



The Ark Newsletter

September 2025

Welcome back to everyone! We hope you all had a lovely summer break and please share what you have done over the holidays on Tapestry!

It is lovely to see all the new children developing friendships, settling into the routines and exploring the curriculum on offer with our older children role modelling and supporting the little ones.



Staff

Tara has now started her maternity leave and has given birth to a baby boy. We wish her all the best of luck with her new arrival. Atlanta will be covering in both the toddler and baby rooms. We have also welcomed Millie who a T Level student who is completing a placement with us on a Thursday. Millie will be gaining experience across all rooms in the nursery

Children's activities

Over the last few weeks in the baby room, we have been having lots of fun making marks and exploring different messy play. We have explored lots of edible messy play from edible playdoh, edible sand (cornflakes crushed up), jelly play and cornflour just to name a few. We have also enjoyed some of our favourite activities of shaving foam where we got very messy and had lots of fun covering ourselves and the staff, painting and water play. We have also been having lots of fun out in the garden where we have been exploring the sand filling and emptying containers and making lots of sand castles. We have also enjoyed playing on the large play equipment such as the cars and bikes and climbing on the climbing equipment whilst watching out for aeroplanes flying past.

Toddlers have enjoyed getting crafty. They have explored different ways of using paints with toothbrushes; they have done gluing and sticking with tissue paper and using pens and pencils to decorate objects.

Recently in preschool, we have been very busy with their learning activities. They have loved making gingerbread men after a parent came in to read the book to them, growing a dinosaur, harvesting red potatoes and making yummy pizza wraps for snack.



A Few Reminders

Arrival/Collection Times

Please ensure you leave and collect your child at the times booked, as several children have been arriving before their session begins and/or have been collected after their session ends. This is particularly prevalent before the 8.45am session and at the end of the 12.45 – 3.15pm session. If you do occasionally arrive early please wait with your child in the lobby until the start of the booked session. If you are also collecting older siblings from school at 3.15pm, please ensure you collect your child from The Ark first. This is very important as we may breach our OFSTED registration conditions if we do not adhere to correct staff/children ratios. End of the Day; as you are all aware as a setting we operate **8am-6pm**. This means we close the doors at **6pm**, if you require a handover at the end of the day please arrive by 5.50pm so that staff have time to do the handover. If you arrive after this time, handover will be short and limited. Any collections after 6pm will incur a fee.

St Nicholas School has asked that parents do not take or collect their child from school using the Ark corridor down to reception class.

Clothes Labelling

Please also ensure your child's clothes have his/her name in them, as we constantly have a pile of unlabelled, unclaimed clothing. Please be warned that periodically we have a clear out and clothes are likely to be sent to the jumble if they are not claimed.

Here at The Ark we are promoting children's independence. Please can we request that children have shoes that they are able to put on and take off by their self. Velcro fastening shoes are ideal for all ages to master.

AGM

The AGM of The Ark's Trustees (informally known as the committee) will take place in the Ark at 7.00pm on Tuesday 4th November. If you are interested in joining our team of parents and staff management of your child's childcare facility this is the ideal opportunity. Please speak to Sarah, Tracey or one of the current Trustees before the AGM.

Holiday Club

From the October half term **ALL** school children will attend the Raft for **holiday** club sessions. The Reception/Acorns class children will join the Raft for both breakfast and afterschool club after the October half term

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 Safer Eating and 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.

Term Dates

Autumn term 2025

Monday 8th September – Thursday 18th December

Half Term and holiday Monday 27th – Friday 31st October inclusive

Inset and holiday club day Friday 24th October

Christmas closure Wednesday 24th December-Friday 2nd January the Ark will re-open on Monday 5th January.

If your child has a term time only booking they should not attend on inset days or during the holidays.

Dates for your diary

Children in need **Friday 14th November**, Children are invited to attend in fancy dress and donate to Children in need/The Ark. (Suggested donation £1.00) any funds raised will be split between Children in need and The Ark.

Christmas Bingo - **Friday 5th December** at Child Okeford Village Hall doors open at 7pm eyes down at 7.30pm. We are looking for donations of prizes to put hampers together. So if anyone would like to donate any of the following items we would be very grateful: Chocolate, sweets, toiletries, Biscuits, savoury crackers and Christmas items.

Christmas Dinner **Tuesday 9th December**- If your child does not have a hot lunch and you would like them to have Christmas dinner please speak to Tracey or Sarah to book them in.

Christmas Jumper day **Thursday 11th December**

Christmas Party day – **Wednesday 17th December**, children who normally attend across the nursery on a Wednesday session are invited to wear party clothes. 'Emma and the Magic Bag' will be providing the entertainment and the preschool children will have a party lunch.

Sarah

Nursery Manager.