

Newsletter: Friday 24th October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of the first half term, we want to say a big well done to all the children for settling back into routines and embracing their learning and play with such enthusiasm. It has been wonderful to see new friendships forming and lots of progress being made already. We wish all our families a super half-term break – enjoy some rest, adventures and Autumn fun together. 🍂 We look forward to welcoming everyone back to Pre-School on Monday 4th November.

This Week's Adventures

This week we have enjoyed lots of Autumn craft activities, using natural materials to make pictures and decorations.



The children gathered colourful leaves from the garden, looked carefully for bugs and insects as they scurried away to hibernate, and talked about the changes they could see in the season. In small world and construction play, they extended their farm theme by building more farms and stables, caring for the animals and developing their imaginative play.



Looking Ahead

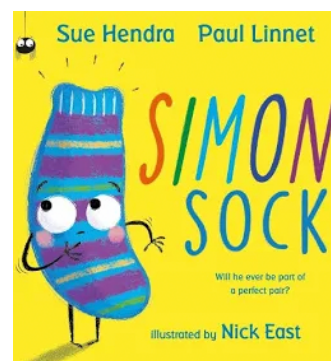
After the half term break, we'll be starting our new planning with a focus on seasonal events and celebrations. In the week beginning 4th November, the children will explore the theme of light and colour through high-quality stories such as *Wow! Said the Owl* by Tim Hopgood, *The Very Last Firefly* by Dee Leone, and traditional tales such as *Anansi and the Firefly*.

The week's activities will be carefully linked across all areas of the EYFS. In Communication and Language, the children will retell stories with props and learn new descriptive words for fireworks such as 'bang,' 'whizz' and 'sparkle.' For Personal, Social and Emotional Development, we will talk about how we feel when we see fireworks and learn together about staying safe, whilst Physical Development will be supported through outdoor ribbon play to create firework patterns, mark-making with chalks and glitter, and practising fine motor skills by cutting shiny paper. Literacy will be encouraged through sharing themed stories, mark-making and creating simple sound books, whilst in Mathematics, the children will count fireworks, make repeating patterns with coloured sticks, as well as sort shiny objects by shape and size. Understanding the World will be explored as the children play with torches in the shadow den, learn why people celebrate Bonfire Night and also discover other festivals of light such as Diwali. Finally, in Expressive Arts and Design the children will paint and collage their own firework skies, use musical instruments to recreate firework sounds, and build "rockets" with construction materials. If you have any empty kitchen roll tubes, foil, shiny paper, or small torches at home that you would be happy to donate, these would be a wonderful addition to our creative and sensory play after half term. Thank you for your 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.

Simon Sock by Sue Hendra: A wonderful new character from the bestselling creators of *Barry the Fish with Fingers* and the illustrator of *Goodnight Digger*. Simon is an odd, stripey sock. He lives in the drawers with all the other socks. Every day two socks get picked to go on an adventure. The sparklies go to parties. The woolies go the park. The smarts go to school. Everyone has a pair... except Simon. Will he ever find his perfect match? A hilarious story celebrating friendship and difference.



Reminders

☀ **Children & Family Health Devon – Support for Families**

Children & Family Health Devon (CFHD) offers a wide range of health and wellbeing services for children, young people and families across Devon. Their team includes speech and language therapists, occupational and physiotherapists, school nurses, psychologists and children's nurses.

Support is available for:

- Speech, language and communication
- Physical development and coordination
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing (CAMHS)
- Autism, ADHD and learning differences
- Complex health needs and eating disorders
- Early years development and specialist nursing

Families can refer themselves or be referred by a professional. While waiting for appointments, there are lots of helpful resources on their website.

☎ 0330 0245 321

✉ CFHD.DevonSPA@nhs.net

🌐 childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk

🗓 Speech & Language Therapy virtual drop-ins (children under 3):

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

👥 **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.

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.