



**Nursery Provision
Homefield Church of England
Primary School**



The Ark Nursery
Homefield Church of England Primary School
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Welcome

"Nursery children settle in well and have quickly become used to the school's routines. They start the day happily and productively, and enjoy sharing their learning with adults."
OFSTED

**Psalm 133:1 - Oh, how wonderful, how pleasing it is when
God's people all come together as one.**

I would like to welcome you to The Ark - our wonderful school nursery.

The staff and governors of Homefield Church of England Primary School are proud to have a school that strives to cater for every child and constantly pushes to improve the quality of education that it provides.

At Homefield we pride ourselves on being a 'family'. A family that loves and cares for each and every child and adult. The Ark is the first step in our school family - the first exciting step in your child's education journey.

During their time with us, your child will develop new skills and discover talents that will stay with them for life. At The Ark we aim to provide a magical curriculum that ensures this is possible.

I am delighted to say that we were graded as continuing to be a good school by OFSTED (Nov 18), and graded as excellent by the Church of England during our SIAMS visit (Nov 19). These wonderful reports have backed up why we all love coming to Homefield every day. They have also spurred us on to achieve the highest of outcomes each and every time we are inspected.

Bradley Young (Headteacher)



All aboard The Ark!

The Ark is the school nursery of Homefield Church of England Primary School. The nursery was founded over thirty years ago and has had a good reputation ever since.

Children are able to start at The Ark nursery in the academic year (September to August) in which they have their fourth birthday. This means we have one intake per academic year.

The Ark is situated in fantastic purpose built accommodation with its own secure outdoor area. It has lots of great resources but also benefits from being able to access everything that the main school has. This includes a large field and extensive computing resources.

We hope that everything that you need can be found in this brochure or on our dedicated Ark website. Further information on policies, and attainment data can be found in the main school brochure. Failing that, simply come in and see us.



VISIT OUR WEB-

[www homefieldark.com](http://www.homefieldark.com)



The range of activities
provided for nursery children,
with a focus on their social
and emotional development,
prepare them well for their
future schooling.

OFSTED

Aims & Values



OUR VISION

Vision Caption: Together, we are a family that cares for, values and encourages all.

At The Ark we have a clear vision for the future.

It is our vision that The Ark will continue to be a nurturing environment underpinned by strong Christian and British values. A family community where each child is treated as an individual, and outstanding teaching helps them to discover and develop their unique talents and abilities. We are a community that cares for, values and encourages all the children within our care, but most of all a community that provides every child with enriching opportunities to shine.

OUR AIMS

By the time a child leaves The Ark they will have the chance to:

- Become a valued member of a community
- Experience a rich and varied curriculum
- Make progress in order to be the best they can be
- Gain the skills needed to become a life long learner

OUR VALUES

Our Christian values were decided by the children:

- Forgiveness
- Peace
- Trust
- Thankfulness
- Compassion
- Hope
- Wisdom
- Friendship



A team that cares

1 John 4:21- And he has given us this command: anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

The Ark is a caring family environment where every member of staff builds positive relationships with the children built on mutual respect and trust. They are committed to providing a stimulating and safe haven for children to begin their learning journey.

The Ark is a teacher led nursery and we think that this offers your child a whole host of benefits. These include the vast knowledge base that a teacher brings to the class and daily adult led English and Maths sessions. To find out more about the benefits a teacher led nursery can offer, visit our dedicated nursery website.

Being a school nursery also means that you and your child can benefit from the pastoral support that the main school offers. This includes nurture provision and family support work. Our fully trained pastoral support worker can help with anything from parenting tips to money worries.

Don't just take our word for it. Please feel free to check out our latest OFSTED and SIAMS reports and see what the professionals had to say about our setting.



The Ark is a Teacher-Led Nursery



There is no better way to start your child's education than to have them taught by a fully qualified and experienced teacher. Most daycare centres are staffed by trained nursery nurses, who are absolutely fabulous, but we think a qualified teacher adds a little bit more!

We are aware that every child has a way of learning that is unique to them. As a result, we work tirelessly each and every day to provide a stimulating, challenging and positive learning environment through a play-based curriculum (encompassing physical, cognitive, linguistic, SMSC and emotional types of learning), so that each child that attends has the best opportunities to shine.

Our professional, enthusiastic and qualified team work hard to improve learning, by regularly expanding the environment indoors and outside that provide challenging adaptations and next steps, for all individuals and for their individual assessments.

