

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome: Exploring, creating and splashing through the Week!

What a fantastic week it's been in Pre-School! The children have been bursting with curiosity whilst exploring a range of hands-on activities. They have painted beautiful patterns using real leaves, had a go at weaving with baskets — building on fine motor skills — and engaged in creative printing with colourful fruit. Of course, no week would be complete without some joyful water play, where the children splashed, poured, and experimented with lots of excitement. It's been a week full of creativity, discovery, and plenty of happy smiles!



Colourful Cultures and Creative Creations

We have enjoyed exploring the story *Handa's Surprise* by Eileen Browne, which introduced the children to life in a Kenyan village and a variety of colourful fruits. Through storytelling, role play, and small-world activities, the children engaged deeply with the story, practising early literacy skills like recall and sequencing. Creative arts activities included making paper head baskets, fruit collages, and a story basket with fruits and animals from the book. We also played games to help the children recognise fruit names, colours, and initial sounds. These experiences supported their understanding of different cultures while promoting vocabulary development, imagination, and fine motor skills.



Thursday Baking

Thursday's baking session was a real treat as the children rolled up their sleeves to make delicious tropical fruit muffins! They had so much fun mixing ingredients, smelling the sweet aromas of pineapple, banana, and mango, and carefully spooning the mixture into muffin cases. It was a wonderful sensory experience and a great way to practise turn-taking, counting, and following simple instructions. The best part? Tasting the warm, fruity muffins together — smiles all around!

Thank You for a Fantastic Sports Day!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support the children at our Sports Day! Your enthusiasm, cheers, and encouragement helped create an atmosphere full of positive energy and joyful chaos. The children were so proud to share their achievements with you – and it was clear from their smiles that they loved having you there! We would especially like to thank Mr. Murnane and Saffron, whose tireless organisation and boundless energy made the day run as smoothly as possible — amidst the exciting, fun-filled chaos! Their leadership ensured everything was organised while still leaving room for spontaneous fun. A big shout-out also goes to our fantastic staff, who supported the children throughout the day. From keeping the teams on track to cheering from the side-lines, they made sure it was a memorable and fun experience for everyone involved. Finally, of course, a massive well done to all of the children! They showed incredible determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship — even managing to power through a tricky relay race with huge

smiles, lots of cheering, and maybe a little bit of delightful chaos along the way! Thank you again to everyone for making Sports Day such a joyful, energetic and memorable day for all involved. It wouldn't have been the same without you!

Pre-School Outing (Foxdown Farm on Monday, 21st July 2025)

We'll be meeting at the farm at 10:00 AM, and the day will end at 2:00 PM. Families are very welcome to stay and enjoy the farm after this time, but please note that staff will be leaving at 2:00 PM. The outing is a fantastic opportunity for the children to explore and enjoy a fun-filled day outdoors. The cost is £8 per child, which will be covered by the Pre-School. Each child must be accompanied by a parent or carer, with adult tickets costing £6, to be paid by parents. If any siblings would like to join, they are very welcome — the cost is £6 per additional child, while children under 2 can attend free of charge. Please remember that families are responsible for making their own way to Foxdown Farm. To help us confirm numbers and finalise arrangements, we kindly ask for your RSVP and payment in cash to the Pre-School by Wednesday, 9th July. We hope you can join us for a wonderful day at the farm! 🍌🍌

Updates

- **Reading**

A touching story about being proud of who we are and embracing our differences, written by TV star Nadiya Hussain. I am a boy, and this is Rayf, my bird. Rayf is my friend. On his first day of holiday camp, a little boy arrives with his bird best friend perched proudly on his shoulder, but he soon discovers that he is different from everyone else - no one else has a bird. He hides Rayf away to try and fit in but it's hard to pretend to be someone else for long.



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.

- **📖 Learning at home**

Helping your child develop a strong tripod grip

A good pencil grip is important for comfortable and neat handwriting. The **tripod grip** — holding the pencil with the thumb, index, and middle finger — is the best way for children to control their pencil.

Here are some simple ways you can support your child at home:

- **Build Finger Strength:** Encourage play with small toys like beads, building blocks, or playdough to strengthen finger muscles.
- **Use the Right Tools:** Start with short crayons or chunky pencils that are easier to hold. Pencil grips or toppers can help guide their fingers.
- **Practice Through Play:** Set aside 5–10 minutes daily for drawing, coloring, or tracing, gently reminding your child to hold the pencil with three fingers.
- **Visual Reminders:** Use pictures or stickers on pencils to show where fingers should be placed.
- **Celebrate Success:** Praise your child's efforts, even if they hold the pencil correctly for just a short time.

