

Newsletter: Friday 1st May 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

The children have had a wonderful time exploring activities inspired by The Rainbow Fish, as well as adventures with jolly octopi and magical mermaids! They enjoyed sharing and turn-taking games, sparkly crafts, and storytelling sessions that encouraged kindness and friendship — just like the Rainbow Fish! Water play, ocean-themed sensory trays, and shimmering scales kept imaginations flowing all week. The children especially loved creating their own mermaids and sea creatures, diving deep into under-the-sea role play!

We are absolutely delighted to be experiencing such glorious weather, and it's been wonderful to see the children making the most of the sunshine in both the garden and courtyard areas. They are thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to play, explore, and learn outdoors in this unexpected burst of sunshine. 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, particularly with our new water resources (pictured), 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.

As part of our ongoing sensory and creative play provision, we regularly make homemade playdough and other hands-on resources for the children to enjoy. These activities are a valuable part of their development, supporting fine motor skills, imaginative play, and sensory exploration. To help us continue providing these experiences, we would be very grateful for any donations of basic ingredients, such as: Plain flour, salt, vegetable oil, cream of tartar, food colouring/flavouring/scent, cornflour, rice and dried pasta or lentils. Any contributions, no matter how small, would be much appreciated and will go directly towards the children's play and learning. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

We have been busily preparing to support your children with their upcoming transitions, whether they are moving on to school or continuing with us in the new academic year. Part of this process includes writing the end-of-year reports, which celebrate each child's unique achievements, progress, and experiences during their time at Pre-school. These reports offer a special opportunity to reflect on how far your child has come and to share the many moments of joy, learning, and growth we've observed. We are very much looking forward to sharing them with you during our upcoming parent consultations. Please keep an eye on your inbox, as we will be sending out an email shortly with your allocated meeting date and time. We thank you in advance for your continued support and look forward to meeting with you soon.

Finally, we always appreciate feedback from our parents/carers so that we can reflect on our practices and improve the level of service we provide. If you could take a few minutes to complete the attached questionnaire, it would be most appreciated. As a group we are committed to working closely with parents/carers as the outcome will have a positive impact on your child's development and learning. Please feel free to be as open and honest as possible.

Snaps





Updates

- **Reading:** Book Recommendations: "*Sulwe*" by Lupita Nyong'o. A powerful and visually stunning book that addresses skin colour, self-esteem, and inner beauty, rooted in African cultural themes.

Sulwe has skin the color of midnight. She is darker than everyone in her family. She is darker than anyone in her school. Sulwe just wants to be beautiful and bright, like her mother and sister. Then a magical journey in the night sky opens her eyes and changes everything.



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 this week, so that we can finalise plans accordingly. Thank you.
- **Community Links:** 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.
- **Toilet Training:**
Please find some links below to some guidance and resources that can support families and settings around toilet training.
 - https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/toilet-training?mc_cid=08c98c288d&mc_eid=5184133d26
 - https://startingreception.co.uk/?mc_cid=08c98c288d&mc_eid=5184133d26
 - https://eric.org.uk/all-aboard-the-toilet-train-get-ready-for-school/?mc_cid=08c98c288d&mc_eid=5184133d26
- **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/Help:**

With the cost-of-living crisis it can be so hard on families. There is always help and advice that we can provide if you are struggling financially or in any other way. We have food banks locally and can point you in the direction of where to get help if you need it. Please talk to Jemma if you want some confidential advice or you can find help on the following websites. Please remember this is a national crisis and we do our best to help you the best we can.

Citizen's advice: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>.

Money advice: <https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk>.

Domestic abuse: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help>.

Food banks: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/>.

Universal Credit: <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>.

- **Safeguarding:**

- Tips, advice, guides and resources to help keep your child safe online. ... As a parent or carer you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online. You don't need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child stay safe online. The advice and resources here could support you as you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibly and positively: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>.

- SWGfL welcomes Ofcom's new child online safety measures - https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/swgfl-welcomes-ofcoms-new-child-online-safety-measures/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=swgfl&utm_campaign=April+Newsletter.

- **Health & Safety:**

Hot weather - With the sun making a more regular appearance and the warmer weather approaches, we want to ensure that our Pre-Schoolers stay safe and comfortable while enjoying outdoor activities. As already referred to above, to help protect the children 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. Following advice from EDDC's Environmental Health Technical Officer, please also add a cool pack to your child's lunch box to ensure that perishable foods stay safe to eat in our warm room.

