

Newsletter: Friday 19th September 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome

It's been a lovely second week back, and we're delighted to see how quickly the children are settling into their routines and exploring the room with growing confidence. Our new starters are already beginning to feel at home, building friendships and joining in with play. We're excited to share some of their adventures with you and look forward to watching them continue to grow over the weeks ahead.

This Week's Adventures

This week the children have loved spending lots of time in the garden. They've been busy picking tomatoes, learning how to care for plants now that Autumn is close and noticing changes around us. Water play has been a big favourite too, giving the children plenty of opportunities to explore pouring, filling and experimenting together. The cars and friction ramps have sparked lots of excitement, with children testing out speed, distance and problem-solving as they played. It's been a week full of fun, exploration and outdoor learning, helping the children build independence, curiosity, and teamwork.

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.

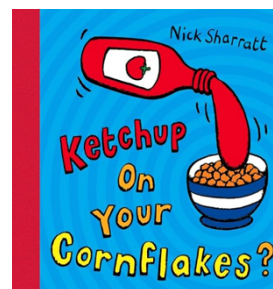
Updates

- Potty Training - Helpful Reminders
 - If your child is potty training, thank you for working with us so we can keep things consistent between home and Pre-School. Please:
 - **Send plenty of spare pants, socks and bottoms (labelled)** in a named bag.
 - Please remember to pop in **wet wipes** for us to clean up after accidents and if you use them, training pants/pull-ups for naps or walks.
 - Choose **easy, pull-down clothing** and **simple shoes** without laces.
 - Tell a member of staff about your child's current routine and any signals/words they use.
 - Expect a few accidents - we'll handle them kindly and discreetly; a change of clothes really helps.
 - Keep the approach consistent at home (regular toilet trips, calm praise, no pressure).

We'll celebrate small successes, communicate how it's going, and support each child at their own pace.

- We know that rest is important, but as a busy Pre-School we are a little limited in what we can offer at naptime. We do our best to provide a quiet, calm space where children who need a rest can relax. If your child has specific needs around sleep or rest, please do come and speak to us so we can work together to find the best way to support them.
- Reading - 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: *Ketchup on Your Cornflakes?* A brilliant split page novelty book from bestselling author-illustrator, Nick Sharratt. A popular split-page book inviting children to howl with laughter at the fantastic and fantastical food concoctions they create. "It's a simple, playful premise, and just like Sharratt's other books, the book presents a clever interactivity that means a reader can play with it and read at the same time. The font is nice and big and with just a few words per page it's a great book too for little ones just starting to learn to read.



Reminders

- Please be aware that some of our days are now fully booked for both the Autumn Term and in January too, with very 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.
- 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. EMERGENCY CONTACT FORMS MUST BE RETURNED NEXT WEEK. Please note that a number of these have been returned to families as emergency contacts need to be additional to the carer contact details that we already have on file.** A reminder that 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 by ALL FAMILIES. 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.
- 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 blue berries 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.

A Personal Update

I wanted to let you know that I have recently handed in my resignation as Manager of Stockland and Yarcombe Pre-School. This was not an easy decision, as being part of this wonderful Pre-School, school and village community has meant so much to me. I remain fully committed to supporting the children, staff and families during my remaining time here, and please be assured that I will work closely with the Committee to ensure a smooth transition. The committee will be in contact soon with the next steps around recruitment for the role.

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.