

Stowey Bears Newsletter

July 2021



Here we are at the end of another academic year and what a year it has been once again. A year that has brought us hope of normality of parties and gatherings and long overdue hugs and reconnection. Through all of this Stowey bears has been a haven, a place to escape the crazy world we have lived in. A place where children can laugh, dance and play with their friends, and what a joy it has been for staff to immerse themselves in their world and what strength, adaptability and resilience your children have shown.

We are of course are very sad to be saying good bye to our school leavers this term and wish them huge amounts of luck and many adventures as they move on to primary school.

Lisa, Sarah, Rachel and Hayley

Saying goodbye.....

I would like to also take this opportunity, to let you know, that I have made the very difficult decision to move on from my role as manager of Stowey bears. I would like to thank the committee, staff and parents, for their support and friendship and for the privilege of being part of the preschool and your families lives for the last seven years. I will miss being a part of the village I grew up in and the Stowey bears team. However, I leave happy in the knowledge that the preschool continues to go from strength to strength, due to the hard work of the staff and your committee team of dedicated parents. I will be still present at the preschool until the 9th of July and will continue to help where needed up until the summer break.

Lisa Cripwell

Summer holiday arrangements for positive covid 19 cases

Preschool should and will continue to respond to any notifications of positive cases in their school community over the summer holidays. Therefore, I would like to make you aware of the arrangements to inform us, if your child tests positive for COVID-19 during the half term. Please email the preschool at: stoweybearspreschool@outlook.com. We advise you not to call the preschool number during half term as this will not be monitored. We will then communicate to parents in the usual way if we need to inform you of any closures and isolation periods

Summer holiday challenge This summer holiday our challenge is to make a rainbow; Explore the colours in the garden. Make your own artist's palette of colour by collecting natural materials on a sticky strip on cardboard. [Make a rainbow / RHS Campaign for School Gardening](#)

30 HOURS FUNDING

There are some really important things to remember when you're claiming 30 hours free childcare:

Your code expires every three months and it's up to you to renew it and give it to your childcare provider on time. Renewal isn't automatic and your childcare provider can't renew it for you.

When you receive your eligibility code it will come with an expiration date – you must renew your code by that date in order to keep on claiming your free hours. You can do this by logging into the Childcare Services Account that you were given when you applied for your 30 hours.

If you don't renew your code and give it to your childcare provider every three months, you won't be able to claim your 30 hours free childcare for the whole of the next term. This could lead to you missing out on months of free childcare, so make sure you set up a reminder. The Government should send you a text or email before your personal deadline, but it's always a good idea to put another reminder on your phone and calendar

You should give your new code to your childcare provider as soon as you receive it, to make sure everything goes through in time. The government have warned that things might take longer when lots of people apply at once, and that you should allow time for them to do extra checks if they need to.

https://www.justchildcare.co.uk/30-hours-free-childcare-faqs/#1533202815733-df_7f9b91-38b6

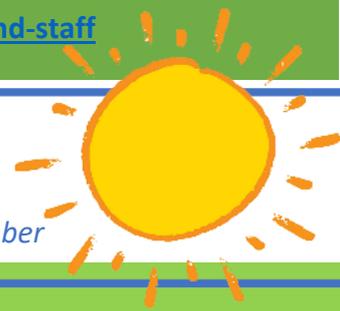
Lateral flow testing- Stowey bears staff continue to be tested twice a week for covid 19, using lateral flow tests. Don't forget that Parents and support bubbles of preschool aged children, also qualify for the free lateral flow tests. Follow the link to find out more and where to collect your test pack.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

Term dates-

Summer Holidays

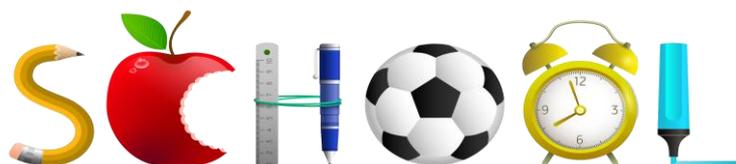
Last day 23rd July returning Monday 13th September



Information for school leavers Miss Davies and Lisa have now met to discuss the arrangements for this year's school leavers, we have still got some restrictions on how transition arrangements will look and are still waiting for further direction from the government and will keep you informed of any changes.

We currently have planned;

- Twice weekly visits from Miss Davies on a Monday and Friday to enable her to meet you children and to find out all about them from their keyworkers.
- Miss Davies has set up a tapestry account for families moving up and given the preschool access to ensure that everyone is kept up to date. You will be receiving more correspondence from Miss Davies via post or this platform.
- Miss Davies will be giving your child a starting school story time
- Your child will be given a virtual tour of the school.
- And we are hopeful that some sessions can take place with Miss Davies and your children, either in the preschool, school forest school area or possibly within the reception classroom.





Preschool Sports Day

I'm sure many of you are wondering about this year's arrangements for the preschool Sports day. We have provisionally booked in the 7th of July weather permitting with a backup date of the 14th of July. The school have very kindly agreed to us using their field once again. The exact details of how the day will run, and if parents are allowed on the school site to watch, will be decided closer to the time. The decision will be based on three things: Government instruction, advice from the Department for Education and what the preschool and school feel is safe for the children. We apologise for not being able to give you more information than this at the moment, but I hope you understand why. As soon as a decision is made about if parents will be able to watch the afternoon events, we will send out more information.

A NOTE FROM OUR COMMITTEE

We are sad to be sharing the news in this newsletter that Lisa has taken the decision that it's time to move on from Stowey Bears. Whilst we completely understand her decision, she will very much be missed and we wish her every success in her future endeavours.

Following this news we have been busy putting plans in place to ensure continuity for the preschool, both children and staff. We are pleased to be able to share that Tina Miller who covered Lisa's maternity leave last year and has since taken on the role of Business Manager has agreed to step back into the role of manager whilst we undertake a recruitment process for a new preschool manager. Tina knows the setting, the children, the team and many of you so we are confident she will do a great job of looking after everything in the interim period. We will of course keep everyone updated once we have any news on recruitment.

We have a busy half term ahead with getting quotes for refreshing the preschool room, recruitment, sports day, leavers arrangements, Summer Raffle and Party in the Park! If any of you are able to help out please let us know, all help is very gratefully received and we do have fun along the way too!

Lastly we would just like to wish you all a wonderful Summer making lots of memories with your nearest and dearest and look forward to seeing you in September, whether at Stowey Bears or at the school gates!

Stowey Bears Committee xxx

End of term party

We are all very excited to be arranging an end of term party for all of the children.

The party will take place on Friday the 23rd of July.

If your child attends this session then please bring them in as normal for drop off.

If your child does not attend on a Friday, please bring them in to the preschool at 10:50am.

If your child is **not** going to school this September, please collect them at 11:50am

If your child **is** going to school in September then two family members from each child's family is invited to join us for an award ceremony and a picnic in the garden from 12pm until 1:30pm. Please bring blankets and provide your own picnic

