

Stowey Bears Newsletter

Summer term 2024



News from Bears

We hope you have all had a lovely Easter Break, and we have had a busy time since returning to Stowey Bears

I would personally like to thank you all for your patience, kind words, support and understanding during my absence, the team at Stowey Bears have done an amazing job ensuring the smooth running of the Preschool and I am immensely proud of everyone.

The children have been learning lots of different topics over the last term and we have some amazing topics coming up this term. We have lots of fun activities planned so please keep an eye on tapestry for updates! Did you also know we have a Facebook page called 'Stowey Bears Preschool' which we update regularly.

We are a very busy setting and therefore we have now closed our books to children until September 2024. We are eternally grateful to you all for choosing our amazing local Preschool

If you are interested in purchasing Preschool uniform for your children please email myself or Tina.

Rachel and The Stowey Bears Team

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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.

NAPPIES – we kindly ask that if your child is still in nappies that you send them to preschool with nappies **NOT pullups**. Staff sometimes have 5-6 nappies to change and pullups means that a child has to be fully undressed (bottom half) including shoes to be changed. This then can take a member of staff away from the room for a much longer period of time. Once potty training our advice is to switch to knickers again not pullups, children seem to think pull ups are nappies and it makes potty training a longer process, send in lots of spare clothes when potty training and we will change if needed



Stay and Play

Thanks to all who attended our Easter Stay and Play, we had a great time and the children love to have their parents/carers visit their space and do crafts and activities with them

Scarlett Fever ,Chicken pox & whooping cough

There have been several cases in the south west and public health have advised us to let them know of cases, so they can monitor clusters, please inform us if your child has either or both. Please keep your child off preschool to minimise the spread and risk to other families

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chicken-pox/?src=conditionswidget>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

[Whooping cough - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/whooping-cough/)

Bake Sale

Thanks again to everyone that supplied cakes for the bake sale, we raised **£278.24**

Family Quiz Night

Thank you to all who attended our quiz night at over stowey village hall, we all had a great time and we raised **£127.30**

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

24th May Break up for half term returning Monday 3rd June

Friday 19th July Break up for summer returning Thursday September 5th (these dates to be confirmed)

Topics and special dates this term

Topics:

13th – 19th May – Minibeast Week

20th – 24th May – Dinosaur Adventure Week

- Walk to School Week

3rd – 7th June – Under the Sea (World Oceans Day)

- Child Safety Week

10th – 14th June – Healthy Eating Week

17th – 21st June – Sports Week

24th – 28th June – People Who Help Us

1st – 12th July – Summer

15th – 19th July – Free Play.

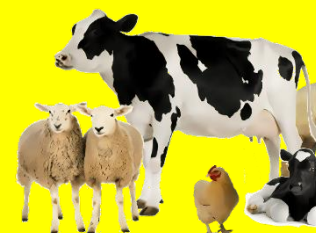
Tuesday 21st May – Farm trip for Tuesday am session children.

Friday 24th May – Forest School AM session.

Friday 28th June – School Leavers Sports Day

Friday 5th July – Back up date for Sports Day

Date for School leavers ceremony to be confirmed



Ice Cream Sales



We will be selling ice-creams some days after preschool during the summer term.



Please keep your eye on our facebook page and tapestry notification for days this will be running

No cash, no problem, remember we now also take card payments at our fundraising events

Some reminders and Information to remember.

- Please ensure your child has spare named clothing to be kept at Stowey Bears. We advise at least two sets including underwear, in the warmer weather we will be having much more water play outside.
- Please provide a drinking bottle for your children – all bottles will be stored in our kitchen cabinet and will be sterilised and refilled with fresh water daily. Unless stated otherwise with a member of staff,
- Please avoid from bringing own toys into the setting, unless it's a comfort object. We have lots of toys for the children to play with and unfortunately children can lose their toys in our setting or conflicts can happen amongst the children,
- Please remember to wait outside the door when dropping off or collecting your children from Preschool, a member of staff will meet you at the door.
- If you would like to talk to a member of staff, please wait until all children have been brought in/collected, we will then see if the member of staff is available or organise a meeting,
- Please do not enter the wooden gate to the school playground until you have been authorised to do so by the school,
- We have been asked to remind all parents - PLEASE DO NOT PARK in front of the main black gates when dropping off or collecting children, these gates must be kept clear AT ALL times,
- As we are now approaching the warmer months please apply sun cream to your children before Preschool (when necessary), we will then reapply after lunch time – all children must supply a named sun cream to be kept at the setting.

Please supply your children with a decent sunhat (named), we do go outside in all weather's, sunshine included, so we want to keep children safe from sun burn or sun/heat stroke and follow our 'Sun-safe' policy.



Who's who ?

