



The Ark Newsletter

May 2025

Staff News

We have welcomed Atlanta to the preschool room full time as a level 3 childcare practitioner. Atlanta is settling into the Ark team as is enjoying getting to know the routines. Andrea will also be joining the preschool team on 4th June. Andrea is a level 2 practitioner with lots of SENCO experience.

Children's Activities



The children across the nursery celebrated VE day with some lovely red, white and blue outfits and dresses being worn. Crowns, bunting and flags were made. The children enjoyed a traditional Fish and chips lunch in the garden together. They waved their flags and listened to war time music. In the afternoon they had a visit from a World War II Jeep.





In the Pre-school room the children have been exploring the Hungry Caterpillar story; they have read the story during circle time and used the story sacks to explore the puppets and props for the story. Using visual aids during story time really helps bring the story to life and encourages the children to take an active role at story time. The children have also been looking at 'Life cycles' and have welcomed some Caterpillars and Guinea fowl eggs.

A few Reminders

Please ensure that your child's details are up to date, it is important contacts and emergency contacts are correct.

Please take extra precautions when entering and exiting the building, ensuring that both front doors are fully closed behind you.

Please arrive in good time to collect your child at the end of the session.

Please do not forget to inform us if your child is unwell. Some illnesses are very infectious, and we need to notify other parents and on occasions implement cautionary measures within the setting. If we don't hear from you, we will call you in accordance with our safeguarding procedures.

Wearing of appropriate clothing, footwear and sun cream

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

Clothing - in warmer weather it is lovely for the children to wear their summer clothes 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 child/ren do not arrive at nursery in such footwear as flip flops etc. We request that children arrive with sensible footwear which is appropriate for running and climbing. Your children will also have access to water play/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.

Sun cream- 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 sun cream we ask that you supply your own preferred

cream which is clearly labelled with your child's name. Please apply sun cream to your child in the morning when they are attending nursery.

Parking – Please remember not to park on school grounds between **8.30am** and **3.30pm**.

Children starting school in September 2025

Currently those Pre-school children who are on all year-round bookings the last day of funding is Friday **22nd August 2025**. However, if you wish your child to attend holiday club on the **1st -5th** September these sessions will be chargeable.

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 2025**. If you would like to add some additional sessions for your child throughout the summer or for the beginning of September before starting school, then please do let us know and we will accommodate this where possible.

Term Dates 2025

Summer term 2025

Tuesday 22nd April- Wednesday 23rd July

The Ark Closure week Monday 25th - Friday 29th August inclusive

Inset and holiday club days Monday 1st September –Friday 5th September

Autumn term 2025

Monday 8th September – Thursday 18th December

Half Term and holiday Monday 27th - Friday 31st October inclusive

Inset and holiday club day Friday 24th October

Christmas closure Wednesday 24th December-Friday 2nd January the Ark will re-open on Monday 5th January

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**.

Dates for your Diary

Preschool Graduation Family Picnic (Bring your own Picnic) **Saturday 12th July** in The Ark Garden 11.00am- 1.00pm which is open to all our families. The Ark will provide drinks and cake and we are asking for a donation of £5 per family to attend this event. We will also draw our summer raffle at this event- Tickets will be available soon. Please let Sarah, Tash or Tracey know if you would like to attend

Preschool Party Day Friday 18th 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.

The Ark trustees will also be hosting a stall at the **Heyday at Child Okeford Recreation Ground on Saturday 28th June**. Do you have an hour to spare to help run the stall? Any volunteers would be greatly appreciated - please speak to Sarah or Tash. Please come and support us at these events.

Road Closures

2nd June (and in force for five days) – all vehicles, cyclists and horse riders will be prohibited from proceeding along Little Hanford between 8.00am-6.00pm. It is hoped and anticipated that works will be completed by 4th June 2025.

2nd June -20th June –Road Closure –Lamb House Bridge at Shillingstone. This will be a 24hour closure and the road will not be open during this period.

Please allow extra time when collecting your children as late collections are chargeable.

Sarah

Nursery Manager