



The Ark Newsletter

January 2023

Children's Activities

This month the children across the nursery have been celebrating Chinese New Year with noodle play, making lanterns, Chinese symbol painting, exploring rice and setting up their own 'Chinese restaurant' in the role play area. The children were able to discover new tastes and textures as they sampled and enjoyed a delicious Chinese themed lunch of stir fry pork and prawn crackers for Chinese New Year. The pre-school children were given the opportunity to try and use chopsticks with their lunch. This prompted conversations about how different cultures eat and encouraged the development of their fine motor skills.



Packed Lunch – For children who do not eat a hot nursery lunch, the option of bringing in a packed lunch is available. When choosing items for your child's lunch box please be mindful of our Nutrition Policy which requests that parents support us in our healthy eating aims when providing packed lunches. Food such as crisps, chocolate, sweets or fizzy drinks should be avoided, as should any other foods with high levels of additives/colourings as some children are highly sensitive to these ingredients which can severely affect their behaviour and /or make them sick. Food with **nut** content **must** be avoided as children with severe allergy to nuts can suffer extreme reactions even via indirect contact. Fruit or vegetable and dairy snacks are encouraged.

Term Dates

Spring term 2023

Tuesday 3rd January - Friday 31st March

Half-term and Holiday Club Monday 13th February –Friday 17th February

Inset/ Holiday club day Friday 10th February

Easter Holiday Club Monday 3rd April –Thursday 6th April & Tuesday 11th April – Friday 14th April – The Ark is closed on Good Friday 7th April and Easter Monday 10th April.

Summer term 2023

Monday 17th April – Friday 21st July

Half-term and Holiday Club Tuesday 30th May – Tuesday 6th June

Inset/ Holiday club day Monday 5th June

A few reminders

The Start of the Day – The Ark is open to children from 8.00am. Although some staff arrive before this time, we are unable to accept children before 8.00am as we may not have enough staff to meet legal ratios. Furthermore staff are fully occupied setting out the rooms and preparing for the day.

Boots and Coats – As we are still in the throes of winter please bring your child named wellies and coats each day!

Parking – Please remember not to park on school grounds after 8.15am.

Collection of Pre-school children could you please ensure children are collected on time especially at 3.15. If you are also collecting siblings from school please could you collect from The Ark first to prevent an overlap with schoolchildren arriving for After-school Club.

Dates for your Diary

The Ark is open all year round **except all Bank Holidays**, and we will close the **week commencing Monday 28th August 2023 to Monday 4th September**. At **Christmas** The Ark will be closed from **Friday 22nd December 2023 to Tuesday January 2nd 2024**.

Easter Bingo Friday 17th March at Child Okeford Village Hall doors open 7pm eyes down at 730pm. Any donations of prizes we be gratefully received.

Sarah McNab

Nursery Manager

