



# The Ark Newsletter

Summer 2026

## Staff News

We welcome Caroline who will be joining The Ark team at the beginning of October. Andrea has unfortunately left the Ark to take up a post in a local school; we wish her all the best for her new role.

## Children's Activities

Wow what a **hot** summer holidays we have had! Trying to keep cool at times has been a challenge for both children and staff but we did it by.....



The children have been using a variety of their senses and schemas exploring sand and water in the garden. As the temperatures rose it was the perfect time for the children to explore the wonder of water play. Water play provides numerous benefits for children (apart from keeping cool) including sensory development, fine motor enhancement, and

cognitive growth. The water tray soon became a favourite with children of all ages filling containers, using them to transport water to the chute and watching the water run down to the grass. They have been engrossed in watching objects drop, some floating, some sinking and most of them splashing in the process!

We have had a fantastic summer with all the children who have joined us during holiday club. They have been filled with fun adventures, lots of laughter and we have made some amazing memories.

We hope you enjoy the rest of the summer holidays and look forward to welcoming our families back at the beginning of September.



### **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.

### **Labelling children's belongings**

We would like to offer a polite reminder to our families to ensure that all of your children's belongings are clearly labelled. This is particularly important for drinks bottles, lunchboxes (and boxes inside), bags (clothes inside) and coats so that we can be sure we are always sending the children home with their correct items. Many thanks.

### **Children starting school in September 2026**

Currently those Pre-school children who are on all year-round bookings the last day of funding is Monday 31st August 2026. However, if you wish your child to attend holiday club on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September these sessions will be chargeable.

### **Dates for your Diary**

Concept photography will be at The Ark on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September. If your child does not attend on a Monday and you would like them to have their photo taken please speak to Tracey for an appointment time.

The Ark will be hosting a Christmas Bingo on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December at Child Okeford village hall. Doors open at 7pm eyes down at 7.30pm. Any donations of prizes will be gratefully received.

## **Term Dates**

### **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 Holidays**

Sarah

Nursery Manager