



**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 November 2014*

I would like to welcome you to The Ark - the new name for 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 have recently been graded as good with outstanding behaviour and safety by OFSTED (Nov 14), and graded as outstanding by the Church of England during our SIAMS visit (Oct 14). These wonderful reports have backed up why we all love coming to Homefield every day. They have also spurred us on to achieve outstanding in all areas next time round.



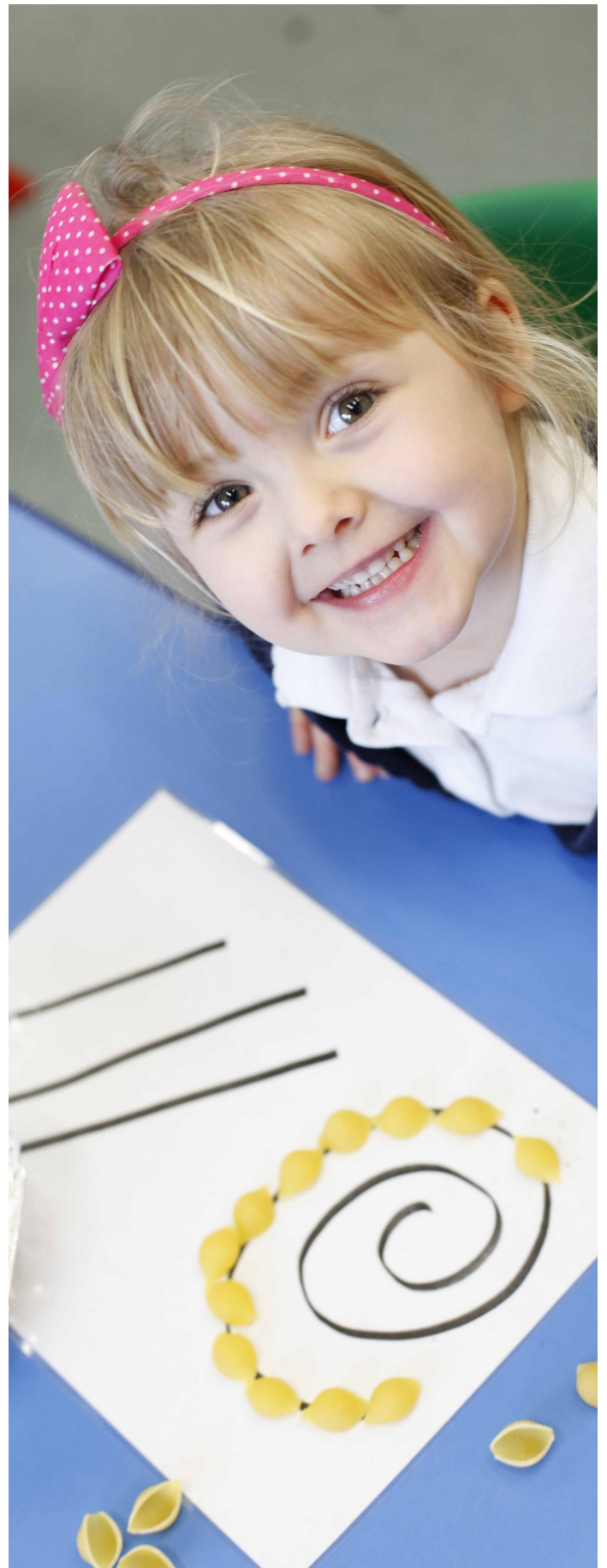
All aboard The Ark!

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. If there are spaces available, we can offer places to children the term after their 3rd Birthday.


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.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

A young girl with brown hair and bangs, wearing a bright pink corduroy jacket, dark shorts, and white tights, is smiling and holding a green water hose. She is standing on a paved area in a garden, and a stream of water is spraying from the hose's nozzle. Several colorful, fish-shaped garden toys (yellow, green, red, and purple) are scattered on the ground around her. In the background, there is a brick building with a dark door and a wooden planter box with some plants. A circular orange graphic with white text is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

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 Nov 2014

Aims & Values



OUR VISION

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 values. A 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, values and encourages all the children within our care, but most of all a community that provides every child with 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
- Celebrate success and be celebrated



OUR VALUES

Our new Christian values were decided by the children in 2013

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



A team that cares

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 workers 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.



