

Newsletter: Friday 6th June 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

🌻 Welcome Back!

We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable half term break. It's lovely to welcome the children back to Pre-School, and we're excited for the busy and fun-filled weeks ahead.

This half term, we'll be exploring our new topic "What Can You See in Summer?", with lots of seasonal activities, stories, and outdoor learning opportunities. From spotting signs of summer and planting vegetables to enjoying summer-themed crafts and sensory play, there will be plenty to engage curious minds.

🌟 Transition Session Success!

We are so proud of how well the children managed their first transition session this week! They approached the new environment with enthusiasm, curiosity, and growing confidence. It was lovely to see the children exploring their new setting, getting to know some of the adults and routines, and beginning to build familiarity with the space. They showed great independence and resilience, and we were particularly impressed by how they supported one another and engaged so positively. Thank you for your continued support in helping make these important early steps such a success—we look forward to the next session!

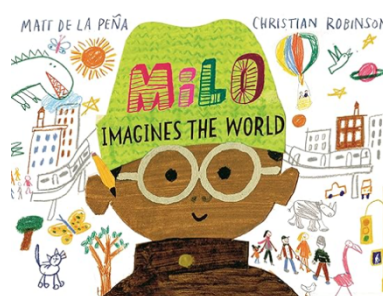
As always, thank you - we're looking forward to a happy and sunny half term together!

Warm wishes,

The Pre-School Team

Updates

- **Reading:** Milo Imagines the World is a warm and richly satisfying story from the award-winning and New York Times bestselling picture book duo, about a little boy with a big imagination who learns that you can't know anyone just by looking at them. Set in a bustling city, and full of a family love that binds even in difficult circumstances. 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.



- 🏃🏆 **Sports Day Arrangements**

We are excited to announce that our Pre-School Sports Day will take place on Wednesday 2nd July at 9.30 – 10.00AM. The event will be held on the primary school playing field (weather permitting), and parents are warmly invited to come along and cheer the children on!

The morning will include a variety of fun and inclusive activities designed for all abilities, focusing on teamwork, movement, and having a go. Children will be encouraged to take part in all activities. Please ensure your child comes to Pre-School wearing suitable footwear and weather-appropriate clothing. Children who do not normally attend on a Wednesday are very welcome to join us for the Sports Day event, but they must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or carer throughout. Please let us know in advance if you plan to attend with your child so we can prepare accordingly.

We look forward to a fun-filled morning of movement and smiles!

- 📖 **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:

👉 **Encourage Independence:** Support your child in practising putting on their shoes, zipping up their coat, and using the toilet independently. These daily routines help build confidence.

🍱 **Lunch Practice:** If your child will be having packed lunches, practise opening lunch boxes, peeling fruit, and using a water bottle.

📖 **Enjoy Books Together:** Read with your child daily and talk about the story, characters, and pictures. This helps build listening and attention skills, as well as a love of reading.

✂️ **Build Fine Motor Skills:** Offer activities like drawing, cutting with child-safe scissors, using playdough, threading beads, or pegging clothes—great for strengthening hand muscles for writing.

🧸 **Follow Simple Instructions:** Play games that involve following two-step instructions like “Pick up the block and put it in the box.” This builds attention and memory.

👤 **Practice Turn-Taking:** Play board games or take turns with toys to help your child develop social skills and patience.

💬 **Talk About Starting School:** Chat positively about school—what they might do, who they might meet, and how grown-ups will be there to help them.

- 🚌 **Upcoming School Trip!**

We’re excited to let you know that we are planning a special Pre-School trip to Foxdown Children's Farm, for the children to enjoy and explore outside of our usual setting. This will be a lovely opportunity to support their learning and celebrate the end of the year together. The trip is planned for Monday 21st July between the hours of 10.00AM and 2.00PM. We’ll be sharing full details very soon, including timings, what to bring, and what’s planned.

Reminders

- **Transition to Stockland Primary Academy:** Wednesday afternoons 1.30 - 2.30pm; Wednesday 4th June and continuing until the last one on Wednesday 16th July.

- ☀️ **Sun Safety Reminder** ☀️

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, 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 into 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: Continuing with fortnightly planning linked to pirates.

Make It Monday:

- Phonics.
- Literacy: Children will listen to the story 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.
- 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.



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.
- Understanding the World: The group will look at maps and globes to explore where pirates might travel.

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.
- Creative: The children will make a large sea scene collage using paint, tissue paper, and foil.



Thinking Thursday:

- Phonics
- Thursday baking session.
- 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:

- 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.

Dates for the Diary

- 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.
- Pre-School Trip: Monday 21st 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.

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.