



The Ark Newsletter

May 2024



Staff

We have welcomed Charlotte to the toddler room as lead practitioner. Charlotte has settled into the The Ark team really well as is enjoying getting to know the routines. Amy our lead practitioner for the baby room has returned to work and has decided to step down from this position. Amy will be joining the preschool team. Both Tara and Maddie will be remaining in the baby room.

Children's activities

We are already spending most of our time outside, it is so lovely watching the children discover the awakening of the garden now that the days are lighter, longer, and warmer and of course we are seeing the sunshine a little more...

During this term the preschool children have started their Planting project. They have been learning lots about the life cycles of plants and are currently focusing on growing potatoes and tomatoes. The children have joined in with various activities to promote their knowledge and understanding. They have worked together to water the plants and ensure they are in the correct place to grow.

Our wonderful mud kitchen is well and truly loved by all the children across the nursery. The children have made such DELICIOUS treats by foraging around the garden for things such as leaves, petals, and twigs. Having a mud kitchen provides so many learning opportunities for the children and helps support fine motor skills, social skills, roleplay, exploration and most importantly it's FUN and MESSY!



A Few Reminders

Tapestry Tash is responsible for our Nursery online learning journal, Tapestry. Should you have any queries or questions please direct them to Tash. It is really lovely if parents add comments or pictures on to Tapestry, activities you have shared or enjoyed together, special events or milestone firsts. This enables your keyworker to share with your child and initiate conversation between home and nursery.

Changing Weather - A polite reminder to all parents during this time of changeable weather, please ensure your child has suitable clothing and footwear to enable them to access all areas of The Ark nursery and garden.

Clothing – Please ensure your children’s clothes, including shoes, boots and coats are clearly labelled with your children’s names. Many children have the same clothing and it can cause much confusion to both adults and children alike.

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.

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 maybe included within the ratios for the children.

New Committee Members – The Ark Trustees are recruiting now for trustee members. As a parent-run charity, The Ark trustees is vital to the management of the nursery and

as a trustee member you will have an input. If you are interested in joining the trustees please speak to Sarah, Tash, Pippa Tandoh chair of The Ark Trustees or a current trustee member.

A polite reminder, Please, please, please do not use your mobile phone or any data sharing device once inside the nursery gate. We love to see updates and what children have been up to on Tapestry.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 13th June Pyjama day: All children and staff are invited to wear pyjamas to nursery to support the charity 'Crackerjacks' who are a registered charity that provides assistance to disabled children and their families with specialist equipment and respite opportunities.

Hey Day Saturday 29th June: The Ark will be hosting a stall with Hoopla, Face painting and a lucky dip

Parent's evening: Monday 10th June 5.00pm -7.00pm for those children who are transitioning into school in September. Individual appointments available please speak to your child's keyworker

Pre School Graduation Picnic

This year's Preschool graduation picnic will be held on **Saturday 13th July** in The Ark Garden from 11am-1pm. Drinks and cakes will be available. Donation £5.00 per family. All families across the nursery are invited to join us.

Children starting school in September 2024

Currently those Pre-school children who are on all year-round bookings the last day of funding is Friday 23rd August 2024.

Pre-school children who are on term-time only bookings will be due to leave on their last session closest to, or on, **23rd July 2024**. If you would like to add some additional sessions for your child throughout the summer, then please do let us know and we will accommodate this where possible.

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

Autum Term 2024

Thursday 5th September – Thursday 19th December

Inset/Holiday Club days Monday 2nd , 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