



The Ark Newsletter

November 2024

Staff News

Unfortunately Sarah G who works in afterschool and holiday club will be leaving Raft team at the beginning of December. We wish Sarah G well in her new venture.



All the children across nursery created handmade poppy wreaths and then on Friday 8th 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.



Celebrating Diwali with lots of colorful activities

Health Policy – As Winter approaches children will inevitably suffer from coughs and colds, as well as other bugs. We endeavour to keep our environment as germ-free as possible and to that end abide by the guidance from the Health Protection Agency. We have an HPA poster displayed in the lobby which gives advice about exclusion periods for various illnesses and full details are also available in our policies, which are on our website www.thearkchildokeford.co.uk. Please do read this information.

All infectious illnesses must be reported to The Ark who will advise on the exclusion period necessary, and, if appropriate, inform other parents. If you would like more information on symptoms and incubation periods of any infectious illness please speak to staff.

There has been some confusion with our Health Procedure; for clarification any child within nursery who has taken Calpol or other paracetamol suspensions must stay away from nursery until 24 hours after the temperature has returned to normal without medication.

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. Please also remember during these winter months’ puddle splashing can be a favourite past time; provide your child with spare clothes should they get wet and muddy. (Clearly labelled and in a bag).

Parental Survey – Thank you to all parents who took the time to complete our parental survey form. We received a good response and we are very pleased to report that those who did respond were overwhelmingly positive about The Ark. 100% of respondents strongly agreed that their child is happy at The Ark and that the nursery is a safe place for children. There were some very useful comments and suggestions which we will be acting upon.

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 for **two** emergency contacts for your child/ren.

Term Dates 2024/2025

Autumn Term 2024

Thursday 5th September – Friday 20th December

Inset/Holiday Club day Friday 20th December

Spring Term 2025

Monday 6th January – Friday 4th April

Inset/Holiday Club days Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd 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 20th December – Thursday 2nd January 2025.

Dates for your Diary

Christmas Bingo - **Friday 29th November** at Child Okeford Village Hall doors open at 7pm eyes down at 730pm.

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

Christmas Dinner **Tuesday 10th 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 12th December** - Children are invited to wear Christmas jumpers to raise funds for Save the children and The Ark.

Christmas Party day – **Friday 13th 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.

Father Christmas is visiting The Ark on **Friday 13th December between 10.00am and 11.00am!** If your child does not normally attend on a Friday morning you are most welcome to bring him/her to visit FC in his grotto. He has presents for everyone! Please speak to Sarah or Tracey to book a slot.

Fund raising

Thank you to those parents who ordered IQ Christmas cards and gifts. Your orders raised £55.90 for The Ark.

The Bags to school collection raised £42.00. Look out for further collection dates in the New Year.

Pirate day raised a whopping £102.02 which has been split equally between Children in Need and The Ark.

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