

Newsletter: Friday 16th May 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to this week's edition of our Pre-School newsletter! Inside, you'll find updates, reminders, and a look ahead at what's coming up.

☀️ **Sun Safety Reminder** – During This Very Hot Period ☀️

With this current hot weather, please help us to ensure your child is protected during outdoor play:

- **Apply sun cream** before arriving at Pre-school.
- **Send in a clearly labelled sun hat** for outdoor play.
- **Provide a named bottle of sun cream** so that we can reapply it as needed.
- **Dress your child in light, comfortable clothing** that covers shoulders and keeps them cool.
- **Send in a refillable water bottle.** If you know that your child will not drink plain water, please ensure that they have more than one bottle of drink.

Thank you for helping us ensure the children stay safe and comfortable during this hot spell.

Please could we kindly ask that small toys such as marbles, Sylvanian Families, or other tiny items are not brought into Pre-School. These can easily become lost, broken, or pose a choking hazard to younger children. While we understand that little treasures from home can be comforting, we encourage children to enjoy the wide range of toys and activities we have available during their time with us. We are unable to take responsibility for any personal items that are lost or damaged, including precious toys or comforters and would advise that the most special of items do not make their way in to the setting. Thank you for your understanding and support in keeping our Pre-School environment safe and focused on shared play.

Updates

- **Bowls/plates:** If anyone has any Pre-school bowls/plates, please could you return them to the setting. Thank you.
- **Messy play and paint:** Please bring your child to Pre-school in clothing that is definitely not precious – they will get dirty but they are having fun and learning.
- **Reading:** Book Recommendations: *Ssh! We Have a Plan* by Chris Haughton. A picture book about a beautiful bird, four friends and plans gone wrong... The friends are out for a walk. Suddenly, they spot it – a beautiful bird perched high in a tree! They simply must have it and – ssh! – they have a plan. But, at the turn of the page, we find a ridiculous bunch of very tangled characters and a blissfully oblivious bird, flying away. One hilarious foiled plan after another and it's clear that this goofy gang cannot catch that elusive birdie!



With our continuing focus on reading culture, we will keep 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.

- 🏠 **Learning at Home Ideas – Communication & Language/Literacy Focus:**
 - Play 'What's in the bag?' – place objects inside a bag and describe them as your child guesses.
 - Name recognition games – create a name puzzle using letter cards.
 - Sound hunt – find items that begin with the same sound (e.g. 'b' for ball, banana, box).

