

Newsletter: Friday 23rd 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.

As we come to the end of a fun-filled half term, we'd like to take a moment to celebrate all the wonderful learning and experiences the children have shared. From exploring our topic 'Who Lives in a Rock Pool' through stories, songs, and hands-on activities to enjoying adventures outdoors on welly walks and in our fabulous garden, the children have amazed us with their creativity, curiosity, and enthusiasm. We've particularly enjoyed watching our youngest children develop confidence, friendships, and new skills. Thank you for your continued support – from helping with home learning ideas to sending in wellies and donations!

Next half term, the children will be exploring the seasonal topic "What Can You See in Summer?" They will go on more nature walks to spot signs of the season, such as blooming flowers, buzzing bees, and butterflies fluttering by. We will be engaging in a variety of summer-themed activities, including painting sunny skies and ice creams, making nature collages, and exploring the tastes and textures of summer fruits through sensory play. Water and sand play will support imaginative seaside fun and help us keep cool in the warmer weather. As part of our learning, we will be reading Oliver's Vegetables and using the story to explore healthy eating and where our food comes from. The children will continue to take part in planting and caring for vegetables in our garden area, as well as washing, cutting, and tasting different vegetables during cooking and snack-time activities. They will also be encouraged to sort and compare vegetables by size, colour, and shape, supporting their early maths skills. Through stories, songs, and hands-on experiences, the children will continue to build their communication, creativity, and understanding of the world around them. We are really looking forward to a bright, busy, and healthy half term ahead!

We wish you all a restful and enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting half term ahead.

Warm wishes,

The Pre-School Team

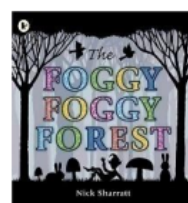
Updates

- **Reading:** Book Recommendations: Who's lurking in the foggy forest? Look through the trees and guess the shapes to find out! What can that be in the foggy, foggy forest? Take a trip through the mysterious misty landscape – hilarious fairy-tale fun lies around every corner.

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 Suggestion:**

- Name Recognition – Practise spotting or tracing the letters in your child's name using air drawing, chalk, sticks in sand or playdough.
- Letter and Number Fun – Use sticks, petals, or chalk to practice writing letters and numbers outside. Focus on letters in your child's name or numbers up to five.



The Foggy, Foggy Forest
Nick Sharratt

Reminders

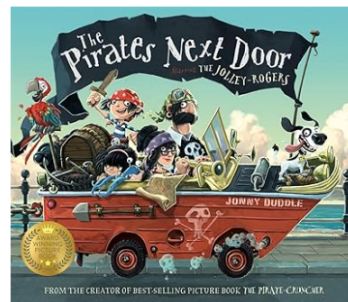
- **Transition to Stockland Primary Academy:** Wednesday afternoon 1.30 - 2.30pm starting on Wednesday 4th June and continuing until the last one on Wednesday 16th July. Further details will be emailed from Stockland Primary Academy in due course and we will be contacting the parents of those children that are booked into Pre-school on a Wednesday regarding arrangements when we know more.
- **☀ Sun Safety Reminder – After Half Term ☀**
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.
- Please could we kindly ask that small toys such as marbles, Sylvania 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.
- **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

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:

- Phonics.
- Literacy: Children will listen to *The Pirates Next Door* and will talk about the characters and setting.
- Creative: Making pirate hats using paper, glue, and stickers.
- Maths: Children will begin counting gold coins in a treasure chest and will practise number recognition.
- Understanding the World: The group will look at maps and globes to explore where pirates might travel.



Tinkering Tuesday:

- Phonics.
- Communication & Language: Children will create a "message in a bottle" using drawings or dictated words.
- Literacy: Children will retell the story using puppets and props in the small world area.
- Creative: Building pirate ships from junk modelling materials.
- Maths: The group will use measuring tools to find the length of pretend pirate ropes.
- Physical: Children will "dig for treasure" in the sand tray using small tools and fine motor skills.

Welly Walk Wednesday & PE with Mr Murnane:

- Phonics
- Physical: The children will take part in a "Walk the Plank" balancing activity outside.
- PSED: Children will discuss how to be a kind friend and will role-play being good neighbours like Matilda.

Thinking Thursday:

- Phonics
- Thursday baking session.
- Creative: The children will make a large sea scene collage using paint, tissue paper, and foil.
- Maths: The children go on a treasure hunt following shape or number clues around the outdoor area.
- Understanding the World: Taking part in a floating and sinking experiment with pirate-themed objects.

Fresh Air Friday:

- Nature Pirate Characters: Children will use pinecones, sticks, leaves, and other found items to build their own mini pirate characters and make up stories about their forest adventures.
- Treasure Hunt Adventure: Children will follow a simple map or a series of picture clues to find "buried treasure" hidden in the outdoor area. They will practise teamwork and begin to develop early map-reading and problem-solving skills.
- Make a Pirate Compass: Children will create their own compass using sticks, stones, and leaves. They will be encouraged to talk about directions such as north, south, left, and right.
- Natural Treasure Collage: The children will collect natural materials such as leaves, feathers, and stones and use them to create pirate-themed collages of ships, treasure chests, or characters.
- Build a Pirate Ship or Raft: Using sticks, bark, and string, children will construct miniature pirate ships or rafts and test whether they float in a puddle or tray of water.

3 photos to showcase our week...



Dates for the Diary

- Half Term: Monday 26th May 2025 – Friday 30th May 2025.
- Sports Day: Wednesday 2nd July 2025.
- Parent Consultations: Monday 7th July 2025 and Thursday 10th July 2025. Please see your emails for your allocated slot.
- Last Day of Summer Term: Tuesday 22nd July 2025.

Contact Details

Stockland Victory Hall, Stockland, Devon EX14 9EF. Phone: 01404 881450
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

Jemma Harvey-Jones – Manager, SENDCo and DSL jemma@stocklandpreschool.co.uk
Sam Steward - Deputy Manager sam.s@stocklandpreschool.co.uk
Kelly Patch - Deputy Safeguarding Lead kelly.p@stocklandpreschool.co.uk

To contact any other members of our team please email the info@stocklandpreschool.co.uk account and your queries will be forwarded appropriately.

Have a
moo'ch
around a farm!



Sunday 8th June

11am - 4pm

FREE entry for all the family
meet the cows, sheep & pigs
tractor and trailer rides
kids' activities

local food and drink for sale

North Waterhayne Farm, Yarcombe, EX14 9AX
(farm opposite Daisy's Dairy milk vending machine)



8th June
2025.