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5th September 2025



We're now at the end of our first week of the new school year, welcome back to those of you who were already with us and a big hello and welcome to our new families! We'd also like to welcome 2 new staff members who joined our wonderful team shortly before the summer break: Chloe and Keeley, and congratulations to Hayley for qualifying as a Level 2 Practitioner.

NEW PARENTS TAPESTRY

You should have received a Tapestry online journal login email and hopefully managed to log in, if not please do let us know. This journal is where we share photos and observations of your child at preschool. It isn't a daily log but more of a round-up of their development throughout the year. Some weeks you may have 2 or 3 observations others maybe none. Please don't worry - the staff are constantly engaging and observing your children as interaction is our priority. Feel free to chat to your Key Person or any member of staff at drop off or pick up. Alternatively, you can always call ahead and arrange a more private conversation in the office if you would prefer.

LABEL ALL BELONGINGS - please label all coats, bags and lunch boxes with your child's name. This is a huge help as some children have the same/similar items or do not yet recognise their own belongings, thank you.

MARK MAKING/WRITING

At the end of this bulletin there is some useful information specifically for preschool children and how you can help them with mark making/writing, as we are often asked if there are any activities that we would recommend you do at home.

OUR WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE



We regularly review the content of our website <https://www.stockpreschool.org.uk/> to ensure it remains current. It provides lots of information for you and is the ideal place to check things such as term dates and current policies. Also, remember to regularly check our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stockpreschool> - it's a great way to see what we've been doing!

GETTING IN TOUCH

For queries about funding, invoices, uniform, session changes, etc. please email Nicola in the office stockpreschool@stockpreschool.org.uk or call 07952 640570. The office is open Mon, Tue & Thu 9.30am-1.30pm and Fri 9.30am-12.30pm (closed Wed). For anything 'on the day' eg. child is unwell, or you are running late for pick up etc. please call pre-school direct on 07488 437821.

The Essex Lottery - have you signed up yet? There is a £25,000 jackpot each week and regular special Super Draws. Taking part is quick and easy [here](#)



When shopping online, you can help us to raise funds by shopping through the link www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel/, at no extra cost to you, thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY term dates can be found here [Term dates | Stock Pre-School](#)

END OF THIS HALF TERM

Friday 17th October

START OF NEXT HALF TERM

Monday 3rd November

PLEASE NOTE THE HALF-TERM HOLIDAY IS 2 WEEKS LONG THIS YEAR



Top tips to encourage mark-making/writing

At Stock Pre-School, we encourage children to mark make and write in a variety of ways. We recognise that every child learns at a different pace; some children will love to hold a pencil at 3 years old, while others are not particularly interested. That is okay; we need to think outside the box for those who are not so keen. Below are some of the activities we do to encourage mark-making and writing.

- Huge cardboard boxes - Let's use our imagination, what could we turn this box into? Ok, great, think we may need to decorate it? Leave a selection of writing media - pens, crayons, pencils, and highlighters to choose from. Let your child explore by using the boxes to colour and draw on.
- Chalk (you can get ones that look more like pencils with pointed nibs). We use our outdoor area, but you could use your patio. We sometimes use large square frames - the children then draw within this frame, creating their masterpiece. Have a spray bottle to hand with water, as they can then refresh parts of their drawing (this also strengthens finger muscles).
- Roleplay - this could be shops, Doctors, Police, Library. Children love the small notepads to jot in. We add costumes to make it more realistic and support it by asking simple questions. For example, during Police roleplay, asking them to find objects that people may have lost/gone missing. We can then add phonic sounds into our play. Can you find me something beginning with 'b'? When they find the object, we can then write it in our book.
- Mud Kitchen - recipe cards are a great way of encouraging writing. We ask the children to find different ingredients for their recipes. This ranges from herbs to sticks and flowers. We then encourage them to create a recipe card.
- Drawing around items - big squares, large lids, boxes - anything that requires them to hold the pencil in a tight enough pincer grip to practice their grip. Let them find the items to draw around - involving them gives them ownership and makes them more likely to want to do the activity.

Importantly, do not pressure your child; writing should be fun and explorative, using all sorts of media at this age. It's also really important to build up their muscles in their wrists and hands so they are ready for writing. Play-Doh is brilliant for this as they squeeze, poke and use lots of their strength to flatten and roll. Large shoulder movements are also useful - we use scarves to fly around the air in music time to help encourage this movement. Writing is tiring for little fingers and hands, so make sure you are guided by your child.

If you would like any further ideas or would just like a chat about your child and writing, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.