



# The Ark Newsletter April 2011

- **New Extension, After School & Holiday Club Arrangements** We are delighted that our new extension is now finished and we can start using the room for small groups of children. The coat hooks in the new corridor are to be used for all children in the 3 – 5 room, but as there are not enough for every child to have a permanent, personal hook, we would like each child in the 3 – 5 room to choose a free hook on a day by day basis. On arrival in the 3- 5 room each child should find their own small namecard used for the pegs, which may then be placed by any available hook. As space is restricted, large bags should continue to be hung on their hook in the main corridor by the Baby Room.

We received generous funding from Dorset County Council towards the construction of the extension, on the understanding that the new room would enable older children attending After-school Club to have their own room. This, combined with the fact that St. Nicholas School runs increasing numbers of after-school activities in the school hall, has decided us to run the After-school Club sessions in The Ark. The younger schoolchildren and Pre-school children due to start school in the following academic year will use the 3 -5 room for After-school Club; with the younger Pre-school children joining the two year olds in the Toddler Room.

Holiday Club will also be held in The Ark whilst building works take place to extend the school hall.

- **Living Eggs** 8 chicks hatched successfully and after ten days they were re-homed by two of our families. Both children and staff greatly enjoyed watching the chicks hatch and develop.
- **Easter Draw** We were very pleased to take £125 in our Easter Draw. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket.
- **Clothes Recycling** We were also very pleased to receive £210 from Bag2School for the clothes, shoes and other items donated by parents and staff for recycling. Thank you to everyone who filled a bag for recycling.
- **Photographer** The photographer is visiting on the morning of Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011. If you would like your child/ren photographed but they are not booked in on a Thursday please speak to Maggie or Pauline to arrange a suitable time to bring them in.
- **Quiz Night for Queen's Diamond Jubilee** As previously reported, we are hosting a fun quiz night on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at Child Okeford Village Hall to raise funds towards the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012. There will be a bar, a raffle and entry will be £5 per person to include a ploughman's. Tickets will shortly be available from the office.
- **Bouncing Bodies** We will be holding a leaving party on the last day of term, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2011 for the children in the 3 – 5 room, and welcome a repeat visit by this entertaining duo who proved very popular two years ago.
- **Head Lice** We have had a few reports of head lice and nits in children's hair, so would be grateful if you could be vigilant by checking your child's hair regularly using a nit comb.

- **A Few Reminders** As the warmer weather is coming, please ensure your child brings a sun hat and arrives at The Ark with sun cream already applied. We will top up with Ambre Solaire Factor 30 hypoallergenic sun cream as necessary, but if you wish to provide your own sun cream please ensure the bottle is named and given to a member of staff.

If you provide a packed lunch please would you place a small cold pack in the lunch box to keep food cool.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011 is a school training day, so The Ark will be running Holiday Club that day. Therefore if your child attends term-time only they will not be booked in.

### **Dates for your diary**

- The Ark is open all year round **except all Bank Holidays** and a week in the **summer** commencing August Bank Holiday Monday. At **Christmas** we will close from the 26<sup>th</sup> December until the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2012

- **Easter Holiday Club** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011 until Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011
- **Summer Term** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2011 to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2011.
- **Summer Half Term** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011 to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011
- **Summer Holiday Club** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2011 to August 26<sup>th</sup> 2011
- **Autumn Term** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011 to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011
- **Autumn Half Term** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2011 to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011