



The Ark Newsletter

June 2024



Children's activities

Another month of In the Moment fun has led to lots of learning and lots of fun! Here are some of the lovely interactions we have had with your children;

We read Owl Babies and talked about how swiftly owls can fly. We spoke about their feathers and how they use their wings to fly ; using props we brought the story to 'life '

We explored how changing the angle of a ramp can make a vehicle go faster and raced our cars down the ramps. We discussed about different emotions and how we can express them in various ways. We have made some fantastic obstacle courses, allowing us to develop our climbing and balancing skills. We've talked about the importance of using sun cream to protect our skin in the warmer weather.

In the garden we have made mud pies, had fun on the bikes and scooters alongside lots of imaginary role play games that have involved 'super heroes'. These kinds of opportunities are great for boosting confidence in our 'safe' and friendly environment. We have planted tomato plants and sunflower seeds, talking about what plants need to grow. A parent has kindly let us have some Guinea Fowl eggs which are currently in an incubator in preschool and we are excited to watch them hatch in a about a weeks time. We have also had some good conversations about what our brains are, where they are and what they do, not to mention how eating healthy will keep our brains healthy! We've done masses of counting and load of turn taking games too. We have drawn portraits of Prince William, made a card and sent it to him for his birthday. We are hoping he will write back to say thankyou !



A Few Reminders

Wearing of appropriate clothing, footwear and suncream

Please can we remind you that your children should come to nursery dressed appropriately for the days weather conditions and forecast including footwear.

Clothing - in warmer weather it is lovely for the children to wear their summer clothes(as we have waited long enough for some decent weather!) however we ask that children do not come in strappy tops or dresses as they are at risk from the sun even when sun cream is regularly applied,a short sleeved T-shirt is advised to be worn underneath for extra UV protection.Please make sure your child has enough named spare clothes as mealtimes and playtimes are a sensory experience.

Footwear – Please ensure that your children donot arrive at nursery in such footwear as flip lops etc without alternative,sensible footwear available for them to change into which is appropriate for running and climbingetc.Your children will also have access to waterplay/mud kitchen during the driest of days so you may wish to bring wellies in for them to change into for these activities, and for a change of clothes to be available in their bags.

Hats- Please ensure your child brings a named sun hat for use whilst at nursery.

Suncream- We are continuing to apply Nivea Sun Kids sensitive ,moisturising,water resistant sun cream- factor 50+ to the children throughout the nursery.Should your child be sensitive to this make/brand of suncream we ask that you supply your own preferred cream which is clearly labelled with your childs name.Please apply sun cream to your child in the morning when they are attending nursery.

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 Trustee 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

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

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. Please let Sarah, Tash or Tracey know if you would like to attend.

Preschool Party Day Friday 19th July : If your child is transitioning into school in September and does not attend on a Friday they are invited to attend party day 1030am – 12.30 pm. Please let a member of the preschool team that your child will be attending. Emma and her 'Magic Bag' will be providing the entertainment.

Children starting school in September 2024

Thank you to everyone who has let us know which school your pre-schooler has been offered. If you haven't already, it would be great if you could tell us as we will meet with the schools this term so we can pass on any relevant information about your child.

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

Inset/Holiday Club days Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd Januray 2025

**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