



Dear Parents/Carers,

This Week's Adventures



This week we have been enjoying lots of harvest-inspired activities with the children. We've explored Autumn fruits and vegetables, learning about how they grow and the different shapes, colours and textures they have. The children had fun scooping out pumpkins, counting conkers, and making vegetable prints in paint.

In our role play, we set up a "farm shop" where the children could weigh, sort and sell produce, developing their maths and language skills through play. We also shared traditional harvest songs and stories, including The Little Red Hen, which the children loved acting out together.

In small world and role play, the children have been building farms and milking parlours, looking after animals and talking about harvest as they made food for their livestock. Alongside this, they have practised cutting and ripping skills to prepare 'animal food', used a variety of resources from around the room for construction, and engaged in mark making as they created name tags for their animals and buildings.

Through these activities, the children have been developing their communication and language by learning and using new vocabulary, strengthening fine motor skills for writing and cutting, and building personal, social and emotional development through co-operative play and turn-taking. These experiences also support understanding of the world, giving children real-life knowledge of farming, food production and seasonal traditions, while building cultural capital by connecting their play to the rural and agricultural heritage of our local community.



Looking Ahead to Next Week

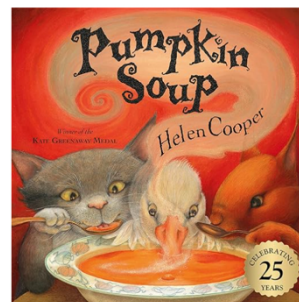
Next week, in the run up to half term, we'll be exploring a fun Halloween theme. Using stories such as Room on the Broom, Pumpkin Soup, Funnybones and Meg and Mog, we'll spark the children's imagination. Story baskets with props will encourage retelling, and children will have opportunities to make their own "spells" and potion recipes through mark making. In our creative areas, we'll be printing with pumpkins, making skeletons from cotton buds, and creating spider webs with wool and sticks. Outdoors, we'll be building broomstick obstacle courses, flying like bats in movement games and collecting more Autumn treasures for nature spells. Our continuous provision will include a potion-making station with coloured water, herbs and natural ingredients, a pumpkin shop for weighing, counting and comparing sizes, and skeleton bones for letter and number play. Throughout the week we'll sing spooky counting songs, sort spiders and bats by size and colour, and encourage independence with dressing up and putting on shoes and wellies for outdoor play.

If your child would like to come in wearing Halloween fancy dress, they are very welcome to do so. Please keep costumes comfortable for play and easy for toileting and avoid anything too spooky for our youngest children. We'll also be exploring and decorating pumpkins, squash and other Autumn treasures. If families would like to bring in any pumpkins or squash for the children to investigate and decorate, we'd be delighted to use them in our play and learning. As always, we'd love to hear any other fun Halloween ideas you'd like to share!

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.

*Deep in the woods, there's an old white cabin with pumpkins in the garden.
There's a good smell of soup and at night, with luck,
You might see a bagpiping Cat through the window and a Squirrel with a banjo,
And a small singing Duck.*



Cat, Duck and Squirrel spend their days making pumpkin soup. Cat slices, Squirrel stirs and Duck adds the salt. But, when Duck decides that he wants to stir the soup, they start to squabble... A rhythmic story about the importance of sharing.

🌟 Children & Family Health Devon – Support for Families

We wanted to share information about Children & Family Health Devon (CFHD), which provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services for children, young people and families across Devon. CFHD brings together professionals such as speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, school nurses, psychologists and community children's nurses.

Services include:

- Speech, language and communication support
- Occupational therapy and physiotherapy
- Community children's nursing
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing (CAMHS)
- Support for autism, ADHD and learning disabilities
- Help for children with complex physical health needs
- Early years developmental support
- Eating disorder services
- Specialist school nursing and assessment pathways

How can families access support?

- Children and young people (under 18) living in Devon can be referred for specialist CFHD support.
- Referrals can be made by professionals or families can complete the referral form themselves.
- While waiting for appointments, there are lots of self-help tools, guides and resources available on the CFHD website.

Contact details

☎ 0330 0245 321 ✉ CFHD.DevonSPA@nhs.net 🌐 childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk

➡ Check out this link for a service that might be of particular interest to our families: <https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/our-pathways/speech-language-and-communication/speech-and-language-therapy-service-drop-in-sessions/> A Speech and Language Therapy Service: A virtual drop-in for parents of children 3 and under and professionals who are concerned about their speech, language, and communication development. The Speech and Language Therapist will spend up to 10 minutes listening to the parents' / professional's concerns, asking questions and observing how the child and parent(s) communicate and interact. All families will be given advice and / or ideas to try at home.

Tuesdays 9.30am – 11.30am	Thursdays 9.30am – 11.30am
4 November 2025	20 November 2025
2 December 2025	18 December 2025

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



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.