



The Ark Newsletter

November 2023



All the children across nursery created handmade poppy wreaths and then on Friday 10th November we walked to the village's memorial to lay our wreaths. The children joined in with the short service of Remembrance as well as a two minute's silence.

Staff

We would like you to all join us in welcoming a new member of staff to the Ark team. Keira started with us at the beginning of October and has been working across all rooms in the nursery to learn the routines. Keira will be starting her Level 2 apprenticeship with Bournemouth and Poole college in January. Kayleigh who worked in afterschool club has left the Raft. We wish Kayleigh well in her new venture.

Children's activities

The outdoors environment has been such an enjoyment for our little ones, they have loved exploring in all weathers. The Babies have particularly enjoyed using their gross motor skills to explore different activities in the garden, crawling/ walking over the bridge, climbing in the tyres and balancing across beams are all firm favourites. Being out in the garden provides so many learning opportunities for babies and supports many areas of their development. Outdoor play supports babies to learn about different surroundings and feel more comfortable with the world around them as they grow older, they become keen to explore the world around them and test their growing physical skills.

Wet weather play

Even in the wetter weather children and babies can get so much from being outside, in fact it can support interests, creativity, imaginations and enhance sensory experiences. Wet weather play continues to support development and helps teach new safety measures. It allows children to explore nature in new and different ways.



A Few Reminders

Coats and shoes

We ask that ALL children come to nursery with a sensible, warm outdoor coat and shoes. There have been occasions where we have had to provide children with alternative outdoor wear or boots to allow them to access the outdoor areas during the day. We will go outside each day, in the cold and wet, sun and snow and we don't want anyone to miss out.

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.

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.

Administrator

Just a polite reminder that Tracey our administrator works Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 0830am-5pm. We ask that if you would like to discuss ongoing bookings, payments or funding please email or pop in during Tracey's working hours. This way we will be able to help you more efficiently as other members of staff may be included within the ratios for children.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 21st November Quiz Night at the Saxon Pub Child Okeford

Monday 27th November Parents Evening - Individual appointments available please speak to your child's keyworker

Tuesday 5th December Christmas Dinner Day

Thursday 7th December Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 8th December Preschool Nativity Performance 10am

Friday 8th December The Ark Christmas Bingo Child Okeford Village Hall

Wednesday 13th December Christmas Party Day - 'Emma and the Magic Bag'

Term Dates

Autumn term 2023

Monday 4th September – Friday 15th December

Christmas holiday club 18th- 22nd December

Half term and holiday Club 12th-16th February

Inset/Holiday club day Monday 19th February

Easter holiday Thursday 28th March – 15th April

Good Friday 29th March the Ark Closed

Easter Monday 1st April the Ark closed

Holiday club Tuesday 2nd April – Friday 12th April

Summer term 2024

Monday 15th April- Tuesday 23rd July

Half Term and holiday Club Tuesday 28th – 31st May

The Ark Closure week 26th-30th August

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

Sarah

Nursery Manager

