



The Ark Newsletter

May 2026



Staff

We have welcomed Laura to the Raft as lead practitioner for breakfast, afterschool and holiday club. Laura has settled into the The Ark team really well as is enjoying getting to know the children and the routines.

Unfortunately Maddie has resigned her position in the baby room and will be leaving the Ark on Thursday 11th June. We wish Maddie all the very best of luck in her new role in events.

We are currently recruiting for a baby room practitioner. In the interim period Jess will be joining Lucy in the baby room and Atlanta will join Charlotte in the toddler room. Congratulations to both Lucy and Maddie on climbing Snowdon- what an achievement!. They raised £740.00 for new baby room furniture and resources.

Children's activities

We are already spending most of our time outside, it is so lovely watching the children discover the awakening of the garden now that the days are lighter, longer, and warmer and of course we are seeing the sunshine.....

During this term the preschool children have started their Planting project. They have been learning lots about the life cycles of plants and are currently focusing on growing potatoes and tomatoes. The children have joined in with various activities to promote their knowledge and understanding. They have worked together to water the plants and ensure they are in the correct place to grow.

Our wonderful mud kitchen is well and truly loved by all the children across the nursery. The children have made such DELICIOUS treats by foraging around the garden for things

such as leaves, petals, and twigs. Having a mud kitchen provides so many learning opportunities for the children and helps support fine motor skills, social skills, roleplay, exploration and most importantly it's FUN and MESSY!



A Few Reminders

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 keyworker to share with your child and initiate conversation between home and nursery.

Clothing – Please ensure your children's clothes, including shoes, boots and coats are clearly labelled with your children's names. Many children have the same clothing and it can cause much confusion to both adults and children alike. During the summer months please ensure your child/ren arrive with a named sun hat and with sun cream applied. The Ark staff will reapply suncream after lunch. If your child requires a different sun cream please send them in with a named bottle.

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.

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 Traceys 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.

New Committee Members –The Ark Trustees are recruiting now for trustee members. As a parent-run charity, The Ark trustees is vital to the management of the nursery and as a trustee member you will have an input. If you are interested in joining the trustees please speak to Sarah, Tash, Emma Nicholls chair of The Ark Trustees or a current trustee member.

A polite reminder, Please, please, please do not use your mobile phone or any data sharing device once inside the nursery gate. We love to see updates and what children have been up to on Tapestry.

Dates for your Diary

Hey Day Saturday 29th June:The Ark trustees will be hosting a stall with Hoopla, Glitter tattoo's and a lucky dip

Parent's evening preschool: Wednesday 1st July 5.00pm -6.30pm for those children who are transitioning into school in September. Individual appointments available please speak to your child's key person.

Parents evening toddler room : Wednesday 1st July 5.00pm-6.30pm. Charlotte will be available to speak to any toddler room parents.

Pre School Graduation Picnic

This years Preschool graduation picnic will be held on **Saturday 4th July** in The Ark Garden from 11am-1pm. Drinks and cakes will be available. Donation £5.00 per family. All families across the nursery are invited to join us.

Preschool Party Day –Thursday 16th July 10am- 12.15pm.All children who are transitioning into school in September are invited to attend. If your child does not normally attend on a Thursday and is going to school in September, please let Tash know if they will be attending. Emma and her Magic Bag will be providing the entertainment and there will be a party lunch.

Children starting school in September 2026

Currently those Pre-school children who are on all year-round bookings the last day of funding is **Friday 21st August 2026.**

Pre-school children who are on term-time only bookings will be due to leave on their last session closest to, or on, **22nd July 2026.** If you would like to add some additional sessions for your child throughout the summer, then please do let us know and we will accommodate this where possible.

Term Dates

Summer term 2026

Monday 13th April – Wednesday 22nd July

Autumn term 2026

Thursday 3rd September – Thursday 17th December

Inset /holiday club days Tuesday 1st September & Wednesday 2nd September.

Half term /holiday club 26th -30th October

Inset /holiday club day Friday 23rd October

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

**The Ark Summer closure week Monday 24th August-Friday 28th August 2026
inclusive. Monday 31st August is a bank holiday so both the Ark and Raft will be
closed.**

The Raft opening times are **8.00am-5.45pm** during both term time and for holiday club.
Both the Ark and Raft buildings are closed for Bank Holiday

Sarah

Nursery Manager