



The Ark Newsletter

April 2024



Staff

We would like you to all join us in welcoming three new members of staff to the Ark team. Charlotte will be starting with us at the beginning of May as our toddler room lead practitioner. Charlotte is NVQ level 3 qualified with extensive knowledge and experience of working with 2-3 year old children. Kerry-Ann will also be joining the preschool team on 7th May. Kerry-Ann is NVQ level 3 qualified and has lots of childcare experience. Ella has joined us as our new nursery cook providing the children with delicious home cooked food. Unfortunately Amy our baby room leader is currently off sick and we are hoping she will be back with us soon.

Children's activities

We have been very excited to be able to say goodbye to winter and welcoming spring. We have enjoyed seeing the Tulips and other flowers bloom and observing changes in the garden, with green buds and blossom beginning to grow.

Our youngest children are thoroughly enjoying exploring play in various ways encouraging them to use their senses. Inside and out the children have had opportunities to discover various materials. They have been using their senses to see, smell, touch, listen and even taste! Sensory play is great for supporting children's development at such a young age as it enhances their cognitive, motor, social and emotional skills.

The toddlers have loved the opportunity to explore our new loose parts and wooden resources. They have found different ways to build, play and create with these, providing the chance to practice working together and sharing new things. We have also enjoyed different mark making activities such as painting, shaving foam, gluing and sticking and making lots of playdough.



A Few Reminders

Boots and Coats – Although Spring is here please bring your child named wellies and coats each day as the weather is still so changeable and all rooms like to make the most of outdoors, babies, toddlers and free flow from the pre-school room to the garden whenever possible.

Communication

If you are going to be late collecting your child, please call and let us know and can we ask that you let us know if your child is going to be late in or not attending their session. Rooms often have trips out planned.

If someone other than yourself or the person who usually collects your child will be collecting, please let us know even if they are on the list of people allowed to collect, we still need to know.

If your child is booked in to After School Club and plans change and you are collecting your child please let us know.

This enables us to ensure the safety and welfare of all the children in our care and to alleviate any anxiety your child may have when plans change.

It is also helpful to us and your children if you keep us informed of any changes in your children's home situation that may impact on them; for example, a house move, changes to family unit or bereavements.

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.

Medication

We understand that all children will get ill at some point and this can cause a strain on everyone within the house hold. In order for us to stop the spread of illness we ask that if your child needs Calpol or if they have had any prior to starting their nursery day please keep them at home. If your child is prescribed any eye drops, antibiotics, steroids or any other medicated creams etc they will need to remain off for 24 hours. Once they have passed 24 hours then as long as we have a prescription label then we are able to administer the medication. If you are unsure please speak to the member of the team.

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 Traceys working hours. This way we will be able to help you more efficiently as other members of staff maybe included within the ratios for the children.

Our nursery is accessed through a bolted gate.

May I remind all parents to ensure when you enter or exit the gate you slide the middle bolt across firmly to ensure the safety of all our children. If the children are out in the garden playing both bolts will be drawn across to prevent anyone entering, on these occasions you will need to wait for a member of staff on duty outside to let you in and the member of staff will ensure both bolts are replaced. A member of staff will let you back out.

When leaving our nursery building please remember to open the door yourself, we do not allow children to open this door themselves, this is a safeguarding precaution in place to ensure the safety of all our children.

Please do not let another person in with you even if you know them unless they have been seen by the member of staff opening the door.

A polite reminder, Please, please, please do not use your mobile phone once inside the nursery gate.

Dates for your Diary

Hey Day Saturday 29th June.

Pre School Graduation Picnic

This years Preschool graduation picnic will be held on **Saturday 13th July** in The Ark Garden. All families welcome. Details to follow

Term Dates

Summer term 2024

Monday 15th April- Tuesday 23rd July

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

Inset/Holiday club day Wednesday 24th July

Summer holiday club Wednesday 24th July – Friday 23rd August

The Ark Closure week 26th-30th August

Autumn Term 2024

Thursday 5th September – Thursday 19th December

Inset/Holiday Club days Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th September

Half term and holiday club 28th October - 1st November

Inset/Holiday Club day Friday 20th December

**If your child has a term time only booking they should not attend on inset/
holiday club days.**

The Ark is open all year round **except all Bank Holidays**. This year's summer closure week will be 26th-30th August 2024. Our Christmas closure will be from Friday 20th December – Thursday 2nd January 2025.

Sarah

Nursery Manager