The Ark
ADVENT 2 TERM

This half-term in The Ark

Our theme is Sparkle & Shine! We'll continue building trusting relationships and familiar routines, helping children feel safe, settled and ready to explore. We'll discover light, dark, reflections and colour through experiences that follow children's interests and sensory preferences, with familiar adults helping them feel calm and comfortable.

Connecting and communicating

We'll notice and respond to children's looks, movements, gestures, sounds and words. Familiar songs, playful interactions and repeated routines will encourage children to make choices, request more or show they have finished. Objects, pictures and Makaton will support understanding. Our key signs are more, finished, stop, yes, no, eat and drink—these Makaton demonstrations show how to use them alongside spoken words, without expecting children to copy.

Life skills and adventures

Handwashing, snack time and putting on coats will remain important parts of our day. Baking, decorating biscuits and buttering bread will offer opportunities to explore and participate, with support suited to each child. We'll also visit the school library and Christmas tree when children feel ready. Our new soft play will be installed this month, offering opportunities to develop confidence, balance and coordination through movement and exploration.

Sensory stories and maths

Our sensory stories, Exploring Space and Christmas is Coming, will use objects, sounds and repeated actions to help children become familiar with the stories and begin to anticipate what happens next. During Five Little Stars, Five Little Men and Five Little Christmas Presents, adults will count aloud as objects move, disappear or are revealed. Children can take part by looking, listening, touching or joining in with an action, at their own pace.

Little moments at home

Explore lights, colours and reflections together—perhaps in a mirror, a shiny spoon or lights you notice on a walk. Follow your child's interest and add simple comments, such as "It's shiny!" or "The light is blue." Leave pauses to notice, enjoy and respond in any way. For more practical suggestions, visit Following your child's lead.