



Welcome to Stowford School



Information about starting school in September 2025



Welcome to Foundation at Stowford School

Stowford School has two Foundation classes that work together and have access to the outside as part of their learning environment. Foundation is the first and vital step at the beginning of school, which continues and develops the learning started in nursery and pre-school settings.

INFORMATION, DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND SETTLING INTO SCHOOL:

In the first few weeks of the autumn term, the children will be getting to know their teachers, teaching assistants and peers across the setting. Once settled your child will be allocated to a class, either Wrens Class or Robins Class. For the first few mornings, your child will be able to choose activities in either room when they first come to school in the morning. Once your child is settled, you will then have an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher.

ENTRY INTO SCHOOL - SEPTEMBER 2025

The children will have a staged entry into school to help them adjust to new routines and new people. Please see the table below for the timings for the first two weeks of school.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Timings</u>
Friday 5 th September, Monday 8 th September and Tuesday 9 th September	Morning session 8.45 am - 12.00 noon
Wednesday 10 th September, Thursday 11 th September and Friday 12 th September	Morning session plus lunch 8.45 am - 1.30 pm
From Monday 15 th September onwards	All day 8.45 am - 3.15 pm

UNIFORM

PLEASE ENSURE ALL UNIFORM IS NAMED.

- Navy sweatshirt or cardigan (with or without embroidered school logo)
- Plain white (with or without embroidered school logo)
- Grey trousers or shorts
- Grey skirt or pinafore
- Gingham blue and white dress (summer term)
- Plain grey or black socks (not over the knee) or plain grey or black tights
- Plain black closed-toed shoes (no trainers or boots)
- Any coat
- Book Bag (with* or without school logo)
- Clear water bottle (with* or without school logo)
*available from School Office
- See section on PE kit below.

School polo shirts, sweatshirts and cardigans are available to order online from School Trends: <https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/StowfordSchoolPL210BG>

Sweatshirts and cardigans can also be purchased from Lawsons in Ivybridge.

Preloved uniform items are available in the school foyer for a donation to 'Stowford Friends'.



PE KIT

PLEASE ENSURE ALL PE KIT IS NAMED.

Indoor PE: Your child will need a white t-shirt (with or without embroidered school logo), black or navy shorts and white socks.

Children do dance and PE in bare feet but will require trainers for outdoor PE (usually during the summer term).

Physical activity takes place every day with structured PE in several sessions, which could be in the hall, outside or in the classroom.

Children wear PE kits to school on their class PE days; you will be informed of the class PE days when the children start in September.

(In Foundation, many children keep some spare pants in their book bag, just in case).

Please note: Extreme hairstyles are not permitted. Hair must be tied back at all times if it is long enough to do so; hair accessories, such as ponytail bands, should be small and in black or blue only. Children who have pierced ears may wear simple, plain stud earrings only. Jewellery is not permitted in school. During PE sessions, earrings must be removed or preferably not worn to school on the day of PE.

WILD TRIBE

Once settled, Robins and Wrens will take part in a Wild Tribe day, our outdoor learning programme once every half term. For this, they will need to wear a long sleeved top and long tracksuit bottoms and keep a pair of named wellies in a named carrier bag in school. More details about this will be provided to you when the days have been confirmed.

SCHOOL MEALS

All children in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) scheme. There is no need to apply for UIFSM. Each day children can choose between a main meal, a vegetarian meal and jacket potato. The majority of children take advantage of this offer and we would strongly encourage your child to do so.

Meals should be ordered online. Instructions for ordering online will be issued during your child's first week in school in September.

No chocolates, sweets or nuts are permitted in packed lunches or at break time. We are a nut free school because we have children with severe allergies.

Please see the separate information leaflet re Pupil Premium funding linked to Free School Meals (linked to eligible benefits criteria). Please ensure you apply if you qualify as this provides extra funding to the school.

FRUIT SCHEME

Every day your child will receive a piece of fruit or vegetable at snack time. This supports our healthy school ethos and forms part of a valuable circle time activity developing personal and social skills.

WATER

Please send your child with a named, transparent water bottle to use during the day. It is important that your child is well hydrated to ensure that learning is at its best. Water is the preferred option, but children can bring flavoured water or sugar free squash but not fizzy drinks. Water bottles can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £1.00.



TOYS

Children are allowed to bring one small pocket sized toy for break time. Please ensure that this is not a special toy in case it gets broken or lost. Sometimes children bring in things to show that are related to our topic and these remain in the classroom.

