

Dear Parents/Carers,

A reminder that it would be fantastic if more children could bring in photos of the 'superheroes' in their lives. We'd really like to use these photos to create a display celebrating all the important people who help/care for us but only have a few so far!

This Week's Adventures

This week, once again we have fully embraced the magic of autumn through a variety of engaging, hands-on activities. The children enjoyed making leaf prints and exploring natural materials collected during our scavenger hunt. They demonstrated creativity with colourful pumpkin crafts and collages and particularly enjoyed hammering golf tees into pumpkins — an activity that also connected to our previous learning about hedgehogs, as the pumpkins resembled their spiky friends. We shared autumn-themed stories such as *Red Leaf*, *Yellow Leaf*, *When Autumn Comes*, and *Hello Autumn*, expanding vocabulary and encouraging thoughtful discussion.



Collaborative group art projects and cooking activities, including preparing vegetable soup, fostered social skills such as sharing and turn-taking.

Mathematical concepts were introduced as children sorted and counted leaves by colour and shape, compared sizes using the large links and created patterns. Through sensory play, printing and tasting activities, the children investigated different vegetables, enhancing their understanding of harvest time and seasonal changes. To connect with our local farming community, the children participated in simple activities such as sorting harvested potatoes, exploring different types of seeds and grains and role-playing farm tasks like planting and harvesting using toy tools.

The icing on the cake was making a scarecrow together for our outdoor area—a fun and collaborative project that brought all our harvest learning to life. It was a week rich in learning, teamwork, and discovery, centred around the themes of autumn and the harvest season.



Looking Ahead to Next Week

Next week, we'll continue exploring the theme of harvest with a range of rich, play-based activities across all areas of learning. Children will enjoy harvest stories like *The Little Red Hen* and *Oliver's Vegetables*, and learn songs such as *Dingle Dangle Scarecrow*, as well as taking part in farm shop role play to build vocabulary. They'll practise fine motor skills by picking and sorting pretend vegetables, husking corn and creating their own miniature scarecrows using fabric, sticks and straw. Gross motor development will be supported through wheelbarrow walks and outdoor balancing challenges. In maths, we'll count, sort, measure and weigh real produce, while literacy will include harvest-themed mark-making and retelling familiar stories with props. We'll explore seeds, grains, and the role of farmers in our community, and the children will help create a harvest-themed display table using items from home and nature walks. Creative activities like vegetable printing, more autumn songs and seasonal crafts will round off our harvest learning, offering a fun and meaningful way to celebrate the season. To support these activities, we would greatly appreciate any donations of vegetables, corn on the cob, dried seeds, grains, or cereal for our farm shop and sensory play areas. Thank you for your continued support!

Updates

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. *The Kindness Tree* by Aimee Neaverson is a beautiful, heartwarming story that gently introduces young children to the power of kindness, sharing, and friendship. With its colourful illustrations, friendly animal characters, and simple rhyming text, it's a super choice for younger children. As they follow Benny the Bunny and his friends, they'll see how small acts of kindness can light up the world around them. A lovely choice for bedtime or quiet moments, this book helps little ones understand empathy in a fun and magical way.



Reminders

If your child has been unwell, they should stay home for at least 48 hours after their last episode of sickness or diarrhoea before returning to preschool. This helps us keep everyone healthy and prevent germs from spreading—thank you for your cooperation and care! 🧡

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.

Snap

🍂 'tis the season for pumpkin craft

In Pre-School, we had so much fun making pumpkin crafts and autumn collages! We went on a scavenger hunt and found leaves, sticks, pine cones and other natural materials. Then, we used them to make leaf prints and did rolling prints with paint. It was exciting to see the shapes and colours appear on our paper! We loved exploring nature and using what we found to make beautiful autumn art.



Investigation Station

In Pre-School, we had so much fun hammering golf tees into pumpkins! The children used small toy hammers to gently tap the tees into the pumpkins, helping to build hand strength and improve hand-eye coordination. Once finished, the pumpkins looked just like the hedgehogs we investigated last week, with the tees sticking out like little spikes! It was a great way to connect our learning about animals to a fun, hands-on activity.



Autumn Scavenger Hunts



Taking the babies for a walk...



🥕 Veggie Soup-Making Fun!

This week, our pre-schoolers became little chefs as they helped make a warm pot of vegetable soup! They explored different veggies, practiced washing and stirring, and learned about healthy eating through hands-on fun. Best of all—they got to taste the soup they made! Ask your child which veggie was their favourite!



🎵🥁🎤 Sand, paint, making music and more...

This week the children chose to put the bugs into the sand tray... they invented some truly disgusting potions!

They also thoroughly enjoyed investigating the musical instruments and the effect of gravity with cars down the ramps and teddy in the seesaw!





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.
- Term Starts: Tuesday 6th 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.