

Stowey Bears Newsletter

September 2021



Team Changes



We are delighted to be able to share Keely Hicks has now joined as Preschool Manager. Keely will be sharing the role with Tina Miller who you will all already know, and who has been doing a fantastic job managing the preschool and overseeing the refresh of the room this Summer. Keely brings with her a wealth of experience being part of the senior team in two London preschools before she moved with her family to Nether Stowey. Having Tina and Keely share the role will provide us with double the experience and also additional resilience within the staff team at Stowey Bears in the event of any sickness etc.

Welcome Keely!

New Starters and Returners

Important Information

Things to be in Preschool at all times

Sports Type Water bottle (easily identified by child)

Slippers, we put these on entering the preschool

Bag/rucksack – containing at least one complete change of clothes (even if your child is fully potty trained, we have water and messy play every day!)

Nappies if child is still in nappies

Appropriate clothing for weather, coats, hats, sunscreen etc. We go outside everyday

We have full waterproofs available for all children and lots of wellies in preschool so we can supply those.

Topics This Term

September – Settling in, feelings, Golden rules. We will be thinking about how are we feeling, why do we feel like this, how we can help others and being kind, what that means

October – Autumn & Halloween - Exploring colours, textures, seasons and so much more!!

Entitlement and funding

If you are claiming 30-hour funding please check your codes when sent the email, if you do not recheck you may lose your entitlement, we unfortunately have no control over 30 hours funding our end we just have to submit the data you give us.

15-hour funding – your child becomes eligible for this the term after they are 3, Please note that your child's birthday may fall within a school holiday but may not necessarily fall in the funding period for the next term! the terms are fixed nationally by the authorities, and they are as follow, 1st September-31st December, 1st January-31st March, 1st April-31st August.

COVID-19

Covid is still a notifiable disease, if you have a case within your family, we are asked that we are notified and correct measures are taken.

General rules

Anyone with Symptoms, isolate immediately and book a PCR test. Isolate while waiting for results. If positive isolate for 10 days, Adults that have been double vaccinated do not need to isolate, but should get a PCR test and use Lateral flow tests to check for asymptomatic covid.

Please note, Adults in a household where children regularly attend educational settings are advised to test-twice weekly

More information at the link below

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)
\(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Session Timings

Morning 8.50 – 11.50am (12.20pm with lunch)

Afternoon 12.20 – 3.20pm (bring at 11.50 if having lunch)

You will need to supply your child with a packed lunch
We are hoping to offer hot meals as soon as Possible when Covid allows

Term dates- 13th September – 22nd October

Half Term 25th October- 29th October

Returning to preschool Monday 1st November



Congratulations

Over the summer holidays, Rachel married Simon (Jub). The sun shone and everyone had a lovely day.

We wish them every happiness in the future and we will welcome Rachel Penny back to the setting after her honeymoon

Summer Raffle & Party in the Park

Thank you to everyone who supported both the Summer Raffle and our stall at Party in the Park which proved popular and was a lovely opportunity to engage with the children. After costs we managed to raise a total of **£358.60** for the Preschool which will be used to purchase some additional resources for this year.

Following the challenging year everyone has had, this time we partnered with FONSS (Friends of Nether Stowey School) for the raffle rather than ask our village community for two lots of raffle ticket purchases. Each setting kept what they raised through sales and sales outside of school / preschool were split, so it really was a joint effort for the younger children of the village. Thankyou to FONSS for their assistance.

Congratulations to our winners:

1st Prize of £100 – Nigel Rogers-Lewis

2nd Prize of £50 – Neil Murray

3rd Prize of £25 – Jack Robinson



Room Re-vamp
 During the summer the room has been decorated, cleaned and blinds fitted, we have made the old storage room into a sensory/quiet/sleep room, and made the room feel more homely and calm.



A NOTE FROM OUR COMMITTEE

We are very excited to welcome the children (old and new) back to Stowey Bears after the Summer as there have been some changes!

It's been a busy behind the scenes with Tina doing a fantastic job of overseeing a complete refresh of the main room for the children and the introduction of a sensory / calm room; in fact, the whole environment feels a lighter, brighter, calmer space. The sensory room is accessed from the main room and will be used for calm activities e.g., small group reading; providing a safe space to support children who may become overwhelmed at times; and also, for naps for any of our younger children who may still need this occasionally. This will be a fantastic addition to our facilities for the children and will add so much value. It is only as a result of careful budget planning, successful grant applications and fundraising that this has been possible but feels a very positive move after the turbulent couple of years our children have experienced and will be a welcome resource.

Keely Hicks will be joining the team as Preschool Manager job sharing with Tina and we are confident they will do a fantastic job! We had hoped to be introducing you to our new apprentice in this newsletter, but the course of recruitment doesn't always run smoothly and after a last-minute hiccup, sadly it may be another couple of months before we can do this but we will keep you updated.

At this time of year, we always look for any parents who may be like to join our management committee. No experience is necessary as we can match skills or experience to different roles within the committee and not all need specialist knowledge, it is extremely rewarding and it can be good fun too. As we are a charity committee led preschool without our committee volunteers we wouldn't have a preschool in the village, so if you would like to find out more just email stoweybearscommittee@hotmail.com or chat to one of our existing committee members.

As ever should you have any queries or concerns you would like to raise with the committee please do not hesitate to get in touch and we wish you a wonderful Autumn term.