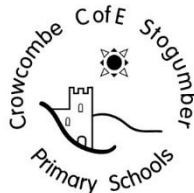


Stogumber C of E VC Primary School

Stogumber, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 3TQ

Tel: 01984 656311

E-mail: StogumberOffice@crowstog.co.uk**Crowcombe C of E VA Primary School**

Crowcombe, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 4AA

Tel: 01984 618273

E-mail: CrowcombeOffice@crowstog.co.ukwww.crowcombeandstogumberprimaryschools.co.uk*Together, let us Love, Encourage, Achieve and Flourish. (Hebrews 10 24-25)*

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Kate Lewis

7th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school today and to see our classrooms and playgrounds buzzing with excitement, enthusiasm and smiles once again. We hope you have all enjoyed a restful summer break and that your children have returned feeling refreshed, confident and ready for the year ahead.

The first day of a new school year is always special. It brings opportunities to make new friends, develop new skills, embrace new challenges and create lasting memories. We are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled back into school today and are looking forward to supporting them as they learn, grow and flourish throughout the coming year.

As we begin this new academic year together, I would like to share a few important reminders and updates.

School Uniform

Please ensure your child comes to school wearing the correct school uniform each day, including a waterproof coat.

On PE days, children should wear the correct school PE kit. For Learning Outside the Classroom (LOT) days, children will need suitable outdoor clothing, including covered arms and legs, waterproofs, wellies and spare shoes and socks.

To help children focus on their learning, personal items should not be brought into school unless specifically requested by a member of staff. Further information about uniform requirements can be found on our website.

Attendance Matters

Good attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children achieve success at school. Every day of learning counts, and regular attendance supports children's academic progress, wellbeing and sense of belonging within our school community.

We continue to follow the latest statutory guidance regarding school attendance, including the use of penalty notices for non-consecutive unauthorised term-time leave. Our Attendance Policy has been reviewed in line with current legislation and is available on the school website.

Our aim is for every child to achieve attendance of at least **96%** across the academic year.

If your child is absent due to illness, please inform the school office by **9.00am each day of absence**, providing a clear reason.

As a reminder, school gates open at **8.40am** each morning. Children are encouraged to arrive promptly so that they can take part in morning learning activities and settle into the day successfully. The gates close at **8.55am**, and children arriving after this time will be marked as late.

If you have any concerns regarding attendance, please do get in touch. We are always happy to work together to provide support where needed.

The Importance of Reading

One of the greatest gifts we can give children is a lifelong love of reading. We encourage all families to spend time reading with their child every day, whether that is hearing them read, sharing a story together or discussing books they enjoy.

Research consistently shows that reading for pleasure has a significant impact on children's future academic success. Even when children become fluent, confident readers, regularly sharing books together continues to develop vocabulary, imagination, knowledge and a love of learning.

Thank you for your continued support in making reading a valued part of daily life at home.

Relationships and Behaviour

We are committed to providing a positive, respectful and nurturing environment where every child feels safe, valued and supported.

Our Relationships and Behaviour Policy outlines our expectations and the approaches we take to promote positive behaviour, wellbeing and strong relationships across our school community. We encourage all parents and carers to familiarise themselves with this policy, which is available on the school website.

Communication

Class Dojo remains our main platform for communication between home and school.

The **School Story** is used to share key dates, newsletters, upcoming events and whole-school learning and enrichment opportunities. The **Class Story** provides class-specific updates, celebrations and reminders.

Please remember that teaching staff are teaching throughout the school day and are therefore able to access Class Dojo messages only between **8.00am and 8.30am** and **3.30pm and 4.00pm**. If you need to contact the school outside of these times, please communicate directly with the school office, who will ensure messages are passed on appropriately.

For ease of reference:

- **Attendance, reporting absences** - School Office
- **Clubs, lunches and minibuses enquiries** - School Office
- **Payments and educational visits** - School Office
- **Learning and wellbeing concerns** - Class Teacher via Dojo or School Office
- **Safeguarding concerns** - Mrs Lewis (Designated Safeguarding Lead) via safeguarding@crowstog.co.uk
- **Concerns or complaints** - Mrs Lewis via the School Office (please refer to the Complaints Policy on the website)

As schools, we are committed to supporting staff wellbeing and a healthy work-life balance. We kindly ask families to consider this when using direct messaging facilities. Staff will respond during core school hours (8.30am to 4.00pm) or within their contracted working hours if they work part-time. Please avoid messaging staff directly during weekends and school holidays.

As we start this exciting new school year together, I would like to thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. The strong relationships between home and school are an important part of helping every child succeed.

Today has been a fantastic start, and we are excited about the opportunities, experiences and achievements that lie ahead. Together, we will continue to ensure that every child is supported to learn, grow, achieve and flourish.

We look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs Kate Lewis
Executive Headteacher