

## Newsletter: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

### *Update*

- I do understand how the last few weeks may have been a concern and worry for many of you in respect of staffing arrangements and so I am pleased to be in a position to now inform you of the agreed arrangements for the New Year. It is with great pleasure that I am able to share with you that I have now signed a permanent contract to take on the role of Manager for Stockland and Yarcombe Preschool. Due to changes in children's days/hours, and consequently staffing patterns, you may find that your child's Key Worker will be adjusted in January. We will update all parents with this information in the first week back and you will have an opportunity to meet with your child's Key Worker during the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025.
- Please note that from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024 drop off and collection will take place at the gate to the Pre-school courtyard space to ensure that we are able to stay within ratio within the room/outdoor space.
- We are very excited to announce that from 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 we will be accepting children from 18 months old. Please do share this fantastic news with any parents/carers that you think may be interested in accessing this provision. We would be grateful for you also sharing with friends and family all the special and unique opportunities and activities we have on offer - from weekly baking, to outdoor adventures in the woodland garden, specialist music and physical education teaching to magical storytelling sessions and constructive/role play and creative play spaces to encourage imaginative games - to name just a few! As a provider we are offering a dedicated cosy, quiet and sensory area too. As you well know, we are situated in a fantastic rural area inside a warm and airy, safe and secure environment, and excellent toilet and changing facilities. We boast an abundance of both indoor and outdoor resources and a recently reviewed and refined curriculum. There is step-free access and ample parking to facilitate easy drop offs and pick-ups and we are within a short walking distance to our local feeder primary school who we share close links with and with whom we have formed a strong relationship. Our wonderful supportive and highly experienced practitioners are always ready to offer a warm and personal welcome to all. As a leader, with many years of experience in the education sector and with extensive skills and specialist qualifications in the EYFS, SEND and Safeguarding, I feel very confident that we are able to offer the assurance for provision of a high-quality, valuable and flexible setting to suit individual needs.
- From 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Breakfast Club will be running Monday – Friday, 8.00 – 8.40.

### *Reminders*

- Is your child due to start school in September 2025? You can apply for your child's school place if they were born between the 1/9/2020 and the 31/08/2021. Remember to visit [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline) to make your application and for more information.
- Please do remember that I 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? I am keen to ensure that we support our families with the best provision possible.
- 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!
- You may be interested in following this link <https://www.devon.gov.uk/eycs/devon-family-hubs-monthly-newsletter-december-2024/> to access the Devon family hubs monthly newsletter for December 2024, which is packed full of interesting information including tips and resources for the festive period.

**Snaps**

Winter Wonderland Stay & Play / Toddler Group

*Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this session such a fantastic success!*



## Timetable

### Make It Monday



Introducing our key text for the week...

*Betty and the Yeti* by Ella Burfoot

Betty's out for a walk in the snow when she finds a jingly jangly hat, a scarf, and a giant coat that comes down to her knees. They don't belong to the polar bear, the whale or the arctic hare, so just whose are they? This book links perfectly to our theme of winter, polar regions and animals, and Christmas.

Developing our Literacy skills:

Predicting - What do you think will happen in this story?

Sequencing - What happened first, next and last in the story? Betty met: the polar bear, the big blue whale, the arctic hare and the yeti.

Digging deeper - Talking about where these animals live (North Pole, Arctic Circle) and asking questions to find out information about each animal, e.g., the arctic hare turns brown in the spring, the whale has a layer of blubber.

Phonics – Rhyming words.

Vocabulary – Riddles to work out the clothes that I am talking about!

We will also begin to make Christmas cards on Monday. This focus will continue throughout the week.

### Tinkering Tuesday

AM: Making Christmas cards and using potatoes to print patterns on wrapping paper.

PM: On Tuesday afternoon we are going to walk to the church for a very special treat: We will be watching the children from Stockland CE Primary Academy performing their Christmas Nativity!

### Welly Walk Wednesday

PE with Mr Murnane.

On Welly Walk Wednesday this week we will be taking a very special journey into Bethlehem as we go on a hunt to find the story of the first Christmas.

### Thinking Thursday

Our activity this week is a throwback to my own childhood. It is one that I remember fondly from my time at Stockland CE Primary School and I am very excited to share it with the children in our setting! Every Christmas the lovely teaching assistant would take us in groups to make sweet treats that would serve as a present for us to gift to our parents/carers. In Maths, we would learn more about shape and nets, and she would help us to make and decorate a box to pack them in. In D&T we would make cards to put with our gift. Whilst gluing tabs to secure a paper-crafted bauble might be a tad ambitious, I am very much looking forward to the fun we will have making peppermint fondant creams and fudge. Followed by Christmas Song Time!

### Fresh Air Friday

Hot chocolate, marshmallows and songs around the campfire to celebrate the end of term!

## **Dates for the Diary**

Christmas Song Time: Thursday 19th December 2024, 14.00 – 15.00.

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

Parent Consultations: Friday 20th December 2024.

Inset Day: Monday 6th January 2025.

Pre-school Returns: Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Parent Consultations: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

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

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## **Contact Details**

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### **CORE COMMITTEE**

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*To contact any other members of our team please email the [info@stocklandpreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@stocklandpreschool.co.uk) account and your queries will be forwarded appropriately.*