



# The Ark Newsletter

October 2022

## Staff

Emma who worked alongside Bekki in the toddler room and Nikola who was employed as a lunchtime supervisor in the baby room have both left The Ark. We are currently recruiting for a practitioner to join the toddler room team. Whilst we are recruiting, Kerry will be working together with Bekki in the toddler room. Alanna has started her level 3 apprenticeship with us.

## Children's Activities

Preschool children went on an adventure nature walk around the school field. Before they went they discussed what they might see that gave them a clue autumn was here, an abundance of knowledge came forward from the children about fallen leaves, their idea of the colours of autumn, nuts, seeds, berries, conkers and acorns.

Armed with clear plastic buckets they set off to collect anything autumnal they could use back in the nursery to create an autumn collage.

The children were keen to find special treasures for their creative collages and an amazing collection of leaves, conkers, acorns and feathers filled their buckets.





The children have been hugely interested in dinosaurs and have adored playing with them, sharing their knowledge and making up some super role-play scenarios with them. We were amazed with the facts they already know and we are excited to build on this knowledge

All children across the nursey have been focussing on a wide range of nursery rhymes as they are a powerful learning tool in your child's early literacy development and they enable children to become interested in the rhythms and patterns of language. We hope you have fun singing lots of nursery rhymes at home as well!

We are very keen to promote independence in our children and we would be grateful if your child could be dressed in clothes that allow them to access the toilets independently e.g. elasticated jogging bottoms. Please could you ensure that your child wears shoes which they can fasten themselves and that they can put their own coat on. We spend a lot of time outdoors, so a waterproof coat and a pair of wellies are essential. A clean change of clothing is also advisable for **all** children as accidents can happen. We would welcome any spare jogging bottoms as our stocks don't always make their way back to us and we are running low!

### **Breakfast and after school Clubs**

As of Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October the children who are currently in Year one will be moving across to The Raft building for both breakfast and after school club. We have had children leave or cancel their current booking which has allowed us to move the year one children across to The Raft along with parental requests. The Raft will now be operating a waiting list for both breakfast and after school club on certain days so adhoc spaces are now very limited. All school children will attend the Raft during the school holidays.

**Packed Lunch** – For children who do not eat a hot nursery lunch, the option of bringing in a packed lunch is available. When choosing items for your child's lunch box please be mindful of our Nutrition Policy which requests that parents support us in our healthy eating aims when providing packed lunches. Food such as crisps, chocolate, sweets or fizzy drinks should be avoided, as should any other foods with high levels of additives/colourings as some children are highly sensitive to these ingredients which can severely affect their behaviour and /or make them sick. Food with **nut** content should also be avoided as

children with severe allergy to nuts can suffer extreme reactions even via indirect contact. Fruit or vegetable and dairy snacks are encouraged,

**Tapestry** Tash is responsible for our Nursery online learning journal, Tapestry. Should you have any queries or questions please direct them to Tash. It is really lovely if parents add comments or pictures on to Tapestry, activities you have shared or enjoyed together, special events or milestone firsts. This enables your key worker to share with your child and initiate conversation between home and nursery.

### **IQ cards and Concept photography**

Please could any orders for the above and all photograph proofs be returned to The Ark by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October

### **School Applications**

If your child is starting school in September 2023 you will need to complete the application by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023. You can follow the link below

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/-/school-allocations>

### **Jumble sale**

Thank you to all those parents who donated ,supported and attended our Jumble sale. We raised a massive £167.01 for The Ark

### **Dates for your diary**

**Preschool Parents evening Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 5-7pm please speak to your child's keyworker or Tash to make an appointment.**

**Christmas Bingo – Friday 2nd December at Child Okeford Village Hall doors open at 7pm eyes down at 730pm.**

**Preschool Nativity performance Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10am**

**Christmas Party Day Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

### **Autumn Term 2022**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Half –term and Holiday Club Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

Inset/ Holiday club day Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October

### **Spring term 2023**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

Half-term and Holiday Club Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February –Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

Inset/ Holiday club day Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Sarah McNab

Nursery Manager