



# The Ark Newsletter

Summer 2025

## Staff News

Andrea has joined the preschool team and is enjoying getting to know the children and routines. Andrea is a level 2 practitioner with lots of SENCO experience. Andrea will be working Wednesday – Friday 8am-6pm year round.

## Children's Activities



Children across the nursery have been practicing their physical skills, particularly their gross motor skills. They have been making the most of the early summer and using the outside areas to give them lots of space to practice and play. They have enjoyed games with the parachute, and made a balance beam to walk along. The children have also been busy with lots of different construction work, using a variety of materials and focusing on team work to help them achieve the best structures and masterpieces



Babies have been busy exploring and discovering lots of different textures. They have had the opportunity to play with crazy soap and couscous trays, where they were able to practice their scooping, filling and emptying skills. They have also had cereal sensory trays with dinosaurs and farm animals in.

**Arkfest** was enjoyed by both children and staff



### **A few Reminders**

Please ensure that your child's details are up to date, it is important contacts and emergency contacts are correct. New contact records will be given out at the start of the autumn term as new Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) guidance requires us to have two emergency contacts for each child.

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

If you would like a detailed handover please arrive in good time to collect your child at the end of their session.

Please do not forget to inform us if your child is unwell. Some illnesses are very infectious, and we will need to notify other parents. 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 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 22<sup>nd</sup> April- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

**The Ark Closure week Monday 25<sup>th</sup> - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August inclusive**

Inset and holiday club days Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September –Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September inclusive

##### **Autumn term 2025**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Half Term and holiday Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October inclusive

Inset and holiday club day Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October

**Christmas closure Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December-Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January the Ark will re-open on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 be drawing our summer raffle at this event. Extra tickets will be available on the day Please let Sarah, Tash or Tracey know if you would like to attend. Some staff will be attending this event however they will not be responsible for your children.

**Preschool Party Day Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

Sarah

Nursery Manager