

# Stowford School News

December 2025 (3)



Dear Parents and Carers

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 Hopeless Camel' Foundation's production of 'The First Christmas' and a Nursery Christmas Craft morning. Unfortunately, I was not well enough to be able to attend every performance myself, but did see the wonderful work of the children and staff involved in each event. 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, has tried their best and all have been so impressive during the past weeks.

We build the culture, the standards and it is so inspiring to see it role modelled by our wonderful children. Stowford Standard - it's the GOLD standard, the very highest standard, and our children make us so proud, each and every day.

This does not happen by chance. 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 message from the Friends below to find out the amazing total raised by the Fair.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the committee for all their hard work and enthusiastic support of Stowford School.

## Christmas Discos:

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December we once again held our Christmas Discos in school. A huge thanks to our fantastic DJ Chris and the Stowford Friends who organised the event. How nice it was to see all our children, from EYFS to Year 6, enjoying the music and partying with their friends. We look forward to the next one in the spring!

## Christmas Jumper Day:

Christmas lunch went well on Wednesday and all the children enjoyed their lunches accompanied by Christmas crackers, music and much merriment. 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 £147.30. Thank you again for your generosity.

## 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 amazing! This year it was decorated with Christmas decorations made by each child in the school and looked even more wonderful than usual!



We are immensely grateful to the Howells for their generosity to the school year on year.

We also thank our Grounds Maintenance provider, Arborcure, for their donation of a lovely tree for the school entrance foyer and we are grateful to them too for their generosity.

## 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 given to Ivybridge Foodbank. Thank you for the donations to the British Legion Poppy Appeal, which totalled £355.59, and for Children in Need, when the children raised an impressive £455.97. Thanks to everyone for your support for these charities.

**Devon Free School Meals Vouchers** have been issued to families with children who are in receipt of benefit related free school meals. The vouchers cover the 2-week Christmas holiday and the 1-week February half-term holiday in 2026.

## Staff News:

In November, we welcomed Mrs Kate Crooks to the Stowford team as our new Pastoral Support Advisor. Please do say hello to Mrs Crooks in the playground or you can get in touch via the school office.

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 2026. We look forward to seeing everyone when we return on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Have a fantastic holiday!

*Mr R. Pepper*  
Headteacher



#### **Admission to Foundation Stage September 2026:**

A reminder that children born between 1/9/2021 and 31/8/2022 are due to start school next September.

You can apply online at [Citizen Portal - Sign in \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://citizenportal.devon.gov.uk).

Applications opened on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and will close at midnight on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Families can apply online at [devon.cc/admissionsonline](https://devon.cc/admissionsonline) or scan the QR code on the flyer sent with this newsletter.

**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 2026 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 Offer Day: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

#### **Admissions Policy for 2027-28: Annual Consultation:**

Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2027-28. The Local Authority is also consulting on its arrangements - the admissions schemes through which you can apply. You are invited to look at the proposed new policies which are based on policies for this year and next year and to have your say on them.

Our proposed policy is on our admission page and you can see all policies at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy> Further information is here:

[www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements](https://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements)

The consultation runs between 1 November 2025 and 16 January 2026.

Policies will be determined by the end of February and published in the same places by 15 March 2026 next year. You can comment at [schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk) or by emailing the school.

No changes are being proposed.

#### **Breakfast Club Parking Reminder:**

Please note that parents/carers dropping children to the Breakfast Clubs in the morning are requested to park in the ICC coach park to avoid parking issues in the school access road.

#### **Stowford Friends News and Updates**



Countdown to Christmas is truly on now and Stowford Friends have been busy.

In November we held our annual Christmas Fair, which as always was a resounding success. We wanted to use this opportunity to say a few 'thank you's'.

Firstly, thank you to everyone who helped us with this event. Your time is invaluable to us. Secondly, we want to say a big thank you to everyone who attended and had fun. Thanks to you, we raised a **fantastic £2,349.92**. Finally, we would like to say a massive thank you to Father Christmas for finding time in his busy schedule to come and spend time with our Stowford family.

In December we held the first school discos for the academic year, which we think were fantastic and well enjoyed by everyone. Thank you to our DJ for his great music and to all of the children for being so well behaved. We look forward to our next one in April.

It is important to remember that we can only put on events if we have people to support them. So if anyone would like to join the PTA committee or be a volunteer helping as and when you can then please contact us via email:

[friends@stowford.devon.sch.uk](mailto:friends@stowford.devon.sch.uk)

As always Stowford Friends is only successful because of all of you. Thank you for supporting us throughout the year. If you wish to become more involved, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

See you after the Christmas holidays.

Merry Christmas!

Sarah, Katie, Heather, Kirsty, Lauren and the rest of the committee.



