

Stowford School News



Welcome back!

6th September 2019 (1)

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our new academic year! It's wonderful to see all the children so enthusiastic and happy. They seem genuinely pleased to be back! 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. A special welcome to all the new families who have joined us this year with children in the Foundation Stage or throughout the school; I hope you as parents are finding out all the information you need. If in any doubt, please ask, we are happy to help and the website hosts a great deal of information.

www.stowford.devon.sch.uk

Clubs: Staff willingly provide a range of clubs for the children after school. A full list of clubs will be published on Monday 9th September with details of how your child can get involved. All clubs will start the week beginning 23rd September unless stated otherwise which gives Y6 opportunity to have been to Beam House.

ICC Transition Meeting for Year 6 Parents & Carers

Senior ICC staff will be hosting a meeting in our school hall at 4.00pm on Monday 23rd

September and Year 6 parents/carers are encouraged to attend. There will be an opportunity for parents/carers to ask any questions and address any worries. ICC has advised that the meeting is intended for adults only.

There are also two Open Evenings at the College on Wednesday 18th September and Wednesday 25th September at 6.00pm. Parents/Carers and children are invited to attend these evenings.



Help your child to read and write meeting:

Mrs Williams and Mrs Ocean will be leading a session to help parents of children in Foundation Stage support their children in learning to read. The meeting is also open to new parents with children in Year 1 and Year 2. It is really important that parents and school staff are consistent in their approach to support these essential early stages and give children the best possible chances. The meeting will take place on **Thursday 19th September at 6.00pm in the school hall.** We hope you will be able to attend to have a cup of tea or coffee, find out more information and meet some new people.

Harvest Festival: There will be a special Harvest Festival assembly for the children in school on **Friday 4th 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.

This year, like last year, we are giving the donations received to the Foodbank who were so grateful to receive it.

<https://ivybridge.foodbank.org.uk/>

They will be letting us know soon if there are any items that would be particularly desirable.

We would be grateful if everyone could send in a donation for our Harvest Table. All donations will be gratefully received and donations can be sent into school throughout the week as well as between 8.30am and 9.00am on Friday morning. Thank you very much for your support.

School Photos:

The photographer will be here to take school photos on **Tuesday 8th October.**

Please note that siblings will be photographed together automatically and you must advise the school before that date if you would like your children photographed individually as well. It helps if this notification is in writing please.



School Meals: Universal Infant Free School Meals continue this year for all children in Foundation, Year 1 and 2 classes. The meals are good quality and we would encourage your child to take up this opportunity.

Please do ensure that you speak to the office if you think you may be eligible for **Pupil Premium Free School Meals**. The application process is online via the Citizen Portal:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/supportforschools/services-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 doesn't 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.

For all children, please ensure that you pre-order school lunches via ParentPay.

Morning snacks: Children in Foundation and Key Stage 1 are given fruit each morning. Children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5, 6) may bring in fruit for break time, but please do not send fruit in packets or any nuts. Break time for KS1 is at 10.45am and for KS2 is 11.00am.

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 £5. (Plain book bags are available from Lawson's in Ivybridge).

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.

Home School Communication:



Newsletters are sent by email and put on the school website. A paper copy can be collected from the school office. 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.

Data Collection: We are planning to introduce the Parent App Lite this term to enable parents/carers to ensure all contact details are accurate and up to date. This system is being used successfully by Ivybridge Community College, so some of you will already be familiar with it.

Attendance/Holidays in term time:

Children's regular attendance at school is essential to ensure that they 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. Schools are required to notify the Local Education Authority if a student has unauthorised absences. Should you choose to take your child out of school without the authorisation of the school, then Parental Responsibility Measures which include the issue of a penalty notices could be instigated (for further information see <https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-attendance>).

Absence due to ill health: If your child is unwell please let us know before 8.45am on the day of absence so we can ensure that all children are safely accounted for. This should be followed by a letter to the teacher 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. Thank you for your cooperation.

