

Newsletter: Friday 24th January 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to all of you who joined us at our 'Our Great Britain Toddler Group and Stay & Play'. We thoroughly enjoyed welcoming you all and had a wonderful time investigating Chinese New Year and hosting a royal tea party, amongst many other things. Please see below for an advert for our next session, which will be hosted on 14th February 2025 and includes lots of exciting sensory activities based on the theme 'LOVE'.

On Wednesday 22 January from 4:30pm to 5:30pm the NHS Royal Devon Oral Health Improvement Team will be hosting a free children's oral health improvement training session provided by DCC and NHS Royal Devon. This is aimed at parents, teachers, carers, support workers, and enablers who work with or care for children aged 0 to 11 years. Should this be interesting to you, you can book your place through this link:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=sITDN7CF9UeyIge0jXdO4wMReQlzsGFMvUSchAtQn5RUMjdRN0dBMjFLTTJXSIFLUDFRNUdHTzBORC4u&route=shorturl>.

For those of you with a child/ren leaving us at the end of the year, getting your child ready for starting primary school can feel like a big step, so it's understandable if you're feeling nervous about this new chapter in their life. You're not the only one, and it's likely that your child will be feeling a mix of emotions too. You may find some useful resources on this website: <https://healthforunder5s.co.uk/preschool/?cat=ready-for-school>, including videos and resources such as articles that highlight things you can work on at home to help your child develop the skills they need for school and a reward chart to support this.

Update

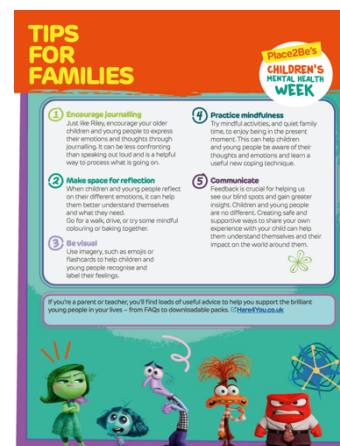
- Reading: Book Recommendations - *Don't Ask the Dragon by Lemn Sissay & Greg Stobbs*. With our continuing focus on reading culture in school, we will continue to recommend books to our families, with a view to trying to widen pupils' interest in different genres and authors, supporting parents to know new authors and as ideas for gifts. If you share one of these books with your child in the future, we would love to hear from you. Let us know what you and your child/children thought of the book and we can share it on Facebook.
- There has been much press in recent months about children's mental health. As part of our drive to support this we are going to include something each month in the newsletter about Health and Wellbeing. We hope you find this section useful. If you have any topics you would like us to find some helpful tips about, please let us know.



Next week is Children's Mental Health Week (3 - 9 February 2025). We will all be taking part in mental health activities at various times through the week. You can get involved at home too.

Place2Be is a children's mental health charity and their theme this year is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. It's about equipping and empowering children, young people, and the adults who surround them to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them. You can download the resources to use at home here:

www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk



- Safeguarding Information: Keeping under-fives safe online. Guide for parents and carers: Download or print this guide to help keep your pre-schooler safe online: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/>.

Reminders

- We are now accepting children from 18 months old; we would be grateful to you continuing to share this fantastic news with any parents/carers that you think may be interested in accessing this provision.
- Breakfast Club now runs Monday – Friday, 8.00 – 8.40.
- If your child attends After School Club, please send them with an additional snack. Thank you.
- 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!
- Partnership with Parents: No one knows your child better than you, so our partnership with parents is integral to our way of working. We look forward to talking with you in our termly parents' meetings/telephone consultations; our aim is to ensure you have the time to discuss your child's individual needs and progress with their appointed key person. However, our 'open-door' policy means that parents are welcome to come and speak to us at any time. We promote home learning, and encourage parents to participate and contribute to their child's development, sharing information on a daily basis through Tapestry and face-to-face.
- 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.

Snaps

Our Great Britain Toddler Group and Stay & Play



The Three Little Pigs



Timetable

Make It Monday

Introducing our key text for the week... Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Thinking about parts of a book, such as the front cover and how the book should be handled and used.