Rachel – Manager, Polar Bear Key group



Sarah – Deputy Manager, Panda Bear key group



Hayley – Early years educator, Koala Bear key group



Emily – Early years educator, Sun Bear Key group



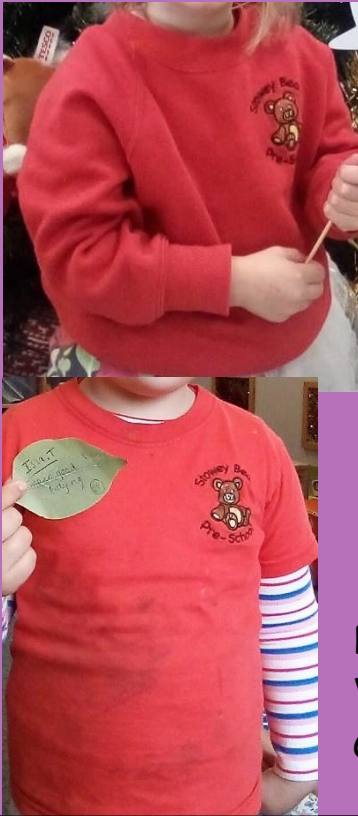
While your child is with us they will have an allocated key person, this will be the person that helps them settle, record their achievements, look at planning for their next steps to learning, and will be available for 6 week reviews and parents evenings. They also will be able to chat and discuss things with parents if any matters arise .

**Tina – Business Manager,
finances, billing, office based**



**Tracey – Permanent Bank staff
Currently working Monday and Tuesday mornings**





UNIFORM

Sweatshirts - £12

T-Shirts £8

While uniform is not compulsory children do enjoy Wearing it, it helps them get ready for school and does Save 'best' clothes from getting ruined

Stocks are in the office please ask a member of staff
Sizes aged 2-3 or 4-5

Don't forget we have all weather bib and braces that we Dress children in in wet weather , they just need a decent Waterproof coat and accessories according to weather Conditions on the day

Fees Explained

Our current fees are as follows

A one off **£20 registration fee** that includes a book bag and a t-shirt for every child as they start
£5.40 per hour for 2 year olds, **£5.00** per hour for 3-4 year olds

Our days are split into 2, 3 hour sessions **8.50am -11.50am, 12.20pm-3.20pm,**

This leaves a half hour lunch time **11.50-12.20**, this is charged at a flat rate fee for all of **£2 (a saving of between 50p-70p of normal half hour fee)** this fee only includes the supervision of your child and does not include any food, staff normally sit with the children and eat their lunches with them, but no activities are set up during lunch. If you are not using all your funded hours we can include the lunch half hour within the funding claim

Daily snack fee is charged for all children at **75p** per day (only for days your child is booked in for), snack is provided twice a day morning and afternoons, and all dietary/allergy requirements are catered for

Daily consumable fee is charged for all children at **75p** per day (only for days your child is booked in for) this covers wet wipes, tissues, toilet rolls, paper, paints, messy play, cooking and special activities (These fees are payable by all and **cannot** be added to funding as funding is only for hours)

REMINDER - At present we are really busy and actually turning children away or having to make them wait for spaces, with this in mind I would like to point out our policy which states that if you decide to drop hours we need a months notice, you will still be liable to pay your child's bill if you decide not to use all the hours you have booked (for the month after the date you have given notice), whether they are attending or not. If you want to increase hours we will do our best to accommodate your needs as soon as possible

Help with Fee's and Funding available for your child

When your child starts preschool, we will ask for a copy of **their birth certificate** and you need to fill out a **child registration form**, we send an electronic copy to county so funding will be paid as soon as a child qualifies. Funding is split into three terms, Autumn 1st September – 31st December, Spring 1st January – 31st March and Summer 1st April – 31st August. You can only get funding the term after the term their birthday falls

2-year-old funding. There are certain qualifying criteria which can be found on their website, you can apply through this and will get a letter to confirm when payments will start. We will need this letter either emailed to us or given a copy. [Funding for 2 year olds \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/funding-for-2-year-olds)

Universal 15-hour funding this is available for every child the term after they turn 3. They can split this and use at more than one setting as long as they are not exceeding the 15 hours. There is nothing a parent has to do to get this, but we do need to know if hours are claimed at another setting. You will be asked to sign a form termly which shows how many hours we claim for your child. More information at [Early years entitlement \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/early-years-entitlement)

30 Hours Funding This is the 15 hours universal and an extra 15 hours on top specifically designed to help working parents, again certain criteria apply. You also have to apply the term your child turns 3 to access it the term after, if you apply late you will have to wait another term. We will need your code and national insurance number to put into our portal to claim it. The codes also expire after so long and you will get an email to recheck it, this is the parents' responsibility, we cannot claim for expired codes and fees may have to be charged if that happens. [30 hours extended entitlement \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/30-hours-extended-entitlement)

Pupil Premium. If you are in receipt of certain benefits or meet certain criteria you may be able to apply for pupil premium. This is a small payment that is made to the preschool per hour that your child attends. We use pupil premium payments to benefit the children who we get it for, it may be to purchase specific resources to aid their learning, training or staff hours to help your child. Pupil premium can be carried over in to school once awarded. [Early years pupil premium information for parents \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/early-years-pupil-premium-information-for-parents)

Tax Free Childcare Tax-free childcare is an online payment scheme that benefits working parents, it is topped up by the government. For every £8 a parent puts in the government puts in £2, up to £2000 a year. This is a good scheme for working parents and can be extended until a child is 12, or 17 if disabled and can be used to help pay for after school clubs. More information is at [Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare)

New 2 Year funding for working Parents. [Working parents of 2 year olds can claim for 15 hours funding now](#) , from **September 2024 children aged 9 months and over** can claim the **15 hours**, then from **September 2025** they will be introducing the Extended element to all children 9 months and above which means you can claim up to **30 hours a week** .