Reminders

- **Snacks:** We'd like to kindly remind you about the importance of cutting up small fruits such as grapes, blueberries, and cherry tomatoes before offering them to your child. Cutting them into small, manageable pieces helps reduce the risk of choking and ensures your child's safety during snack time. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We appreciate your support in keeping all the children safe!

- **Collection:** Pre-School finishes at 3:15pm, so please make sure to collect your little ones before this time. Thank you for your understanding and continued support — we really appreciate it! ♥
- **RemTapestry & Social Media Updates:** We love sharing photos and updates with you through Tapestry and on our social media, and we know how special it is to see what your child has been up to during their day. Please remember that whilst previously, photos were a regular part of documenting children's learning, the updated framework places a stronger emphasis on quality interactions and professional judgement, rather than relying heavily on photographic evidence. This means that while we will still occasionally use photos to capture significant or special moments, our focus is on being fully present with the children, engaging in their play, and observing learning in real-time.
- **Mental Health:** At Pre-school, we focus on helping children feel safe, supported, and confident. 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:** 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.

Timetable

Exploring books about recycling: *One Plastic Bag, One World & Our Wonderful Earth*.
Focus: Caring for our planet, learning about recycling, exploring the beauty of nature, community, and sustainability.

Throughout this topic, the children will:

- Develop an understanding of their role in helping to look after the environment.
- Learn that their small actions — like tidying, recycling, and caring — can help make a big difference.
- Explore nature through sensory activities, storytelling, and imaginative play.
- Discover how people live in different parts of the world and begin to understand the idea of global community.

Make It Monday:

- Phonics
- Maths: This week, children will explore maths through fun, hands-on activities connected to our planet-themed learning. They'll practice counting and sorting natural items like leaves, sticks, and stones collected during outdoor explorations, helping them understand grouping and comparing quantities. Measuring ingredients during baking sessions will introduce simple concepts of weight, volume, and sequencing steps. We'll also play matching and pattern games using recycled materials and natural objects, encouraging early recognition of shapes, sizes,

and repeating patterns. Through these activities, children will develop their number skills, problem-solving, and logical thinking—all while deepening their connection to the environment around them.

- Storytime & Discussion: We'll begin the week by sharing the story *One Plastic Bag* and talking about how even small actions — like picking up rubbish — can help make the world a better place. The children will explore how plastic affects animals and nature. We'll talk about how we can help look after our own community.
 - We will talk about what a plastic bag is and why it can be harmful to nature.
 - We will ask questions such as, "What will the women do with the plastic bags?" and "Why will it be important to take care of the Earth?"
 - We will look at what happens when our oceans or water get polluted. In our water tray, children will try to "clean" the water using nets and sponges. We'll also introduce new sorting games using recycling items and continue building our role-play recycling centre.

Tinkering Tuesday:

- Phonics.
- Maths
- Today is all about making beautiful things from old materials. Children will use bottle tops, cardboard, and scrap paper to make posters reminding others to care for the planet. They'll also try simple basket weaving using paper strips, inspired by the characters in *One Plastic Bag*.
- Making banana oat energy bites (no bake)

Welly Walk Wednesday, Sports Day & Transition to school:

- Phonics
- Maths
- Children will take part in a nature walk to collect leaves, sticks, and natural materials. Back in Pre-School, they'll use their findings to make Earth collages and start making their own "recycling station". We'll read *Our Wonderful Earth* and celebrate our planet.
- Apple slice printing & fruit faces

Thinking Thursday:

- Phonics
- Maths
- Thursday baking session: Making 🍕 mini Earth pizzas

Fresh Air Friday:

- Phonics
- Maths
- Children will work in small teams to build simple bug hotels using sticks, leaves, pinecones, and cardboard tubes. A great way to talk about how humans and animals share the planet.
- Using natural treasures collected **over** , ? children will work in groups to create large Earth-themed mandalas or collages on the forest floor. This supports visual storytelling and gives time for reflection.

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.
- Parent Consultations: Monday 7th July 2025 and Thursday 10th July 2025.
- Pre-School Outing: 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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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

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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.