



Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy week our children have had in preschool! Whilst a cold snap has certainly arrived, it's been wonderful to see the sun too, and with it the opportunity to enjoy the colours and textures that accompany these fresh, drier days. The children have enjoyed investigating the frost settling on cobwebs and running amongst the blanket of crunchy leaves that seems to have collected in all corners of Stockland.

This Week's Timetable

Make It Monday

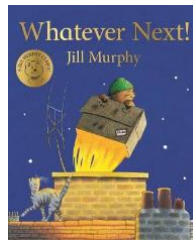
"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up." – Pablo Picasso

One of my favourite moments this week observing two of our children, elbow-deep in paint, enthusiastic and maintaining extreme focus as they created multiple masterpieces at the easel. Paint was in their hair and the floor had certainly seen better days too, but the concentration and pride that they demonstrated as they busily worked and transported their experiments and creations to the drying racks was truly inspiring. It reminded me of one of my favourite quotes regarding children and their creativity:

It must not be forgotten that the basic law of children's creativity is that its value lies not in its results, not in the product of creation, but in the process itself. It is not important what children create, but that they do create, that they exercise and implement their creative imagination (Vygotsky).

These children were playing with colour and shape, they did not choose to keep their colour 'in the lines', or even on the page, instead what I saw was a moment in time where these children were at their most creative, expressive and had the supreme confidence to create artwork of beauty and individuality. With this in mind, Monday this week will bring with it an invitation to be curious, to be brave and to make a difference! We will be presenting the children with all sorts of art resources, respecting their individuality and giving them the freedom to make their own creations and artwork, as we teach them to value their authentic and unique ideas. I can't wait to see what they come up with and I bet the staff won't be able to resist either!

Tinkering Tuesday



The moon and back before bath time? Whatever next! Join Baby Bear as he finds a rocket, makes friends with an owl and has a picnic on the moon!

Nurturing a love of reading from a young age builds the foundations for your child's development, giving them a head start in their learning journey. Reading sparks imagination, encourages creativity and promotes communication for children. That is why literacy makes up such an important part of the EYFS and is an important part of our daily routine. This week in our tinkering will be based upon the story 'Whatever Next' as we experiment in making rockets!

Welly Walk Wednesday/P.E with Mr Murnane

Welly Walks are great fun and they are hugely beneficial for children, both physically and mentally. They help to build confidence and independence. Working as a team outdoors helps children to bond as a group and encourages them to care for each other and their environment. It's great for their physical fitness and provides all the health benefits of being in the great outdoors, including improved mental health and emotional wellbeing. I'm looking forward to collecting leaves and twigs to make a hedgehog... I wonder if any of the children would like to join in?

Thinking Thursday

The importance of asking 'why'.

Celebrated annually, on the 3rd Thursday of November, is World Philosophy Day; a day that answers several questions within us that seem unearthly and the solutions that appear unattainable. The early years classroom is a place which thrives on excitement, curiosity and discovery, where language and communication are the foundations of play and adventure. A classroom that introduces philosophical thinking and talking, playing and storytelling becomes a classroom alive with possibilities for past, present and future understanding.

We all philosophise at various times in our lives. We want to know about our existence, our relationships, our place within society and the wider world. Philosophy explores these important questions and allows us opportunities to think about our answers. Children are born philosophers. Innately inquisitive, their thirst for knowledge is persistent. To teach children how to think, we must nurture this curiosity and embrace these questioning moments. Seemingly simple questions, such as the familiar 'Why?' is one such moment; and the most exciting type of 'Why?' question is one which has no definitive answer. This is the moment when a child's active and curious mind begins to expand. They begin to understand that there is not always a right or wrong answer, and that there are also opinions and ideas. As adults, it is our role to delve into this realm of ideas, explore opinions and concepts, and debate non-judgmentally, with gentle curiosity and skilful questioning. We encourage and teach children to engage in meaningful 'open' dialogues, with adults and one another. Through dialogue, they explore concepts such as friendship, love, hate, reality and imagination. These ideas are all known to us, regardless of ethnicity, age or gender, but we may not all have the same definition of what they are. Teaching children how to engage in these deep 'open' dialogues, for which there is no 'right or wrong', supports them to develop key skills. These key skills support life-long learning and work to ensure our small humans will become adults who are able to function well in society and meet their future potential. Using this approach helps to develop: Self-confidence and self-esteem, opinion, open-mindedness, kindness, tolerance, respect, imagination, creative and critical thinking, problem-solving, intellectual, social and emotional skills and an awareness of oneself, the individual, others, the wider community, and the world.

On Thursday we will be reading John Burningham's "Would You Rather" and playing a game of our own... would you rather be a bee or a chicken?



Fresh Air Friday

Outdoor learning builds confidence, social skills, communication, motivation, physical abilities, and knowledge. Activities in a woodland setting improve self-esteem, teamwork, and foster a positive attitude toward learning. Children are naturally curious and thrive when exploring the outdoors through play and outdoor learning encourages creative and investigative STEAM activities using natural materials, providing hands-on experiences that engage both the body and mind. It sparks awe and wonder, allowing children to revisit their interests and build on their natural tendencies. Ample outdoor time benefits all children, including those with special needs, by enabling exploration, adventure, and confidence-building. It also teaches risk management and nurtures ecological awareness. Activities like hiding in bushes, climbing trees, feeding birds, gardening, and playing with mud, water, and sand create meaningful and joyful learning experiences tailored to each child's needs. This week we will be spending as much time as possible in the garden area and a little bird told me that we might stumble upon a tea party...!

Further News

The committee have had rather a busy week ensuring that statutory standards and responsibilities have been met as we prepare for me to join the staff team at Stockland and Yarcombe Preschool in the role of Acting Manager. We were so grateful to Haley for agreeing to return as Chairperson should this have been required, but are pleased to inform you that Christina volunteered, and was voted in, to the role of Chairperson. Pippa remains as Vice Chair and Secretary and Emily continues as treasurer to form the core committee. Thank you all for your time and effort.

Spare clothes

We are outside a lot and sometimes we get rather messy at preschool when using resources such as paint and water as part of our learning. Please can you ensure that children have plenty of warm, spare clothes in their bags as the weather gets even wetter and muddier, so that we can keep your child/ren clean and warm!

Current Vacancies

We are advertising for a new manager. Do you know anyone who might be interested in applying?

Dates for the Diary

Stockland Christmas Market and Grotto is on Saturday 30th November



Christmas Song Time: Thursday 19th December 2024, 14.00 – 15.00. Parents/carers are invited to join us for singing, draft and of course mince pies. Don't forget to wear your Christmas jumpers!



Last day of term for Christmas: Friday 20th December 2024

Inset Day: Monday 6th January 2025

Pre-school Returns: Tuesday 7th January 2025

February Half Term: 17th February 2025 - 21st February 2025

Preschool Contact Details

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CORE COMMITTEE

Christina Leppard - Committee Chair chair@stocklandpreschool.co.uk

Pippa Salter – Vice Chair, Secretary and Safeguarding vicechair@stocklandpreschool.co.uk

Emily Foxwell – Treasurer treasurer@stocklandpreschool.co.uk

STAFF

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or Jemma@stocklandpreschool.co.uk

Sam Steward - Deputy Manager sam.s@stocklandpreschool.co.uk

Kelly Patch kelly.p@stocklandpreschool.co.uk

If you'd be interested in joining the committee or helping out at our fundraising events, please do speak to any staff or committee member.