Our Nursery and Main School grounds are set out in a child-friendly and organised manner, providing children with experiences in gardening, imagination, creativity, curiosity, physical development and enhanced learning outdoors. All these promote optimum opportunities of learning for all children.

Activities always start at the simplest level, working upwards within a child-centred approach, to give your child confidence to develop slowly but positively forward, towards their ultimate goal of understanding.

We use detailed observations and assessments to support your child across all seven areas of the early learning foundation stage. We encourage all children to work at their own levels, where they can extend their learning through exploration and trial and improvement. All these experiences are then enhanced by our highly qualified staff, to ensure all characteristics of learning are catered for.

As we work so closely with our Reception class and participate in joint events with our Main School throughout the year, we feel our Nursery pupils are far better equipped for a smoother transition to the start of their early school career.

Our provision works within the 'EYFS' – (Early Years Foundation Stage) guidelines and is regulated by Ofsted.

What makes us special?



AMAZING FACILITIES

As The Ark is a school nursery it has access to all of their resources. That means your child will have access to so many amazing things. Here are just a few -

- A large playing field with trim trail and tyre park, and a woodland area with full bushcraft resources.
- A whole array of Computing resources, such as laptops, Ipads, tablets not to mention all of the other computing tools that the school has.
- Access to a fully qualified pastoral mentor who can help with social and emotional development and family support.
- Support from the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator and access to further support services such as Educational Psychologists.
- A secure nursery play area, including sandpits, water zone, climbing frame, slides, bikes and an actual ark!
- Wonderful healthily prepared meals from our main school kitchen. Our school promotes eating sensibly and all our food is as **NUT-FREE** as possible. We expect the same from any foods prepared at home and brought in via packed lunches to ensure children with nut allergies are kept safe. Any foods found to contain nuts will have to be removed and these will be returned to you at the end of the day.



The most able children
are particularly well
challenged through
activities that extend
their learning

Uniform



WHY DO YOU HAVE A UNIFORM?

We get so many comments about how smart our children look in their uniforms and although it is a bit tricky to get squirmly children in them at times, it is great preparation for starting school. Children from The Ark will occasionally get to join in with whole school events and at these times it is good to have everyone looking smart.

BOYS

- A navy blue 'Ark' school jumper
- Grey or black trousers or shorts
- White polo shirt/navy blue 'Ark' polo shirt
- Elasticated tie (optional)
- Sensible shoes (no open toes)

GIRLS

- A navy blue 'Ark' school jumper or cardigan
- Grey, black or navy skirts or dresses
- Grey or black trousers
- White polo shirt/navy blue 'Ark polo shirt
- Elasticated tie (optional)
- Blue checked dresses (Summer only)
- Sensible shoes (no open toes)

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED?

- A sensible, waterproof coat
- A water bottle
- A hat in hot weather
- A book bag
- Wellies in winter
- Outdoor shoes / trainers
- A spare set of clothes, including underwear... just in case!

REMEMBER
TO PUT
NAMES ON
EVERYTHING!

Timings

Morning sessions

Drop off

Start time 8.30am

Please bring your child to the front door of The Ark.
You may use the gate at either end of the school site from 8.15am.

Collection

End time 11.30am

Please use the gate on Homefield Avenue and then wait by the Ark collection point. Your child will be brought to you.

Afternoon sessions

Drop off

Start time 12.30pm

Please use the gate on Homefield Avenue and then wait by the Ark collection point. A member of staff will come and let you in at 12.30pm. If you arrive late, please go to the main school office.

Collection

End time 3.30pm

Please collect your child from the front door of The Ark.
You may use the gate at either end of the school site.

Other times

If you are dropping your child off or collecting at any other time, please visit the office at the main school.
Please use the gates on Homefield Avenue.

The more sessions your child attends across the week, the stronger progress they will make with their academic abilities and social development.



Exciting Learning!

