

Newsletter: Friday 7th November 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

🍂 Welcome Back!

We hope you all had a lovely half term break. We have loved hearing the children's news and seeing them settle back into play with their friends.

This half term the children will continue to explore the changing seasons, build independence and confidence, and spend lots of time outdoors (please remember coats and wellies!). As the frost begins to appear in the mornings, they'll be enjoying lots of frozen fun — exploring ice, noticing sparkly spider webs and talking about how the weather is changing. We're looking forward to another happy few weeks of learning and play together as we learn about a world of festivals!

💛 A Goodbye Message

As most of you will know, this has been my final week at Pre-School. I've had the chance to speak to many of you face-to-face, but I wanted to also share a goodbye here. It has truly been a privilege to work as Manager and to spend each day with such wonderful children and families.

I very much speak from the heart when I say that being part of your children's early years has been the greatest joy of my role. I have treasured watching their individual personalities shine through, their confidence grow, their friendships form and their independence and curiosity flourish — has been incredibly special. I have felt very lucky to have shared so many everyday moments of joy, learning and laughter with them. Thank you for your kindness, your support, and for welcoming me into your community within this role.

I would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to the staff team. Their care, commitment and patience shines through in everything they do, and it has been an honour to work alongside such dedicated and nurturing practitioners. The children are in very safe and loving hands.

Although I am moving on, Stockland and Yarcombe Pre-School will always hold a very special place in my heart. I am working closely with the team and committee to ensure a smooth transition, and I am sure the Pre-School will continue to go from strength to strength. With two daughters having been through the Pre-School and now attending Stockland Primary School, I will still be very much part of the community — and I look forward to seeing you and the children in and around the village.

Warmest wishes,

Jemma 💛

This Week's Adventures

✨ Bonfire Night Fun 🔥

This week we have been learning about Bonfire Night and fireworks. We talked about how people celebrate, and most importantly, how we can enjoy fireworks safely. The children created beautiful firework pictures using splatter painting, chalk swirls and glitter to show the colours bursting into the sky. We used ribbons and scarves in our movement games to dance like fireworks fizzing and popping, and we listened to firework sounds to talk about what we could hear — whoosh, bang, pop! Outdoors, we built pretend bonfires with logs and leaves, practised keeping a safe distance, and warmed our hands by "imaginary flames." It has been a lovely week of bright colours, excitement and new vocabulary.

Looking Ahead

🌸 Remembrance

Next week we will be learning about Remembrance Day in a calm and child-friendly way. We will talk about how people wear poppies to help us remember and say thank you to those who helped to keep us safe. Our focus will be on kindness, care for others and remembering together.

Activities across the 7 Areas of Learning:

- Communication & Language: Sharing simple stories and pictures about poppies and remembrance; talking about feelings such as kind, gentle and thank you.
- Personal, Social & Emotional Development: Reflecting on what it means to help and care for others; taking part in a short, gentle moment of quiet together.
- Physical Development: Fine motor skills through cutting, sticking and printing poppies; gross motor **skills** using ribbon and scarf movement to calming music.
- Literacy: Looking at poppy symbols in books, drawing poppies, early mark-making to represent flowers and fields.
- Mathematics: Counting and sorting red and black loose parts; arranging petals in patterns; shape work through circle printing.
- Understanding the World: Talking about traditions and remembrance; looking at real poppies and noticing similarities and differences in nature.
- Expressive Arts & Design: Creating poppy artwork through finger printing, collage and paint; using soft music and materials to support a reflective atmosphere.

On Monday, we will mark a short moment of silence, supported gently and in a way that feels meaningful and safe for the children.

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.

Where is Pierre? By Emma Clarke (due to be released 23 April 2026)
It's Bear's birthday and he can't wait to spend it with his best friend Pierre.
There's just one little problem . . . WHERE IS PIERRE?! With one missing penguin and a whole lot of chaos, this hilarious search-and-find adventure will have kids giggling, guessing, and shouting "THERE HE IS!" on every page.



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

- Christmas Break: Monday 22nd December 2025 - Friday 2nd January 2026.
- INSET DAY: Monday 5th January.
- Term Starts: Tuesday 6th January.

Contact Details

To contact a member of the staff team, please use the details below to email/call, alternatively you can speak to us at drop-off or pick-up.

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. Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found online at:
<https://stocklandpreschool.co.uk/policies-and-procedures/safeguarding>.

Core Committee

For any queries moving forward, please feel free to contact our 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