

Newsletter: Friday 12th September 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back to Pre-School! 🌟

We are so excited to welcome you and your children back for a brand-new term at Pre-School. We hope you all enjoyed a restful break and are ready for the fun, learning and adventures ahead. A big welcome, too, to our new families who are joining us for the first time—we are delighted to have you as part of our community!

This Week's Adventures

This week and continuing into next week, we'll be focusing on helping the children settle back into their routines, encouraging independence and supporting them as they explore new resources and spaces. During this time, we want them to feel confident and secure in their environment, developing friendships and enjoying lots of individually-led play. By giving the children space to settle in, we can ensure they are ready to get the very best out of our planned learning opportunities. From week 3 onwards, we will begin to introduce more structured activities, such as cooking, creative projects and topic-based learning.

Now that September is here, we're excited to begin our new topic, '*Stories About Superheroes*', which we shared with you at the end of last term. This theme will guide our learning and play over the coming weeks, and it's all about celebrating both the superheroes we know from stories and films, and the real-life heroes all around us. We'll be encouraging the children to think about the special people in their lives – parents, grandparents, teachers, neighbours – as well as community heroes like doctors, nurses, firefighters and police officers. Through stories, role play, and creative activities, we'll be helping the children explore what it means to be helpful, kind, and thoughtful – discovering their own 'superpowers' along the way. To kick things off, we'll be reading *Superhero Mum* and *Superhero Dad* by Timothy Knapman, which will help us celebrate the important people who care for us and spark learning across all areas of the Early Years curriculum. Children will be sharing stories about their families, designing superhero masks and capes, taking on fun obstacle courses to build strength and confidence, and creating superhero badges to honour the grown-ups in their lives. This fun and familiar theme is a great way to support the children as they settle into their new routines, and we're looking forward to a fantastic start to the term!

A reminder that it would be fantastic if the children could bring in photos of the 'superheroes' in their lives – whether that's mums, dads, grandparents, carers or other special people. We'll use these photos to create a display celebrating all the important people who help and care for us. Please send photos in as soon as possible.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to share ideas, we're here to chat.

Updates

- You may have noticed letters and updates sent home recently. These are to ensure our records and practice remain fully in line with the latest updates to the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and safeguarding requirements. **Please return these forms as soon as possible so that we can keep everything up to date, and do keep an eye out for further updates in the coming days. For example, to ensure compliance, we will only be able to start sharing photos of your child on Facebook, in the newsletter, and on Tapestry once data protection forms have been completed and returned.** Thank you for helping us keep everything up to date. See below for some of the key changes, which will be expanded on in newsletters over the term.

- Please be aware that some of our sessions are now fully booked, with only a few spaces remaining across the week. If you are considering increasing your child's hours, please bear this in mind and get in touch with us as soon as possible to check availability.

Updates to the EYFS Framework – September 2025

From 1st September, some changes to the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** come into effect. These are designed to strengthen safeguarding and ensure the very best care for your child.

- **Stronger safeguarding rules** – clearer checks when employing new staff, and a renamed **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** who has overall responsibility for safeguarding in our setting.
- **Absence monitoring** – we now have to follow up more carefully on absences, especially if they are unexplained or prolonged.
- **First Aid** – more staff must now hold Paediatric First Aid training, and someone trained will always be present during meal and snack times.
- **Food and allergies** – closer supervision at eating times, with extra attention to dietary and allergy needs.
- **Nappy changing and toileting** – clearer guidance to make sure children's dignity and privacy are respected at all times.
- **Whistleblowing procedures** – all staff (and volunteers) know how to raise concerns about unsafe or poor practice.

You may notice a little extra communication from us (for example about absences, health details, or dietary needs), but please be reassured — **these changes won't disrupt your child's daily experience; they simply help us to keep them safe, happy, and thriving.**

Reminders

- **Wet play:** Please bring in a pair of wellies and water play clothes so we can enjoy the outdoors in all weather! The children are keen to be out in our garden, which is particularly soggy at this time! These can be left in Pre-School on their pegs.
- **Snack and lunches:** Could you please provide a healthy packed lunch and ensure that your child's lunchbox and any containers inside it are named. Could you also put an ice pack in it as we store the bags in the cloakroom area in the morning. Please also be aware that we cannot have any products containing nuts in the setting. At snack time the children will be offered either milk or water to drink. Could any small fruits like grapes and blueberries be cut lengthways and if your child brings in a Babybel cheese could you please take it out of its wrapper. Could we also ask that there are no popcorn packs put in lunch bags as these are a choking hazard.
- **After School Club:** Please ensure that your child brings in an additional snack if they are staying with us for After School Club.

Dates for the Diary

- Half Term: Monday 27th October 2025 - Friday 31st October 2025.
- INSET DAY: Monday 3rd November 2025.
- Christmas Break: Monday 22nd December 2025 - Friday 2nd January 2026.
- INSET DAY: Monday 5th January.

Contact Details

Stockland Victory Hall, Stockland, Devon EX14 9EF. Phone: 01404 881450
info@stocklandpreschool.co.uk

Safeguarding

At Stockland and Yarcombe Pre-School, safeguarding your child's wellbeing is always our top priority. As we approach the end of term, we would like to remind all parents and carers of the following key safeguarding points:

- **Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs):**
If you have any safeguarding concerns, please speak directly to a member of our safeguarding team:
 - Jemma Harvey-Jones – Designated Safeguarding Lead
 - Sam Steward, Kelly Patch and Alice Hutter – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads
- Please ensure we are informed of any changes to your child's circumstances, contact details, or family arrangements throughout the term to help us support your child effectively.
- All staff working with children at our setting have undergone safeguarding training and follow strict procedures to ensure every child's safety and wellbeing.

Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found online at:

<https://stocklandpreschool.co.uk/policies-and-procedures/safeguarding>.

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.