Exploring rhyming words using words from the story. Challenging children to create rhyming pairs using small world toys, such as 'bear' and 'chair'.

Practising making marks and writing letters to label pictures of the Three Bears.

Talking about the phonemes in the words 'mummy' and 'daddy' and how to write these words.

Talking about the story and inviting the children to share their experiences of woodlands, eating porridge or bears.

Tinkering Tuesday

Playing with dry porridge oats to scoop into smaller bowls. Adding water to the oats and describing the differences in texture. Think about the different bowls - explore the language of capacity and size.

Exploring materials with different properties to try and find 'soft' materials for Mummy Bear's bed and 'hard' materials for Daddy Bear's bed: The children will be provided with a range of materials, from wood to cotton wool. Can the children sort them into 'hard' and 'soft' categories?

Construction materials challenge: Can the children build Baby Bear a new bed or chair? Can the children choose resources to carry out their own plan?

Welly Walk Wednesday & PE with Mr Murnane

Gathering a collection of woodland natural materials, such as leaves, twigs, petals and conkers together and using magnifying glasses for children to investigate and describe the materials.

Games we will play at school, which you may enjoy too: In a large space, encourage the children to be Goldilocks sneaking through the cottage. When you clap your hands or shake a tambourine, they need to freeze and hold their pose because Daddy Bear is coming!

Today we will also continue with our learning about Chinese New Year! Now, more than ever, we need to raise children who move beyond simply 'tolerating others' to truly appreciating the beauty of diversity and understanding. In 2014, the UK introduced compulsory 'British Values' education, including 'mutual respect and tolerance' as a core value. Our learning is designed to go beyond tolerance by actively encouraging children to celebrate diversity and understand our shared humanity.

Thinking Thursday

Baking: Goldie's Oat Flapjacks

Roleplay to retell the story and emotions. Thinking about rules we have at pre-school to keep us safe. What are these rules and why do we have them? Encourage talk about Goldilocks' behaviour in the story. Is Goldilocks being safe by going into the Three Bears' home? How might Baby Bear have felt when Goldilocks ate his porridge, broke his chair and slept in his bed? Supporting the children to share their own experiences when they have felt these emotions in a small group conversation. Daddy Bear is very cross that Goldilocks is in his house. Explore how Daddy Bear may act when he is cross. What would his face look like? Explore techniques Daddy Bear could use to calm down, such as deep breaths or sitting in a quiet space.

Fresh Air Friday

Outdoor Cooking: Making porridge outdoors by using mud kitchens. Can children mix mud and water in different sized bowls?

Map Making: Drawing maps of the bears' house and the surrounding forest area, incorporating elements from the story.

Dates for the Diary

- Parent Consultations: Tuesday 11th February 2025 and Wednesday 12th February 2025.
- Toddler Group – LOVE: Friday 14th February 2025, 9.00 – 11.00.
- February Half Term: 17th February 2025 - 21st February 2025.
- Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Races: 4th March 2025, 2.45 – 3.15.
- School Cross Country: Wednesday 6th February 2025 (early finish/pick up).
- Toddler Group – Colours, Love and Spring (Holi): Friday 4th March 2025.
- School Cross Country: Wednesday 19th March 2025 (early finish/pick up).
- Toddler Group – Easter & GRAND EGG HUNT: Friday 4th April 2025.
- Last Day of Spring Term: Friday 4th April 2025.
- Summer Term Begins/Return To School: Tuesday 22nd April 2025.
- PRE-SCHOOL CLOSED: Friday 13th June 2025.



Contact Details

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Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please email jemma@stocklandpreschool.co.uk. This inbox is monitored daily. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Jemma Harvey-Jones and our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are Kelly Patch and Alice Hutter. Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found online at: <https://stocklandpreschool.co.uk/policies-and-procedures/safeguarding>. If you have any concerns about the safety of a child you can either talk to our DSL or DDSL or you can phone Devon MASH on 01392 384964.

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

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To contact any other members of our team please email the info@stocklandpreschool.co.uk account and your queries will be forwarded appropriately.