Threadworms – Please see email sent Wednesday 30th April.

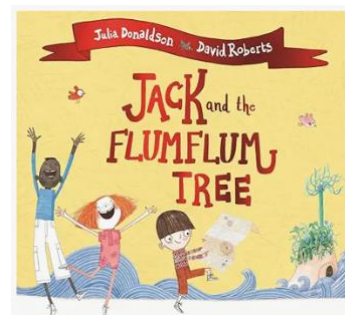
Oral Health - As part of our Early Years curriculum, it is important that we focus on the importance of looking after our teeth. Even though the children are still so young it is important to try and sign them up to your local dentist and start good habits of visiting and having check-ups. We also ask that the drink bottles that children bring to school should only have water in them. If your child struggles to drink water, we recommend that you only add very watered-down squash to help protect their teeth.

Timetable

A range of hands-on, language-rich, and developmentally appropriate activities as we set sail with Jack for an adventure on the high seas to help reinforce teamwork, problem-solving, and creative thinking:

Make It Monday:

- Introducing ~~out~~ key text *Jack and the FlumFlum Tree* by Julia Donaldson
- Story sequencing using illustrated cards to retell Jack's adventure in the correct order, helping build narrative skills.
- Rhyming game inspired by the book's playful language; children match and create silly rhyming pairs.
- Adventure maps drawing maps showing Jack's journey to the FlumFlum Tree, adding fun landmarks along the way.
- Character feelings talk - to explore how the characters might be feeling; using our own faces and the emotion stones to show those emotions. Making emotion faces.



Tinkering Tuesday:

- Painting/drawing story symbols on stones. Children will retell the story outdoors in sequence.
- Using natural materials (leaves, twigs, clay, etc.) to build our own versions of the FlumFlum Tree. What might its fruit look like?
- Using sticks, bark, and string to build a small boat like Jack's. Floating them in a puddle, stream, or tray of water to develop skills in engineering, understanding of buoyancy and the characteristic of persistence.

Welly Walk Wednesday & PE with Mr Murnane:

- Patch bag problem solvers (staff fill a bag with random natural or everyday objects (rope, sticks, leaves, stones) and present forest challenges e.g., 'How can we cross the stream?', and let the children solve them using only items from the bag).
- Gardening: We continue to enhance our garden space to make it an even more inviting, enriching environment for the children to explore, learn, and connect with nature. To support this, we are kindly asking for donations of plants to help us develop our garden area. We would be especially grateful for:
 - Hardy outdoor plants or shrubs
 - Herbs (such as mint, rosemary, or lavender)
 - Pollinator-friendly flowers
 - Small vegetable or fruit plants
 - Compost or spare plant pots

Your support will help us create a thriving, hands-on learning space where the children can experience the joy of growing and caring for living things. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Thinking Thursday:

- Thursday baking session.
- Elmer the tortoise is visiting us.
- Jellyfish counting: Making jellyfish out of paper with a number on each. Children add the correct number of wool or ribbon tentacles.
- Measuring with objects: Using string or sticks to "measure" how long the boat is.

Fresh Air Friday:

- Nature trail/children draw ~~a~~ 'maps' of their journey, including obstacles like puddles, logs, or "jellyfish" zones.

Dates for the Diary

- Bank Holiday: Monday 5th May 2025 – Pre-School closed.
- Half Term: Monday 26th May 2025 – Friday 30th May 2025.
- Sports Day: Wednesday 9th July 2025.
- Parent Consultations: Monday 7th July 2025 and Thursday 10th July 2025.
- 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.

Parents Questionnaire 2025

1. Do you feel that you receive enough information from the Pre-school?
2. Do you feel you have been kept well informed regarding your child's progress or would you like more information?
3. If you would like more information, would you prefer –
 - Open afternoon/evening
 - Planned meeting during the day
 - Written/email correspondence
 - Teams meetings
4. Do you find staff approachable, respectful and they have listened to your needs?
5. Have you been informed about the activities/routines within the Pre-school?
6. Do you feel you have received adequate information regarding fundraising events and the role of the committee?

Your Child at pre-School

7. Do you feel your child has settled/enjoys coming to pre-school?
8. Has your child developed any new interests/skills? This information will help plan future activities.
9. Has your child mentioned any particular activity he/she has been happy/unhappy to take part in?
10. Other comments/suggestions

Thank you for taking part in our survey