



# The Ark Newsletter

October 2024

## **Trustee News**

Pippa Tandoh has resigned as our Chairperson. We thank Pippa for all her hard work and commitment to The Ark over the past two years. Erin Lawrence has also stepped down as our secretary we also thank Erin for all her minute taking and commitment to The Ark.

We welcome Emma Nicholls as our new Chairperson and Florence Horsey who has stepped up into the role of secretary.

## **AGM**

The AGM of The Ark's Trustees (informally known as the committee) will take place in the Ark at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November. If you are interested in joining our team of parents and staff management of your child's childcare facility this is the ideal opportunity. Please speak to Sarah, Tracey or one of the current Trustees before the AGM.

## **The children enjoying and exploring in the garden time in the garden.**



## **Holiday Club**

From the October half term **ALL** school children will attend the Raft for **holiday** club sessions.

**Packed Lunch** – For children who do not eat a hot nursery lunch, the option of bringing in a packed lunch is available. When choosing items for your child's lunch box please be mindful of our Nutrition Policy which requests that parents support us in our healthy eating aims when providing packed lunches. Food such as crisps, chocolate, sweets or fizzy drinks should be avoided, as should any other foods with high levels of additives/colourings as some children are highly sensitive to these ingredients which can severely affect their behaviour and /or make them sick. Food with **nut** content should also be avoided as children with severe allergy to nuts can suffer extreme reactions even via indirect contact. Fruit or vegetable and dairy snacks are encouraged.

### **A polite reminder**

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.

Please remember to bring suitable clothing for the changeable weather and spare clothes to enable the children to take every opportunity of messy, indoor or outdoor play.

All the children at The Ark are allocated a key worker, please ensure you know who your child's keyworker is and do not hesitate to chat to them about your child, share any concerns and celebrate achievements.

### **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.

If your personal details have changed recently e.g. new phone number or new address, please let us know as soon as possible. It is vital we hold up to date information for all contacts involving your child. In the event of an emergency, we must ensure we have the relevant contact numbers we need.

### **Term Dates 2024/2025**

#### **Autumn Term 2024**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

Inset/Holiday Club days Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Half term and holiday club 28<sup>th</sup> October - 1<sup>st</sup> November

Inset/Holiday Club days Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 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**. Our Christmas closure will be from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.

### **Dates for your Diary**

Children in need **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November** - The Ark will be having a Pirate themed day. Children can attend dressed as pirates. Suggested donation £1.00. Any monies raised will be split between children in need and The Ark.

Christmas Bingo - **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November** at Child Okeford Village Hall doors open at 7pm eyes down at 730pm. We are looking for donations of prizes to put hampers together. So if anyone would like to donate any of the following items we would be very grateful: Chocolate, sweets, toiletries, Biscuits, savoury crackers and Christmas items.

Preschool Nativity and Christmas Raffle- this will be on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December** at 10am in the school hall. All preschool children will be invited to join in. Further details will follow.

Christmas Dinner **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December**- If your child does not have a hot lunch and you would like them to have Christmas dinner please speak to Tracey or Sarah to book them in.

Christmas Jumper Day **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** - Children are invited to wear Christmas jumpers to raise funds for Save the children and The Ark.

Christmas Party day – **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December**, children who normally attend across the nursery on a Friday session are invited to wear party clothes. 'Emma and the Magic Bag' will be providing the entertainment and the preschool children will have a party lunch.

### **Fund raising**

Thank you to those parents who brought photographs from Concept photography. Your orders raised £142.00 for The Ark.

Please don't forget to order your child's IQ Christmas cards by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

If you require an in-depth handover about your child's day, please remember to arrive ten minutes before the session finishes. Staff finish work at 6pm.

Sarah McNab

Nursery Manager