Noah's Ark

Healthy Early Years and UNICEF Accredited Preschool

With Wonderous Woodland Outdoor

OFSTED rated Outstanding

Our Address:

Noah's Ark Preschool Hall
Behind St.John's Church
Forton Rd - Gosport – Hants - PO12 4TQ

Phone Number: 07713 812875

Website: www.noahs-ark-gosport.co.uk
E-mail address:
noahsarkpreschoolgosport@outlook.com

List of staff:

Pre-school manager / Keyworker to the Squirrels:	Bridget Barker
Deputy manager / Keyworker to the Badgers:	Jodie Jones
Preschool Key worker to the Hedgehogs:	Toni Herlihy
Preschool Key worker to the Foxes:	Molly Dyson

Designated roles:

Safeguarding children	Bridget Barker
Special Educational needs (SENCO)	Bridget Barker
Equal Opportunities	Bridget Barker
Behaviour Co-ordinator	Bridget Barker
Health & Safety	Jodie Jones
Fire Safety	Jodie Jones
Emotional Support	Toni Herlihy

Noah's Ark Pre-school

Our Mission Statement

We passionately believe that it is the right of each and every child to be recognised as a unique and truly valued individual. Through praise and encouragement, they will develop a positive self-image and the belief in their own self-worth.

We provide high quality opportunities and experiences, to enable each child to develop a knowledge and respect for each other, the environment, and their wider world. We believe that this will empower every child to fulfil their holistic potential.

We welcome our children and all those involved in their wellbeing into our preschool community.

All about our pre-school

Our pre-school first became a community group, managed by a parent/carer committee after taking it over from a private concern in 1988.
In March 1998, we moved to our previous address in St. John's Church Hall, Forton Road, Gosport, having outgrown our previous premises.
In September 2021 we moved into a newly re-furbished hall behind St. John's Church, complete with our secure self-contained Wonderous Woodland where we deliver a unique Wonderous Woodland Learning Experience.
We are registered on the Ofsted Early Years Register and deliver the Newly Revised Early Years Foundation Stage.
We are members of the Early Years Alliance and previously became accredited by UNICEF, more recently we received Healthy Early Years Accredited Status as well as The Saving Smiles Award which promotes good oral health.

We have a commitment to raising awareness of the need to care for our environment and have adopted the policy of reusing and recycling as much as possible, reducing our paper trail by information sharing with parents through email and our online communication systems as much as possible, and always striving to adapt to the most eco-friendly options where possible.

We hope to welcome you and your child / children to our pre-school soon.

Opening Hours from September 2026 (term time only)

The sessions can be taken from a combination of hours from the table below subject to availability.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.30am-9am Breakfast club	8.30am – 9am Breakfast club	8.30am – 9am Breakfast club	8.30am – 9am Breakfast club	8.30am – 9am Breakfast club
9.00am - 2 pm Including lunch club	9.00am - 2 pm Including lunch club	9.00am - 2 pm Including lunch club	9.00am - 2 pm Including lunch club	9.00am - 2 pm Including lunch club
2pm -2.30 pm (for children with 30 hr funding)	2pm -2.30 pm (for children with 30 hr funding)	2pm -2.30 pm (for children with 30 hr funding)	2pm -2.30 pm (for children with 30 hr funding)	2pm -2.30 pm (for children with 30 hr funding)

Our Aim:

The aim of our pre-school is to enhance the development and education of children from 2 years to statutory school age by:

- Offering appropriate play facilities and experiences, together with the right of parents/carers to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of the group, giving opportunities for all children, regardless of ability, race, culture, religion or means.
- Encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in the recognition of such needs in the local area.
- Instigating and adhering to and furthering the aim of the Pre-school Early Years Alliance.

We offer your child:

- An individually tailored curriculum leading towards the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- A wide range of exciting and challenging learning experiences both indoors and out, based on their interests and developmental level.
- Individual care and attention made possible by a high ratio of adults to children.
- Fun and friendship with other children and adults.
- The support of a personal key worker.
- Opportunities for you and your family to be directly involved in the activities of the group and in your child's/children's progress.

