



Wimbotsham & Stow Academy

Fortnightly Newsletter

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Families,

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break. Staff made it into school for training despite the snow on Monday. We hosted other schools within the trust for more training linked to our Talk for Writing project. The focus was on teaching non-fiction writing and all the children are working on information texts this half term.

This term we have a big focus on spelling and handwriting. Children in EYFS and KS1 use read write inc as their phonic programme before moving onto spelling rules. We have made the decision not to send spellings to learn at home moving forward. There is a lot of research to say that learning lists of words does not impact on general writing, and this seems to be the case. We also realise this is often an added stress at home. Class teachers may send copies of the words home so that you can practise if you wish, but there will be no weekly test.

We are also focusing on handwriting. Currently, we have asked all children to write in pencil while we finalise the criteria for working in pen. Many children will return to this quickly, but we want to ensure consistent expectations across the classes. We will share more details about spelling and handwriting in the coming weeks.

Louise Arrowsmith - Executive Headteacher

SCHOOL APPEARANCE

Please can we ask parents and children to support the school in an effort to maintain a high standard of appearance while at school:

Full School Uniform - White polo shirt, grey/black trousers or skirt.

Navy blue Sweatshirt or cardigan

NO HOODIES (other than leavers) or SKINNY JEANS!

PE Kit - plain white T-Shirt, navy/black shorts, black tracksuit bottoms, indoor pumps and outdoor trainers.

Hairbands & Earrings small and simple. **NO BIG BOWS OR HAIRBANDS PLEASE.**

Long Hair tied back to reduce the risk of headlice spreading.

Footwear to be sturdy black & sensible. (NO bright/pale colours, heels or open toes)

WINTER COATS

As the weather has turned colder children **MUST** come to school in a warm winter coat, children without suitable outdoor clothing will not be allowed outside at break time.

SICKNESS & DIAHORREA

Please be reminded that children

Should remain off school 🚫

Until they have been

Symptom free for 48 hours.

Changes to the Menu
Thursday 15th January

No prebooking - please tell your child to order in registration in the morning as per usual



ParentPay

Please continue to keep your accounts up to date.
thanks



Hérons class Parents - Thank you for your payments so far. The final balance is due by 25/02/26. More information like packing list etc. to go out this week.

Thank you

Upcoming Events 2025/26

January 2026

Swans swimming this Term on a Tuesday
Hérons Bushcraft sessions every Monday afternoon

February

Friday 13th - Break up for Half Term

Monday 23rd - Back to school

March

Monday 2nd & 3rd - Bikeability year 6

Monday 16th - Selected Swans Cluster Bee netball Event

Wednesday 25th - 27th - Herons Residential

Friday 27th - break up for easter Holidays

April

Tuesday 14th - Back to school

Thursday 16th - Pret a Portrait Class Photos

Thursday 23rd - Year R and Year 6 - vision and Hearing Checks

Tuesday 28th - Selected Swans Tri golf Event

Thursday 30th - Year 6 Crucial Crew Event afternoon session

May

Monday 4th - School Closed May Day Bank Holiday

W/C 11th - SATS Week Year 6

Friday 22nd - break up for Half Term

June

Monday 1st - Back to school

Tuesday 16th - Dance Festival Kingfishers

Tuesday 30th - Herons/swans Hillcrest cluster sports

July

Friday 17th - break up for the Summer