



# The Ark Newsletter

February 2011

- **Living Eggs** On 14<sup>th</sup> March we are taking delivery of an incubator with embryo eggs a few days prior to hatching. After the eggs have hatched they will be moved into a brooder box where the children will help feed and water them and watch them grow for a week before they are collected.
- **Clothes etc. for Recycling** Rather than hold a jumble sale this Spring, we will shortly be issuing parents with bags to fill and return to us with unwanted clothes, shoes, bedding, hats, belts, handbags and soft toys. These will be collected by a recycling company who will pay for them by weight.
- **Easter Eggxtravaganza** We will be holding an Easter Draw prior to the Easter school holidays. Donations of prizes welcome, and please buy lots of tickets, which will be available from mid-March.
- **Quiz Night for Queen's Diamond Jubilee** 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, and entry will include a ploughman's. More details nearer the time.
- **Early Years Professional Placement** We currently have an Early Years Professional candidate, Gemma Payne, on placement with us. She will be spending a total of 12 weeks here. Please see below.
- **Alcohol Gel** Following medical advice we have installed an antiseptic hand gel dispenser for all adults to use on entry to the building, and after using the toilet. It is directly opposite the front door, on the wall next to the Toddler Room. Staff have all been issued with individual dispensers which can be carried with them at all times. We hope these measures will help to reduce the spread of infections.
- **Tarmac** We have been awarded £3500 by Dorset County Council to tarmac the muddy grassed area opposite our entrance, and this will be carried in mid-March. This will provide the children with a much larger area to use our tricycles and ride-on toys.
- **Outdoor musical instruments** We plan to install some much needed outdoor musical instruments using some of the funds raised at the Grand Auction of Promises last October. The instruments chosen are of very high quality and designed to sound harmonious regardless of how they are played. They are suitable for use by children from two years of age upwards, including school age children.
- **Building Work** This is continuing apace and is on course to be completed by mid-March.
- **Half-term** We hope you all enjoy half-term next week and if your children do not attend The Ark during school holidays we look forward to seeing you week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011.



## **Gemma Payne**

Age: 24

### Why I'm here:

I have come to The Ark as my second placement studying for the Early Years Professional (EYP) course. I will be here for the next few months working in each of the rooms in the nursery.

Whilst at The Ark I hope to learn what makes a nursery outstanding, and learn good practice from the staff. I also hope that I will also be able to introduce some of my own ideas with support and feedback from both staff and parents.

Following this course I hope to use the knowledge and skills that I gain here to help to improve other nurseries childcare provision.

### My background:

- Currently I am also working at Bright Sparks After School Club based at Pimperne Primary School.
- So far this year I have completed a paediatric first aid course, safeguarding course, food safety course and am due to complete a course in effective communication with parents, families and carers in March.
- Before Christmas I completed the first placement for my course at Bright Sparks Day Nursery in Corfe Mullen.
- Prior to starting this course I worked with an agency in nursery settings in Poole and Bournemouth.
- Whilst at university I volunteered in primary schools as an assistant.
- I completed the Student's Associate Scheme with my placement based at Spetisbury Primary School which was assessed by Exeter University.
- I have a BA Honours degree in Geography from Plymouth University.
- I was Duty Manager at The World's End, Almer.

## 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 28<sup>th</sup> December until the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2012
- **Half term Holiday Club** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2011 to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2011
- **Spring term ends** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011
- **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