

## Newsletter: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

### **This Week's Adventures**

This week at Pre-School has been full of exploration, creativity, and movement! The children have been busy investigating pumpkins — feeling different textures, exploring what's inside, and noticing how they vary in size and shape. We've also been making the most of autumn by gathering fallen leaves for crafting, painting seasonal scenes, and even mixing our own magical potions using natural materials. These hands-on activities reflect key play schemas such as transforming (changing materials through mixing or painting) and transporting (moving objects like leaves and potion ingredients from place to place).

Alongside creative and sensory play, the children have had plenty of opportunities for physical development using the climbing frame, slide, and gymnastics vaults. These activities support the trajectory schema (interest in movement and direction) and help build gross motor skills, balance, and confidence. Climbing, sliding, and vaulting also encourage problem-solving, spatial awareness, and risk assessment—essential aspects of early development.

All of these experiences support multiple areas of learning outlined in the EYFS framework, including:

- Physical Development – through climbing, balancing, painting, and potion-making
- Expressive Arts & Design – in crafting, painting, and imaginative play
- Understanding the World – exploring natural materials and seasonal changes
- Communication & Language – through discussions, storytelling, and describing what they're doing

The EYFS framework provides a holistic approach to children's development, and recognising play schemas helps us tailor experiences to each child's unique way of learning.

If you have any questions about what we've been doing this week, or would like to know more about schemas, the EYFS, or how to support learning at home, please don't hesitate to get in touch—we're always happy to chat!

### **Looking Ahead to Next Week**

Next week, we'll be continuing our autumn adventures with a focus on harvest time and the changing seasons. The children will explore the natural world through stories such as Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf, When Autumn Comes, and Hello Autumn, which will inspire activities like leaf collecting, sorting and nature-inspired art. They'll have opportunities to observe and investigate real leaves — comparing colours, shapes, and textures—and use these observations to create more beautiful autumn-themed crafts. Alongside this, the children will explore different vegetables through sensory play, printing and tasting activities. We'll also introduce simple cooking experiences — like making vegetable soup—to support healthy eating and life skills. Outdoors, more physical challenges will be set up using climbing equipment and balance beams to encourage confidence and coordination. As always, we'll follow the children's interests and build on their emerging play schemas to create meaningful, engaging learning opportunities.

**A reminder that it would be fantastic if a few more 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.**

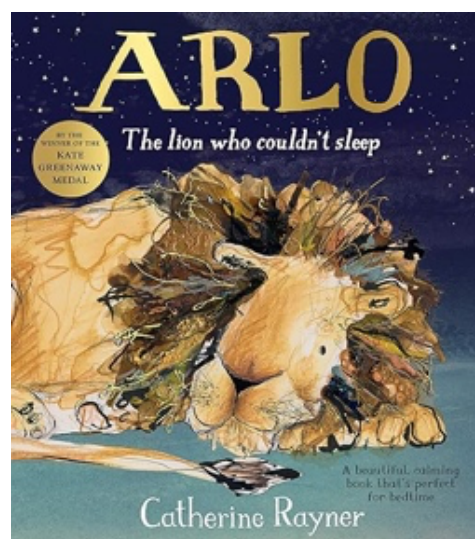
## **Policies/Procedures**

We're pleased to let you know that all updated policies and procedures are now live on our website. You can view them at any time by visiting <https://stocklandpreschool.co.uk/policies-and-procedures>. We encourage all parents and carers to take a moment to familiarise themselves with these important documents. If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch—we're happy to help.

We'd like to let you know that we are no longer using Tapestry as our online learning journal platform. This decision reflects current Ofsted guidance, which encourages early years settings to focus on quality interactions and meaningful learning experiences rather than spending excessive time on written observations or digital record-keeping. While Tapestry has been a useful tool, we are now reviewing how best to share your child's progress in a way that supports their development without taking valuable time away from working directly with the children. We'll keep you updated on any new systems or approaches we adopt. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's learning, please feel free to speak with a member of the team.

## **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. Perfect for bedtime, *Arlo The Lion Who Couldn't Sleep* is a beautifully illustrated story with a gentle mindfulness message from award-winning author-illustrator Catherine Rayner. Shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal, it's especially helpful for little ones who have trouble going to sleep. Arlo the lion is exhausted. He just can't drop off, no matter what he tries. It's either too hot, or too cold; too loud or too quiet. But then he meets Owl. She can sleep through the day, which isn't easy when most other animals are awake! Will Arlo ever get any rest? Perhaps his new friend has some special tricks she can teach him to help him sleep.



## **Reminders**

- 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.

## **Snaps**

*We always do our best to capture those special moments while also avoiding photos with too much mess (including the occasional runny nose!) — thank you for understanding that sometimes real life and real play go hand in hand!*

### *Maths*



### *Investigation Station*

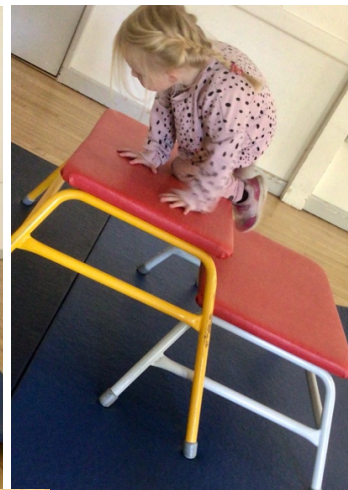




## *Sand and Water*



## *Physical Development*







*Autumn Crafts*







*Building, books and being creative...*





## **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](mailto: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](mailto:chair@stocklandpreschool.co.uk)  
Pippa Salter – Vice Chair, Secretary and Safeguarding [vicechair@stocklandpreschool.co.uk](mailto:vicechair@stocklandpreschool.co.uk)  
Emily Foxwell – Treasurer [treasurer@stocklandpreschool.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@stocklandpreschool.co.uk)

## **STAFF**

Jemma Harvey-Jones – Manager, SENDCo and DSL [jemma@stocklandpreschool.co.uk](mailto:jemma@stocklandpreschool.co.uk)  
Sam Steward - Deputy Manager [sam.s@stocklandpreschool.co.uk](mailto:sam.s@stocklandpreschool.co.uk)  
Kelly Patch - Deputy Safeguarding Lead [kelly.p@stocklandpreschool.co.uk](mailto:kelly.p@stocklandpreschool.co.uk)

*To contact any other members of our team please email the [info@stocklandpreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@stocklandpreschool.co.uk) account and your queries will be forwarded appropriately.*