

Newsletter: Friday 13th June 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

☀️ Welcome to Pre-School!

We are so excited to welcome a number of new faces to our Pre-School community and very proud of how quickly they have settled with us. Our dedicated team is here to support every child as they become familiar and comfortable within our setting and grow in confidence; and look forward to their Pre-School journeys being filled with fun, friendship, and lots of learning through play.

🕒 Arrival Time Reminder

We kindly remind families that we are unable to open the Pre-School doors before each child's official start time, even in wet or rainy weather, due to carefully planned legal ratios. You may notice that all staff have arrived but whilst some staff are busy preparing the environment/ensuring everything is ready for a safe and smooth start to the session or working with children booked in from 8.45am, others aren't paid until 9am. We appreciate your understanding and support in arriving at the correct time to help us maintain a calm and organised start to the day. If you would like to change your start time please do speak to a team member and we may be able to facilitate this.

🥕 Fruit & Vegetable Donations Welcome!

As part of our current topic, we will be exploring a range of exciting activities using real fruit and vegetables for play, learning, and sensory exploration. If you are able to donate any fresh produce — such as carrots, potatoes, apples, lemons and so much more — we would be very grateful. These items will be used for printing, role play, tasting activities and so much more. Thank you for your continued support in enriching the children's learning experiences!

Updates

- **Reading:** A stunning book about colours full of gorgeous, breath-taking landscapes, with amazing flaps to lift and holes to peep through. Follow a little girl as she paints her own adventure with her bright blue tree frog companion. With luscious green trees to climb and red hot air balloons to sail away in, children will delight in the rhyming text and vibrant artwork while learning about different colours. 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 – Supporting School Readiness**

As your child prepares for the transition to school, there are lots of simple, playful ways to support their confidence and independence at home. Here are 3 engaging games that support key skills for school readiness in a fun and playful way:

1. 🖐️ Get Ready Race

Focus: Independence, self-care

How to Play: Set a timer and challenge your child to get dressed (put on socks, shoes, or coat) all by themselves. Celebrate when they manage each task! You can even add music to make it more fun.

- Supports confidence with dressing and daily routines.

2. 🎧 Guess What's in the Bag

Focus: Speaking, listening, vocabulary

How to Play:

Put a few familiar items (e.g., spoon, toy, book, shoe) into a bag. Take turns feeling and describing an item without looking while parents/siblings guess what it is.

- Boosts language skills and confidence to speak in front of others.

3. 🎭 School Role Play

Focus: Social skills, understanding routines

How to Play:

Pretend it's a school day! Line up, do a register, sing a song, and pack a lunchbox. Let your child take turns being the teacher.

🟢 Helps children understand and feel confident about what school will be like.

Reminders

- **Mental Health:** Recent news and research continue to highlight just how important the early years are for children's mental health and well-being. Studies have shown that even by the age of five, children can show signs of emotional difficulties—especially those living in areas with fewer resources. Experts are also urging families and educators to be mindful of how things like shouting or excessive screen time can affect young brains.

- <https://www.thetimes.com/comment/columnists/article/mps-ban-social-media-for-children-ktx9fsns2a>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2025/jun/09/children-in-englands-most-deprived-areas-less-likely-to-achieve-development-goals-by-age-five>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/feb/05/uk-childhood-mental-health-crisis-to-cost-1tn-in-lost-pay-study-finds>
 - What this means for Pre-schools:
 - Screen time rules and emotional boundaries are more crucial than ever.
 - We need to focus on early emotional resilience, especially for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.
 - Early years settings should be proactive in promoting healthy emotional development, nurturing communication, and supporting parent-child relationships.

At Pre-school, we focus on helping children feel safe, supported, and confident. Simple routines, warm relationships, and plenty of time for play all help children learn how to manage their feelings and build strong emotional foundations. You can help at home by:

- Talking regularly about feelings
- Offering plenty of praise and cuddles
- Keeping routines calm and predictable
- Limiting screen time, especially before bed

Together, we can give our children the strong start they need to thrive emotionally, now and in the future.

