

Stowford School News



September 2025 (1)

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the new academic year 2025/2026. A special welcome to all the new families who have joined us this year with children in the Foundation Stage or throughout the school. All children have settled into their new classes and are working hard. 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.

Clubs:

Extra-curricular clubs have begun this week. I hope you will agree there are lots of fun 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.

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. Copies of letters and newsletters can also be found under the 'Parents tab'.

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. This can be done via the ParentApp Lite. New families will shortly receive user invitations for this system.

Attendance/Holidays in Term Time:

Attendance continues to be a key focus this year. Please see the Stowford School Attendance Policy for detailed information and guidance on the management of attendance at Stowford School. Procedures will continue from the last academic year to track attendance and reduce absenteeism.

Schools are required to share daily attendance data with the government using an electronic management information system.

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 term time 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. The fine for unauthorised absences is £80 (per child), escalating to £160 if not paid within 21 days. For further information please also see [School attendance and legal proceedings - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-attendance-and-legal-proceedings)

Please also see the attached attendance warning letter. This letter can act as evidence (if required) that parents/carers are aware of the law in regard to unauthorised term time absence.

School 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.**



Absence for Medical Appointments:

Where possible, appointments for non-urgent medical matters and dental appointments should be made outside the school day please.

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.

NOTE: Please do not advise absence from school or a change in home time arrangements via ClassDojo.

Homework:

Homework will be set on ClassDojo and teachers may also use the page alongside the Home School Diary for communication with parents and carers.

School Meals:

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) will 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 a school lunch is now £2.80.

As you are aware there is a new catering company (Aspens) providing school meals at Stowford School and other schools across the Trust. As previously advised, Aspens use the SwiftKitchen App for meal orders which must be **PREORDERED**; this applies to all lunches, whether paid or free. Lunches must be ordered by 9.30am on the day by parents/carers. If you are unable to order for any reason, please provide a packed lunch for your child. Thank you for your support with this. We hope you all enjoyed the opportunity to try some of the meals at the taster session provided by Aspens last week.

School Census, 2nd October 2025:

There will be a special lunch menu on census day which we hope all the children will enjoy.



We encourage parents/carers of children in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 to book a meal on that day as the number of meals taken in those year groups on that day has a direct impact on the funding for Universal Infant Free School Meals and the continuation of provision.

There will also be a special menu in November to celebrate Bonfire Night:



Pupil Premium Free School Meals:

Devon CC is currently working on a project to introduce a new system to ensure that all children who are entitled to receive free school meals do not miss out on receiving them.

Parents can still apply 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. Recipients will also be eligible for vouchers from DCC and access to holiday activities.

Please do call in at the school office if you would like to find out more or have any questions.

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.

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 £6.50. (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 rarely available in the school office.

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) shin pads/gloves if they wish to and school will provide some spares. School will supply appropriate balls in accordance with guidelines (size 3 or 4). Please do not bring balls from home.

Wild Tribe:

Wild Tribe (outdoor education) will continue this year, as we utilise our wonderful outdoor spaces in our daily teaching practice. Where a full Wild Tribe day is planned during the term, the class teacher will notify you in advance. 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.

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 Mr Pepper 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 **Thursday 2nd October 2025**. 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 by Tuesday 30th September. 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 **Thursday 23rd 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 for donations for our Harvest Table in the week beginning 19th October or in the school hall on the morning of 23rd October. We will be giving the donations received to the Ivybridge Foodbank <https://ivybridge.foodbank.org.uk/>

Thank you for your support.

Flu Immunisations:

The nasal flu vaccination will take place on Friday 28th November at Stowford School. To provide consent please follow the link and code below:

Link:

<https://www.kernowimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

School code: DV137963

Please complete the online consent form by midday on 26th November 2025.

Applications for Secondary School:

The Devon Admissions Portal is now open for families with children in Year 6 to submit their applications for secondary school places.

Families can apply online by visiting:

www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline.

The deadline for applications is 31st October 2025.

Information has been sent to Year 6 parents and carers via email regarding ICC transition meetings and open evenings.

House Captains 2025/2026:

These will be decided soon and announced on the next newsletter.

Staff Updates:

I am delighted to share with you the news that Mrs Marks (Y3 teacher) had a baby girl on 11th September - we send our congratulations and look forward to meeting Tilly soon.

