

Newsletter: Friday 4th April 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another exciting and busy term at Stockland and Yarcombe Pre-School, we want to take a moment to celebrate the wonderful achievements of our children. It has been a pleasure watching the children grow, learn, and develop their confidence, curiosity, and independence. This term has been full of engaging activities and new learning experiences. Some of our key highlights include:

- Spring Nature Walks – The children enjoyed exploring the outdoors, observing signs of spring, and collecting natural materials for our craft projects.
- Gardening – Thanks to the support of our committee and parents, and the hard work of staff - and the children too! – our garden is really beginning to take shape.
- Baking and Sensory Play – Through hands-on experiences like baking and water play, the children have been developing important early skills in mathematics, fine motor control, and teamwork.
- Storytelling and Role Play – Our little learners have been busy using their imagination, bringing stories to life through puppetry and dressing up.
- Physical Development – Thanks to Mr. Dan Murnane's support, our focus on physical activities has helped enhance balance, coordination, and overall well-being.
- Music and Movement – Children have been expressing themselves through songs, dance, and musical instruments, supporting their creativity and confidence.

A key focus this term has been encouraging independence. We have been supporting the children in putting on their coats, tidying up after activities, and making choices throughout the day. These small steps are building confidence and preparing them for their next stage of learning. We encourage parents to continue fostering independence at home by allowing children to practice simple tasks such as dressing themselves, helping set the table, and making small decisions.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all our families for your ongoing support. A special thank you to John for delivering wood chippings, Rosanne for bringing her lambs in to visit us and to Cathrine and Winston for the time they spent hauling soil and logs to enhance learning experiences for all our children. We have lots of exciting plans for the upcoming term including expanding our outdoor learning opportunities with a focus on gardening, nature-based activities, and exploring different textures and materials. However, we would also really like to strengthen our links with the local community through more visits, guest speakers, and special projects that connect children with the world around them. We love creating meaningful learning experiences for our Pre-schoolers, and we believe that one of the best ways to do this is by involving our wonderful community—you! We would like to invite you to come in and share your career, hobbies, or any special interests with the children. This is a fantastic opportunity for our young learners to explore different professions, learn about unique skills, and engage with real-world experiences. Whether you are a doctor, artist, firefighter, musician, chef, or have an interesting hobby or cultural tradition to share, we would love to welcome you into our classroom. If you would be interested in coming in to speak with the children or bringing in something special to share, please let us know. Your participation will help strengthen the bond between school and community, inspire curiosity, and create lasting memories for our little learners. We truly appreciate your support and look forward to your involvement.

Finally, with the sun making a more regular appearance and the weather approaches, we want to ensure that our Pre-Schoolers stay safe and comfortable while enjoying outdoor activities. To help protect them from the sun, we kindly ask that you send your child to Pre-School with a sunhat and sun cream each day. Please apply sun cream to your child before they arrive at Pre-School, and if you would like us to reapply it during the day, kindly provide a labelled bottle of sun cream in their bag. A wide-brimmed or cap-style sunhat will also help keep them cool and shielded from the sun. Your cooperation in keeping our little learners safe and happy during outdoor play is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful break. We look forward to seeing you next term for more fun, learning, and adventures!

Gardening Fun









Painting Daffodils



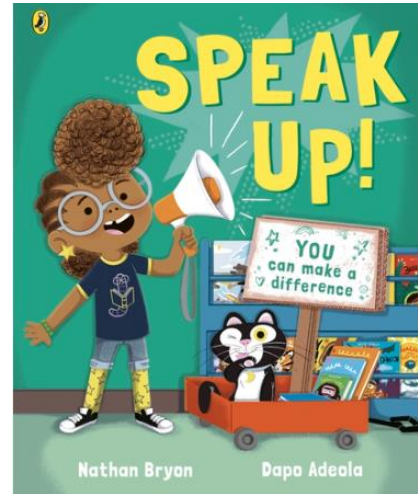
Easter Hunt with Dotty the donkey and Reverend Julie, baking Easter nests and feeding lambs



Updates

- **Reading:** Book Recommendations: *Speak Up!* by Nathan Bryon & Dapo Adeola. Rocket is already changing the world with her passion for the environment and space, and now she's putting her infectious energy into protecting her local library. This brilliant little girl is a bookworm who loves borrowing tales about inspirational figures like Rosa Parks. But she's broken-hearted when she finds out the library is closing. What would Rosa do? Can Rocket use her voice to speak up and save the day?

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.



Reminders

- **URGENT - September 2025:** We emailed you recently 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. If you have not yet responded to our email please do so as soon as possible, 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/3Q9DCQ1HMQEXC?ref=wl_share and share with anyone who you think may be interested. Thank you.
- **Mental Health:** *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 there are any topics you would like us to find some helpful tips about, please let us know.*

The UK government's "Start for Life – If They Could Tell You" campaign aims to help parents build secure bonds with their babies, promoting good mental wellbeing from infancy. The page dedicated to toddlers has a great deal of super information for supporting parents with addressing mental health from a young age: <https://www.nhs.uk/start-for-life/toddler/help-your-toddler-with-their-emotions/>.

Where to Get Help

- Your GP – Can assess concerns and refer for support.
- Health Visitor – Provides advice on emotional development.
- NSPCC (0808 800 5000) – Offers support for parents.
- YoungMinds Parent Helpline (0808 802 5544) – Advice for children's mental health.
- MindEd for Families (minded.org.uk) – Free online advice.

- **Safeguarding:** For parents seeking guidance on managing their under-5 children's online activities, organisations like Internet Matters and Childnet International offer resources and tips to ensure safe and age-appropriate digital engagement.

In the news this week: Recent developments in online safety have introduced measures that may impact young children's digital experiences. Roblox, a popular gaming platform among children, has enhanced parental controls to allow parents to block specific friends, restrict game access based on content maturity levels, and receive detailed screen-time reports. These updates aim to provide a safer environment for young users. Find out more at: https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/apr/02/roblox-gives-parents-more-power-over-childrens-activity-on-gaming-platform?utm_source=chatgpt.com.

- **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.

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

Dates for the Diary

- Summer Term Begins/Return To School: Tuesday 22nd April 2025.
- Bank Holiday: Monday 5th May 2025 – Pre-School closed.
- Half Term: Monday 26th May 2025 – Friday 30th May 2025.
- Sports Day: Monday 30th June 2025.
- Parent Consultations: Monday 7th July 2025 and Thursday 10th July 2025.
- Last Day of Summer Term: Tuesday 22nd July 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

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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.