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: – Staying Informed and Alert**

Keeping children safe is always our top priority, and we stay up to date with the latest safeguarding guidance and discussions across the UK. Recently, safeguarding has been in the news for several reasons. Ofsted has come under criticism for training materials that suggested autistic children may be more vulnerable to radicalisation—raising concerns around unfair profiling. You can read more at <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2025/jun/10/ofsted-training-manual-criticised-autistic-children-extremism-prevent>. There have also been calls for schools and settings to better respond to serious incidents between children, including how

peer-on-peer abuse is recognised and handled: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/18/schools-sexual-assaults-by-pupils>. Finally, proposed new legislation aims to add a "Romeo and Juliet" clause to child protection laws, which could impact how underage relationships are managed and understood. Learn more at <https://www.thetimes.com/uk/crime/article/romeo-and-juliet-clause-in-child-abuse-bill-sanctions-under-age-sex-t9ddl2qrc>.

At our setting, we regularly review our policies and training to ensure we are providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for every child. If you ever have any questions or concerns about your child's well-being, please speak to a member of our safeguarding team. 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.

Make It Monday:

- Phonics.
- Literacy:
 - Children will listen to the story and will talk about the characters and setting.
 - Story Sequencing: Using picture cards to retell the story in the correct order.
 - Wanted Poster: Making a "Wanted!" poster for the Evil Pea – describe what he looks like and what he did!
 - Character Masks: Creating Supertato and Evil Pea masks to retell the story through role play
- ✂ Creative: Vegetable Superheroes - Turning real veggies into superheroes using capes, googly eyes, and pipe cleaners!



Tinkering Tuesday:

- Phonics.
- ✂ Creative: Veggie Prints - Cutting vegetables and use them to make superhero-themed prints with paint.
- Painting like Giuseppe Arcimboldo.
- In maths, they will count and sort 'peas' and explore simple addition using ten frames.
 - Count the Peas: Use green pom-poms or counters to practise counting, sorting, or simple addition.
 - Size Sorting: Compare and sort vegetables by size, weight, or colour.
- Walking through the village to church – what can we see in the fields?
- Welly Walk Wednesday, PE with Mr Murnane & Transition to school:
- Phonics
- 🧠 Understanding the World
 - Floating and Sinking: Testing if different vegetables float or sink like Supertato in the freezer scene.
 - Healthy Eating: Talking about which vegetables are healthy and how they help our bodies.
- 🏃 Physical Development - Obstacle Course: Creating a "rescue the vegetables" obstacle course.
- Fine Motor Rescue: Using tongs or tweezers to "rescue" peas from jelly, water, or cotton wool.



Thinking Thursday:

- Phonics
- Thursday baking session.
- Can we make lemonade?
- Vegetable sorting and counting: We will gather different natural items (pinecones, acorns, stones) and compare them to the vegetables in the story. The children will sort by size, shape, or colour and practise counting.

Fresh Air Friday:

- Phonics
- Supertato vegetable hunt: We will hide vegetables around the wooded area. The children will become "heroes" like Supertato, searching for the "trapped" veggies to rescue them from the Evil Pea!
- Evil Pea obstacle course: We will create a simple obstacle course using natural materials (logs to jump over, branches to crawl under). The children will pretend to chase away the Evil Pea, building their physical skills and imagination.
- Vegetable Printing with leaves and mud: The children will use leaves, sticks, and mud to create vegetable-shaped prints or stamps on paper or tree trunks, encouraging creativity and fine motor skills.

Dates for the Diary

- Transition to Stockland Primary Academy: Wednesday afternoons 1.30 - 2.30pm; Wednesday 4th June and continuing until the last one on Wednesday 16th July.
- 🏆 Sports Day: Wednesday 2nd July 2025, 9.30 – 10.00AM @ the primary school playing field (weather permitting).
- Parent Consultations: Monday 7th July 2025 and Thursday 10th July 2025.
- Pre-School Trip: Monday 21st July 2025 - Foxdown Children's Farm, 10am - 2pm.
- 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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To contact any other members of our team please email the info@stocklandpreschool.co.uk account and your queries will be forwarded appropriately.