Home time arrangements: Please remember that in order to safeguard the children we need to be advised 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. 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.

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.

PE/Sports:

Earrings: due to the difficulty some children have in removing earrings for PE and the potential loss of earrings once removed we would ask children not to wear earrings on PE days thus avoiding the difficulties. 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) if they wish to and school will provide some spares.

Children may also bring balls if they wish but please be aware these, following guidelines, must be size 3 or 4. No-one will be allowed to use a size 5 ball.

Wild Tribe: This year we are pleased to announce that Mrs Kandes will be working with classes once a week enhancing the curriculum with outdoor education including willow weaving, wood whittling, fire craft and lots of other lovely activities linked to class topics. These lessons will take place alongside Miss Kee's PE lessons. In order for the children to participate fully in Wild Tribe it is imperative that children have an outdoor PE kit in school - tracksuit bottoms and fleece/warm top which can be worn over PE shirt and shorts. As Wild Tribe will take place outdoors (but under some cover) the children will also require wellies in a named bag in school as they do for lunchtime play.

Mrs Kandes will be holding an information meeting on Thursday 12th September 2019 at

3.30pm in the school hall. Please do come along to find out more!

Volunteers in school:

We are keen to have volunteers in school and grateful for the help that parents and carers offer to the school. 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). New guidelines state that where a volunteer has not been in school during the last 3 months, they must be removed from the SCR and will require a new check. This will not affect recent regular volunteers but may mean that some parents and carers will require new checks when volunteering.

School Uniform Purchases: All school sweatshirts, cardigans and polo shirts with the school logo are now available to purchase online via the school trends website:

<https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/StowfordSchoolPL210BG>

Orders will be delivered to your home address.

School sweatshirts can also be purchased at Lawson's in the village. (There is a small amount of remaining stock available from school).

School water bottles (£1) and book bags (£5) can still be purchased at the school office - please bring the correct money if you wish to buy as there is now very little cash to provide change in the school office. Thank you.

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 another year and am proud to be the Headteacher of such a wonderful school.

With very best wishes

Sue Williams
Headteacher



Stowford Friends – News and Upcoming Events

Stowford Friends AGM: Wednesday 18th Sept. 7 pm in the school hall. All welcome!

Stowford Friends (formally known as the PTA) is a registered charity (Charity Number: 1144594). We organise events for the school community and raise funds to enhance the experience of all the children from Nursery to Year 6 (funding items from books and play equipment to live theatre and accessibility). Last school year, thanks to fantastic support from the school community, we raised over £10,000 and spent almost £8,000 – mostly on improvements to the playground and library. Now the staff have set us a challenge – they'd love a yurt, to provide a fantastic new outdoor learning space for all the children to enjoy. This exciting project will be the main focus of our future fundraising efforts.

We're always keen to welcome new members on to the committee (in particular, we're looking for a new Treasurer this year), but there are other ways you can help us too:

We sometimes need volunteers (parents, carers, grandparents, staff) to help with particular events. If you think you might be able to help at some point during the school year, we'd love to hear from you!

We'd also like your suggestions and feedback about events or items we should fund.

Please contact friends@stowford.devon.sch.uk

Quiz & Curry Night: Friday 27th September.

Here's your chance to spend a fun evening with other parents/staff/friends/family (adults only). Whether you want to make new friends, enjoy a few drinks and some delicious home-cooked curry..... or even show off your general knowledge, this is for you! More information & tickets available soon.

Bag2School clothes recycling: Wednesday 9th October.

It's time to clear out your cupboards! We'll be collecting unwanted clothes, shoes, bags, sheets, towels, curtains, soft toys etc (clean and dry please, sorry no uniforms with a logo). Your cast-offs will be re-used, so you'll help the environment (by reducing waste going to landfill) and we raise money for every kg clothes collected so the more the better – no limit! Please look out for collecting bags and more details of how to donate.

