



Newsletter: Friday 7th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We start this week by welcoming another new friend (our fourth under-two) to our Pre-school family! We would like to say a very big 'well done' to this little superstar. She got stuck in straight away, exploring the spaces in our setting and investigating the contents of each box and cupboard! Our older children are really enjoying taking care of our youngest members and it's lovely to hear their chatter about what happened and who they helped, after these settling sessions.

National Storytelling Week: This fantastic annual event is a joyful celebration of the power of sharing stories. Stories teach us about the world; they allow us to step into someone else's shoes and feel empathy; they help us to relax and escape and they can help develop essential literacy skills. As part of National Storytelling this week, the children have been focusing on retelling the story of 'The Gingerbread Man'. They have been sharing their learning through drawing, mark-making and role play. The children also enjoyed designing and making gingerbread men as part of their learning of this tale and were also able to apply their Maths skills by exploring and comparing mass and capacity. They had lots of fun creating their own version of 'The Stinky Cheese Man' and went on an adventure thinking about what happens when you touch the 'Stinky Cheeseman'! The staff loved hearing all their creative ideas and seeing their enthusiasm when they put these ideas onto paper!

Back to the conversation of being ready for school... There are lots of things you can do in the months leading up to the start of school to reduce any anxiety your child may be feeling. For example:

- Read books about school (see the list below for some good suggestions), and look at the school prospectus/website together.
 - I Am Too Absolutely Small For School (Charlie and Lola) by Lauren Child
 - Starting School by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
 - Topsy and Tim Start School by Jean and Gareth Adamson
 - Harry and the Dinosaurs Go to School by Ian Whybrow
- Look at old photos of family members starting school and share some positive memories you have of primary school.
- Talk about all the things they will enjoy, like painting, playing in the playground and making new friends.
- Some children will find it helpful to have a calendar which shows which days they go to school and which days they are at home. As they start school, you can add other details like after school or breakfast clubs, or days they do P.E. to help them understand their routine.
- Take time to choose and label clothing, book bags and lunch boxes together.
- Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep each night. Talk to your Health Visitor if you need help with getting them in a good routine, or with any other issues you may be struggling with such as encouraging your child to stop using a dummy or helping them to be fully toilet trained.

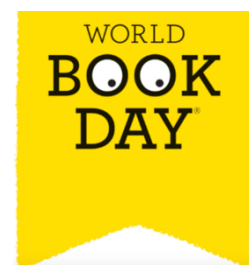
Finally, congratulations to Alice, Jemma, Kelly, Sam and Sharon for completing updated training in Paediatric First Aid and Level 3 Safeguarding over the last week.

Update

- Reading: Book Recommendations *Avocado Asks* by Momoko Abe.
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.



- World Book Day is on 6th March 2025; it provides a fantastic opportunity to focus on reading for pleasure, supporting children's autonomy in book choice, and embedding a habit of reading that brings a wide range of benefits. Due to our continued focus on creating a love of reading, should they wish to, children can come to pre-school dressed as their favourite book character. During the day, the children will take part in activities linked to reading.



- <https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/> is a fantastic resource area for parents and carers and offers a wealth of information to help you support your children to be healthy and happy as they grow. You can find top tips and advice on all aspects of children's emotional and physical health, from keeping kids active and eating well, to building their confidence and equipping them to cope with specific health issues.

- Devon County Council runs a confidential secure text messaging service for parents of children aged 0-19 years called ChatHealth. The service operates Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm, excluding bank holidays. All texts will be responded to by a public health nurse (health visitor/school nurse) within 24 hours. Outside of the service working hours, you'll receive a message back to inform you that your text will be responded to once the line reopens. You can also call our Public Health Nursing hubs on the numbers listed below.

Devon text service for parents: text 07520 631721

Eastern public health nursing hub: phone 0333 234 1903

- Safeguarding Information: Keeping under-fives safe online. Meet Techosaurus, the NSPCC's new online safety dinosaur! Children are growing up in a time where screens are everywhere and the internet plays a big part in their lives, even from a very young age. This can be beneficial, they can learn new things, connect with friends and family, and have fun. But it's important to have conversations on how to explore the online world safely. That's where Techosaurus, the NSPCC's new friendly dinosaur comes in! They understand that talking about online safety can seem daunting, but it doesn't have to be. They have created Techosaurus specifically to make these conversations as easy as possible for you and your child. Techosaurus is aimed at little ones who are starting to use technology and the internet, and keeps the conversation around online safety positive. Techosaurus will help your child to form healthy online habits, routines and behaviours from a young age, and build basic knowledge and skills related to online safety. For a minimum donation of £3, your little one can be introduced to the online world safely through Techosaurus at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/techosaurus/>.



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. Please do get in touch should you wish to use our wraparound care. 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!
- As highlighted in previous weeks, 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.
- 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.
- 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. I am keen to ensure that we support our families with the best provision possible.

Snaps

Investigating what we can do with cogs and dot art



Maths – Counting, recognition of numbers 0 – 5 and ordering



Making Spoon Puppets to retell the story of The Gingerbread Man



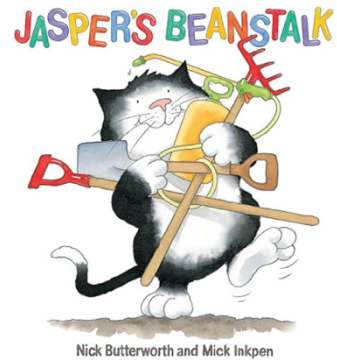
Gingerbread Men



Timetable

Make It Monday

Introducing our key texts this week: Jack and The Beanstalk & Jasper's Beanstalk.
Learning about days of the week.
Measuring beanstalks!



Tinkering Tuesday

What can we use to make a beanstalk? Whose will be the tallest?

Welly Walk Wednesday & PE with Mr Murnane

Taking a walk around the garden and field... what can we find growing? We will take a pencil and piece of paper

Thinking Thursday

Valentine peppermint creams hearts and valentine cards.

Fresh Air Friday

Valentines Fun! Potion making and heart wreaths in the garden.

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.
- School Cross Country: Wednesday 26th February 2025 (early finish/pick up).
- Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Races: 4th March 2025, 2.45 – 3.15.
- 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. Please speak to Jemma about changing your session for this date, should you wish to. Thank you.



Contact Details

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info@stocklandpreschool.co.uk

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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Pippa Salter – Vice Chair, Secretary and Safeguarding vicechair@stocklandpreschool.co.uk
Emily Foxwell – Treasurer treasurer@stocklandpreschool.co.uk

STAFF

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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.