Annual Report 2021-22

New Ark Play Association

Registered charity number: 1026751

New Ark Play



Adventure Playground, City Farm & Eco Centre

A safe, caring, adventurous environment for everyone developing skills for life





Adventure Playground • Eco Centre • City Farm Parent & Toddler Group • Preschool Playgroup (from 2 years) Afterschool & Holiday Play Sessions • Additional Childcare Play Support Service • Birthday Parties • Family & Group Visits Duke of Edinburgh & Prince's Trust Placements Animal Care Student Work Placements • Animal Care Courses Volunteering Opportunities • Adult Social Mornings

Managers, Staff & Committee

Management Committee

Curphey Jo (Chair) Rob Brown (Treasurer) Steve Milford Ruth Scotten Lisa Sachse Claudia Butler

Sam Brown (Manager)

Denise Jinks (Supervisor)

Play Support Service

Sam Brown (Manager) Laura Bellamy Jen Faunt

Playground

Sam Brown (Manager) Laura Bellamy Denise Jinks Abigail Curphey (Relief) Karen Maycock (Relief) Chelsea Miller (Relief) Chloe Davey (Relief)

Farm

Carolyn Bellamy (Manager) James Wallace

Playgroup

Jen Faunt

Nikki Miller

Lauren Shiels

Chloe Charnley

Nicole Davis

Emma Greenwood

Cleaning Laura Bellamy

Sophie Portlock



Tel. 01733 340605

Welcome to New Ark Play !

We are an independent charity, registered with Ofsted, officially called **Newark Play Association**. We provide stimulating play opportunities for children of all ages and our facilities include a traditional **Adventure Playground**, **Eco Centre** and **City Farm**.

At New Ark we believe very strongly in children's right to play. Play is a child's natural way of learning about the world, themselves and other people. We know from experience that children need play opportunities that encourage



exploration, adventure and enterprise, and having enough time and space for play increases children's health and happiness.

Play makes life exciting, interesting and fun and this is why **play is at the heart of** everything we do at New Ark!

We have a talented and dedicated team who take pride in delivering the highest standards of care to our children. Our Management Committee which oversees the running of New Ark is made up of a group of committed local volunteers, who each bring unique skills and experience to benefit New Ark.

We also appreciate the dedication of the volunteers who support our fundraising activities, and help with a variety of essential tasks around the site - especially on our farm. We are extremely thankful for everyone who contributes their time and expertise, helping to make New Ark such a special place.

We continue to strive to keep charges as low as possible to try to ensure that lack of money does not prevent anyone from enjoying our facilities, and we are **continually seeking ways to add value to our local community**. The past two years have provided us with many challenges, and it is a testament to the passion and commitment of our dedicated staff, volunteers and supporters that New Ark has been able to continue to deliver invaluable services to children, families, young people and adults of all ages and abilities. New Ark has been bringing joy to children for over 48 years and the ongoing cost of living crisis and escalating energy bills means that we must continue to seek opportunities to increase our sustainability as we want to secure our future for many years to come. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch.

Thank you to our wonderful staff, committee, volunteers, children, young people, parents, supporters and everyone who has shown their love for New Ark by giving us your time, money and resources - you are all New Ark heroes!!

I hope you enjoy reading our Annual Report.

Jo Curphey, Committee Chair

Opening Times

Preschool Playgroup : Monday to Friday 9:00am-12:00pm 12:30-3:00pm (Term Time)

Our children attending New Ark Preschool learn through play using our fantastic facilities, which includes an Adventure Playground, City Farm and Eco Centre.

Toddler Group : Wednesday 1:00-2.30pm (Term Time)

Our parent/carer and toddler group are weekly

sessions for children aged 0-4 years, giving them the time to explore our Eco Centre and City Farm with their family.

Play Support Service : Monday to Friday 9:00am-3:00pm (Term Time)

In our Play Support Service we offer specialist support and an alternative outdoor curriculum for children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties who are on a reduced timetable and/or at risk of exclusion from school.

Adventure Playground : 3.45-6:00pm (Term Time) 8:30am-5:30pm (School Holidays)

During term time our After School Club is all about adventure play with activities such as digging, building, ball games, swinging and climbing; and other activities based around a range of creative arts and crafts. The children also have the opportunity to visit the farm.

During the school holidays the children also get the opportunity to do baking in our kitchen, outdoor cooking, den building, water slides, messy play and more.

(As a guide New Ark follows Newark Hill Academy's term timetable)

City Farm : Monday to Friday 10:00am-12:00pm 2.00pm-5.00pm

During session time the children attending our Playgroup, Play Support Service, After School Club and Holiday Club get the opportunity to visit our City Farm and help to care for our animals. That includes grooming, feeding and cleaning out our small animal hutches. We also welcome family and group visits and visitors during term times and school holidays.





