

Newsletter: Friday 22nd November 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to begin by saying how pleased I am to be your temporary manager; Stockland and Yarcombe Preschool is a very special setting and one which I feel extremely privileged to be leading through this interim period. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that in this position, I will always make time to talk with parents, so please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any issues or ask questions. I should like to draw your attention to the letter that has been sent to all families this week regarding my appointment so please do look for this in your inbox if you think that you may have missed it. I also welcome any suggestions that you may have with regards to improving our offer... For example, is there anything that you would like to see us doing which currently is not in place? How do the hours suit your needs?

It has been wonderful to be at the door to welcome all of our children into the room, they have all displayed such positive attitudes and appear happy and thriving amongst their friends; the staff and I are thrilled that they have coped with the change in faces so well. You will no doubt have had a flavour of what we have been up to this week on our Facebook page, however this only scratches the surface of all the learning and fun that goes on, as do the children's Tapestry Learning Journals.

Regarding the journals, you may be aware that EYFS reforms over the last four years have brought an important shift away from collecting lots of evidence about every child so that practitioners can spend as much time as possible interacting with the children and directly supporting their learning and development. Consequently, significantly less is captured and documented on this platform. We still value Tapestry in enabling a positive partnership with parents, in forming our assessments and moderating one another but for this reason, I feel it is important to support you with knowing more about the day to day running and activities within the setting by sharing with you some details of our planning in the newsletter and on Facebook.

Whilst we do capture some wonderful moments in photographs and are keen to share them with you on social media and in the snaps below, it is important that you understand that these are not 'highlights' or 'key moments', often it is lucky that we had a camera on our person as we are usually elbow-deep in water or a sensory tray! Your children are busy making progress all of the time and we are far more interested in being part of that! If you would like to know more, do speak to any of the staff and they can talk to you about the daily routine and the pedagogy that underpins the guided activities and provisions.

Snaps

Washing Baby Bear after his trip to the moon and thinking about why the colander wasn't a very good space hat...



Using construction kits to build rockets!



The snow and ice kept us inside today so we made bug hotels!



This Week's Timetable

Make It Monday

'...Expressive Arts and Design fosters imagination, curiosity, creativity, cognition, critical thinking and experimentation; provides opportunities to improvise, collaborate, interact and engage in sustained shared thinking; and requires time, space and opportunities to re-visit and reflect on experiences...'
Birth to Five Matters

Monday brings with it the first opportunity for our children to interact with an invitation to get creative. Though nicknamed 'Make It Monday', this activity is available throughout the week, for all children to participate in, even if they do not attend on a Monday, and indeed to return to, building on their learning, if this is attractive to them. This week, the task is to use paints, brushes, spray bottles and interesting textures to mix and print colours akin to the night sky! The children can add stars, planets, aliens and rockets if they wish. Perhaps Baby Bear will make an appearance on the moon with his picnic, or will there be a self-portrait of your child as an astronaut? The choice is theirs! Later in the week Alice and Sharon are looking forward to using 'junk' to model spacecrafts too! If you have any particularly exciting small boxes, tubes or recycled materials, do send them in with your child/ren and they can have a go at incorporating these into their designs.

Tinkering Tuesday

“Play is the highest form of research” Albert Einstein

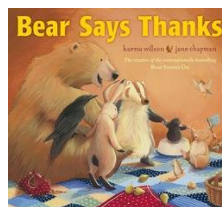
Tinkering is about having the opportunity to explore, make mistakes and discover how things work. It may mean testing, fixing, breaking and fixing again! Children are curious by nature and by providing them the tools and materials to explore you will be encouraging them to become ‘tinkerers’ as well as developing their fine motor skills, problem solving abilities and social skills. Children who are engaged in open-ended tinkering practice skills they will use throughout their lifetime. The final product of tinkering is not as important as the process. As children mature, their ability to use tools, collaborate and communicate with others, observe, experiment, make discoveries, tap into previous knowledge and persevere, will continue to grow. When children take things apart (‘deconstruct’) they see how the parts work together and gain insight into how to put components together in ways that create something new. This week we continue to explore our fascination with hedgehogs using clay, twigs, pasta and more...



Welly Walk Wednesday

On Welly Walk Wednesday this week we will be going on a listening walk to get the children thinking about the different sounds they hear around them. We will use the iPads to record the sounds to help us remember! When we get back the staff will be helping the children to find words to describe these sounds and the children will draw a map of our listening route using symbols to represent the sounds!

Thinking Thursday



What better way for Bear to say thanks and enjoy the company of his friends than over a nice big dinner! Bear decides to throw a feast. One-by-one, Bear's friends show up with different platters of delicious food to share. There's just one problem. Bear's cupboards are bare! What is he to do? This lovely book is a celebration of family and friendship. The children will delight in discovering the special gift Bear has to share and rejoice in all of the wonderful things we have to be thankful for.

Today is Thanksgiving Day in the United States and Canada. We are taking the opportunity to learn a little about the world we live in as we compare this annual national holiday to our Harvest Festival and have our own gratitude day to think about what we are thankful for! We're going to make our own numbers as we count our blessings and will be baking some bear print cookies too!

Fresh Air Friday

After the excitement of 'Snow Day' this week, it seems only right that we will be having some snowy adventures with Stick Man in the forest area next week... even if the staff do have to make some magic snow of their own!

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 your child/ren have plenty of warm, spare clothes in their bags as the weather gets even wetter and muddier, so that we can keep them 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.

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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