A reminder: if you shop online, please consider signing up to easyfundraising.org.uk (choose "Stowford Friends – Ivybridge" as your cause), to earn us "free" money.

We're looking forward to some exciting events this school year and will really appreciate your support. Please check this space in future newsletters.

Many thanks.
Stowford Friends.

Dates for Your Diary Autumn 2019

September 2019	
09/09/2019	Letters out re Clubs
09/09/2019	Year 6 go to Beam House
10/09/2019	Year 3 Swimming (1 st session)
10/09/2019	3.30pm Yr 1 & Yr 2 'Meet the Teacher'
10/09/2019	
11/09/2019	First homework out
11/09/2019	Roosters After School Club closed (Staff Safeguarding Training)
12/09/2019	3.30pm Wild Tribe information meeting
13/09/2019	Year 6 return from Beam House
18/09/2019	7pm PTA AGM
18/09/2019	6pm Year 6 Open Evening at ICC
19/09/2019	6.00pm Foundation - 'Help Your Child to Read and Write' meeting
23/09/2019	Clubs start this week
23/09/2019	4pm Yr 6 ICC Transition Meeting in school hall for Year 6 Parents & Carers
24/09/2019	4-5.30pm Yr 5/6 Boys Football Tournament at ICC
25/09/2019	Yr 6 - Evolution Dome (in school)
25/09/2019	6pm Year 6 Open Evening at ICC
26/09/2019	Yr 5 Space Dome (in school)
26/09/2019	LGB Meeting
27/09/2019	Stowford Friends Quiz Night
October 2019	
03/10/2019	7pm Childminder Training
04/10/2019	Harvest Festival
07/10/2019	PM Yr 6 Junior Life Skills
08/10/2019	Individual School/Nursery Photos
08/10/2019	4-5.30pm Yr 5/6 Hi 5 Netball Tournament at ICC
09/10/2019	9am Bag2School collection - deadline
10/10/2019	World Mental Health Day
10/10/2019	Flu Immunisation F-Yr 6
15/10/2019	4-5.30pm Yr 3/4 Boys Football at ICC
17/10/2019	AM KS2 French Breakfast Cafe
17/10/2019	Last day of Term
18/10/2019	Non Pupil Day - School Closed
21/10/2019	Half Term Holiday
28/10/2019	Return to School
31/10/2019	Deadline for applications to Secondary School
November 2019	
08/11/2019	Remembrance Day Assembly (in school)
11/11/2019	Anti-Bullying Week - 'Change Starts With Us'
15/11/2019	Primary School applications open
18/11/2019	Last week of clubs
19/11/2019	Year 3 last swimming session
20/11/2019	Yr 3 Residential Swifts go
21/11/2019	Yr 3 Residential Swifts return Swallows go
22/11/2019	Yr 3 Residential Swallows return
27/11/2019	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening
28/11/2019	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening
28/11/2019	4-5.30pm Yr 5/6 Indoor Athletics
30/11/2019	Stowford Friends Christmas Fair TBC

December 2019	
09/12/2019	KS2 Carol Service Rehearsals - Church
10/12/2019	AM Nursery Christmas
10/12/2019	1.30pm KS2 Carol Service - Church
10/12/2019	6pm KS2 Carol Service - Church
12/12/2019	AM Yr 1 & Yr 2 Christmas Performance
12/12/2019	PM Foundation Christmas Nativity
12/12/2019	6pm Yr 1 & Yr 2 Christmas Performance
18/12/2019	Christmas Jumper Day
18/12/2019	School Christmas Lunch
19/12/2019	Last day of Term
20/12/2019	Christmas 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.