Price List

Parent/Carer & Toddler Group	Adult & Child		£4.00	Term time
	Additional Adult		£1.00	Wednesday 1.00-2.30pm Includes drink
	Additional Child		£1.00	
Playgroup	Hourly Fee (If not funded)	Per child	£6.00	Term time Monday-Friday 8.30am-12.00pm 12:30-3.00pm
After School Club	Daily Charge	Per Child	£8.00	Term time Monday-Friday 3.45-6.00pm Includes toast & drink
	Walkover Fee	Per Child	£1.00	
Holiday Club	Per Day	Per child	£24.00	School holidays Monday-Friday
	Per Hour	Per child	£5.00	8.30am-5.30pm
Farm	School & Group Visits	Per Child	£5.00	Monday-Friday Morning or afternoon Adult supervision needed
	Adult social mornings	Per Adult	£5.00 (Carers come for free)	Wednesday 10.00am-12.00pm Includes hot or cold drink
Family Visits	Child		£4.00	Monday-Friday 10.00am-12.00pm 2.00-5.00pm
	Adult		£1.00	Children must be supervised by parent/carer at all times
Birthday Parties	Up to 10 Children	£100.00	£7 per additional child	Saturdays (Times vary) Maximum 20 children £25 deposit to book Adult supervision required

Preschool Report

During the spring and summer terms of 2021, we continued to work through COVID-19 measures to keep everyone safe. Our children have continued to follow hygiene routines including washing their hands upon arrival – it's safe to say they have become experts at this !



New Ark welcomed Nicole to the pre-school team in April 2021. However unfortunately said goodbye to our Eco



Leader Emma in December 2021 who helped to deliver exciting opportunities for our children in the Eco Centre.

Since the world has reopened after COVID-19, the children have been able to access new opportunities. We have been on numerous walks around the local area including collecting natural resources, looking at road signs, visiting the library bus and enjoying a few babyccino's at Sainsbury's.

Children have been engaging in all areas of learning including activities led by adults, spontaneous play and by trial and error. In particular, we have focused on social skills, speech and language and independence skills, as these are skills which have been less cultivated as a result of lockdown.







Here's just a few of the activities our children have experienced:

- Frequent Visits to the farm where children have had the opportunity to pet rabbits and guinea pigs, and feeding the animals
- Celebrating various cultural events including decorating tealight holders for Diwali
- Making pancakes and having pancake races on the playground
- Performing our nativity at Christmas time
- Making chocolate nests at Easter and going on our own egg hunt
- Learning about Remembrance Day by making craft poppies and watching commemorative educational videos
- Celebrating Chinese New Year by making our own dragon and trying numerous Chinese food goods (thanks to a very kind donation from one of our parents)
- Visiting our eco garden to go pond dipping for tadpoles and on mini beast hunts







We have had lots of fun during our day-to-day sessions, playing outside no matter the weather ! We've jumped in muddy puddles, flew kites in the wind, explored ice in the winter and played with water in the sun !

We are very grateful to our families for following our guidelines and working in partnership with us to keep everyone safe. A huge thank you to all of our staff for working so hard to deliver such a high standard of early years care to our children - which was rewarded with a 'good' OFSTED rating in May 2021. We look forward to the future in pre-school as many ideas are brewing !



Lauren Shiels





"Today is my son's last day of pre-school and wow what a difference you have made to our Theo! we decided to give up Theo's nursery place and send him here because when I came to view preschool you all seem down to earth and easy to communicate with and people who care. Theo's speech has come on amazingly and what a difference it has made to Theo & to our family. Theo talks about Nicole a lot and he is one happy boy. Thank you from us all xx"







Email : newarkplay.office@gmail.com

What Ofsted say about New Ark

New Ark was inspected by Ofsted on 12 May 2021. The inspector was very impressed by the quality of the provision for our children and rated us as 'Good' in all areas.

The Inspector praised New Ark's unique provision and applauded the fact that our team work hard to ensure our children's feelings, voices and choices are respected and they are encouraged to think critically and use their imagination as they enjoy playing and exploring our wide range of activities.

'Children are confident, articulate and friendly. They enjoy participating in a wide range of activities available to them at this unique provision. For example, they learn about animal care at the on-site farm, on play equipment in the extensive outdoor area. Parents also appreciate how much these activities benefit all aspects of their children's development.'

'Children demonstrate a positive attitude to learning, which will support them well when they move on to school. They are eager to interact with each other and adults. Consequently, they develop their communication and language skills well.'

'Staff have a clear knowledge about what each child can do and what they need to learn next. The curriculum is planned so that each child enjoys rich learning opportunities and makes good progress in their learning and development. This is testified by parents.'

'Children show good physical skills as they navigate the obstacle course outside. They are able to balance on wooden blocks, climb, slide, and jump a given number of times on the small trampoline.'

'Staff effectively support those children who require extra support. They work well with parents and other professionals to ensure that children fulfil their potential.'



Playground Report

Although we were still governed by a lot of COVID-19 restrictions, we were pleased to be able to offer our **Summer Holiday Club** during 2021. With much delight we saw returning children that had used our facilities prepandemic, and we also welcomed lots of new children.

"My children came for the first time today and joined the holiday club. They absolutely loved it!! So much for them to do, junk modelling, Lego, lots of outdoor play with a real emphasis on children being children! The staff were so friendly and we can't wait to return tomorrow!"



