



PARENTS NEWSLETTER – MARCH - APRIL 2015

MOBILE NUMBER FOR URGENT ENQUIRIES – 07415 2659930

(Please back up any booking with an e-mail)

www.arkchildcare.net

The last couple of months have been an extremely busy period for all at the nursery, as we start to move into the period where there are improvements in the weather the main emphasis will be on improving our outdoor space for the education of your children.

As always I ensure that we have an open door policy for all of the parents and should you wish to talk to any of the staff about the care of your children please do not hesitate to, this includes viewing their folios.

In the new education year we plan to implement a system where the children's folios will be done electronically and you will have access to their observations at home. More news will follow on this and if any parents have any concerns about getting access to an electronic system please contact me at the earliest opportunity.

FRIENDS OF CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN

As you will be aware from my e-mail and the website Clare Cotton and some parents will be hosting children from Chernobyl in September 2015.

We at Ark are requesting if any parents are having a clear out and are getting rid of clothes, in good condition that would fit children in the age groups 6 – 9 they kindly donate them to Ark and these will be distributed to the children.

Jo is also planning to host a Swish Party at which good quality women's clothes and accessories including bags, jewellery etc. will be sold off to raise money which will also be donated to the Friend's of Chernobyl Charity.

If you have any items that you wish to donate again please hand them in at Ark.

For both requests above please also ask your families and friends.

SWIMMING

This year's swimming for the Yellow Room (4 – 5) will take place over the period 21 April until 26 May 15. All of the children in this age group can participate in the swimming.

The swimming will be over two days weekly, Tuesday and Wednesday and a list of who will attend on which day will be produced by the staff based on the days that the children attend the Nursery

There will be a small charge of £25 per child for these sessions. Parents should let the room staff know prior to the 11th March if they **do not wish** their child to attend as this charge will be taken from the April bills which are produced in March.

OUTSIDE AREAS

As part of our ongoing improvements for your children's education in the Nursery we are going to concentrate in the coming months on making better use of our outdoor areas.

We already have a lot of ideas for the space but are always willing to listen to the parents who may have ideas of their own or are able to assist.

If there is anything you can do or if you have any ideas please let me know.

PARKING

Parking in the morning and early evening is problematic and parents are advised to use the car park at the house at the really busy times leading up to 9am and 5pm. Parents are advised that the Ark cars if needed are either out or parked up at these times so double parking is not a problem.

BABY ROOM

Team Leader – Miss Tracey George

We are still collecting for our treasure baskets and if any parents have items that are no longer needed at home we will accept any donations, i.e. sponges, pots, pans, spoons. Items that safe but are unusual for the babies to touch are required; if in doubt please speak to the baby room staff.

Following our new planning process the babies are now enjoying woodland walks, picnic snacks and ice cubes in the water tray. The babies have also enjoyed doing some new arts and crafts for our wall displays including our birthday train and marble painting; they have also completed Mother's Day crafts. In the coming weeks they will also be participating in a farmyard display.

It is really exciting for all of us to see the babies taking part in tooth brushing; the babies clearly enjoy this activity as they all sit well in a group with the support of the staff. The tooth brushing is also supported and encouraged by Childsmile and if you have any queries/concerns regarding tooth brushing please talk to the room staff who can consult with Childsmile.

BLUE ROOM
Team Leader – Miss Vicki Gall

In the Blue Room the children are currently enjoying making Mothers Day crafts including the use of salt dough. The Home Corner is being changed into a Doctor's Surgery and as a result of this there will be lots of discussion and stories about Doctor's.

The children are also enjoying more outdoor time as the weather begins to improve. Can all parents please ensure that appropriate clothing is provided; particularly just now when it remains cold the children should have hats and gloves.

YELLOW/RAINBOW ROOM
Team Leader – Mrs Jackie McIntosh

We have had a busy few weeks with Valentines Day, Chinese New Year and another very important day which is looming which will bring nice surprises for you Mum's!!!!

The Yellow Room have started their 6 week programme of Grow Well Farm combined with the eatwell plate. We are mainly doing this on a Wednesday as this is gym day but all of the children have been introduced to the ideas in the programme. We are all really enjoying this and the children are becoming so good at being aware of the food types! We are having lots of fun and laughter as we learn. We hope you are enjoying the home link element.

Looking forward we will be looking at St Patrick's Day and Easter.

We are changing our home corner into a Hairdressers so any unwanted magazines would be appreciated.

The Rainbow Room have also had a busy few weeks in the craft area with Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year and Mother's Day in the near future.

The children have chosen a new home corner and they will be changing it into a Frozen Castle so they will be kept busy with crafts and displays for that.

Woodland walks have also now become more accessible with the change in weather and the children are enjoying them whilst collecting twigs, leaves etc. for new wall displays.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
Team Leader – Mrs Amy Riach

The ASC have been spending busy evenings filling the walls with loads of displays which you are all welcome to come in and see. We will continue with the craft theme by looking forward to Mother's Day.

The ASC Easter Holiday Programme will be produced soon and will be e-mailed out and displayed on the website for the period 30 March 15 to 10 April 15.

We are still looking for boxes and yoghurt pots or any other item that would be suitable for junk modelling.

REGULAR REMINDERS

BREAKFAST CLUB - I would like to remind everyone who have children in the Breakfast Club that the last sitting for breakfast Club is **8.20am** this is so that the children and staff are ready to begin moving to their rooms by **8.30am**.

CHILDREN'S OWN TOYS - Please discourage your children from bringing in their own toys from home. Not only can they get lost and broken but it can also cause squabbles and upset between the children. Comforters are fine.

LATE PICK UPS / EARLY DROP OFFS - Please be aware that there is a penalty which has been in force since last year. We have to timetable staff a week in advance so often if parents are late/early we do not have enough staff to cover which means I am often brought in at short notice to cover. This is really detrimental to our staff /child ratios so please let me know through the office if you are going to be late or need to drop your child off early. **Please ensure that younger children are picked up first.**

SPARE CLOTHING - Please ensure that your children have spare clothing with them in case of accidents, please return any borrowed clothes as our supplies are running low.

PAYMENT - A reminder that all bills are to be paid by the 1st of each month, if you fail to pay the bill by the 7th we will be unable to offer childcare. We are here to help in any way that we can and if there are issues or problems with the bills or the payment of them please speak to Alison or Steven at the earliest opportunity. A further reminder that Ad-Hoc bookings are payable immediately on booking. We are sending all invoices by e-mail now and if you don't receive your bill by the 20th please contact the office for another copy.

COMPLAINTS - I realise that at times there may be an occasion where parents have a complaint about an aspect of the Nursery. I accept that this may be the case and you can make a complaint at any time, verbally or in writing. We have a policy with regards to complaints and I endeavour to respond in the time frames given. These policies are available for you to read at the front door of the

nursery at all times. Alternatively you can complain directly to the Care Inspectorate and they can be contacted at:

**Care Inspectorate
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY**

Tel: 0345 600 9527

Email: enquiries@careinspectorate.com

Steven McIntosh
Manager

Our staff are here to help you in any way they can, however they have a right to carry out their work without fear of abuse or intimidation. Abuse or intimidation in any form will not be tolerated. ARK Childcare has a complaints policy and if you wish to complain about any aspects of your child's care please bring this to the office where it can be dealt with in an appropriate manner for all concerned.