We have also welcomed Mrs Johns back from maternity leave - now part of the premises team at the school.

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 my second year as the Headteacher of such a fantastic school. Stowford standard - the gold standard!

With very best wishes

Rob Pepper
Headteacher



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.

On behalf of the residents of Dunsterville Road:

We request that parents/carers 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.

Term Dates 2026/2027 (Updated):

The term dates for next academic year - 2026/2027 - were issued by email on 18th September. Since then the Trust has made an amendment to the non-pupil dates in the summer term 2027 so the last day of the term is now Wednesday 21st July 2027. The correct dates are detailed on the school website and a school copy is also provided below.

Dates for Your Diary Autumn 2025

| September 2025 | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 22/09/2025 | Clubs start this week |
| 24/09/2025 | 5.30pm Year 6 Open Evening at ICC |
| 30/09/2025 | 5.30pm Year 6 Open Evening at ICC |
| 30/09/2025 | 6pm Stowford Friends PTA AGM |
| October 2025 | |
| 02/10/2025 | School Census Day |
| 02/10/2025 | Individual (and sibling) School Photos |
| 09/10/2025 | Y3/4 Football at Morley Meadow |
| 10/10/2025 | World Mental Health Awareness Day |
| 13/10/2025 | Assessment Week |
| 14/10/2025 | Y5/6 Football at Morley Meadow |
| 20/10/2025 | NO CLUBS THIS WEEK |
| 21/10/2025 | 3.30-6pm Parents' Evening |
| 22/10/2025 | 3.30-6pm Parents' Evening |
| 23/10/2025 | Harvest Festival Assembly - Food Bank |
| 23/10/2025 | KS2 Girls Football at Morley Meadow |
| 23/10/2025 | Last day of Term |
| 24/10/2025 | Non Pupil Day - School Closed |
| 27/10/2025 | Half Term Holiday |
| 31/10/2025 | Deadline for applications to Secondary School |
| November 2025 | |
| 03/11/2025 | Return to School |
| 06/11/2025 | KS1 Multi Skills at Stowford School |
| 11/11/2025 | Remembrance Day Assembly (children in school) |
| 13/11/2025 | KS2 Rugby Megafest @ ICC |
| 14/11/2025 | Children in Need |
| 15/11/2025 | Primary School applications open |
| 20/11/2025 | KS1 Gymnastics Festival at Morley Meadow |
| 24/11/2025 | Last week of clubs |
| 25/11/2025 | Foundation Parents' Evening |
| 26/11/2025 | Foundation Parents' Evening |
| 27/11/2025 | Y5 swimming - final session |
| 28/11/2025 | F-Y6 Flu Immunisations |
| 29/11/2025 | Stowford Friends Christmas Fair TBC |
| December 2025 | |
| 08/12/2025 | AM: KS2 Carol Service Rehearsal - Church |
| 08/12/2025 | 1.30pm: KS2 Carol Service - Church |
| 09/12/2025 | AM Nursery Christmas craft morning |
| 09/12/2025 | 1.30pm KS2 Carol Service - Church |
| 09/12/2025 | 6.00pm KS2 Carol Service - Church |
| 11/12/2025 | AM KS1 Christmas production |
| 11/12/2025 | 6.00pm KS1 Christmas production |
| 16/12/2025 | AM Foundation Nativity |
| 16/12/2025 | PM School Discos (Stowford Friends) |
| 17/12/2025 | Christmas Jumper Day TBC |
| 17/12/2025 | Christmas Lunch TBC |
| 18/12/2025 | Last day of Term |
| 19/12/2025 | Non Pupil Day - School Closed |
| 22/12/2025 | Christmas Holiday |

