



Stowupland Pre-School Newsletter

September 2026

Welcome back to a new academic year; to all children returning and to our new children and families. We hope you had a lovely summer break and got to spend some time with your families. We have had an amazing first week back and we are really pleased with how well everyone has settled in!

The Autumn term is a busy one; filled with lots of celebrations and experiences for the pre-school children, including Harvest, Fireworks and Diwali, Christmas and New Year.

Settling in

Please remember that transition is a process, not an event. Over the coming weeks your child may express a range of emotions about being here, and away from you, including those children who are returning to a relatively familiar space. I can personally assure you that the staff are experienced with supporting children in settling in. Please speak to your child's key person if you have any concerns.

There has been a lot of paperwork sent out over the past week, the list below is what you should have received:

- A Keyperson letter with the name of your child's Keyworker and what to expect.
- A funding form
- On tapestry I have uploaded a 'What to expect when' booklet and a healthy eating info sheet
- In order for us to complete our 2 Year checks this half term and baseline assessments we will also send out a parent/carer form for you to complete.

Our team

Below is the list of staff members, above the lunchboxes at the front of the building there is a list of all staff qualifications and photographs.

Kayleigh – Manager and Safeguarding Officer
Hannah – Deputy Manager and Deputy Safeguarding Officer
Lisa – Deputy Manager
Kelly – SENCO, Early Years Educator
Abi – Early Years Educator
Sheila – Early Years Educator
Denise – Early Years Educator
Kaylee – Early Years Educator
Laura – Early Years Educator
Joan – SEN Support

We will be arranging a parents evening for all parents in October to discuss how the children are settling in and next steps.

Autumn term focus book selection

This term we will be exploring a new book called 'The Leaf Thief' by Alice Hemming. This will tie in with our Autumn themes and adventures. This book provides the opportunity to talk about what the children can see and can discuss the change in seasons.



We will also be looking at artwork by Yayoi Kusama particularly her artwork with pumpkins.



Please don't forget our lending library, please take a book to read and share at home and return when you have finished. If you would like to donate any books to our library, we would greatly appreciate it.

Sickness

Following changes to the Safeguarding policy, it is vital you email/call us if your child is unwell or absent from the setting.

- If your child has a high temperature and is unwell, they should not attend the setting.
- If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they need to stay at home for 48 hours after the last bout.
- Children should be off for the first 48 hours following new medication/antibiotics.

We can only give prescribed medication to your child, and a form will need to be completed.

The Committee & AGM

The Preschool is run by a committee of parents. It is vital we have parent/carer support in order to keep the preschool open. Our committee oversees the running of the setting and supports with lots of fundraising. If you have some free time and would be interested in finding out a little more about the committee, please speak to Kayleigh/Hannah or Lisa.

We would like to invite you to a meet and greet on Monday 21st September from 7pm.

If you would like to contact Kirstie, our Chairperson her email address is chairperson@stowuplandpreschool.org.uk

Fundraising Committee

FUNDRAISING UPDATE - WHY FUNDRAISING IS SO IMPORTANT TO US

Some of our new families may not know, but as a charity we rely on fundraising to help towards buying new materials for our setting, so the children can flourish in their learning and play. Our fundraising group are part of the Committee and they come up with ideas throughout the year to raise monies.

If you have any ideas for events and/or would like to get involved, please let Kayleigh know.

Last year we raised money for a greenhouse, new craft area and resources and new sensory toys.

General Reminders



As the weather is turning colder and wetter, we kindly ask parents/carers to provide a named warm coat and named wellies for walks in the community. We encourage children to change into their wellies when outside, these can be kept at preschool or brought in with your child on the days they attend. The children have access to the outside garden throughout the day.

Please could you ensure that your child's lunchbox and drink bottle are clearly labelled with their name, to avoid mix-ups.

We encourage all children to make healthy choices at Lunch-Time; eating sandwiches and fruit/vegetables before a snack or treat. We also try to encourage children to try everything that you pack for them.

Please talk to us if you are finding that your child comes home with lots of food remaining in their boxes; we do our best to find ways of encouraging them further at lunchtimes.

*Please do not pack any NUTS in your child's lunchbox due to allergies.

We respectfully remind parents to park in the car park at the Village Hall when dropping off and collecting their child from Pre-School. Parking in the School/Church layby is strictly not permitted at any time.



It is stated within our Attendance Policy that if your child is unwell please call or email the setting on 01449 678550 or admin@stowuplandpreschool.org.uk in the morning ideally before 8.30am.

Tapestry

Everyone should have received a letter confirming their child's keyworker. If you haven't, please speak to Kayleigh, Hannah or Lisa. Our daily 'Snap shots' have started, and individual observations will start this week. Please note that all staff are spending quality time with the children extending their learning and development.

Consumable charge

Some of you may be aware that the amount we receive for each funded child who attends our setting doesn't reflect the continuing economic increases. With this in mind, we ask parents for a 'consumable charge' towards the cost of the seasonal activities, cooking, animal encounters and Christmas party etc which we provide at Pre-School. This also covers your child's online learning journal and snacks.

Stowupland Pre-School is a Committee run setting, which has charitable status. We are a non-profit organisation, and any profits we generate go directly towards the running of the Pre-School.

What to expect when.....

On tapestry you will find a link to a document from the department of education with a guide of children's development. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's development, please speak to your child's keyworker or our SENCO.

SENCO appointments can be made on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month between 8:45 and 9:30 the appointment slots will be set at 10 minutes unless otherwise requested. Please email admin@stowuplandpreschool.org.uk to make an appointment. Please note: Kelly's SEN paperwork day is a Monday.

https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/sites/default/files/what_to_expect_when_a_parents_guide.pdf

TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2026

Thursday 3rd September – Wednesday 16th December 2026
Half Term: Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2026

Spring Term 2027

Monday 4th January – Friday 26th March 2027
Half Term: Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February 2027
***Closed Friday 26th March for Good Friday*

Summer Term 2027

Monday 12th April – Monday 19th July 2027
Half Term: Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2027
***Closed Monday 3rd May for Bank Holiday*

Important Dates-

21st September – Committee Meet and Greet
28th September– Harvest Festival: Food donations
W/C 12th October – World singing Week
Tuesday 20th October/Wednesday 21st October – Parents Evening
5th November – Fireworks Night
8th November - Diwali
11th November – Remembrance Day
13th Children in Need – Dress up
Christmas parties TBC
Friday 15th January 2027 – School application Closing date

If you have any Safeguarding concerns relating to children or adults please contact Customer First on
08088004005