Please if you think you are entitled to this funding please claim before we break up for summer holidays, so I can add the code to the portal ready for the new term. I will need your code and NI number as well as DOB and legal Name of child

Please remember you can claim this the term BEFORE it will be active so the term that they turn 2, if you apply late (after 31st August) you will have to wait until January to be able to claim

Any queries on funding please don't hesitate to email stoweybearsfinance@gmail.com

A NOTE FROM OUR COMMITTEE

Wow it's the summer term already! A huge welcome back to Rachel, we are so happy to have you back at the preschool, the children are so excited to see you again. Also we would like to say a BIG thank you to Sarah for doing so brilliantly acting manager for this past term and the whole Stowey Bears team pulling together and keeping preschool running smoothly for all of the families who attend. The committee is so grateful for your hard work and dedication, you've done amazingly, thank you. Thank you also to all the families who came to our fun quiz night in Over Stowey, we raised almost £200 which is fantastic for the preschool and all had a great evening. This term we will be selling ice creams after preschool once the sunshine arrives so please look out for advertising for when that will be. We are also going to have a fun stall at the school summer fair which we are looking for someone to take the lead on. If this could be you please email the committee or speak to Lucy Mayhew or myself. As always, Stowey Bears is a committee led preschool and relies on family's getting involved and helping us. Please get in touch if you have a fundraising idea you'd like to run or to join us on the committee, all are welcome. stoweybearscommittee@hotmail.com

With our best wishes

Sophia Bellamy and the Stowey Bears Committee

Useful Contacts

Parent/General enquiries stoweybearspreschool@outlook.com

Committee stoweybearscommittee@hotmail.com

Finance stoweybearsfinance@gmail.com

Telephone **01278734636** Preschool mobile **07544744918**
(we take this on our outings if you need us while we are around the village)

Rachel stoweybearspreschool@outlook.com

Sarah sarah.stoweybearspreschool@outlook.com

Hayley hayleystoweybearspreschool@outlook.com

Emily emilystoweybears@outlook.com

Tina tinastoweybears@outlook.com



Term dates for 2023/2024

Please note we have INSET days on the 2nd and 3rd January and the 22nd, 23rd and 24th July (we have to take 5 inset days during the year as funding is only payable for 38 weeks (190 days) for term time only settings)

September 2023						October 2023						November 2023						
M		4	11	18	25	Mo		2	9	16	23	30	M		6	13	20	27
Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu		3	10	17	24	31	Tu		7	14	21	28
W		6	13	20	27	We		4	11	18	25		W	1	8	15	22	29
Th		7	14	21	28	Th		5	12	19	26		Th	2	9	16	23	30
F	1	8	15	22	29	Fr		6	13	20	27		F	3	10	17	24	
Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa	4	11	18	25	
Su	3	10	17	24		Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su	5	12	19	26	
December 2023						January 2024						February 2024						
M		4	11	18	25	M		1	8	15	22	29	M		5	12	19	26
Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu		6	13	20	27
W		6	13	20	27	W		3	10	17	24	31	W		7	14	21	28
Th		7	14	21	28	Th		4	11	18	25		Th	1	8	15	22	29
F	1	8	15	22	29	F		5	12	19	26		F	2	9	16	23	
Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa	3	10	17	24	
Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su		7	14	21	28		Su	4	11	18	25	
March 2024						April 2024						May 2024						
M		4	11	18	25	M		1	8	15	22	29	M		6	13	20	27
Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu		7	14	21	28
W		6	13	20	27	W		3	10	17	24		W	1	8	15	22	29
Th		7	14	21	28	Th		4	11	18	25		Th	2	9	16	23	30
F	1	8	15	22	29	F		5	12	19	26		F	3	10	17	24	31
Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa	4	11	18	25	
Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su		7	14	21	28		Su	5	12	19	26	
June 2024						July 2024						August 2024						
M		3	10	17	24	M		1	8	15	22	29	M		5	12	19	26
Tu		4	11	18	25	Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu		6	13	20	27
W		5	12	19	26	W		3	10	17	24	31	W		7	14	21	28
Th		6	13	20	27	Th		4	11	18	25		Th	1	8	15	22	29
F		7	14	21	28	F		5	12	19	26		F	2	9	16	23	30
Sa	1	8	15	22	29	Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa	3	10	17	24	31
Su	2	9	16	23	30	Su		7	14	21	28		Su	4	11	18	25	

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Days

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 04 September – 20 October 2023 (35 days)	
Term 2: 30 October – 15 December 2023 (35 days)	
Term 3: 02 January – 9 February 2024 (29 days)	
Term 4: 19 February – 28 March 2024 (29 days)	
Term 5: 15 April – 24 May 2024 (29 days)	
Term 6: 03 June – 24 July 2024 (38 days)	TOTAL = 195