



# The Ark Newsletter

## September 2023

Welcome back to everyone! We hope you all had a lovely summer break and please share what you have done over the holidays on Tapestry!

It is lovely to see all the new children developing friendships, settling into the routines and exploring the curriculum on offer with our older children role modelling and supporting the little ones.



### Staff

We would like you to all join us in welcoming a new member of staff to the Ark team. Jessica started with us at the beginning of September and has been working alongside the preschool room team getting to know the pre-schoolers and their routines. Jessica is level 3 qualified and has lots of experience with all ages across the nursery.

### Children's activities

Over the last few weeks in the baby room, we have been having lots of fun making marks and exploring different messy play. We have explored lots of edible messy play from edible playdoh, edible sand (cornflakes crushed up), jelly play and cornflour just to name a few. We have also enjoyed some of our favourite activities of shaving foam where we got very messy and had lots of fun covering ourselves and the staff, painting and water play. We have also been having lots of fun out in the garden where we have been exploring the sand filling and emptying containers and making lots of sand castles. We have also enjoyed playing on the large play equipment such as the cars and bikes and climbing on the climbing equipment whilst watching out for aeroplanes flying past. Toddlers have enjoyed getting crafty. They have explored different ways of using paints

with toothbrushes; they have done gluing and sticking with tissue paper and using pens and pencils to decorate objects.

Recently in preschool, we have been very busy with our learning activities. We have loved our science experiments fizzy dinosaur's eggs, exploding coke volcanos and growing a shark! We also enjoyed a visit from 'Squidge and pop' that performed a bubble show.



### **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. End of the Day; 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 the day please arrive by 5.50pm so that staff have time to do the handover. If you arrive after this time, handover will be short and limited. Any collections after 6pm will incur a fee.

St Nicholas School has asked that parents do not take or collect their child from school using the Ark corridor down to reception class.

#### **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.

Here at The Ark we are promoting children's independence. Please can we request that children have shoes that they are able to put on and take off by their self. Velcro fastening shoes are ideal for all ages to master.

## Term Dates

### Autumn term 2023

#### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Half term and holiday club 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October

Inset/ Holiday club day Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October

Christmas holiday club 18<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> December

Half term and holiday Club 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> February

Inset/Holiday club day Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Easter holiday Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – 15<sup>th</sup> April

Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March the Ark Closed

Easter Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April the Ark closed

Holiday club Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April

### Summer term 2024

#### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Half Term and holiday Club Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May

The Ark Closure week 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August

### Dates for your Diary

The Ark is open all year round **except all Bank Holidays**. At **Christmas** the Ark will be closed from **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023** to **Tuesday January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024**. Next year's summer closure week will be 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

### Lending Library

The Ark now has a lending library just outside the main gate. Please feel free to take, donate, swap and share books and games with your children. Don't forget to share photos on tapestry of the books or games your children enjoy.



Sarah McNab

Nursery Manager

