



PARENTS NEWSLETTER – MAY - JUNE 2015

MOBILE NUMBER FOR URGENT ENQUIRIES – 07415 265993
(Please back up any booking with an e-mail)

www.arkchildcare.net

NEWS

INFECTION CONTROL

As the Nursery Manager it is my responsibility to ensure that infection doesn't spread. I am aware that it can be difficult for parents when working to take time off work, however, it is imperative that if your child has been sick or suffered diarrhoea they are kept off nursery for 48 hrs after the last symptom. As a nursery we have no option regarding this as we are governed by the Infection Control Team, the repercussions for not following their policies can be serious for the Nursery. Other exclusion periods exist for other illnesses and details of these are held in the office and rooms.

OUTDOOR SPACE

As we move into the summer months we have started work to improve the outside areas of the nursery. This will take some time and all of us at the nursery realise that this will have an impact on our routines, in particular the space outside, we hope that when these improvements are completed the creation of the new space will have outweighed the disruption.

UPDATE ON SPIREROXX

The rock climbing wall will now, as long as there are no further unforeseen delays be open in early June. It is planned after opening that the 4 – 5's will get the opportunity to climb on the boulder run/play area regularly and will be bussed down to the church from the Nursery, further details on this to follow.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

As always I ensure that we have an open door policy for all parents and carers 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.

FOLIO'S

We have now purchased the tablets required to maintain the children's electronic folios, the staff will trial the software during the month of June and set up the children's accounts in the Summer Holidays, this will ensure that we are ready to publish our first observations in the new school year.

CLOTHES

I would like to remind all parents that the children in the Nursery will be involved in play that is messy, including painting, gluing and outdoor play. It is important that the children take part in these activities as it is part of their learning. I would ask that the children don't come to the Nursery in clothes that cannot be worn when carrying out these activities; the children are given aprons however the staff cannot guarantee that their clothes will not come into contact with any messy substances.

CAR PARKING

I am aware that at certain times of the day the car park is particularly busy and parents have to be very careful when parking. It has come to my attention however that parents are exiting the car park using the wrong gate; please only use the exit gate when leaving the car park

IMPORTANT DATES

The following dates have been booked for the 3 – 5's to allow you to plan and not miss these important events.

Sports Day – Initially Thu 4 Jun at Mosstowie School, may be changed to Thu 11 Jun weather dependant
(There will be a parent's race based children's choice – Be prepared)

Graduation – Fri 26 Jun at Miltonduff Hall

The children will have their end of Nursery Party on Thu 18 Jun – Venue to be confirmed but it is hoped that it will be in the Climbing Wall.

T SHIRTS AND JACKETS

In the last few weeks I have been asking the parents their thoughts on T-Shirts and/or jackets with the Ark logo for the children. The majority of the comments I received were very positive although the price seemed to be a bit of a stumbling block. As a result of this I will look for a supplier who can provide these items cheaper and keep you updated.

THE ROOMS

BABY ROOM

Team Leader – Miss Tracey George

The babies have been growing their own cress and have enjoyed this; they will be able to bring these home soon. The babies have also been doing a lot of painting for their wall displays including sea life, golf ball painting and their tree house.

A reminder please that should you have to pass the baby room at any stage they are often sleeping and would appreciate the quiet when you are passing

BLUE ROOM

Team Leader – Miss Vicki Gall

We are currently planning for our new home corner and it will be based on Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

We have been busy doing a lot of spring crafts including making sheep and painting daffodils. The children have also decorated binoculars which they have particularly enjoyed.

They have also enjoyed a wide range of messy play including sand, shaving foam, the water tray and play dough over the last couple of months. We are now starting to think about Father's Day.

The children spend a lot of time creating special art for you to hang on your fridges, please check and empty their trays when you pick up to ensure that you take all of these treasured pieces home with you.

As always any suggestions or ideas from the parents are greatly appreciated.

YELLOW/RAINBOW ROOM
Team Leader – Mrs Jackie McIntosh

The swimming is now well under and all of the children have gained in confidence in the first three weeks, they are all enjoying the pool which makes it a pleasant experience for all. This is a busy term and we have started to receive visits from the Primary Schools and with this the excitement is growing in the children who will be attending school in August.

The 4 – 5 room have held their own election for the Class President who will carry the graduation flag on graduation day.

Class President nominated by her friends is:

Ella Janousek

The 4 – 5 home corner is currently being converted into Dinosaur Land look out as we predict lots of roaring from our Yellowroomasaures!!!!

The 3 -4 room has welcomed several new children from the Blue Room recently and these children have all settled well.

Our home corner has been discussed with the children and we hope to turn this into a beach scene in the hope that it encourages the sun to come out.

We will shortly begin practising for sports day.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
Team Leader – Mrs Amy Riach

The programme has been completed for the forthcoming holidays; these are available through the ASC or on the website. In the run up to the summer holidays we will be starting our interactive holiday map. As always any donations of items for junk modelling will be appreciated.

Lost property is an ever present problem in the ASC please ensure that all pieces of clothing are clearly marked, in particular schools sweatshirts and jackets so that they are easily identifiable.

A questionnaire has been devised for the ASC and we would appreciate maximum participation. By taking part in these questionnaires it allows us to improve the service we provide for you and your children and it is the best way for us to gather this information. Any other feedback would also be appreciated on these questionnaires.

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** and that the transport is ready to leave for the schools.

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. Children should also have with them appropriate clothing for the weather conditions and sun-cream if necessary.

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.