Promoting equality and admissions policy

We welcome children and families from all social, cultural and religious backgrounds. We value the diversity of family structures and lifestyles. We aim to create a rich and diverse pre-school environment to reflect the social and cultural diversity in our communities. We recognise that all children in the pre-school have a right to be listened to, respected, valued and protected from all forms of discrimination in line with our equal opportunities policy.

We aim to be as flexible and accessible as possible, offering sessions based on the needs of families in the local community. Pre-school places are allocated giving priority to the waiting list and siblings to ensure fairness. More details are available in the admissions policy.

Rights Respecting Early Years Setting

Noah's Ark Pre-School was the first early years setting in the country to be accredited with the UNICEF 'Rights Respecting Early Years Award'. Our preschool has been recognised as delivering a curriculum that not only meets the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, Every Child Matters, but also links closely to the UN (United Nations) Convention, the Rights of the child. This convention lays down the rights of all children under the age of eighteen years. We believe that by working closely together with you, your children and other agencies we will be able to provide the best possible service for you and your child.

Healthy Early Years Accreditation

We are very proud of our status as a Healthy Early Years accredited setting for which we worked really hard, as it recognises the contribution we make as a setting to the health and well-being of our children and the wider preschool community. As part of this accreditation, we joined the Saving Smiles campaign which promotes good oral health. As part of this, we undertake daily supervised toothbrushing as part of our daily routine.

Booking and registration

If you are interested in a place at our pre-school, please contact the manager by telephone or E-mail to arrange a visit and meet staff. You will then have the opportunity to discuss the pre-school and any questions you may have in more

detail. Once your child has been accepted into the preschool, you will then be invited to visit again. At this visit, together we will complete the necessary forms and share information which will enable a smooth transition for your child whilst they have fun with the staff and other children.

Settling into the pre-school

We aim to make the big step from home to pre-school a positive experience for everyone. We want every child to feel settled and secure, and we recognise that you are the best person to help us get to know your child. You may be asked to stay with your child at first to introduce them gradually to pre-school life so that they can settle comfortably. You may need to make several visits to the pre-school with your child before you leave them -we recommend at least two, though we recognise and celebrate that every child is individual and the settling in process is totally flexible to allow for this.

Your child's key worker will discuss the best way to settle your child into the preschool so that you will feel confident when you leave your child in our care. (Please see the pre-school settling in policy.)

Premises

The pre-school operates from a newly refurbished, large hall behind the main church, but still within the church premises. We have a large, wonderful, and secure outdoor area, with a 'Wild Woodland', large loose parts area and a multi-purpose area which includes a sand / water and sensory kitchen, growing area, water area, music area and a quiet area to which the children have free access daily, in all weathers.

Fees

Two-year-old children who are not in receipt of government funding will be charged £8.50 per hour, minimum of 3 hours per session. Three-year-old children will be charged £6.50 per hour until they become eligible for government funding, the term after they are three. Additional hours will be charged at £6.50 per hour. These fees are invoiced 4 weekly and prompt payment is required to ensure your child's place is retained.

We will advise you of the criteria for accessing two-year funding and support you in making a claim where applicable.

Children who are in receipt of universal government funding are currently entitled to up to 15 hours of free pre-school education per week. Additional 30-hour funding is available to working families where both parents work the equivalent of 16 hours at minimum wage and to single parent families with the same criteria. Again, we can advise you and support you in making a claim where applicable.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is currently not available within the 15 funded hours and is charged at £4.00 per breakfast club. Breakfast isn't provided, though you are welcome to bring a healthy snack for your child to eat during this time. If your child in receipt of the 30-hour funding, this covers the breakfast club half hour,

though you will need to bring a healthy snack if you wish them to eat. Lunch club is available within the funded hours, and you will need to supply your child with a packed lunch which must be provided in line with the choking and healthy eating guidelines which will be provided in your Welcome pack.

Snack

Your child will need to bring a piece of fruit for snack, and a named water bottle for during the session. Milk or water are provided by the preschool for snack.

