

Stowey Bears Newsletter

December 2021



We hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy,
Healthy New year



News from the setting,

This half term has been busy, we've covered topics of People who help Us, Bonfire night and Diwali, Remembrance day and Children in Need.

The children have learnt all about why we celebrate certain things, and how we think of others, and try to help when we can. There has also been a lot of gross motor skills and fine motor skills in our adult led activities, this is vital skills for developing the muscles and strength to learn to write when they get to school. Our focus now is Christmas, we have our tree up and the room decorated and the children are busy making things to share with you.

Tina, Keely, Sarah, Rachel and Hayley xxx



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

EXTRA HOLIDAY DAY

There is an extra holiday day on Tuesday 4th January. Everyone is entitled to one extra bank holiday day this year as a result of the Queens Platinum Jubilee. As this day falls within school holidays all educational settings will have an extra days holiday to fit within the year. We have selected 4th January as school also have an inset day on this day.

ALL ITEMS NEED TO BE NAMED, INCLUDING RUCKSACKS, we sometimes cannot identify a child's bag when looking for a change of clothes especially if they get knocked off their pegs

Entitlement and funding

If you are claiming 30-hour funding please check your codes when you get 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; 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 asking that we are notified and correct measures are taken. Please do not send children in if they have any symptoms

OMICRON VARIANT If a member of your household tests positive for the new variant, everyone in your household **MUST** isolate regardless of vaccination status

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. We encourage you to think about whether your child should be attending preschool if someone in the household is positive.

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)

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 or order lunches directly at the school



TERM DATES

17th December break up for Christmas Returning Wednesday 5th January

Half Term Break up 18th February, Returning Monday 28th February

Helping Others

Save The Children Christmas Jumper Day – we will celebrate this for the whole week from the 6th December – 10th December and again the children can donate £1 to wear their Christmas jumper



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

You are probably all wondering about Christmas activities, due to the ongoing uncertainty regarding Covid, plans may change, maybe even at the twelfth hour!

Nativity Play – Wednesday 15th December @ 2pm at the Village Hall
Your children will bring home their parts for the Nativity this week, any issues with parts please let us know. As it stands we would like to invite you in for the Nativity, we will be selling teas, coffee, non-alcoholic mulled wine, and mince pies on the day as, well as drawing our grand raffle.
If your child does not normally attend this day, they can be bought to the hall at 1.45pm all dressed in their costumes, we will walk all the others over

Party – Thursday 16th December @ 2pm
Due to the uncertainty of covid we will not be having an entertainer this year, we do not want to invite people in who will be attending other settings. We have several plans for the christmas party, and will share details with you as soon as finalised, the party will be open for all to attend, so even if its not your child's day they can be bought to preschool for 2pm to enjoy the party with all their friends

Grand Christmas Raffle
Your child will be bringing home some raffle books to sell, there are some fantastic prizes, please try to sell as many books as possible
Also, we ask if everyone could **please supply an item for the big Christmas hamper** to create a wonderful hamper prize for the raffle, you can bring items into the preschool any time

A NOTE FROM OUR COMMITTEE



It has been a busy time of year for Stowey Bears Committee! As you will be aware we had our OFSTED inspection last week but are not allowed to share the report with you until it has been published but we hope this will be the case by the end of next week. Rest assured as soon as we are allowed to share the report with you we will do so.

We have also had our Annual General Meeting. This is always bittersweet as we say goodbye to some committee members who have decided to step down but we get to welcome new members too. This year we have had quite a few changes; after three years as Chairperson I have taken the difficult decision to step down, it has been quite a journey. I have learnt so much, worked alongside some inspirational people, made some wonderful friends and seen Stowey Bears go from strength to strength but it is now time to handover the baton to the very capable hand of Lucy Mayhew who will become our new chairperson. Lucy has been a member of the committee for some time so has a really good understanding both from a committee and parent perspective with two children now attending Stowey Bears. Lucy will be ably assisted by Sophia Bellamy as Vice Chair, Sophia has been a member of the committee for a year now and has done a fantastic job leading on some of our fundraising events. Sophia also has the benefit of both committee and parental experience with her daughter at Stowey Bears. Rosie Aubrey our previous Vice Chair has shared the post of Chair with myself before becoming Vice Chair and has played a phenomenal role in helping Stowey Bears secure a number of grants which have really helped transform our financial position to one of security. Rosie has stepped down from her role as Vice Chair and will become an associate committee member to be available for consultation on any matters if required by the committee.

Lucy Carpenter has taken the decision to step down as treasurer but remain within the committee due to her own business commitments requiring more of her time. Lucy has also been a committee member for three years so has gained lots of experience during that time and always tops the league table on raffle ticket sales - thank you Lucy :0)! I will replace Lucy in the role of Treasurer so will continue to be a part of the committee but in a different capacity.

Angela U'dell has stepped down from her role as Secretary and will be replaced by a new committee member. Unfortunately we cannot share new committee members details until all DBS and EY2 checks have been completed but we will confirm in the near future. As Angela leaves the committee I would like to take the opportunity to thank her for her contributions, always being happy to step in and help out and bring a smile to all involved. I'm pleased to say that Angela won't be a stranger though as she is taking on a bank staff role at Stowey Bears and I am sure will be a popular member of the team with children and staff alike.

I'm pleased we will also have another experienced committee member joining the team and again will be able to share more on this in the near future.

So whilst there are a number of changes within the committee team we retain lots of experience and will strive to continue to build on Stowey Bears successes working closely with the fantastic team of staff we have. It will take us a little while to establish everyone's new roles but we hope everyone will be in position early in the new year.

Finally it is that time of year where we all want to enjoy the celebrations but once again face some uncertainty regarding them due to Covid. We will do our very best to make celebrations as normal as we can whilst adhering to any restrictions and guidance imposed, keeping everyone safe and minimising all risks we can; we just ask that you continue to be patient whilst we all navigate through this together.

As this will be my last message as Chairperson I want to thank each and everyone of you for your continued support. Stowey Bears is a real asset to our village, to our children and to our community. It has been an honour to be Chairperson and a responsibility I have committed to wholeheartedly. I am very proud of the entire team (staff and committee), what we have achieved, and the wonderful provision that has been provided for our children. Merry Christmas everyone and I wish you all a healthy and happy new year

Zoe



Play is the
highest form
of research

Albert Einstein



Useful contacts

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