



The Ark Newsletter

October 2025



Children's activities

Preschool children went on an adventure nature walk around the village and 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.

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!



Celebrating Diwali

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.

Administrator Just a polite reminder that Tracey our administrator works **Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 0830am-5pm**. We ask that if you would like to discuss ongoing bookings, payments or funding please email or pop in during Tracey's working hours. This way we will be able to help you more efficiently as other members of staff maybe included within the ratios for the children.

Breakfast and after school Clubs

As of Monday 3rd November the children who are currently in Acorns class 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 Acorns class children across to The Raft along with parental requests. The Raft has a waiting list in operation for both breakfast and after school club so adhoc spaces are now very limited. All school children will attend the Raft during the school holidays.

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.

Term Dates

Autumn term 2025

Monday 8th September – Thursday 18th December

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

Spring term 2026

Monday 5th January- Friday 27th March

Half-term and Holiday Club Monday 16th February –Friday 20th February

Inset/ Holiday club day Monday 23rd February

If your child has a term time only booking they should not attend on inset/ holiday club days.

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.

Preschool Nativity and Christmas Raffle- this will be on **Friday 5th December** at 10am in the school hall. All preschool children will be invited to join in. Further details will follow.

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**- Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers and donate to Save the Children/The Ark (suggested donation £1.00 any funds raised will be split between Children in need and The Ark.

Fund raising

Thank you to those parents who ordered IQ Christmas cards and gifts. Your orders raised £49.30 for The Ark.

Concept photography raised £180.00 for The Ark.

Sarah – Nursery Manager