Reminders

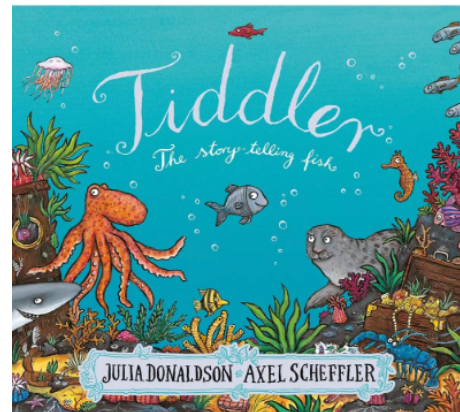
- **Transition to Stockland Primary Academy:** Wednesday afternoon 1.30 - 2.30pm starting on Wednesday 4th June and continuing until the last one on Wednesday 16th July. Further details will be emailed from Stockland Primary Academy in due course and we will be contacting the parents of those children that are booked into Pre-school on a Wednesday regarding arrangements when we know more.
- **Tapestry:** We use Tapestry to record and share special moments from your child's learning and development. This online journal helps us keep you informed and celebrate your child's progress in partnership with you. In line with the Department for Education's (DfE) guidance, we are mindful not to spend too much time on paperwork or digital recording. Instead, our priority is to be present with the children — interacting, supporting, and responding to their needs in the moment. As a result, you may notice **fewer updates on Tapestry** than in the past. Please be assured that this is a positive change. It reflects our commitment to high-quality, hands-on learning rather than excessive documentation. We continue to capture significant achievements and key developmental milestones, and we'll always keep you informed about how your child is progressing. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.
- **Collection:** Collection is at 3.15pm every day (4.30pm for After School Club children), unless a lunch time pick up has been arranged. Please ensure that you arrive on time to allow us to clean the room and be at the school gates to collect After School Club children. Thank you.
- **Health & Safety:** We kindly request that if you haven't already, please bring in at least **one complete change of clothes** for your child. As we spend a significant amount of time outdoors each day, it's important that your child has dry clothes available to change into if necessary. Additionally, we would like to ask that you provide a pair of trainers/shoes, as well as a pair of **wellington boots**, to be kept in school at all times for your child, so that we are able to change footwear as necessary. Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name. Please note that if we are unable to provide spare clothes/shoes and your child requires a change, we will need to contact you to either arrange collection or ask you to bring in clean clothes. If your child is wearing sandals, please ensure that these have **closed toes** so that we are able to keep them safe! Please add a **cool pack** to your child's lunch box to ensure that perishable foods stay safe to eat. 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.
- **Mental Health:** As always, if you have any questions or would like ideas on how to support your child's emotional development at home, please don't hesitate to speak to a member of the team.
 - Helpful UK Resources for Families:
 - UNICEF UK Early Childhood Mental Health Toolkit
www.unicef.org.uk/campaign-with-us/early-moments-matter/early-childhood-mental-health-toolkit
 - NSPCC – Understanding Young Children's Mental Health
<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-health-development/child-mental-health>
- **Safeguarding:** The Safer Internet Centre has some excellent advice in their Parents' guide to Technology and includes device specific settings for different models: www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology
- **Toileting Support in the Early Years:** We kindly ask that you continue to provide: Enough nappies or pull-ups for the day, wipes and nappy sacks and few changes of clothes (as we encourage independence and accidents may happen).

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

Timetable

Make It Monday:

- Introducing our key text: *Tiddler* by Julia Donaldson.
- Story sequencing with picture cards to retell Tiddler's tall tales in the correct order.
- Phonics
- Creating our own fishy story – children make up their own excuse like Tiddler's using props or story dice.
- Underwater role-play.
- Make your own Tiddler – collage or paint using foil, bubble wrap, and tissue paper.



Tinkering Tuesday:

- Phonics
- We will count the fish using fish-shaped counters to support counting, sorting, and simple addition skills.
- We will order sea creatures by size, arranging them from smallest to biggest.
- We will explore positional language by describing where Tiddler is in the classroom or in pictures (e.g., under, behind, next to).

Welly Walk Wednesday & PE with Mr Murnane:

- Phonics
- The children will move like sea creatures, wriggling like fish, scuttling like crabs, and gliding like stingrays.
- They will develop fine motor skills by threading string or pipe cleaners through holes in fish-shaped cards.
- They will explore a seaweed sensory tray, using green-dyed spaghetti to search for hidden fish or shells.

Thinking Thursday:

- Phonics
- Thursday baking session.
- The children will explore real sea life by looking at pictures or videos of fish and sea creatures, and they will talk about ocean habitats.
- They will carry out floating and sinking experiments, testing different objects to see which ones sink like Tiddler's bike or float like a jellyfish.
- They will take part in an ocean clean-up tray activity, using tweezers or grabbers to remove "rubbish" from water to learn about caring for the ocean.

Fresh Air Friday:

- We will create Tiddler's tale trail, designing a story journey in the outdoor area with clues and props hidden along the way.
- We will make nature fish art using leaves, petals, and twigs to form sea creatures on the forest floor.
- We will craft stick fishing rods by tying string and magnets to sticks and use them to "fish" for lettered or numbered fish outdoors.

3 photos to showcase our week...



Dates for the Diary

- Half Term: Monday 26th May 2025 – Friday 30th May 2025.
- INSET Day: Friday 27th June 2025
- Sports Day: **Please note the change of date** – Wednesday 2nd July 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

Christina Leppard - Committee Chair chair@stocklandpreschool.co.uk
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Emily Foxwell – Treasurer treasurer@stocklandpreschool.co.uk

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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.