



The Ark Newsletter

Summer 2023

This term we have been focusing on keeping healthy, through physical activity and healthy eating.

Everyone is busy in the garden preparing and planting vegetables and herbs, for later consumption. We would be very grateful for any donations of empty seed packets and plant pots for the children's role play (garden centre); and particularly so if anyone has any spare plants to donate.

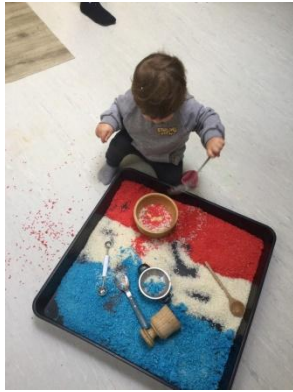


Staff

Tracey has started in the preschool room and is enjoying her new role. Willow has left the Ark after deciding that the job was not for her. We are currently recruiting a replacement practitioner for the baby room.

Children's activities

A Kings and Queens day proved popular with some lovely outfits and dresses being worn to celebrate the Kings Coronation. Crowns, bunting and cakes were made and enjoyed at an afternoon street style tea party which all children enjoyed from across the nursery. They waved their flags and listened to the National Anthem. Pre-School made a card and posted it to the king to congratulate him on his Coronation. We hope that we may receive some correspondence from King Charles soon.



A Few Reminders

Arrival/Collection Times

Please ensure you leave and collect your child at the times booked, as several children have been arriving before their session begins and/or have been collected after their session ends. This is particularly prevalent before the 8.45am session and at the end of the 12.45 – 3.15pm session. If you do occasionally arrive early please wait with your child in the lobby until the start of the booked session. If you are also collecting older siblings from school at 3.15pm, please ensure you collect your child from The Ark first. This is very important as we may breach our OFSTED registration conditions if we do not adhere to correct staff/children ratios. Also as you are all aware as a setting we operate 8am-6pm. This means we close the doors at 6pm, if you require a handover at the end of your child's session please arrive ten minutes early to allow staff to hand over to you as Afterschool club starts at 3:15pm.

Clothes Labelling

Please also ensure your child's clothes have his/her name in them, as we constantly have a pile of unlabelled, unclaimed clothing. Please be warned that periodically we have a clear out and clothes are likely to be sent to the jumble if they are not claimed.

Children starting school in September 2023

Currently those Pre-school children who are on all year-round bookings the last day of funding is Friday 25th August 2023. However, if you wish your child to attend holiday club on the 4th and 5th September these sessions will be chargeable.

Pre-school children who are on term-time only bookings will be due to leave on their last session closest to, or on, **21st July 2023**. If you would like to add some additional sessions for your child throughout the summer or for the beginning of September before starting school, then please do let us know and we will accommodate this where possible.

Sun cream

At the Ark during the summer months we like to spend as much time in our outdoor area. With the warmer weather approaching, we would be grateful if you could apply some

sun cream to your children before dropping them off at The Ark in the morning. We will top up the sun cream in the afternoon. Also, please provide a **NAMED** sunhat.

Term Dates

Summer term 2023

Monday 17th April – Friday 21st July

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

Staff training day Monday 5th June- **The Ark and Raft are closed**

Autumn term 2023

Monday 4th September – Friday 15th December

Half term and holiday club 23rd-27th October

Inset/ Holiday club day Monday 4th September

Inset/ Holiday club day Friday 20th October

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**.

Parent's evening: Monday 3rd July 5.30 pm -7.00pm for those children who are transitioning into school. Individual appointments available please speak to your child's keyworker

Leavers Entertainment in preschool

This will be held on Friday **14th July 2023 between 10.30am and 12.30pm**. All children moving up to school in September are invited. Otherwise only those children in the 3 – 5 Room who usually attend on a Friday morning are invited. We have a 'Emma and her magic bag', who comes highly recommended, to entertain the children for an hour from 11am.

Preschool Graduation ceremony Saturday 15th July in The Ark Garden 11.00am-1.00pm

Summer Events: Family Picnic (Bring your own Picnic) Saturday 15th July in The Ark Garden 11.00am- 1.00pm which is open to all our families. The Ark will provide drinks and cake and we are asking for a donation of £5 per family to attend this event. We will also draw our summer raffle at this event. Please let Sarah, Tash or Tracey know if you would like to attend.

We will also be hosting a stall at the **Heyday at Child Okeford Recreation Ground on Saturday 1st July**. Do you have an hour to spare to help run the stall? Any volunteers would be greatly appreciated - please speak to Sarah or Tash. Please come and support us at these events.

Fundraising

The Stay& play and Jumble sale raised £98.60 for The Ark. Thank you to all those parents who kindly donated bags of jumble and attended this event.

Sarah McNab

Nursery Manager