



# The Ark Newsletter

June 2026



## Staff

We have welcomed Tara back from maternity leave. Tara will be working in both the baby and preschool room. Jess has joined Lucy in the baby room and Atlanta is currently working with Charlotte in the toddler room. We are recruiting for a toddler room practitioner.

## Children's activities

Messy play is always on offer for the children, they have so many experiences to explore colours, textures, and tastes! They have loved mark making and using the paints and various resources they have been able to create patterns and various marks. Across the nursery staff have been supporting the children with their physical development inside and out. They have had the soft play out supporting them in climbing and balancing. In the garden they have been climbing on the climbing frame, balancing on the beams and rolling balls with the peers, of course we they have enjoyed plenty of water play which not only brings lots of fun and is very cooling but supports their fine and gross motor skills!

Stephen from Everyone active Blandford visited to talk to the children about water safety. The children learnt what to do if they find themselves in trouble in the water. Which flags mean it's safe to swim on the beach and what a lifeguard's job is.

They played the flag game when the children had to watch Stephen and another child change the flags to see if we should be swimming in the water (on the carpet) or safe on the sand (the hard floor).



## **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. Also please ensure that children are appropriately dressed for the weather i.e No strappy sun dresses.

## **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 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.

**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 or 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**

**Parent's evening preschool:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> April – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

#### **Autumn term 2026**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

**Inset /holiday club days Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September & Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.**

**Half term /holiday club 26<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> October**

**Inset /holiday club day Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> August-Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2026  
inclusive. Monday 31<sup>st</sup> 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