Snack time, Breakfast and Lunch club

Encouraging parents to provide healthy snacks and a healthy lunch box for lunch club are an essential part of our commitment to nurturing young children's physical and emotional wellbeing. They have high energy and nutrient needs in relation to their small body size. They also have small stomachs and so may not be physically able to eat large meals. Their appetites may vary daily, or even from one meal to the next. The recommendations are that children should have three meals every day, plus nutritious healthy snacks, and should drink adequate quantities of fluids.

Breakfast, Lunch club and snack times provide children with opportunities to:

1. Extend their food experiences by offering a variety of foods and encouraging them to experiment with different tastes and textures.
2. Have relaxed conversations as they enjoy the food and drink.
3. Support their interactions with one another as they build their social skills in a group situation.
4. Become interested in food, paying attention to hygiene, and demonstrating how to use tools and valuing good table manners.
5. To develop their social skills through interaction and co-operation with others, for example, taking turns.
6. The time to practise language skills as children and adults talk together about what they are eating and the foods they like.
7. The chance to talk about healthy eating and the importance of tooth brushing and hand washing with an adult.
8. Find out more about food – what it looks like, where it comes from and how it is prepared.
9. Make choices by deciding which foods they would like to eat at snack time.
10. Build positive relationships in a relaxed and enjoyable environment.

The Curriculum

Children start to learn about the world around them from the moment they are born. The care and education offered by Noah's Ark Pre-School helps children to continue to do this by providing each child with exciting, good fun activities, based on their interests and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework was reviewed by Dame Clare Tickell, Chief Executive of Action for Children.

Dame Clare Tickell's recommendations led to the revised non-statutory guidance that supports practitioners in implementing the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The revised EYFS has been statutory in all settings since September 2012.
In September 2026 the EYFS was revised again and allows each setting to develop its own curriculum and pedagogy to support children in their learning, working towards the Early Learning Goals at the end of the Foundation Stage.

Noah's Ark Curriculum.

At Noah's Ark Preschool, we have developed our curriculum using our expertise and passion for providing the very best experiences for children. We have developed an eclectic mix of the very best elements from our experience and research to create a curriculum full of magic moments which spark curiosity, intrigue and imagination and nurture inquisitive minds.

We believe in a holistic approach to learning where each child is valued as a unique individual on their own learning journey. The curriculum is individually tailored to each child to enable them to learn at their own pace, and to achieve their individual, highest potential.

Working towards the Early Learning goals, children will enjoy a wide range of experiences with a large focus on the natural world, their own curiosities and interests, as well as their wider world.

Our curriculum will be delivered with the greater focus on child-initiated learning within enabling environments and sensitive and enabling interactions from adults with a smaller proportion of high quality, adult directed learning where appropriate. Our children will learn to be resilient and independent and develop high levels of confidence in their abilities, self-esteem and a respect for each other and the environment. They will learn to make healthy choices and recognise that they have a right to be listened to and valued, as they, themselves, listen to and value the contributions made by others.

We are flexible in our approach to delivering the curriculum, as we recognise that many factors influence the way children learn, and we aim to be reflective and responsive in our practice.

The Birth to Five Matters Publication provides guidance on meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and sets the standards for learning, development, and care for children from birth to five.

The revised EYFS emphasises the need for practitioners:

- To spend more time interacting with children to promote creative and critical thinking skills and early language and communication.

- To encourage parent/carers to become more involved in their child's development and to give ideas as to how they can support this development at home.
- To identify as early as possible any additional needs a child may have and strengthen links with colleagues, such as health visitors, who can support these needs.
- To adhere to a clearer set of requirements to keep children safe.
- To share with parents a summary of their child's progress between 2 and 3 years of age.
- To refocus the learning and development of the youngest children in the foundation years.
- To make a judgement at the end of the reception year on how children learn, informed by the following characteristics of learning:

Playing and exploring;
Finding out and exploring
Playing with what they know
Being willing to 'have a go.'

Active learning;
Being involved and concentrating
Keeping trying
Enjoying achieving what they set out to do.

Creating and thinking critically – (thinking);
Having their own ideas
Making links
Choosing ways to do things.

