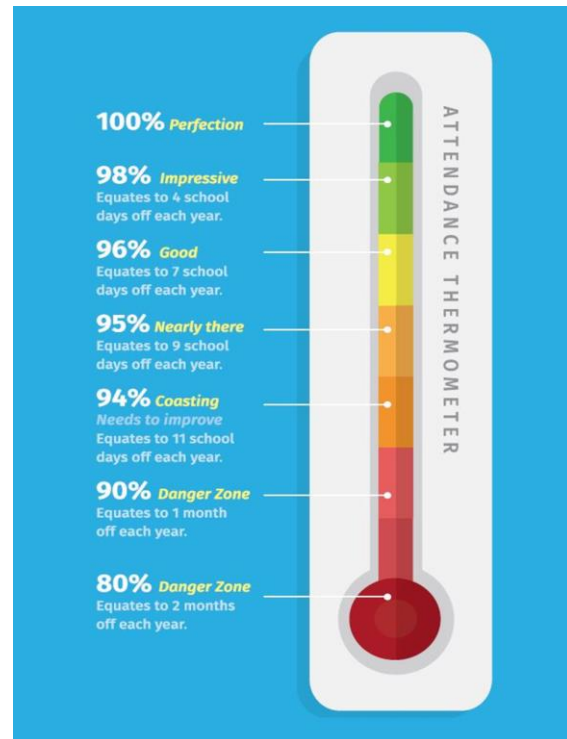
A Celebration of Dance:



Children in classes from Foundation to Year 5, together with the Year 5/6 Dance Club took part in a celebration of their PE work by performing their dances in the school hall last week. There was also a display from the gymnasts, Maddie and Phoebe. The performances were all amazing. Well done to the children and to Miss Kee for all their hard work. I know everyone who was able to attend thoroughly enjoyed the shows.

Parents/carers of children in Year 6 also had the opportunity on Wednesday to see the incredible gymnastic and apparatus work the children have undertaken this term.

Attendance:



As you are aware, Westcountry Schools Trust and Stowford School are keen to promote and support good attendance in school, in line with the Department for Education guidance document: 'Working together to improve school attendance'. The attendance target for pupils at Stowford School is 96%.

Schools are required to make parents/carers aware of their child's attendance, particularly when there is a drop in attendance, and schools must offer support to enable children to attend. Letters are regularly issued in order to keep parents/carers informed and to offer help if this would be of benefit.

At Stowford School attendance is often affected by holidays in term time. A reminder that holidays cannot be authorised unless for truly exceptional circumstances. Where unauthorised holidays are taken, this can lead to a penalty notice issued by Devon county Council.

Our whole school attendance figure is currently 95.7%.

Pupil Premium Free School Meals:

Please do speak to the office if you think that you may be eligible for benefit-related free school meals – or apply online via the Citizen Portal:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/supportforschools/service-s-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 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.

Free School Meal vouchers to cover the Easter holidays and HAF codes have been issued to our eligible families.

Easter Egg Competition:

What a bumper amount of entries there were this year. The number of fabulous entries and incredible designs were absolutely amazing! The entries were all brilliant making the job of judging 'eggstremely' difficult!

Well done to all the winners:

Nursery: 'Alien Eggs' - Noah
Foundation: 'Embroidered Egg' - Gabriela (Wrens)
Year 1: 'Easter Bonnet' - Mia T (Siskins)
Year 2: 'Just Hatched' - Joslyn (Sparrows)
Year 3: 'Egg Rally Harriers' - Lila (Swallows)
Year 4: 'Easter Bonnet' - Eva (Puffins)
Year 5: 'Egglympics 2024' - Rosie (Kestrels)
Year 6: 'Dinosaurs Roaming' - Izzy (Eagles)
Family: 'The Egg Tree' - Deer Family

Thanks to Stowford Friends for organising the competition and providing the eggs as prizes.

And finally, may I wish you a lovely Easter holiday.
Children return to school on Monday 15th April 2024.

Best wishes
Sue Williams
Headteacher

Sporting News

Athletics:

Well done to all the athletes in the school athletics squad who took part in the WeST Indoor Athletics Competitions at Ivybridge Community College recently. Two teams were entered in the Year 3/4 and in the Year 5/6 competitions. The outcome was that Stowford are champions in both age groups and also achieved third place out of 11 teams at Year 3/4 and third place out of 9 teams at Year 5/6. The children all did brilliantly and were excellent representatives of Stowford School. Well done everyone!

South West Schools Acrobatics Competition:

A huge well done to Maddison and Phoebe who recently competed in the Southwest Schools Acrobatics Competition in Honiton as representatives of Stowford School. Maddison and Phoebe competed in the under 11s Girls Pair category and came first! This means the girls qualify for the National Finals in Stoke on Trent in April. Good luck!





