



The Ark Newsletter June 2009

Welcome back to the second half of the Summer Term after some lovely weather during half-term. We hope the sun will stay shining so that the children can continue to enjoy our outside area.

OFSTED Inspection

- As most of you probably know by now, we were inspected by OFSTED on Wednesday 13th May 2009 and we are very pleased to report that The Ark was judged 'Outstanding' in every way. Please find attached a copy of the report for you to keep. We are extremely proud of this achievement, which is a reflection not only of the quality and dedication of our staff, but also, as a parent-run charity, of the hard work and enthusiasm provided by our committee and the support of all the parents, both with fundraising and other help – and of course of the wonderful children! So a big thank you to everyone, and be assured we will not be resting on our laurels.

Summer Activities & Events

- On **Tuesday 7th July** (a changed date from originally planned) we have Albert Noah-Messomo presenting sounds and songs from the African jungle from 9.30am. Noah is a professional musician and storyteller, born and raised in Cameroon who brings a strong multicultural element to his visit. If your child does not normally attend The Ark on a Tuesday morning, you are welcome to book an extra session if there is space, or you may come with him/her and stay for this event.
- On the morning of **Friday 17th July** there will be some entertainment for children in the 3 – 5 room only, from 9.00am to 12noon. We have booked Bouncing Bodies - who come highly recommended – for a lively 2 hour session from 10.00am. Children who are normally booked in for a Friday afternoon only, are welcome to come in the morning instead, and those not normally booked for a Friday are invited to attend until noon.
- As previously mentioned, we will again be holding a **Summer BBQ** at The Ark, on **Saturday 18th July** from **4.00pm**, for all parents and children. As before, we will be holding a grand raffle – prizes will include a £50 voucher for Muddy Paws, an i-pod, a neck massager and a £20 voucher for a meal at The Saxon, as well as other smaller prizes. Invitations will be issued nearer the time, along with books of raffle tickets to be sold. The price of entry will include food, but not beverages. Last year's

event was very successful – a good opportunity for parents and children to relax and get to know one another, so we are hoping for a repeat, with similar good weather.

Staff Changes

- As previously announced, Emma, our Baby Room Leader, will be starting her maternity leave at the end of July. Initially Tiffany, who currently works in the Baby Room during the afternoons, will work full-time and we will be recruiting another member of staff for the afternoons. However, Tiffany will herself be leaving towards the end of September to start a nursing degree course at Bournemouth University, so we wish her well in her new career. Josie will be moving into the baby Room to replace her, and we will be recruiting a full-time member of staff for the 3 – 5 Room.

Funding Application for Extension

- Unfortunately we have been unsuccessful with our application for funding for this extension. However, we have not given up. We are looking at an alternative, smaller design, so watch this space.

Sun Protection

- With the sunnier weather here, we would like to remind parents again to send their children with sunhats and long-sleeved tops in a cool material and if it is already sunny before they attend, apply suntan lotion at home. We will apply our own suntan lotion to children whenever necessary, but if you believe your child may be allergic to some brands of lotion, please provide us with your own, named lotion.

Lost Property

- I'm afraid we need to remind you again to ensure your children's clothes and footwear etc. are clearly named. We have a substantial amount of lost property in the big green tub in the lobby, so please look through it if you are missing any items.

Use of Toilets

- If your child needs to use the toilet after being collected from the Toddler or 3 -5 Rooms, please feel free to take him or her back through to the children's toilets. If preferred you may use the adult/disabled toilet, but in this case please could you go in with your child to ensure the room is left in a clean and hygienic state for other users.

Dates for your diary

The Ark is open all year round **except:**

All Bank Holidays

Summer - Closed Monday 31st August 2009 – Friday 4th September 2009.

Christmas - closed on Thursday 24th December 2009, and opening again Monday 4th January 2010

Term Time Dates

Summer Term

Tuesday 21st April 2009 – Friday 17th July 2009

Monday 20th July 2009 – Friday 28th August 2009- Holiday Club at The Ark

Autumn Term

Monday 7th September 2009 – Friday 18th December 2009

Half Term: Monday 26th October 2009 – Friday 30th October 2009 - Holiday Club at The Ark

Monday 21st, Tuesday 22nd & Wednesday 23rd December 2009;
Monday 4th January 2010 – Holiday Club at The Ark

Other Events

Tuesday 7th July - Albert Noah-Messomo presenting sounds and songs from the African jungle.

Friday 17th July – Bouncing Bodies for 3-5 room

Saturday 18th July - Summer BBQ