

Newsletter: Friday 22nd November 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

Another wonderful week has been had by all in pre-school; we have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities that the sun has brought with it this week, including hunting for Stick Man's house, as well as the homes of the extended Stick family! I hope that you have enjoyed the updates posted on Facebook and in your Tapestry accounts.

Christmas Songs

With Christmas rapidly approaching, the staff would be grateful if parents would support us with teaching the children our Christmas songs. The more familiar that the children are with singing the words, the easier it is for them to also keep up with the signs! We will send copies home with the children, please do ask if you think we have missed you out! Thank you for your support with this.

Parent Support

On a different note, I would like to share with you some information/free training that you might find useful. The EYSEND Partnership are offering plenty of training and seminars for early years educators, as well as parents/carers, which can be accessed via their training calendar - <https://teamup.com/kst132vu5f8pgrb9un>.

Some of the upcoming free training and events include:

- Workshops for Parents and Carers, hosted by Contact and Speech & Language UK:
 - Money Matters 03 December 10:00 am
 - Introduction to Speech and Language Challenges 03 December 7:00 pm

Literacy

In recent newsletters and Facebook posts I've shared that our planning is based around key texts. But why? Every child can develop a strong foundation in reading if given meaningful opportunities to explore high quality texts. Providing a well sequenced reading curriculum to develop children's knowledge of language and how it works, can create fluent, passionate and lifelong readers.

The DfE highlights how oral language development is key to children's development. Language development can be enhanced by the amount of spoken language a child hears and joins in with. Language comprehension is an important pre-requisite to children being able to understand what they read for themselves, when the formal teaching of phonics begins in Reception. It's also important to later success with writing composition. Language development links closely to listening and understanding. Introducing children to a wide range of words they would rarely hear or use increases their knowledge of vocabulary and concepts to help them understand the world around them. Hearing and talking about these words in context helps children to understand. Through reading with children we talk about the meanings of words. This starts with us providing and talking about the children's interests and gradually extending their knowledge about the world around them. Listening to stories introduces children to words they would not often hear in everyday speech, for example this week we compared the words Alien and Martian. It also gives them an awareness of sentence structure. We provide a wide range of reading experiences to help our children develop a love of reading, curiosity and wonder about the world around them. So, what does this look like? Some examples include...

- A weekly key text read daily.
- Weekly nursery rhymes sung daily.
- Daily phonics/communication input.
- Continuous provision linked to the texts and rhymes.
- Guided activities linked to the key texts and rhymes.
- Learning a poem of the week, which we rehearse daily. Please note that this is currently on hold whilst we learn the Christmas songs.

Our key text for next week is 'Lost and Found', by Oliver Jeffers.



There once was a boy, and one day a penguin arrived on his doorstep. The boy thought the penguin must be lost, so he tried to find out where he lived. But nobody in the local area seemed to be missing a penguin. So, the boy decided to take him home himself. They set out in his rowing boat on a journey to the South Pole. After lots of adventures, they finally arrived. But when they got there, the boy realised that maybe home wasn't what the penguin was looking for.

We would encourage you to ask your children what they can remember about the story after their sessions! Did they like the story? Why/why not?

Reminders

- Is your child due to start school in September 2025? You can apply for your child's school place from if they are born between the 1/9/2020 and he 31/08/2021. Remember to visit 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!

Snaps

Welly Walk Wednesday



Baking for Thankful Thoughts on Thinking Thursday



This Week's Timetable

Make It Monday

After introducing the story, we will be thinking about the parts of the penguin (beak, wings, feet, tummy, eyes) and during the first session of the week, we will be making penguins! This will allow staff to assess and work with the children on their fine motor capabilities. We will support learning and development with regards to their cutting, writing and visual spatial performance, as well as their ability to follow instructions and visual memory skills.

Tinkering Tuesday

Using loose parts to make penguins!

Loose parts encourage open-ended learning... Open ended materials, environments, and experiences encourage problem solving and are child centered. Children involve themselves in concrete experiences using loose parts, which lead to explorations that occur naturally, as opposed to adult directed.

Welly Walk Wednesday

On Welly Walk Wednesday this week we will be visiting the church to attend a wedding with Jemma and Sam! The children were thrilled when I brought my Happyland toys in to play with; one in particular captured the attention of all of the children – the church, complete with wedding bells! In line with our Personal, Social and Emotional Development/British Values focus on self-confidence and self-awareness we have been encouraging the children to see their role in the bigger picture, to know their views count, value each other's views and values and talk about their feelings, for example through helping the staff to design the provision that is made available to them. In light of this, we will be dressing up in wedding attire to walk to church and participate in a preschool celebration of our own. I can't wait! Please do feel free to send your child/ren in with a fancy outfit for the procession but I will be bringing in wedding dresses, bridesmaid dresses and suits too so there will be outfits available for all.

Thinking Thursday

AM: We've made friends with Bobby the robin so we will be making bird feeders with Sharon, Sam and Jemma!

PM: Language activities.

1. Retelling the story with a focus on learnt language.
2. Thinking about the lost and found department. What have we lost? Where might it be? Let's describe what we can see.
3. Imagining what each of us would do if a penguin came to our door. Can we draw a picture, orally rehearse a sentence and label it with our mark making skills?
4. Hiding the penguin and using mathematical vocabulary to describe where our friends might find it!

Fresh Air Friday

AM: 'Follow The Star' - Nature walk to forage for natural resources, followed by a collaborative craft activity to make a star with Sharon, Alice and Jemma! (Please note that the crafting may be indoors or outdoors dependent on the weather).

PM: Fun in the woodland area with Kelly, Alice and Jemma!

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



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