



**Noah's Ark**  
**NURSERY SCHOOLS**





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Welcome to Noah's Ark: warm, friendly nursery schools with a Christian foundation. We offer a high standard of education in a stimulating environment, where all children thrive because they know that they are loved and valued for who they are. We seek especially to support, nurture and encourage the special partnership between school and home.

We hope you enjoy browsing through this prospectus and that within its pages you catch a glimpse of day-to-day life at Noah's Ark Nursery Schools.

Miss Annette Miller  
Head of Noah's Ark Nursery Schools

Mrs Nicola Baldwin  
Principal of Dolphin School and Noah's Ark Nursery Schools

# S

## SAY HELLO...

First days are daunting! The children's early days at Noah's Ark may be their first experience of separating from the most important people in their short lives. We seek to make this transition as smooth as possible, both for child and adult. A flexible approach enables us to cater for each child and family individually, as we work together to ensure that children feel secure and happy. They are divided into small classes according to their age, each with their own teacher.



## SETTLE IN...

As the children start to settle, we help each one to feel that he/she belongs and is important. We listen to the children and respect their thoughts, ideas and views. Children thrive on structure and routines, and, as each child becomes more confident and independent, they start to explore, venturing further from the safe haven of their small class to mix with others in the nursery school.

# T

## TAKE TIME...

All children have a natural desire to learn – they just do so at their own individual pace. As we provide the right environment, the children start to develop their own relationships, to learn new skills, to write, draw, read, hop, skip and keep a rhythm – but in their own time and their own way. We recognise that all children are different and, as we get to know each child closely, we monitor and plan for each one's individual development and progress. No two three year-old children are the same: we nurture and celebrate their special character, strengths and skills.



## TRY THINGS OUT...

We encourage all children to have a go at the full range of activities we provide. In addition to our normal day-to-day learning, every week we provide specialist teaching in music and dance, enjoy cooking as a class, carry out a hands-on practical science activity and enjoy a PE session. French lessons are also offered.

# E

## EXPERIMENT...

Our aim is that all children will fulfil their potential. We encourage children to become active learners who, by asking questions, gain confidence as they explore the world around them. Children are naturally curious; we aim to foster that curiosity through well-planned and well-resourced activities in a stimulating environment.



## ENJOY...

At Noah's Ark we offer a huge variety of trips and events for the the children to enjoy. We have a whole-school outing once a term, visiting places like Bocketts Farm, The Horniman Museum, Kew Gardens, Syon House and the Science Museum. Special visitors may come to share their expertise: a fire fighter, a flight stewardess, a doctor or a policeman. Each term a 'guest' is invited to come and enjoy a Noah's Ark activity followed by coffee and cake: grandparents one term, mothers (godmothers or aunties...) the next and finally fathers (godfathers or uncles...). In the Autumn Term we perform a Nativity Play in front of an audience of family, friends and fans, and, in the Summer Term, we have a Sports Day and celebrate the end of the year with a Graduation Ceremony and Tea Party!

# P

## PLAY...

We value and promote play as a meaningful method of learning. Every day is different! Throughout the morning, the children will be engrossed in a variety of activities, both adult-led and child-initiated. During free play, they may choose from indoor or outdoor activities, including creative / messy play, construction, small world, role play, sand, water, play dough or the more contemplative book corner.



## PONDER...

We aim to help children develop responsibility for themselves and their actions, and to become competent, independent and co-operative individuals. Many opportunities arise to encourage the children to think how their behaviour affects others. We believe discipline to be important and we approach this with love, fairness and firmness, encouraging children to make right choices and to live within the boundaries set for them. We want all children to have respect both for themselves and other people.

# S

## STEP OUT...

By the time children leave Noah's Ark, we hope that they will be secure, confident and well rounded little people who are ready to move on to their next schools. We are always thrilled to hear that their new teachers are impressed by their confidence and eagerness to learn. Noah's Ark children progress to our own primary school, Dolphin School, and a variety of others in the maintained and independent sector. We are, of course, happy to chat about the choice of schools available, and which one might suit your child as he or she steps out into the big wide world.





**First steps are so important**



# Noah's Ark information

- » At the back of the prospectus, you will find information about term dates, current school fees, a registration form and details of contacts.
- » If you think Noah's Ark might suit your child and your family, please phone the Registrar on 020 7924 3472 or email her at [admissions@dolphinschool.org.uk](mailto:admissions@dolphinschool.org.uk) to arrange a visit. Visits take place throughout the term at flexible times during the week, and usually last about half an hour. A visit includes a chat with the Head of Noah's Ark Nursery Schools and a tour of the school on a normal working morning.
- » The next step (before or after your visit) is to register your child, and a registration form may be found at the back of the prospectus.
- » If you are interested in Noah's Ark, you are encouraged to register as early as you possibly can, as your registration date will determine your position on the list. Siblings of Noah's Ark children are given priority in the Autumn and Spring Terms.
- » Noah's Ark Nursery School hours are 09.15 to 12.15 Monday to Friday during term time. All children are given a place at the nursery school for all five mornings although many parents, in order to help their child during the transition and settling-in phase, choose to send their child for three mornings a week at first, or for all five mornings but for a shorter period of time. Most children settle in happily by the end of the first half term, and easily cope with coming every day.
- » Children are admitted from 2 ½ years, and the majority of children spend two years at Noah's Ark before moving on to primary school. Our main intake is in September, but we also admit children in January and April if places are available.
- » Parents are invoiced for a red gingham smock – a different style for boys and girls – to be worn over children's home clothes to protect them from the rigours of nursery school life! Robust clothing and shoes are recommended to enable the children to enjoy the morning's activities without worries about ruining their clothes! As we aim to foster independence in toileting and changing shoes for dance and other activities, clothing and shoes that little fingers can manage themselves help enormously.
- » A snack is provided mid-morning, and water is constantly available. Milk or water is offered at snack time, and in line with our Healthy Eating Policy, we provide a variety of snacks e.g. fresh fruit, vegetable sticks, cheese, crackers, raisins and plain biscuits.
- » We value our partnership with parents very highly, and endeavour to keep the channels of communication open at all times. There is ongoing informal feedback every day about the children in our care, and teachers are always available to speak to any parent who has a query/concern or just wants an update on their child. We do have more formal parent/teacher interviews in the Autumn and Spring Terms, and reports are written in the Summer Term.
- » Children are placed in small class groups – usually up to eight children - with children of a similar age. The over-threes have one teacher per class, and the under-threes have a teacher and an assistant. The minimum adult/child ratio is either 1:8 or 1:4, depending on age.
- » As much as we would like all children to be toilet trained before they begin at Noah's Ark, we also acknowledge that not all children are out of nappies at 2 ½. We will happily change nappies and work together with parents to face the challenge of potty-training together!
- » Each morning at Noah's Ark follows a slightly different format but there is always a mix of structured, teacher-directed activities and child-led, independent play. Specialist Music, Dance and French teachers come each week, and the children also indulge in cooking once a week. All activities, with the exception of French, are included in the school fees.
- » Detailed information about the minutiae of school life is available in the Parents' Handbook.
- » If you would like to read the school's most recent Ofsted report, please visit [www.noahsarknurseryschools.org.uk](http://www.noahsarknurseryschools.org.uk)



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