Dates for Your Diary Spring 2020

January 2020	
06/01/2020	1 st day of Spring Term Return to School
13/01/2020	Letters out re Clubs
14/01/2020	Year 5 Swimming (1 st session)
15/01/2020	Deadline for applications to Primary School
20/01/2020	Clubs start this week
21/01/2020	4-5.30pm Yr 5/6 Basketball at ICC TBC
28/01/2020	4-5.30pm Yr 2 Multi Skills Festival at ICC
February 2020	
06/02/2020	4-5.30pm Yr 3/4 Indoor Athletics at ICC
11/02/2020	Safer Internet Day
12/02/2020	7pm Childminder Training (Early Maths)
13/02/2020	Last day of Term
14/02/2020	Non Pupil Day - School Closed
17/02/2020	Half Term Holiday
24/02/2020	Return to School
27/02/2020	4-5.30pm Yr 4/5/6 Indoor Athletics at ICC
March 2020	
02/03/2020	Secondary School National Offer Day
05/03/2020	World Book Day at school
09/03/2020	Devonport Swimming Gala TBC
10/03/2020	4-5.30pm Yr 3/4 Tag Rugby/Mega Event TBC
16/03/2020	Last week of clubs
17/03/2020	ICC Gym & Dance Show (1-7pm) TBC
18/03/2020	Nursery Parents' Meetings TBC
24/03/2020	Year 5 last swimming session
24/03/2020	4-5.30pm Yr 3/4 Tag Rugby/Mega Event TBC
25/03/2020	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening
26/03/2020	3.30-6pm Parents' Evening
26/03/2020	AM/PM Dance Shows Parents/Carers invited
27/03/2020	Stowford Friends Easter Egg Competition
27/03/2020	Last day of Term
30/03/2020	Easter Holiday



Dates for Your Diary Summer 2020

April 2020	
14/04/2020	1 st Day of Summer Term Return to School
16/04/2020	Primary School National Offer Day
20/04/2020	Letters out re Clubs
21/04/2020	4-5.30pm Yr 3/4 Girls Football Tournament at ICC
27/04/2020	Clubs start this week
28/04/2020	4-5.30pm Yr 5/6 Girls Football Tournament at ICC
May 2020	
01/05/2020	KS1 Test period begins
08/05/2020	May Bank Holiday -VE Day - School Closed
11/05/2020	KS2 SATS week
13/05/2020	7pm Child Minder Training
14/05/2020	4-5.30pm Yr 3/4 Quad Kids Tournament at ICC
21/05/2020	4-5.30pm Yr 5/6 Quad Kids Tournament at ICC
22/05/2020	Last day of Term
25/05/2020	Half Term Holiday
June 2020	
01/06/2020	Return to School
02/06/2020	1.30pm Yr 5/6 Rounders Tournament at Filham TBC
03/06/2020	Class and Team Photos
04/06/2020	4pm New intake (Sept 2020) meeting
08/06/2020	Yr 1 Phonics Screening Week
09/06/2020	ICC Open Morning - Yr 5 Parents (with children - optional) TBC
11/06/2020	New intake (Sept 2020) session 1
15/06/2020	Last week of clubs
18/06/2020	New intake (Sept 2020) session 2
19/06/2020	Stowford Friends Summer Fair TBC
22/06/2020	Yr 5 Bikeability Week
23/06/2020	F/KS1 Sports Day
24/06/2020	Nursery Sports Day
25/06/2020	KS2 Sports Day
July 2020	
03/07/2020	F/KS1 Reserve Sports Day
07/07/2020	School Transition day
07/07/2020	New intake (Sept 2020) session 3
08/07/2020	KS2 Reserve Sports Day
09/07/2020	Yr 6 Transition day at ICC
13/07/2020	Reports to parents
15/07/2020	AM Nursery Graduation
15/07/2020	3.30-4.30pm - Report discussion session
16/07/2020	1.45pm & 6pm - Yr 6 production
17/07/2020	Yr 6 visit to Woodlands
20/07/2020	Stowford Friends - Yr 6 Leavers' Disco 7-8.15pm TBC
21/07/2020	9.30am Yr 6 Leavers' Assembly - Yr 6 parents/carers invited
21/07/2020	Last day of Term
22/07/2020	Non Pupil Day - School Closed
23/07/2020	Summer Holiday