



The Ark Newsletter - November 2011

With Christmas fast approaching it's time for another newsletter to update you all on coming events and activities at The Ark.

Christmas Closure

Please remember we are closed from **MONDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2011 – MONDAY 2nd JANUARY 2012**. School breaks up on Friday 16th December 2011 and returns on Thursday 5th January 2012, so Holiday Club will be running for the whole of week commencing Monday 19th December, and Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th January 2012.

Forthcoming Events

IMPORTANT CHANGE OF TIME - NATIVITY. We have had to change the time of our **Christmas Nativity** on **Friday 9th December 2011 to 10.00am**, due to the school needing the hall for serving hot lunches. All the children in the 3-5 years room will take part regardless of whether they normally attend on a Friday. You will soon be informed of which character your child will be portraying if he/she is in this age group. We will provide all costumes, and you will shortly receive invitations to attend the Nativity. Please bring your child in to The Ark at 9.00am and, unless he/she is booked in for the morning session, please take them home afterwards. Immediately after the Nativity we will be serving tea, coffee and mince pies, and will be drawing our **Christmas Raffle**. The first prize will be a luxury Christmas hamper, which will be displayed in the foyer, and tickets will be on sale from the beginning of December.

On **Wednesday 14th December 2011** we are holding a party for all children in the 3 – 5 room from 9.00 am until after Father Christmas' visit. **Andy the Magic Man** will be entertaining us again and **Father Christmas** will be visiting the children at 12.15 after visiting the babies and toddlers. Parents are welcome to join us from 11.30am when the food will be served. The Ark will be providing all food but any monetary donations will be gratefully received.

Tee, Polo & Sweatshirts

We have recently bought new stocks of Ark shirts, so please ask Maggie or Pauline if you'd like any. Unfortunately the cost of the polo shirts have gone up, so we are having to increase the charge for polo shirts only. Prices are as follows:

T-shirts £5.00 Polo shirts £7.00 Sweatshirts £8.50

Jumble Sale

We are pleased to report that our jumble sale on 5th November raised over £220, and we are still awaiting the proceeds from the recycling from Bag2school. We are planning another jumble sale & recycling collection in the spring, so please keep all your old clothes and bric-a-brac to donate if you are planning a New Year clear-out.

Children In Need

Friday 18th November 2011 was Children in Need Day and we are grateful for the donations received which raised £40.00 for this good cause.

Staffing Matters

We were sorry to say goodbye to Sarah Smith and Gail Belbin (our cook) recently, who both left for pastures new, as well as to Emma Anker, who, as we reported in our last newsletter, has left to care for her daughter full-time.

We welcome Lauren Olds as a full-time childcare practitioner in the 3 - 5 room. Lauren had been working at The Ark part-time on a voluntary basis since last April and has previously worked in the After-school Club. We also welcome Louise Addley-Samuel as our new cook. Zoe House has increased her working hours and has replaced Emma in the Baby Room during the afternoons.

Reminders/Requests

Arrival/Collection Times

Please ensure you collect your child at the times booked, as several children have been collected after their session ends. If you are also collecting older siblings from school at 3.15pm, please ensure you collect your child from The Ark first.

Wellies

The foyer frequently becomes cluttered with wellies, so if your child does not attend The Ark every day we would be grateful if you could either take their wellies with you, or store them in the boot rack outside, when you collect your child.

Clothing & Footwear

Please ensure you name all your child's belongings, especially coats and footwear. We still have some drawstring boot bags for sale at £4.00 each for keeping spare clothes and footwear on your child's peg.

Fruit Donations and Healthy Lunchboxes

Thank you once more for your continued support in promoting healthy eating by providing a piece of fruit for snack time for children aged 2+. Popular fruits are apples, bananas, grapes and pears. PLEASE NO KIWI FRUIT. Please put any items you bring in the fruit bowl by the signing in book.

Illness

With the onset of the winter season, several children have succumb to common illnesses with the symptoms of vomiting, diarrhoea and/or raised temperatures. As a consequence we would like to remind parents of our policies, particularly with regard to the length of time to keep children away from The Ark following these symptoms.

Vomiting and/or diarrhoea: 48 hours from the last incident.

Raised temperature: 24 hours from the temperature returning to normal without medication.

May we also remind you that we have an antiseptic alcohol gel dispenser in the lobby next to the Toddler Room door, which parents are encouraged to use on entry to The Ark and after using the toilet, in order to help prevent the spread of infection.

Dates for your diary

- **Christmas Nativity** Friday 9th December **10.00am**
- **Christmas Party** Wednesday 14th December 9.00am

Further information about the event below will be given nearer the time:

- **Parent/Keyworker Appointments** Wednesday 8th February 2012

Term Dates

- The Ark is open all year round **except all Bank Holidays**. At **Christmas** we will be closed from **26th December 2011** until the **2nd January 2012**
- **Autumn Term** Tuesday 6th September 2011 to Friday 16th December 2011
- **Half Term Holiday Club** Monday 24th October 2011 to Friday 28th October 2011
- **Christmas Holiday Club** Monday 19th December 2011 to Friday 23rd December 2011,
Tuesday 3rd 2012 & Wednesday 4th January 2012
- **Spring Term** Thursday 5th January 2012 to Friday 30th March 2012
- **Half Term Holiday Club** Monday 13th February 2012 to Friday 17th February 2012
- **Easter Holiday Club** Monday 2nd April 2012 to Monday 16th April 2012
(Closed Friday 6th April 2012 & Monday 9th April 2012)
- **Summer Term** Tuesday 17th April 2012 to Friday 20th July 2012
- **Half Term Holiday Club** Monday 4th June 2012 to Friday 8th June 2012
(Closed Monday 4th June 2012 & Tuesday 5th June 2012)