EYFS FRAMEWORK

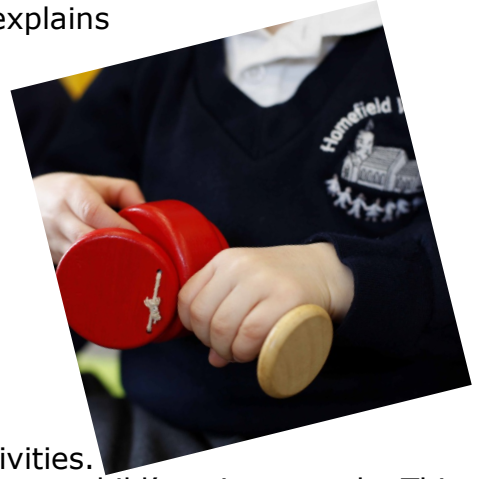
At The Ark we follow the EYFS framework. This framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge And demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

- Communication and language;
- Physical development;
- Personal, social and emotional development;
- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world;
- Expressive arts and design.

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities.

Our teachers will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little bit like the curriculum in the main school, but it's suitable for very young children, and it's designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.



OUR CURRICULUM

At the Ark, we recognise that children learn in different ways. We provide an environment that supports each individual child. We use the Characteristics of Early Learning to observe and assess each child to determine their individual style of learning. We then use this knowledge to support their next steps of development.

In the Ark, we support the children to express their own interests and preferences, rather than stick rigidly to our topic. The more interested and involved a child is, the happier they will be and the more they will learn.

It is then the responsibility of the class teacher to spot those 'teachable' moments and extend the children's learning whilst they play with their chosen activity or resource.

In order to make our curriculum as exciting as possible we use different themes of study, for example: The Importance of Being Me. This allows our teachers to cover all of the areas mentioned above through creative and fun topics.

In order to make our curriculum as exciting as possible we use thematic-based learning, such as: The Importance of Being Me. This allows our teachers to cover all of the areas mentioned above through creative and fun topics.



TAPESTRY ONLINE LEARNING JOURNAL

We use Tapestry for your child's Online Learning Journal.

This enables the Nursery staff to add photos, videos and written observations of your child from our Nursery and upload them on to the Tapestry.

As a Parent/Carer you will then be sent a link to create a secure password to log in with to view your child's exciting experiences at home. This will then allow you to add comments to your child's observation. We ask that observations published on Tapestry will only be shown to close members of the family and not shared by any type of social media or sharing platforms.

As a Parent/Carer, you will have access to add home links with photographs and videos of what your child gets up to when they are not at Nursery. The Nursery staff will then be able to respond or add to the observation that you have published from the Nursery, which all add to your child's online Learning Journal.



PARENT/CARER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I create an account on Tapestry?

Once you have provided us with an email address and signed the agreement, you will be sent an email providing you with an activation link. You will then need to create a secure password/ Pin which is not to be shared with others.

What can I add to my child's account?

On your child's account you will have access to their 'about me' section. Here you will be able to add information regarding your child's preferences and routines.

You will be able to add comments to any observations that have been published about your child.

You can add observations from home or about an activity that your child has been doing. We would like to remind you that if you are uploading photos on to your child's learning journal that have other children on it, permission must have been gained to use the photo, these could be siblings or close friends. Photos at the park for example which have unknown children in it should not be added to your child's Tapestry page and if there are, these will be removed. Also, remember that only appropriate comments can be made.

What if I have more than one child at your setting?

We will link the two accounts together allowing you to access both children and their observations from the one account.

If I have a question about an observation?

Please speak to the Nursery staff, who will speak to you regarding the observation.

Can the Nursery staff access Tapestry at home?

The Nursery team are provided with a pin only account that is only able to be accessed through the Nursery computers or tablets. Any responses through Tapestry will be during Nursery hours.



The outdoor area is used effectively to extend children's learning through a range of adult led activities and those that the children choose for themselves.

OFSTED

Busy Days

At The Ark every day is a busy day! We pack our days full of adventure and excitement. Here are just a few of the wonderful activities that are regularly on offer:

Funky Fingers

Funky Fingers is a fun packed daily exercise that prepares children for the world of writing. The carefully chosen activities develop their fine and gross motor skills and develop their use of the pincer grip. To top it off the whole thing is done to a funky pop beat!

Cooking

We love to promote healthy eating at The Ark and this involves teaching the children all about the foods that they eat. Your child will get the chance to become a real chef and cook their own culinary delights!

Story Cafes

We hold regular story cafes for children and adults to attend together. They are a great way to promote a love for reading, pick up new activity ideas and meet other mums and dads.

