

Newsletter: Friday 10th January 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to pre-school! We hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and are looking forward to a busy Spring Term. What a strange start we have had with yet another closure this week due to the adverse weather conditions. We apologise for any inconvenience caused and hope you all enjoyed a safe and warm day, filled with fun.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend an enormous thank you to my team, who have worked so hard over the Christmas break in order for us to be ready to accept younger pupils on our first day back. The pre-school has been carefully rearranged and resources updated to ensure that we can provide excellent care, lots of learning experiences and plenty of fun to all pupils 18 months to 4+ years old. There is of course always work to do, but with the inclusion of traditional resources such as dolls houses, high quality puzzles, lots of new sensory toys, carefully selected reading books, art/craft activities and outdoor equipment, we are a setting where imagination and creativity is nurtured and I am confident and excited to watch Stockland and Yarcombe Pre-school go from strength to strength in the future.

Over the next few weeks, we are learning through play about winter; what the weather is – what happens and why, what we need to wear in winter and different species of winter animals. We will look at the concept of freezing and melting, as well as thinking about our coats to learn about different materials and why they are used to make things, using our senses to explore and describe them! Our older pupils will be participating in slightly longer Phonics and Number sessions daily, to build confidence and fluency in these key skills. We would encourage you to practice rapid recognition of sets 1 and 2 speed sounds (m, a, s, d, t, i, n, p, g and o), as well numbers 1 – 10, to support with this. More detailed planning for next week is included below but you can also find our Curriculum Intent and Curriculum Theme Overview on the website at <https://stocklandpreschool.co.uk/policies-and-procedures/early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs>. In the coming weeks we will also upload the Rolling Programme for the next two years, including detailed overviews for each half term.

Update

- Reading: Book Recommendations. With our continuing focus on reading culture in school, we would like to start recommending 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 them! Let us know what they thought of the book or if they make a comment about it and we can share it on Facebook.

Why, Oh Why, Am I a Crocodile? By Alex Brooks & Hannah Worsley



- As I mentioned before the end of term, 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 week in the newsletter about Health and Wellbeing. We hope you find this section useful. If there are any topics you would like us to find some helpful tips about, please let us know. In school we will also be following the 10 A Day for Mental Health, to help us to be healthy. See the poster below for further information. How many of these can you do each day at home? Please see the purple box for support/information this week.





PARENTAL MINDS C.I.C.
Mental Healthcare ; Exploring Pathways

The Parent+ Support Hub is for Caregivers who support family, friends or colleagues with mental health issues. Our volunteers have all supported family & friends with mental health issues. We also have an advisory board of professionals and work closely with local and national mental health services and networks.

<https://www.parentalminds.org.uk/>

- Policy updates: We have updated further documentation including our Medical Conditions and Administering Medicine Policy, our Infection Control Policy and our Missing Pupil Policy and Procedure. These can be found at <https://stocklandpreschool.co.uk/policies-and-procedures>. I will continue to inform you of further updated policies as I review these.
- Safeguarding Information: Keeping under-fives safe online. Is There a Safe Search Engine for Kids? The information generation won't understand life without the Internet. As they take their first steps on the web we as parents ask: how do I keep them safe online? Is there such thing as a child safe search engine and if so, what should I expect from it?



Swiggle is a search engine designed to provide a safer environment for kids taking their first steps on the road to safe online searching. Powered by Google Custom Search, the results are filtered using Google SafeSearch and educational resources prioritised. They also filter the search terms to check that Swiggle is not being used to search for inappropriate content. Check it out here: <https://swgfl.org.uk/services/swiggle/>.

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/admissiononline to make your application and for more information.
- 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. Do let us know if you would like to extend your child's hours to include this.
- Reminders of/adjustments to your child's Key Workers for January 2025 have been emailed to you. You will note that we have organised an opportunity for you to speak with your child's Key Worker/s during the week commencing 10th February 2025.
- 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/eyps/devon-family-hubs-monthly-newsletter-january-2025/> to access the Devon family hubs monthly newsletter for January 2025, which is packed full of interesting information including tips and resources. For example, we know that speech, language and communication are vital to all areas of learning and future success in school/work... Are you a parent that wants to support your child's speech and language development? There are details of a super webinar to help you gain further understanding of the importance of speech and language development and learning strategies, so that you can assist your child and their learning opportunities. There is also a webinar discussing how to help your child to regulate tantrums and meltdowns. You will hear about why that may happen and some practical tools and strategies you can use to support your children and gain some reassurance around your positive parenting.
- 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



Timetable

Make It Monday

We're Going on a Bear Hunt
Michael Rosen Helen Oxenbury



Introducing our key text for the week... We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen.

- Learn new vocabulary
- Retell the story
- Discuss feelings and emotions
- Complete an obstacle course
- Manipulate 2D shapes to make a shape picture of the bear
- Use instruments and noise makers to add sound effects to the story

Tinkering Tuesday



STEM activity: Waterproof material investigation!

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math. STEM can refer to the subjects individually or one or more working together, but can also mean a way of doing things that includes solving problems, asking questions, and exploring the world around us. In EYFS, STEM generally fall under the specific area of learning known as 'Understanding the World'. This is all about getting children to engage in the world around them. The goal is to help them understand the big ideas and concepts that most adults take for granted.

Today's science investigation is a fun one! We're going to waterproof a boot – not a real one, as hopefully your boots are already quite waterproof, but a paper one! The idea is to print off the sheet, colour it in, cover it with different materials and then spray it with water to find out which materials are the most waterproof!

Welly Walk Wednesday & PE with Mr Murnane

On our nature walk we will keep an eye out for footprints in the mud. Wearing our wellies, we will have a go at making our own footprints as we squelch and squash. We will use sticks to make our own marks in the mud. Back in the classroom we will use paint to create our own footprints and animal prints.

Thinking Thursday

Making jam tarts! Rolling out the pastry, cutting out the tarts and filling them with jam.



Fresh Air Friday

We will be making story sticks to retell the story of our own 'Squirrel Hunt'!
This activity uses a stick to record a journey and tell the story of where the children have been and what they found along the way. This will support the children to learn structure writing with a beginning, middle, and end, as well as using time words and openers in story writing.

Dates for the Diary

Parent Consultations: Tuesday 11th February 2025 and Wednesday 12th February 2025.

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

School Cross Country: Wednesday 6th February 2025 (early finish/pick up).

School Cross Country: Wednesday 19th March 2025 (early finish/pick up).

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

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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.