

Newsletter: Friday 9th May 2025

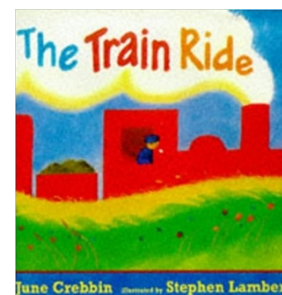


Dear Parents/Carers,

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. We hope you had a good bank holiday weekend and enjoyed some time for R and R! Thank you, as always, for your continued support—working together helps us create a happy and nurturing environment for your child to grow and thrive.

Updates

- **Transition to Stockland Primary Academy:** You will now have received emails from Stockland Primary Academy regarding transition dates for all new starters to Reception in September 2025. These will be on every 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.
- **Pre-loved clothes pop-up shop:** The PTA have arranged a pre-loved clothes pop-up shop which is being held on Friday May 9th, which you are welcome to come along to. Please see the details below reference timings,
 - 8:40-9:30 first pre-loved pop-up
 - 15:00-16:00 second pre-loved pop-up
- **Reading:** Book Recommendations: *The Train Ride* by June Crebbin. A little girl and her mother board the train in town and set off on a journey through the countryside. As they travel, the girl looks out of the window, asking "What shall I see? What shall I see?" And what does she see? Sheep, cows, horses and much more! 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.
- **Learn through play - Treasure Hunt:** Hide something around the house or in the garden and see if your child can find it. Make it easier by calling out 'hot' or 'cold' as your child gets closer or further away. Make a list of the items you have hidden, even draw pictures of the items and see if your child can match them. Once they have found all the items, see if they can count them, organise them into sizes, shapes, colours, materials. Ask, 'What does the item feel like? What is it made from? and so on. Make a 'sound' treasure hunt from items beginning with the same sound, for example, Spoon, Spade, Spaghetti, Sponge, etc. Get your child to hide an object for you to find...a good way of getting them to use explanatory language.



Reminders

- **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.

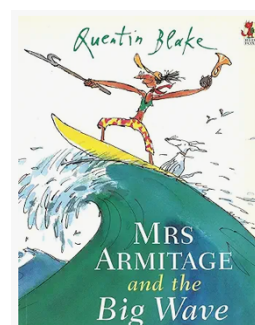
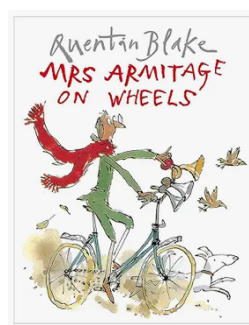
- **Collection:** Collection is at 3.15pm every day (4.30pm for After School Club children), unless a lunch time pick up has been arranged. Please ensure that you arrive on time to allow us to clean the room and be at the school gates to collect After School Club children. Thank you.
- **Health & Safety:** To help keep everyone safe and comfortable, please ensure that your child comes to school with **sun cream already applied**. Additionally, we ask that all children bring a **sun hat** and a **refillable water bottle** each day. These items are essential in helping them stay cool, hydrated, and protected from the sun during outdoor activities. Sadly, we don't have spare hats at Pre-school and we will need to contact you to bring one in if your child does not have one. If your child is wearing sandals, please ensure that these have **closed toes** so that we are able to keep them safe! We also 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 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. 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.
- **Expansion of Free Childcare Hours:** Starting September 2025, the UK government will expand free childcare support, allowing eligible working families to access 30 hours of childcare per week for children aged 9 months to school age.
- **Mental Health:** May is Mental Health Awareness month. Studies show that children and teens are more stressed today than ever before. This term, we're continuing to focus on the importance of emotional well-being in the early years. Just like learning to walk or talk, children also learn how to express their feelings, build friendships, and manage their emotions—with support from the adults around them. Inspired by national initiatives like the Royal Foundation's 'Shaping Us' campaign, we are creating opportunities for the children to explore feelings through stories, role play, and calming sensory activities. We know that helping children feel safe, heard, and valued builds strong foundations for their future learning, confidence, and happiness. 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 texts Mrs Armitage on Wheels and Mrs Armitage and the Big Wave by Quentin Blake
- Story sequencing with pictures from the book.
- Phonics
- Speech bubbles – What might Mrs Armitage say? Encourage mark-making and early writing.
- Talk about how weather affects bikes and outdoor play—windy days, rain, etc.
- Make leaf or stick wind vanes to track the breeze like Mrs Armitage's flying bike.



Tinkering Tuesday:

- Phonics
- Design a new bike for Mrs Armitage – The children will draw, paint or collage their own crazy bike additions.
- Pattern wheels – Making tyre-track or wheel-themed repeating patterns with stamps or paint.
- Junk modelling – The children will use recycled materials to create bikes, horns, umbrellas, or toolboxes just like in the story.
- Mrs Armitage dress-up box – Including fun hats, scarves, goggles, and tool belts for role play.

Welly Walk Wednesday & PE with Mr Murnane:

- Phonics
- We will be exploring outdoor activities inspired by Mrs Armitage on Wheels by Quentin Blake. The children will use natural materials like sticks, logs, and leaves to build their own imaginative bikes and will add fun features just like Mrs Armitage does in the story. They'll go on nature scavenger hunts to collect items for her "bike upgrades" and create toolkits using pinecones, feathers, and bark. Through role play, the children will act out parts of the story and invent new adventures such as Mrs Armitage Goes Camping. They'll also follow a trail of paw prints through the woods to help Breakspear the dog to find his way back. We will explore how weather affects our outdoor journeys and make simple wind vanes from sticks and leaves to observe the wind—just like in the story when the weather takes a wild turn. These playful, hands-on activities will help bring the story to life while encouraging creativity, problem-solving, and a deeper connection with nature.

Thinking Thursday:

- Phonics
- Thursday baking session.
- Talking about how waves are made and how weather affects the sea. Use puddles, watering cans, or buckets to explore how water moves. Creating simple wind streamers with sticks and ribbons or leaves.

Fresh Air Friday:

- Phonics
- We will be exploring exciting activities inspired by Mrs Armitage and the Big Wave. The children will work together to build their own imaginative surfboards using large sticks, planks, and crates, adding creative extras just like Mrs Armitage does in the story. They will create "big waves" from fabric or natural materials and practise balancing and moving across them, developing their physical skills. We'll go on a nature scavenger hunt to collect

items for a pretend beach and prepare a forest picnic using mud kitchen tools and natural resources. The children will also explore how weather affects water through play with puddles, buckets, and watering cans, and make simple wind streamers from sticks and leaves. Through storytelling and role play, they will retell the story and even come up with their own forest versions of Mrs Armitage's adventures. These activities will support their creativity, imagination, teamwork, and connection to nature.

3 photos to showcase our week...



Dates for the Diary

- 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

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.