Stowford Friends

Easter is upon us and the year seems to be rapidly moving. It has again been an interesting and busy time since

Christmas, with several developments and events taking place.

We have now set up our PTA-Events page which enables us to manage events online and accept electronic payments. We are also looking into the possibility of card payments at fairs etc going forward. If you haven't already then please register with PTA-Events:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stowfordfriends/>

The Stowford Friends Quiz Night was held on 1st March 2024 and was again, well attended. It was an enjoyable, fun evening and raised **£485.13**. Thank you to those that participated.

World book day was held on 7th March 2024 and in celebration of this we held a golden ticket event. Laila successfully designed the wrapper for our Stowford Chocolate Bar and 26 golden tickets were hidden across 500 chocolate bars. This again was fantastically supported with KS2 prizes sponsored by JC Painting and Decorating. A grand total of **£443.86** was raised.



Prizes sponsored by JC Painting and Decorating
www.jcpaintingsouthwest.co.uk

We hope you have all enjoyed the annual Easter egg/bonnet competition and thank you to all who participated.

The summer fair is our next big event and a planning meeting will be held on 24th April 2024 at 7pm. This will be a virtual meeting and all will be welcome. A meeting link will be circulated after the Easter holidays.

Watch out for dates for future meetings and events, which will be circulated via Class Dojo and our Facebook page.

Finally, we continue to look for additional support. The PTA is currently made up of full-time working mums, so we totally understand the busy juggle it can be to fit in everything. We adopt the 'more hands less work' ethos and really appreciate anything you can do to offer your time. There are a variety of ways you can help, please see details below:

There are 4 types of volunteers for Stowford Friends

Committee Member - You would like to be part of the committee; this involves attending the committee meetings that happen 3-6 times a year generally in the evening/ can be on TEAMS. It's no problem if **you can only attend 1 or 2**. You will be added to the WhatsApp group to help give ideas for fundraising and make decisions about how the committee spend the money raised. You are instrumental in the organisation of some of the events/activities the PTA offer but only required to help as and when you can.

Volunteer - You will be added to the volunteer list and help out on an event or two (events that involve the children you can bring your kids along to help out too if needed - they love running a stall!) the more volunteers we have the less time you need to help (1 hr slots) for an event. There is no set commitment just help out when you can, and you will be happy to be delegated admin work to do in front of the TV the odd night throughout the year.

Admin Volunteer - This is where you can't attend meetings or help at events due to childcare or work commitments, but you would be happy to help with jobs at home, making things, wrapping, leaflets, packing and sticking or you have a skill in something (like financial for example) and would be happy to look over the accounts once a year or offer a workshop.

Class Rep – You will liaise via the playground and/or solely on social media (FB page) or WhatsApp any notifications about events and be a direct contact between PTA and parents. You may also gain feedback to help decide events and ideas on how to spend the money.

The more parents we can get to help out the less we all have to do and the more money we can raise to improve the facilities and environment our children have at school.

We hope you have a fantastic Easter break.

Sarah, Katie, Emma, Kirsty and all of Stowford Friends 😊

Dates for Your Diary Spring 2024

28/03/2024	Last day of Term
29/03/2024	Easter Holiday

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
16/04/2024	Foundation Visit to NMA
18/04/2024	Y4 swimming - session 1 of 10
22/04/2024	Summer Clubs letters out to parents
22/04/2024	World Earth Day!
24/04/2024	7pm Stowford Friends Meeting
25/04/2024	Stowford Friends' Y1 & Y2 Cake Sale
29/04/2024	Summer Clubs start
29/04/2024	Y5 Mossy Project
30/04/2024	Y2 Sparrows visit to Smeaton's Tower
May 2024	
02/05/2024	Y2 Finches visit to Smeaton's Tower
06/05/2024	May Bank Holiday
07/05/2024	Class and Team Photos
07/05/2024	AM Nursery Individual Photos
13/05/2024	KS2 SATS Week
16/05/2024	Girls U8 & U11 Football Festival
22/05/2024	F & Y6 Heights & Weights - Public Health Team
23/05/2024	1.00-3.00pm KS1 Multi Skills Event
24/05/2024	Last day of Term
27/05/2024	Half Term Holiday

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

Dates may be subject to change.



