

Newsletter: Friday 14th March 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

Let me begin by saying a huge thank you to those of you who have sent us some lovely books and play resources from our Amazon Wishlist. The children are thrilled with our gifts and the staff very much appreciate them too! I will continue to post photos of us using these within this newsletter and on Facebook over the coming weeks. Please do continue to share with anyone who you think this may be of interest to.



Did you know that through the NSPCC you can order a personalised letter from Hopper the Easter Bunny to surprise your little one this Spring? The activity pack includes:

- A yummy recipe for Hopper's Easter Rocky Road Bars
- An activity sheet to help you organise an Easter egg hunt, with cut-out eggs for the children to find, each featuring fun facts about some Spring-time animals
- DIY Easter Egg Bunting.

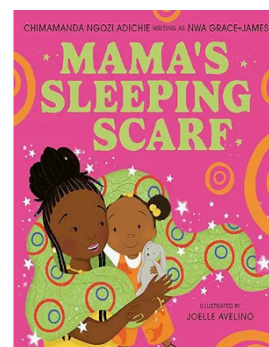
Check it out here: <https://shop.nspcc.org.uk/products/letter-from-hopper>

As always, if you are interested in joining our committee or have any fundraising ideas for Pre-school, please do get in touch.

Finally, thank you for your support in completing the questionnaire sent out last week; I have been reliably informed that your input was incredibly helpful and a super support to our University student friend in completing her final year project.

Updates

- **Reading:** Book Recommendations: *Mama's Sleeping Scarf*. This incredible new illustrated children's picture book about family, love and the mother-daughter relationship comes from award-winning Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. With our continuing focus on reading culture, 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. A joyful exploration of family life, written by one of the most outstanding contemporary authors of our generation, this beautiful family story follows a young girl called Chino as she plays with her mama's sleeping scarf through the day.



- **Wednesday Children - Stockland Educational Foundation:** Please check your emails regarding data consent.
- **Policies:** Stockland and Yarcombe Pre-school's Fees and Funding Policy has been updated and can be found at <https://stocklandpreschool.co.uk/general-information#fees>

Reminders

- **September 2025:** We emailed you last week about September sessions. As we look ahead and prepare for the new academic year, we want to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our families, while providing the best possible experience for your children. It is important to us that we are able to take into account your preferences, thus we would appreciate your input on session requirements for September. This will help us plan our staffing schedule to best meet the needs of our families. Please respond to our email by Friday 4th April 2025, so that we can finalise plans accordingly. Thank you.
- **Amazon Appeal:** We're asking if anyone would kindly like to donate an item to play with in our setting. The Pre-school have recently purchased some new outdoor storage, as well as some larger play items, which include a large water play tray and two exciting sensory tables. However, we are still lacking in smaller resources to use with this equipment, sand toys and books to support understanding our feelings (as well as our Reading Spine). We've set up an Amazon wish list; if you could/would like to purchase an item, it would make a big difference. It's a great way for other family members, friends and the local community to help out Stockland and Yarcombe Pre-school, if they should wish to. Please use this link: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3O9DCQ1HMQEXC?ref=wl_share, and share with anyone who you think may be interested. Thank you.
- **Paperwork:** If you have not yet returned your data consent forms and/or progress updates, please could you do so at your earliest convenience.
- **Mental Health:** Supporting mental health in the early years. Most babies don't know how to self soothe straight away. It is a skill that takes a while to develop. Helping babies and young children to develop their ability to self-regulate their emotions, build relationships and increase their confidence in navigating challenges can all contribute to supporting their mental health (DfE, 2024). You can support the mental wellbeing of babies and young children by:
 - helping them co-regulate their emotional responses by talking to them slowly and calmly.
 - letting them know you are there if they want to seek security by quietly sitting close to them. For babies and toddlers, it can help if you hold them and breathe slowly and deeply.
 - encouraging children who can move about to do something physical to release their energy such as wiggling, clapping or stamping.
 - encouraging children to explore their feelings. This could be verbally, through sign language or through play to represent their world.
- **Safeguarding: IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK** - Parliamentarians come together to support the NSPCC's Six Point Plan to Protect Children. Read more online at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2025/2025-03-13---six-point-plan/>

- **Health & Safety:** Following advice from EDDC's Environmental Health Technical Officer, please add a cool pack to your child's lunch box to ensure that perishable foods stay safe to eat in our warm room.
- **School Readiness: IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK** - New 'School Readiness' definition developed to help reach PM's target. A coalition of education and childcare organisations has developed a new 'school readiness' definition to be used by early years settings, school staff, parents and carers. Despite the Prime Minister setting a target of 75 per cent of children being 'school ready' by 2028, there is currently no official description of 'school readiness'. To help parents, carers and children, Kindred Squared along with nursery groups, organisations and charities concerned with education, have come together to define, for the first time, what they believe being ready to start Reception actually means. All the information and recommendations for parents, carers and families are available on the new Starting Reception website: <https://startingreception.co.uk/>

Please see previous newsletters on the website for further links to mental health support, safeguarding and online safety, as well as school readiness.

Snaps





Timetable

Make It Monday:

St. Patrick's Day Fun!

- Learning about Ireland and the United Kingdom.
- The colours of the rainbow and making our own rainbows.
- Looking at money.
- All about the number 4: Tracing, counting, recognising and representing the number 4.



Tinkering Tuesday:

Global Recycling Day:

- What is recycling and why is it important?
- Sorting recycling.



Welly Walk Wednesday & PE with Mr Murnane:

A new story for us to listen to... Guess How Much I Love You in the Spring



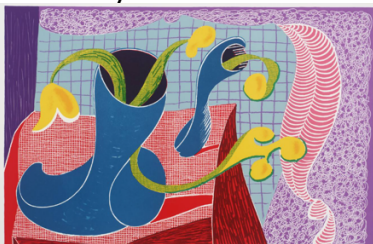
Thinking Thursday:

Today is the first day of Spring!

Learning about the signs of Spring and comparing the seasons.

Fresh Air Friday:

Outdoor painting of daffodils! We will be looking at some famous art featuring daffodils and learning about still lifes! Did you know that a still life painting can show man-made or natural objects, and often feature food, flowers, and other everyday objects. Artists sometimes use still lifes to share a message about what they think is important, or to celebrate the beauty of life. They also often use still lifes to test out new techniques or styles of painting.



Dates for the Diary

- 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.

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

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

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.