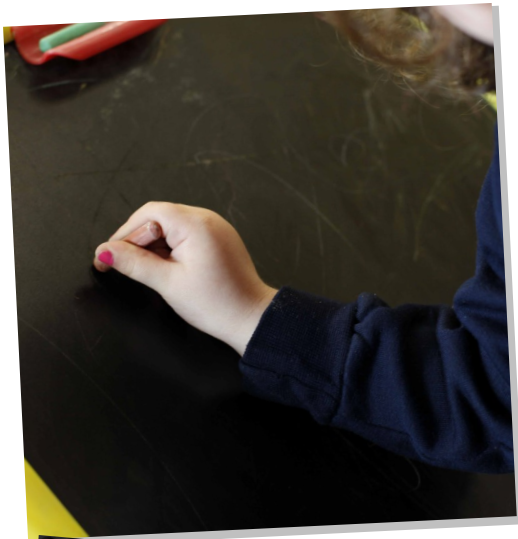
Bushcraft

The Ark is very lucky to have use of the school Bushcraft area. This means your child can get close to nature. We love to build dens, perform on the outdoor stage and have stories outside. There are even a variety of fab bug hotels to explore. Every alternative Monday afternoon, Mr. Earle works with our Nursery children in the Bushcraft area.

Library visits

Children at The Ark can develop an early love for reading with regular visits to the school library. This library is packed full of exciting reads for all ages and children love exploring the books.

To find out more about our busy days visit our amazing Ark website.



Healthy food

COMMITTED TO HEALTHY

At The Ark we are committed to healthy living and especially healthy food. Everyday your child will have access to a snack of fresh fruit or vegetables and water, milk or juice.

Our dedicated staff will try their best to encourage every child to try new foods and develop their taste buds.

LUNCH TIME

You have two choices if you choose to send your child to The Ark for their lunch. You are welcome to provide a healthy packed lunch or pay for one of our freshly prepared hot meals cooked provided by our cooks. We like all packed lunches to be as healthy as possible, this means avoiding items such as sweets and fizzy drinks. Be assured that hot dinners are all served in the nursery by staff that your children will be familiar with. Our school is fully committed to being inclusive and meeting all dietary/medical requirements of our pupils.



HANDS ON LEARNING

We think it is very important that the children at The Ark are taught all about the food that they eat. Our staff take every opportunity to do this, including regular cooking activities. The Ark has all of the resources needed to inspire the budding chefs of tomorrow!

Our Nursery is a NUT-FREE environment.

Any questions?



HOW MUCH DOES THE ARK COST?

We provide 15 hours of free child care for all nursery age children. We do also offer the Government's scheme of 30 hours of free child care, in order to extend our services to those families who are eligible. Extra hours can be booked as and when they are needed, including lunch times and after school sessions. Lunches are before and after-school care are additional costs. Our latest prices and further information about the 30 hours of free childcare can be found on our website—www.homefieldark.com **Please note that if you are splitting your child's Nursery care across more than one provider, some of your free hours must be claimed from our Nursery. Please speak to the staff for more information.**

DO YOU PROVIDE HOLIDAY COVER?

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer holiday cover.

DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO WEAR A UNIFORM?

At The Ark we pride ourselves on looking smart and think that wearing a uniform in the nursery is a great way to prepare for school life. However, we know that every child is different and we will work with you to solve any problems.

CAN I TAKE MY CHILD OUT OF NURSERY FOR A HOLIDAY DURING TERM TIME?

The children at The Ark are not statutory school age so therefore we cannot stop you from taking holidays during term time. However, we do promote good attendance and recommend that parents get ready for school life by avoiding term time breaks.

Any more questions? Call us on 01493 661691

Extra Information



SCHOOL POLICIES

Information on school policies such as behaviour or special educational needs can be found on the main school website—www.homefield.norfolk.sch.uk

SAFEGUARDING

The Ark and Homefield Primary School are committed to safeguarding children. Our staff are highly qualified and have all undertaken the necessary checks as set out by the government. Our dedicated staff have a duty of care over every child at The Ark and will always act if they have any concerns.

COMPLAINTS

If for some reason you are not happy you should always approach the class teacher in the first instance. If any issues are left unresolved please report them to the main school and speak with the Headteacher. The full complaints policy can be found on the Homefield website—www.homefield.norfolk.sch.uk

Call us on 01493 661691

Visit our website - www.homefieldark.com



The
Ark



THE PERFECT WAY
TO START YOUR
CHILD'S EDUCATION