



1st June 2009

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another fun half term at The Exwick Ark.

The topic this half term is water so we have lots of wet activities planned! We will try and keep children as dry as possible but please keep a change of clothing on their peg. We have planned a number of water related outings. As always we would welcome as many parent helpers as possible for these trips. Please see the back of this letter for dates.

During our topic we aim to make the children aware of people who do not have access to clean drinking water. WaterAid is an international charity dedicated to helping people escape the stranglehold of poverty and disease caused by living without safe water and sanitation. We have planned a leavers picnic in the park and walk along the canal to Miller's crossing to raise money for this charity. Children do not have to raise money to take part in this event and it should be a fun day out for everyone. This event will take the place of our sports day this year and will be a chance to say goodbye to those children leaving us to start school in September.

We plan to have our main summer outing on Saturday 4th July. We will catch the train to Teignmouth beach and water play park. All families are welcome to join us for this fun day out. More details to follow. Children will need to be accompanied by an adult.

As the weather hopefully warms up a little please remember to either send your child with a named bottle of sun cream to keep in their tray or pay £1.00 to use the Superdrug children's sun cream supplied by pre-school. It really helps us if you can apply the cream before leaving your child. We will then reapply regularly through out the day.

We are very excited to have heard that our pre-school has been selected as a one of the 25% high quality groups in Devon able to offer 15 hours of free early years entitlement to all of our 3 and 4 year olds from September instead of 12.5 hours. We are also likely to be able to offer 15 hours of free childcare for 2 year olds living in the Central Children's Centre catchment area and claiming certain benefits. The early years entitlement is now going to be much more flexible so that you can claim for up to 10 hours a day including breakfast, lunch and after school clubs. The full 15 hours entitlement must however, be split over 3 days. For more details about how this could benefit you please see Harri. We have decided that due to the economic climate we will not be increasing our fees in September.

Please remember that the 15 minute early birds session will be stopping this half term but you will be able to book for a breakfast club from 8.15 – 9.15 instead. This can be included in your free early years entitlement if you wish. We are also open until 5.45 in the evenings and during school holidays and can take children up to 8 years of age.


Our parents consultation meetings will take place on Wednesday June 10th from 4- 6.00pm. Please sign up for an appointment with your child's family worker. On this evening we will also have a display entitled "Have a fun summer!", with information about keeping safe, free local activities and managing challenging behaviour during the summer break.

We now have a new landline telephone number: 425551. Also check out our Face Book page, sign up as a friend, join in our on-line chat and receive regular updates.

We look forward to working with you and your child this half term.





The Exwick Ark Team



<u>Week beginning</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Letter, colour and shape of the week.</u>	<u>Notes.</u>
1 st June	Plants need water 	S,a, red, circle	Lots of planting and growing this week! If you have any spare bedding plants please bring them in. We also need old tights.
8th June	Rain, ice and puddles.	T,I, green, rectangle	Lots of exploratory play! Parent consultations on Wednesday 10 th June. 4-6pm





15th June	Boats and pirates. 	I, p, blue, triangle	
22 nd June	Water fun 	P, n, pink, hexagon	A trip to St Thomas play park on Monday morning to sail boats in the paddling pool. Please bring in swimming costumes this week to play in the pre-school paddling pool.
29 th June	The sea 	A, t, yellow, square.	Pre-school outing on Saturday 4 th July to Teignmouth beach and park.
6 th July	The sea.	S, a, t, i, p, n, black	
13 th July	Water for washing 	S, a, t, i, p, n, Purple, kite	Leavers picnic and fund raising walk to Millers Bridge. Last day of term

As always if you have any items connected with our theme, colour, shape or letter please bring them in and put them in your family group bag for sharing at circle time.

Term dates:

Summer 2009 20th April – 17th July Half term 25th – 29th May
 Autumn 2009 7th September - 18th December Half term 26th-30th October
 Spring 2010 4th January - 1st April Half term 15th- 19th February
 2nd April = Good Friday, 4th April = Easter Monday Public Hols.
 Summer 2010 19th April – 16th July Half term 31st – 4th June

The Exwick Ark is open for Childcare (Monkey Business!) during the school holidays apart from the week between Christmas and New Year and the week following Easter Sunday. Normal rates apply.