## Dates for Your Diary Spring 2026

| January 2026  |  |
|---------------|--|
| 05/01/2026    | Non Pupil Day - School Closed  |
| 06/01/2026    | 1 <sup>st</sup> day of Spring Term - Return to School                              |
| 12/01/2026    | Y6 Eagles Tennis at Ivybridge Tennis Centre (Letter to follow - 5 Monday sessions) |
| 12/01/2026    | Letters out re Clubs   |
| 13/01/2026    | Y6 - Visit to Theatre Royal, Plymouth  |
| 13/01/2026    | Stowford Friends - PTA AGM   |
| 15/01/2026    | Deadline for applications to Primary School  |
| 15/01/2026    | School Census Day  |
| 19/01/2026    | Clubs start this week  |
| 26/01/2026    | Y5 Visit to Aquarium (Letter to follow)  |
| 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   |
| 23/02/2026    | Y6 Hawks Tennis at Ivybridge Tennis Centre (Letter to follow - 5 Monday sessions)  |
| 26/02/2026    | Y5 - Space Dome  |
| March 2026    |  |
| 02/03/2026    | Stowford Friends - Wonka Bars on sale this week                                    |
| 03/03/2026    | Secondary School National Offer Day  |
| 05/03/2026    | World Book Day at school   |
| 12/03/2026    | KS2 Cross Country, Staddiscombe  |
| 16/03/2026    | Y5 Bikeability Week (Mon - Thurs)  |
| 30/03/2026    | Last week of clubs   |
| April 2026    |  |
| 02/04/2026    | Last day of Term   |
| 02/04/2026    | Stowford Friends - Easter Crafts Competition                                       |
| 03/04/2026    | Easter Holiday   |

## Dates for Your Diary Summer 2026

| April 2026 |   |
|------------|---|
| 16/04/2026 | Primary School National Offer Day                       |
| 20/04/2026 | 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Summer Term Return to School     |
| 22/04/2026 | PM School Discos (Stowford Friends)                     |
| 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    |
| 02/06/2026 | Y6 - Evolution Dome                                     |
| 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 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.



## COMMUNITY NOTICES



**HIGH 5 CHRISTMAS CRACKER CAMP**

**22<sup>ND</sup> - 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2025**  
**@STOWFORD SCHOOL**

This December come and join us for an action packed couple of days of sports, activity, art and fun. In celebration of **Christmas** we have a **cracker** of a theme!

**Arts & Crafts Weekly Theme: Crimbo Crafts**

**BOOK NOW @**  
**www.high5sportscamps.co.uk**

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<https://campscui.active.com/orgs/High5SportsCamps?season=3724444>



**Have your say  
on the future of  
Devon's libraries**

As you may have heard, Devon County Council have launched a 12-week public consultation into the future of Devon's libraries.

Financial pressures, alongside the way people use Council services, are driving this consultation. Libraries Unlimited are commissioned to run the libraries by the council. We have been using our charitable reserves over the last few years to plug funding gaps, but we can no longer continue to do this. This consultation will help Devon County Council understand how people use library services and how they'd like to see things develop in future years.

The consultation documents are online and the survey can be completed by visiting <https://devon.cc/your-libraries>.

There is also a survey for children and young people to have their say here: [Have Your Say Today - Survey for young people - Shaping Devon's Library Service](#)

We're sure you'll agree that libraries are an essential community resource and are crucial for young people to have access to.

The consultation is open until 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026. Please do have your say!


# COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Libraries Unlimited**

## Digital opportunities at Ivybridge Library


**Tech Buddy Help**  
Mondays mornings 9:30 - 11:45

Get one-to-one support with phones, tablets, laptops, emails, or getting online.



**Code Club for Adults**  
2nd Saturday of the month 10:00 - 12:30

Learn how to **code** in a friendly group. No experience needed – just curiosity! Please bring your own lap top.



Booking required for both  
Ask library staff or visit our website to find out more.

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0345 155 1001  
discover@librariesunlimited.org.uk  
info@librariesunlimited.org.uk

Devon County Council **TORBAY COUNCIL**

Libraries Unlimited is a registered charity 1170092. Every penny raised supports local library services. To donate, please visit librariesunlimited.org.uk



## FLASH SALE

**Fusion Leisure Centres**  
- All Devon Sites

Join our Swim School today and get the rest of the year for FREE\*



## Parent support volunteers needed

Do you remember sleepless nights, tantrums, first day at school?

Do you have a couple of hours a week spare to support a family in their home, community or digitally?

Are you non-judgemental, a good listener with life/parenting experience?



Or Scan the QR Code

Contact us today to find out more  
**homestart-southandwestdevon.org.uk**  
**07307873163/homestart.shpt@gmail.com**

**HOME START**  
South & West Devon

Charity no. 1106077  
The Rees Centre, Mudge Way, PLYMOUTH, PL1 2PS

**A festive gift from Fusion to our community...**

## ONE DAY FREE PASS

**GYM OR SWIM PASS**  
*the choice is yours!*

Scan the QR code, pop in your details & your pass will be on it's way!



With six centres to choose from across Devon...

- Dartmouth Leisure Centre
- Ivybridge Leisure Centre
- Meadowlands Leisure Centre
- Parklands Leisure Centre
- Quayside Leisure Centre
- Totnes Leisure Centre