Dates for Your Diary Spring 2026

| January 2026 | |
|----------------------|---|
| 05/01/2026 | Non Pupil Day - School Closed |
| 06/01/2026 | 1 st day of Spring Term - Return to School |
| 12/01/2026 | Letters out re Clubs |
| 15/01/2026 | Deadline for applications to Primary School |
| 15/01/2026 | School Census Day |
| 19/01/2026 | Clubs start this week |
| 29/01/2026 | Y5/6 Netball at South Devon Tennis Centre TBC |
| February 2026 | |
| 03/02/2026 | Assessment Week |
| 04/02/2026 | Safer Internet Day |
| 05/02/2026 | KS2 Sports Hall Athletics Plymouth Life Centre TBC |
| 09/02/2026 | NO CLUBS THIS WEEK |
| 10/02/2026 | 3.30-6pm Parents' Evening |
| 11/02/2026 | 3.30-6pm Parents' Evening |
| 13/02/2026 | Last day of Term |
| 16/02/2026 | Half Term Holiday |
| 23/02/2026 | Return to School |
| March 2026 | |
| 03/03/2026 | Secondary School National Offer Day |
| 05/03/2026 | KS2 Cross Country, Staddiscombe |
| 05/03/2026 | World Book Day at school |
| 16/03/2026 | Y5 Bikeability Week (Mon - Thurs) |
| 30/03/2026 | Last week of clubs |
| April 2026 | |
| 02/04/2026 | Last day of Term |
| 03/04/2026 | Easter Holiday |

Stowford Friends (PTA)
Annual General Meeting
6pm Tuesday 30th
September 2025 at
Stowford School
All welcome! Come
along and join the fun!

Dates for Your Diary Summer 2026

| April 2026 | |
|-------------------|---|
| 16/04/2026 | Primary School National Offer Day |
| 20/04/2026 | 1 st Day of Summer Term Return to School |
| 23/04/2026 | Y4 swimming - session 1 of 10 |
| 27/04/2026 | Clubs letters out |
| May 2026 | |
| 04/05/2026 | May Bank Holiday - school closed |
| 05/05/2026 | Clubs start this week |
| 11/05/2026 | KS2 SATS week |
| 20/05/2026 | Class Photos |
| 20/05/2026 | Nursery Individual Photos |
| 21/05/2026 | School Census Day |
| 22/05/2026 | Last day of Term |
| 25/05/2026 | Half Term Holiday |
| June 2026 | |
| 01/06/2026 | Return to School |
| 01/06/2026 | Y4 Multiplication Assessment 2 week period commences |
| 04/06/2026 | KS1 Quad Kids event at Stowford School |
| 08/06/2026 | Y1 Phonics Screening Week |
| 09/06/2026 | Dance Celebration at Buckland Abbey |
| 10/06/2026 | Y3 Visit to Eden Project |
| 15/06/2026 | 4.00pm New Intake Meeting for September 2026 |
| 16/06/2026 | KS2 Quad kids event at Brickfields |
| 22/06/2026 | Y4 Spirit of Adventure |
| 23/06/2026 | Y4 Spirit of Adventure |
| 24/06/2026 | Y4 Spirit of Adventure |
| 23/06/2026 | AM KS1 Sports Day |
| 24/06/2026 | AM Nursery Sports Day |
| 25/06/2026 | AM KS2 Sports Day |
| 26/06/2026 | Non Pupil Day - School Closed |
| 29/06/2026 | Last week of Clubs |
| 30/06/2026 | Reserve KS1 Sports Day |
| July 2026 | |
| 01/07/2026 | Reserve Nursery Sports Day |
| 02/07/2026 | Y6 ICC Transition Day |
| 02/07/2026 | School Transition Morning |
| 02/07/2026 | Y4 swimming - final session |
| 03/07/2026 | Reserve KS2 Sports Day |
| 06/07/2026 | Annual Reports home |
| 08/07/2026 | Opportunity for parents to discuss Reports |
| 15/07/2026 | 1.45pm Y6 Production |
| 16/07/2026 | 6.00pm Y6 Production |
| 20/07/2025 | Y6 Woodlands Trip TBC |
| 22/07/2026 | 9.30am Y6 Leavers' Assembly - Y6 parents/carers invited |
| 22/07/2026 | Last day of Term |
| 23/07/2026 | Non Pupil Day - School Closed |
| 24/07/2026 | Summer Holiday |



Please note
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 all Stowford Friends
events, including Discos, will be
published following their AGM).