The principles which guide the work of adults working with children at the pre-school are grouped into four themes and will continue to underpin all the guidance:

A Unique Child + Positive Relationships + Enabling Environments = Learning and Development

Play helps young children to learn and develop through doing and talking, which research has shown to be how young children think. Key workers use the early learning goals and their knowledge of each individual child's interests and developmental level to ensure that they reach their highest potential by tailoring the curriculum to encourage their next steps.

The curriculum which we have adapted focuses on the children's natural curiosities and interests with a large emphasis on holistic learning and the outdoor environment. To read more about our philosophy and how it supports the principles within our mission using loose parts provision, please visit our website.

Our web site contains links to useful and interesting information regarding the EYFS, ideas to help your child at home,

developmental stages as well as health information and lots more. The QR code on the right will take you there.

Tapestry Online Learning Journal - The Pre-School keeps a learning journal for each child using the online system, Tapestry. You will be provided with a password to enable you to access your child's learning journal at any time. Staff and parents working together on their children's learning journal, is one of the ways in which Noah's Ark Pre-School and parents work in partnership. Your child's learning journal helps us to celebrate together her/his achievements and to work together to provide what your child needs for her/his well-being and to make progress. We also use Tapestry to share lots of useful information on various topics, ideas for home learning and to keep you up to date with the latest newsletters and reminders.

What to wear

Children learn best through play which is why we offer your child exciting, good fun and often messy activities and experiences, both indoors and out.

We all go out daily in ALL WEATHERS and please be assured your child WILL get dirty! We provide waterproof clothing for children; however, they will need a coat and a pair of wellies – the outdoors will be muddy so they will need a change of footwear. For indoors we suggest Velcro trainers, slip on plimsolls or slippers with soles. It is an important part of the curriculum, that children learn to be increasingly independent and shoes with laces or tricky boots do not help them to achieve this. It is important that children are appropriately dressed accordingly for the weather e.g. warm clothing including hats/scarves/gloves etc (named please) in the Winter and sun hats, sun cream etc. in the Summer.

We suggest that your child has their arms and legs covered, as our outdoor area offers challenge and there is a lot of opportunity to explore. By having arms and legs covered, children are protected a little by the inevitable scratches, scrapes and insect bites.

It is essential that all of your child's clothing and belongings are named.

No smoking / vaping policy

The pre-school operates a strict no smoking policy, both inside and outside of the pre-school premises, this includes vaping. This is a statutory OFSTED requirement.

Pre-school policies and Procedures

Our policies are designed to offer the best possible experience for the children and families in the group. Our policies are reviewed on a regular basis and comments and suggestions from parents are always welcome.

Copies of our policies and procedures are available on request, and our key policies and procedures are in the Welcome to Noah's Ark Preschool section on your Tapestry account.

Comments and Suggestions Book

We welcome your comments and suggestions and for this purpose, a special book can be found on the parent information table as you enter the pre-school. Please do feel free to add your own comments and suggestions to enable us to be sure that we really are providing a totally inclusive practice.

Information we hold about you and your child

We have procedures in place for the recording and sharing of information [data] about you and your child that is compliant with the principles of the General Data Protection Regulations (2018) as follows:

The data we collect is

1. Processed fairly, lawfully and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject [you and your family]
2. Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed for other purposes incompatible with those purposes.
3. Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which data is processed.
4. Accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date.
5. Kept in a form that permits identification of data subjects [you and your family] for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data is processed.
6. Processed in a way that ensures appropriate security of the personal data including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

When you register your child with us we will provide you with a privacy notice that gives you further details of how we fulfil our obligations with regard to your data.

Safeguarding children

Our setting has a duty under the law to help safeguard children against suspected or actual 'significant harm'. Our employment practices ensure children are protected against the likelihood of abuse in our setting, and we have a procedure for managing complaints or allegations against a member of staff.

Our way of working with children and their parents ensures that we are aware of any problems that may emerge and can offer support, including referral to appropriate agencies, when necessary, to help families in difficulty.

OFSTED

Ofsted is our regulatory body. If you have any concerns or complaints about our preschool, you can contact OFSTED directly, however, 'Ofsted advise that parents firstly try and resolve any issues directly with the provider.' If issues cannot be resolved, however, parents can contact Ofsted by phoning their helpline on 0300 1234666.