READING BOOKS AND BOOK BAGS

In Foundation, it is expected that your child reads regularly with you at home. Research has shown that, in addition to helping your child learn to read, this has a huge impact on vocabulary development in these crucial early years. Please ensure that your child has a book bag to transport his or her books to and from school. Please bring the book bag to school every day. Your child will have a reading record book [Home-School Diary] to accompany their reading book. Please sign the reading record book when you have read with your child at home. Feel free to add any comments about your child's reading. We aim to hear each child read at least twice a week in school. Your child will also bring a book home for you to read to them from the class book corner. Book bags can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £6.50.

Once your child has started school, there will be an opportunity for a meeting for parents to learn about how we teach reading and writing and how you can support your child. The date of the meeting will be advised in due course.

CLASSDOJO (www.classdojo.com)

Once your child has started school, you will receive an invitation to join the ClassDojo page from your child's class teacher. ClassDojo is an online platform for sharing information. There is a public class platform where all parents of the class can see posts and a private messaging facility, which is messaging between you and the teacher. Messages may not be responded to outside core hours. There is a consent form for ClassDojo in the pack of consent forms enclosed.

ATTENDANCE

It is important that children attend school regularly. Holidays during school term time will not be authorised. Any necessary requests for absence during term time should be submitted in advance on an S2 Absence Request Form (available on the school website or from the school office).

TIME KEEPING

Delivering and collecting at the appropriate times is very important for a young child. The cloakroom doors open at 8.45am so that everyone is settled and ready to start the session at 8.55am. Please bring your child into the Foundation playground and wait for the teachers to collect the children and bring them into school ready for registration. School finishes at 3.15pm. Please collect your child from the gates by the Foundation area. Wrens class leave by the top gate on the decking and Robins class leave by the gate at the top of the steps. Please keep the decking entrance clear. Your child will not leave the decking area until they have seen you and you have been seen by the dismissing adult. As we recognise you, we will become quicker at dismissing the children - please be patient with us as we learn who picks up who! In the first couple of days in September, we will dismiss all children from the top of the steps onto the Foundation playground, so please wait where you drop them off.

ILLNESS

If your child is unwell, please ring the school office before 8.55am on the morning of illness to advise the school of the absence (01752 894163). There is an answer machine for this purpose; absence information should not be sent via ClassDojo or email. You must ring the school every day your child is away poorly. This is important for the safety of the children. If you do not ring, you will be contacted by the school office and if we are unable to contact you, we will instigate further safeguarding procedures. Please note that where the absence is due to sickness or diarrhoea, the school policy states that children must be clear of symptoms for 48 hours before returning to school.



APPOINTMENTS

Should you wish to discuss any matter with the class teachers, please make an appointment at the office and we will try to see you as soon as possible. The end of the day is a more appropriate time for us.

PARENTS' EVENINGS

There will be formal opportunities to meet the teachers in the autumn and spring terms at parents' evenings. You will receive a letter advising of the dates and times of the parents' evenings and will be able to book a meeting via our online booking system. Please enter through the main school entrance for these meetings.

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Wraparound childcare is available at our before/after school clubs, Early Birds & Roosters, which is run from the Nursery building for children in Foundation. This facility is open from 8.00am-5.45pm (current hours) and children will be escorted to and from school as part of this service. If you are interested, then please look at our website for more details or ask at the school office.

SCHOOL ROAD

Please note that the access road to the school is closed daily from 8.30am-9.00am and 3.00pm-3.30pm to eliminate traffic and ensure that children can enter and leave school safely. Parents/carers with disabilities should contact the school office to discuss access arrangements. We ask all parents and carers to park their vehicles with due care and consideration for everyone in our local community.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please visit the school website for further school information www.stowford.devon.sch.uk. Statutory school policies, including details of the complaints procedure, can also be found on the website, under the 'About Us' tab. The website also includes GDPR information for parents and carers as well as Privacy Notices. The website is updated regularly and details of school events are included in the calendar section.

PARENTAL HELP

Once the children are settled, we would be delighted for any help from parents or grandparents. Please see your child's teacher; parental help is very much appreciated in the classroom. DBS checks are necessary for all regular volunteers in the class.

Most of all: don't worry about September! If you have any concerns or questions, please speak to any member of the Foundation team.

We look forward to meeting and getting to know you all.