Dates for Your Diary Summer 2024

June 2024	
03/06/2024	Return to School
03/06/2024	Y4 Multiplication Tables Check: 3-Week period commences
10/06/2024	Y1 Phonics Screening Week
11/06/2024	Y6 Evolution Dome
14/06/2024	Y6 Junior Ten Tors
17/06/2024	Y1-Y5 Assessment Week
17/06/2024	4pm New Intake Meeting for September
17/06/2024	Y4 Spirit of Adventure - Puffins go
18/06/2024	Y4 Spirit of Adventure - Puffins back/Curlews go
20/06/2024	Y4 Spirit of Adventure - Curlews back
20/06/2024	KS2 WeST Watersports Day
21/06/2024	Stowford Friends Summer Fair
21/06/2024	Reserve JTT
24/06/2024	Last week of Summer Clubs
25/06/2024	AM F/KS1 Sports Day
26/06/2024	AM Nursery Sports Day
27/06/2024	10.00am-2.30pm Brickfields (WeST Event)
27/06/2024	Y4 Swimming - final session
28/06/2024	AM KS2 Sports Day
July 2024	
01/07/2024	1.30pm-2.30pm New Intake session 1
02/07/2024	AM Nursery Reserve Sports Day
02/07/2024	3.20pm Stowford School Art Gallery
03/07/2024	F/KS1 Reserve Sports Day
04/07/2024	Y6 to ICC (Y7 transition day)
04/07/2024	School transition morning
04/07/2024	9.30am - 11.30am New Intake Session 2
05/07/2024	KS2 Reserve Sports Day
08/07/2024	Annual Reports home
10/07/2024	AM Nursery Graduation TBC
10/07/2024	Report discussion drop-in after school
11/07/2024	1.45pm & 6.00pm Y6 Production TBC
11/07/2024	Stowford Friends' Foundation Cake Sale
12/07/2024	Y6 visit to Woodlands TBC
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

Easter Camp 2024 with High 5

This season, we're embarking on an exhilarating journey to the Australian Jungle with our "I'm a High 5 Camper, Get Me Out of Here!" themed camps, set to captivate your young explorers over two adventure-filled weeks.

Our camps are designed to immerse children in a thrilling jungle-themed environment, where they'll engage in an array of rainforest-themed games and enjoy their all-time favourite sports.

By earning stars for their tribes, campers will foster teamwork and camaraderie. The agenda is brimming with child-friendly Bush Tucker challenges, encouraging campers to embrace courage, conquer fears, and bolster self-confidence through playful yet challenging activities.

Excitement abounds with the chance to win Golden Stars, Dingo Dollars, and Jungle Prizes. And fear not, our critter-inspired snacks (optional alongside wholesome packed lunches) ensure that adventure comes with a taste of the wild!

Building on last year's success, we're excited to reintroduce our Celebrity Cyclone Total Wipeout Course, challenging campers with exhilarating, splash-filled obstacles. Our diverse activities across all locations include bushcraft, bug tasting, Aussie shoe golf, team zorb wars, the thrilling new two-lane slip 'n' slide, nerf ninjas, soft archery, frisbee golf, and jungle jamming sessions with funky beats.

In partnership with the exceptional team at Elephant Counselling, we remain committed to nurturing your children's mental and physical well-being, ensuring a supportive and enriching camp experience.

Prepare for an Epic Easter with High 5! Given the overwhelming popularity and limited availability, we encourage early bookings to secure your spot in this unforgettable adventure.

Quick booking link: <https://campscai.active.com/orgs/High5SportsCamps?season=3464243>

Community Notices



Ivybridge Community College Community Sport

Easter Holiday Activities 2024

Tuesday, 2 April — Friday, 12 April

Fun-filled Easter holidays led by our DBS checked and sports specialist staff running many different activities including swimming, arts and craft, Easter egg hunts and lots of sport! Please refer to our Holiday Activity Booklet for further information.



Price/Timings:

Long Day (8.00am – 5.00pm) £33
Full Day (9.00am – 3.00pm) £27
Half Day (11.00am – 3.00pm) £17

Where:

Ivybridge Community College,
Harford Road,
PL21 0JA
(Swimming at
Ivybridge Leisure Centre)

Contact us: to book, receive further information or for any questions
email: comsport@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk or call: 01752 698315



KIDS HOLIDAY CAMPS

**Easter, May & Summer Camps**

**South Devon Tennis Centre**
Ivybridge, PL21 9ES
01752 893700

**£26 per day
8:30–18:00
£16 for 2 hours of
TENNIS ONLY CAMP**

THE ACTIVITIES
Dodgeball, Tennis,
Games, Frisbee,
Arts & Crafts, Kwik
Cricket & lots more!

AGES 5–12

BOOK NOW!

www.southdevontenniscentre.co.uk
info@sdtennis.co.uk



Multi Activity HOLIDAY CAMP

MONDAY 8
- FRIDAY
12 APRIL

SCAN TO BOOK:



AGES 5 - 12
8:15AM - 5:15PM
£35 PER DAY
10% OFF WEEK

BOOK ONLINE: SPORTYSTARS.CO.UK

**RECRUITING
NOW**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you a mum, dad, grandparent or carer?

We need people with your experience to volunteer

- ♦ Make a difference to the lives of parents and children
- ♦ Enhance your well-being
- ♦ Access free, high quality training

Find out more:

<http://homestart-southandwestdevon.org.uk/>

HOMESTART
South &
West Devon