

Newsletter: Friday 26th September 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

This Week's Adventures

It's been a wonderful week at Pre-School, full of curiosity, creativity, and seasonal exploration! The children have settled beautifully into their routines and have really enjoyed getting involved in a wide range of engaging activities both indoors and outdoors. We've been talking about the changing weather and learning about the different seasons. They have loved noticing signs of change in our outdoor environment, from falling leaves to cooler breezes, and we've had great discussions about what happens in nature as we move into autumn.

The children have had so much fun exploring conkers! They rolled them in paint and across paper to create some truly beautiful and unique artwork. We also got involved in some seasonal outdoor jobs – the children were eager to help sweep up the autumn leaves and worked together to create a cosy space for any sleepy, hibernating hedgehogs. It was a lovely way to explore nature, encourage teamwork, and spark imaginative thinking. As part of our weekly routine, we've been enjoying our daily walks to the church, where the children have the chance to observe their surroundings, talk about what they see, and enjoy some calm time outdoors. We continue to place a strong focus on Personal, Social and Emotional Development to help children settle into Pre-School, become familiar with new routines, and build relationships with their key people and peers. Our practitioners are thoroughly enjoying getting to know their key children and learning how to best support each child's individual learning and development. It's been a week full of discovery, connection, creativity and seasonal fun!

Looking Ahead to Next Week

Next week, we'll be continuing our seasonal explorations by diving deeper into the changes we see and feel in nature, using the beautiful book *Stroll Through the Seasons* by Kay Barnham as our inspiration. This story will guide our discussions as we observe the world around us on our daily walks and compare the colours, sounds, and textures of each season. The children will take part in activities such as creating seasonal collages, sorting natural objects by season, and making their own 'mini season books' to reflect their observations. We'll also be encouraging mindfulness during our outdoor time, helping the children to slow down, notice small details, and connect with the world around them—just like the book encourages. It promises to be another week full of curiosity, creativity, and meaningful learning through nature!

We'll also be introducing *I Can Do Everything That's Anything All On My Own* by Lauren Child to support the children's growing independence and confidence as they settle further into the Pre-School routine. This engaging story will spark conversations around what it means to try new things, make choices, and feel proud of our efforts—even when things don't go perfectly the first time. Inspired by the book, we'll be setting up opportunities for the children to practise self-help skills, such as putting on their own coats and shoes, pouring drinks, and tidying up after play. Through fun, hands-on challenges and lots of encouragement, we'll continue to support their personal, social and emotional development while celebrating every "I did it!" moment.

Committee

Stockland and Yarcombe Pre-school is a charity run by Trustees who are all volunteers. We are looking for new volunteers and are particularly keen to recruit parents of children who attend the Pre-school. Parental involvement can come in 3 different ways: Becoming a Trustee, Volunteering and/or Fundraising. We are also asking parents to support our setting by taking part in or contributing to any fundraising events. Please ask Christina for more information.

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.

Updates

- 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: *Fletcher and the Falling Leaves* by Julia Rawlinson & Tiphannie Beeke. As the Autumn season sets in, Fletcher is very worried – his beautiful tree has begun to lose all of its leaves. Whatever Fletcher attempts to do to save them, it's simply no use. When the final leaf falls, Fletcher feels hopeless... until he returns the next day to a glorious sight.



Did you know that our Pre-school has a small library as well? Please feel free to borrow some books to read with your children at home. Sharing a book with your child is a great way to bond, plus it helps build important early literacy skills, such as listening, growing vocabulary and understanding. You can help by looking together at the pictures and pointing out a few things – ask your child to turn the page or point to the flowers. Encourage your child with questions and respond to what he/she says. Help your child expand their thoughts by asking "wh" questions, such as "Where is the dog?" or "What does a dog say?" Don't forget, it's okay to be silly and playful and know that your child may only interact with a few pages of the book at a time. You'll be surprised at all the talking you'll do and the fun you'll have together!

Reminders

- 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.

- Wet play: Please bring in a pair of wellies and water play clothes so we can enjoy the outdoors in all weather! As always, plenty of spare clothes too, for when water finds its way to our socks and sleeves! If your child comes to Pre-School in wellies, please ensure that they have an additional pair of shoes to change into after muddy walks. Thank you.
- After School Club: Please ensure that your child brings in an additional snack if they are staying with us for After School Club.

Snap

We have now received all of our data consent forms and are pleased to be able to share photos of children engaging in play and activities during their time with us – thank you for your cooperation and support. Please understand that the number of photos we share can sometimes be limited, as several families have chosen not to have their children appear on social media. In line with the EYFS framework, our primary focus is on providing high-quality interactions and play-based learning. We do not stage photos, and many group activities naturally include children with restricted permissions. Most photos are taken for assessment and observation purposes, supporting staff in monitoring progress and planning next steps, rather than documenting daily routines. This allows our practitioners to spend more time engaging meaningfully with the children, which is central to effective early years practice.





Dates for the Diary

- Half Term: Monday 27th October 2025 - Friday 31st October 2025.
- Cross country event: Wednesday 8th October 2025.
Early collection for Pre-School children by 3:00pm
No afterschool club on that day
There are currently no further cross country dates scheduled until March 2026.
- 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.