

Pre-School Post



Hello

Firstly, I would like to thank all those parents who supported us with our Pudsey pop up shop this week. The children enjoy a bit of role play especially if they are taking the lead with parents. The total amount raised will be announced soon.

We also celebrated remembrance this week and amazingly we managed a minute's silence in our lively pre-school! The children asked appropriate questions as we looked at the symbol of the poppy and reflected on the important role our service families have in the community.

Other learning this week has been revisiting our emotions and how these can present in each of us, as well as thinking about light and dark. The children have loved having the torches in a den, and our book, 'Day monkey, night monkey' was very funny reflecting on different perceptivities of the two monkeys and how different things look in the dark. This closely linked to emotions and lots of chat about bedtimes, who is scared of the dark and the recent fireworks seen in the dark.

Kerry Evans

Pre-school Manager

Pre-school Staff

We are delighted to welcome Miss Saunders to our pre-school team. As many will be aware, we recruited Mrs Penfold and another member of staff to work with us back in the summer term.

Mrs Penfold has settled brilliantly and is a real asset to our team. The second member of staff we recruited simply didn't turn up on day one so we have luckily 'stolen' Mrs Holdich from the main school. She has saved the day and really helped our children settle in so well.

Now Miss Saunders is on board, Mrs Holdich will return to the main school but will keep her hand in with pre-school too! Miss Saunders brings with her lots of energy and experience and is ready to meet all of Stockbridge's youngest learners. I know you will join me in giving her a warm welcome and you will all get to meet her soon.

Thanks for bearing with us over the last 9 weeks – I can't believe summer holidays are so long ago!

Starting school in September 2026?

Is your little one due to be starting school in September 2026? Now is the time to be applying for a school place – the applications window is open until January 15th 2026. The birth rate for this year is much lower than previous years and whereas we usually only have a few available spaces for those out of catchment or without a sibling here, things are looking a little different this year.

You are able to make 3 choices of school when you apply. I would urge you to visit your catchment school and at least 2 others – choosing a school is a little like choosing a house! When you walk in, picture you and your family in this place for 7 years or so! It's a big undertaking. You can check your catchment school via the link on our website linked here: [CATCHMENT CHECKER](#). For those living in our catchment, you may be able to access the school minibus once your child turns 5.

We don't hold an 'open day' as such; every day is an open day and I would be very glad to show any of our families around the school to find out how Stockbridge Primary functions on a day-to-day basis and to talk to you about your child personally, giving you time to ask questions and find out if we're a fit for you and your family.

If you would like to book a visit, please contact Mrs Spayes or Miss Lawler in the school office.

Applications can be made via the Hampshire website: [MAKE AN APPLICATION](#)

School meals

The new menu is up and running and the children who have received a school lunch have found the food to be delicious (as well as nutritious).

Please try to ensure you consult with your child BEFORE you book their meals as this is the best way to encourage both independence and a wider palette. Sometimes children will eat foods in pre-school that they would normally shy away from purely because a friend is eating it. If they are expecting a particular meal, they are more inclined to consume it better too. It goes without saying the puddings are popular!

You can book a meal for that day, before 9am and I understand you can book a couple of weeks in advance to save any chance of forgetting.

Spare clothes and donations

Accidents do happen and when children are so engrossed in their play, sometimes they don't make it to the toilet or, they get so engrossed in their play, mud, sand and rain become invisible!

All children should have a bag of spare clothes but please could I again ask if anyone has any borrowed items from pre-school could these be returned for our spares and back up box ASAP.

If anyone has any outgrown underwear, socks or trousers they could donate we would be very grateful. Our supplies are very low and if your child is caught short, we would like to support in pre-school to avoid calling you out of your day.

Early Years Curriculum

During our recent inset day as well as completing compulsory training we used the opportunity to update our Early years curriculum. I would like to share with you our curriculum for the rising 3 and 3-year olds. I will share the 4 year old curriculum next newsletter. Take a moment to read and see if you recognize any of these milestones, have you seen these consistently achieved at home? You can always share observations on class dojo which can contribute towards your child's learning journey.

Top 10 Aims		Educational programmes	
1	Noticing things about the people and world around them	Understanding of the world	
2	Gain attention and listening skills for stories and rhymes: join in with stories and continue rhymes	Communication and language & Literacy	
3	Follow an instruction that has 2 parts	Communication and language	
4	Articulates thoughts, ideas and needs as part of play and requesting help in sentences of 4-6 words	Communication and language	
5	Can safely ride a balance bike, catch a ball and make a 2 feet together jump	Physical Development	
6	Understand and manage own feelings and behaviours, understanding that I may not always get my own choices instantly	PSED	
7	Use large movements to balance, climb, wave ribbons and independently climb steps/equipment using alternative feet	Physical Development	
8	Engage in pretend play and sustain it for a period of time. Uses language to communicate ideas and thoughts	PSED	
9	Know numerals to 5; subitise, 1:1 correspondence and recognise the numbers	Maths	
10	Use mathematical language, in play, to describe position, size, shape and weight	Maths	

My email should you need to contact me K.evans@stockbridge.hants.sch.uk