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 laptop per child and access to fifteen iPads. Not to mention all of the other computing resources that the school has.
- Access to fully qualified pastoral mentors 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, slides, bikes and an actual ark!

The most able children are
particularly well challenged
through activities that
extend their learning
OFSTED Nov 2014



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 squirmy 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 school jumper
- Grey or black trousers or shorts
- White polo shirt/navy blue in summer
- Elasticated tie (optional)
- Sensible shoes

GIRLS

- A navy blue school jumper or cardigan
- Grey skirts or dresses
- White polo shirt/navy blue in summer
- Elasticated tie (optional)
- Blue checked summer dress
- Sensible shoes (no open toes)

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED?

- A sensible 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.



Exciting Learning!

EYFS FRAMEWORK

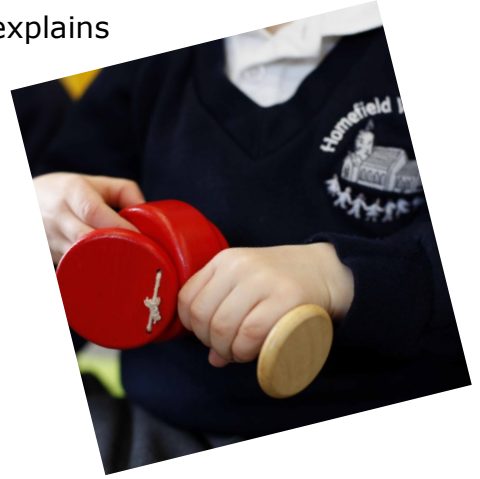
At The Ark we follow the EYFS framework. This framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development.

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.



The Learning Challenge[™] CURRICULUM


In order to make our curriculum as exciting as possible we use the Learning Challenge Curriculum (LCC). The LCC allows our teachers to cover all of the areas mentioned above through creative and fun topics.

Each topic starts with a big question and the children work together through fun, play based activities to come up with their answers.

Some of the BIG questions that our children have looked at in the past include:

- What happened to Jack's beans?
- Where does the day go at night?
- What can I do with water?



A young girl with blonde hair in pigtails, wearing a bright pink raincoat with a bird pattern, is climbing a wooden play structure. She is looking up and smiling. The structure is made of light-colored wood. In the background, there is green foliage.

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 Nov 2014

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.

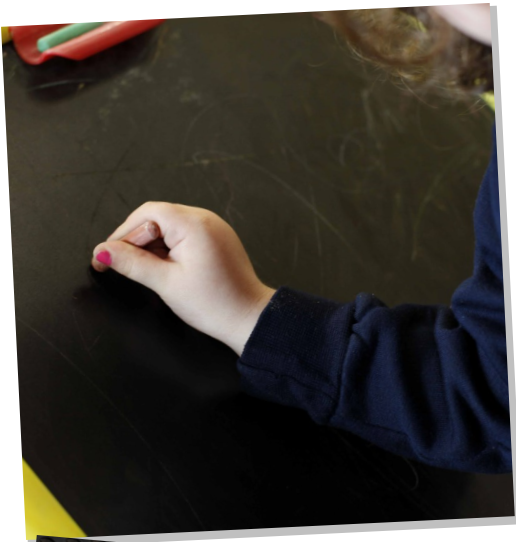
Bushcraft

The Ark is very lucky to have use of the school Bushcraft area. This great area lets your child 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 areas to explore.

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 FOOD

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 Edwards and Blake. 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

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!



Any questions?



HOW MUCH DOES THE ARK COST?

We provide 15 hours of free child care for all nursery age children. Extra hours can be booked as and when they are needed, including lunch times and after school sessions. Our latest prices can be found on our website—www.homefieldark.com

DO YOU PROVIDE HOLIDAY COVER?

Unfortunately we are unable to offer holiday cover at the moment. However, this year we hope to be running a holiday club for set weeks over the summer holiday. We have also teamed up with Woodlands nursery who are happy for Ark children to attend their setting in the holidays.

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 PERFECT WAY
TO START YOUR CHILD'S
EDUCATION