STOWFORD SCHOOL



THE SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027 School Term/Holiday Dates

| AUTUMN TERM 2026 | SPRING TERM 2027 | SUMMER TERM 2027 |
|---|--|--|
| Wednesday 2 September & Thursday 3 September Non-Pupil Days | Monday 4 January Non-Pupil Day | Monday 12 April First day of Term |
| Friday 4 September First day of Term | Tuesday 5 January First day of Term | Monday 3 May Bank Holiday |
| To | To | To |
| Thursday 22 October Last day of Term | Friday 12 February Last day of Term | Friday 28 May Last day of Term |
| Friday 23 October Non-Pupil Day | | |
| Half Term Holiday (26 - 30 Oct) | Half Term Holiday (15 - 19 Feb) | Half Term Holiday (31 May - 4 June) |
| Monday 2 November First day of Term | Monday 22 February First day of Term | Monday 7 June First day of Term |
| | | Friday 25 June Non-Pupil Day |
| To | To | To |
| Thursday 17 December Last day of Term | Thursday 25 March Last day of Term | Wednesday 21 July Last day of Term |
| Friday 18 December Non-Pupil Day | | Thursday 22 July Non-Pupil Day |
| Christmas Holiday (21 Dec '26 - 1 Jan '27) | Easter Holiday (26 March - 9 April) | Summer Holiday |

Community Notices



FOR AGES 5-12 YEARS

HIGH

2024/25 AWARDS
★ BEST CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY PROVIDER IN THE SOUTH WEST
★ BEST SUMMER CAMP IN SOUTH WEST

SPOOKTACULAR

OCTOBER HALF TERM 2025

@ STOWFORD SCHOOL

MONDAY 27TH - FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER

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 **Spooktacular** theme.

BOOK NOW @
www.high5sportscamps.co.uk



Devon Family Hubs

Let's Talk, Read & Play

Let's Talk, Read and Play is a 5 week intervention group for children aged 2 years to 2 years, 11 months, and their parents/carers.

This group is for children who are struggling with their language and communication

GIVE US A CALL
0800 538 5458
MONDAY TO FRIDAY
10AM TO 4PM

www.devon.gov.uk/children-families-education/child-family-support/family-support/family-hubs/

Devon County Council



Devon Family Hubs

FREE FAMILY ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

For Parents/Carers of children aged 0-19 and Young People aged 13 and over (25 with SEND or care leaver)



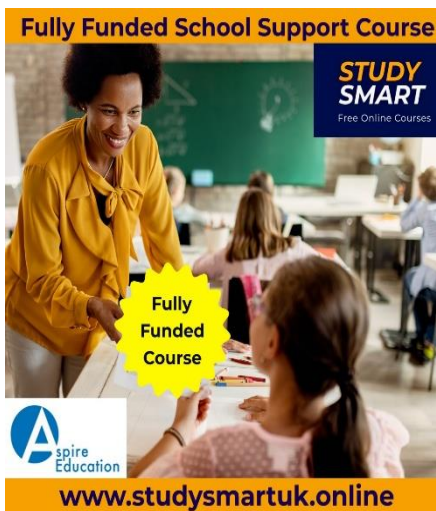
Need help?

Thr Single Sessions Available in person, via phone or online

www.devon.gov.uk/children-families-education/child-family-support/family-support/family-hubs/

0800 538 5458
Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm

Devon County Council



Fully Funded School Support Course

STUDY SMART
Free Online Courses

Fully Funded Course

Aspire Education

www.studysmartuk.online

Looking to work in a school, that fits in around your family?

Join Aspire Education Academy's Fully Funded (FREE) Education Support Course.

Starting on **Monday 29th September!**

Online ONLY Education Support Course with live webinars Available in Levels 1, 2 & Level 3 progression

Simply go to the 'Education Support Course' tab on our website:
www.studysmartuk.online

Community Notices

Is your child in year 3-6?
Plymouth Junior Netball
League are running some
'Introduction to netball
sessions'

When: Saturday 27th September
(for 10 weeks)

Time: 10.00-11.30

Where: Foulston Park,
PL1 4NE (Brickfields)

Cost: Free!

How to book:
Email pdjnlenquiries@gmail.com



FREE ONLINE TRAINING
**ORAL HEALTH
IMPROVEMENT**

NHS
Oral Health
Improvement Service

SUPPORTING CHILDREN
(1.5 hour session)
Wednesday 8th October 2025
at 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Book here:
<https://forms.office.com/e/SNCW7Szqqi>



*A FREE online webinar
for parents, teachers,
and carers*



 rduh.ohesds@nhs.net  01392 405 705