We offered a variety of different activities; painting, clay work, cutting and sticking, waterplay, experimenting with our mud kitchen, bug-hunting and visits to our farm (to name just a few!). During this period, we had to ensure we followed the required COVID-19 measures to keep all children, parents, carers and staff safe. Everyone adapted to these, followed the guidelines daily and were absolutely brilliant throughout. We still continue with some hygiene measures in all our services and children follow these as part of their normal daily routine.

We were blessed with some good weather which meant

that children still enjoyed the many exciting outdoor play opportunities on offer, using our vast outdoor area accessing both the Adventure Playground and Eco Centre. At New Ark it doesn't matter what the weather is like, we always encourage our children to play outside regardless - providing it is safe - to jump in puddles or to roll in the mud! It was brilliant to see the children having lots of fun from playing football, playing with water, painting outdoors and visiting our City Farm.





Children can attend full days from 8.30am - 5.30pm or parents/carers can choose hours that they need.

Each day we plan activities for our children which take into consideration their many different ages and development stages. We have a dedicated team of playworkers who work hard to make New Ark the special place it is today for all children to experience. In September 2021 we opened our doors to resume our Afterschool Club. We pick up children from Newark Hill Academy Primary School each day, and they receive a light snack and drink and time to play until they are collected. Our walkover service is invaluable to many working parents and the number of children attending keeps increasing.

For those children that do not attend Newark Hill Academy, children are welcome to join each evening and can be dropped off to attend sessions from 3.45pm until 6pm.



October 2022 saw many of our children engaged in Halloween-themed activities; colouring in pictures and cutting and sticking coloured tissue paper to make pumpkins. In November and December we prepared for Christmas, making Christmas tree decorations and Christmas cards. The children enjoyed playing hide and seek in the dark outside (all carefully supervised).

In January 2022 the children enjoyed using the dressing up clothes, playing in our home corner, playing restaurants or visiting our farm animals. In February we made valentine cookies.

At New Ark there are always new adventures to be had and our children love playing outdoors, taking part in team games, balancing on the trim trail, making outdoor music, helping with the tasks on the City Farm and feeding the animals.

In February 2022, like many businesses we were hit hard by rising utility bills and

this meant that we had to increase our fees for all our services that we provide. We endeavour to keep our fees as low as we can and are always looking for new sources of help and funding in support of this. We'd love to hear from individuals and organisations that could help us with fundraising, offer some time and resources to complete maintenance tasks, provide sponsorship of a child or sponsor an animal on our farm.

'Thank You'

I would like to thank our staff for all your hard work and your commitment.

Thank you to our volunteers and committee members for all that you do, for volunteering, the time that you give, and all your hard work.

Sam Brown, New Ark Manager

"I have been using New Ark's afterschool club and holiday club since 2009 between my two children. Both boys absolutely love attending the service. They are extremely reliable, reasonably priced and have so much for the children to keep occupied. I would be lost without them.

Not only is the service good for my children it is also educational and aids their development in various ways. My youngest son could possibly be on the spectrum and the staff not only have worked closely alongside me but have been extremely supportive through a difficult time.

They are always contactable either via email or phone, extremely prompt and provide a safe transition from school to the setting."

Play Support Service Report

Our Play Support Service is a unique provision which provides support to children who are experiencing social, emotional and behavioural difficulties, and who are at risk of exclusion from school.

Our alternative curriculum utilises our therapeutic approach and unique setting which includes a City Farm, Adventure Playground and Eco woodland garden - and gives us opportunities to support children in the development of their life skills. Particular emphasis is placed upon improving their social and emotional development and communication skills, and our aim is to see happy children returning to full time education.

During the last year, as COVID-19 restrictions have lifted, our attendance figures have started to gradually rebuild and we have been excited to once again have the opportunity to offer children a wide range of activities to enjoy and learn from.

We have made great use of all that our site has to offer. Our cabin provides a quiet space to enjoy games, puzzles, craft activities and toys - in addition to some social time with a drink and all important biscuit. In our Eco Centre the children have enjoyed a variety of activities to develop their understanding and love of the natural world; including bug hunts, pond dipping, metal detecting and creating bird boxes and feeders. They have also helped to maintain our gardens by planting seeds, watering and taking care of our vegetable bath (with varied success!)

On the farm we have worked closely with Carolyn and James, who supported us in providing the children with opportunities to develop their skills. Daily tasks and responsibilities such as feeding and watering our animals and birds, collecting eggs and general farm maintenance have all proved very popular and successful in helping our children increase their confidence and feel valued. Afterwards the children particularly enjoy some time handling and grooming, which provides some quiet time to relax with their chosen animal.

We were recently joined by a wonderful team of young people and staff leaders from the Prince's Trust and several of our children really benefited from working

alongside these young people to improve our site - a truly positive experience for all involved.

Our Play Support Service has seen much success this year in helping children to develop their self-confidence and self-esteem, behaviour management and emotional wellbeing to enable them to return to full time education. Now more than ever there are increased numbers of children who are struggling in schools. We look forward to continuing to provide much needed help and support to help them thrive and achieve positive outcomes.



Jen Faunt & Laura Bellamy

Children's Parties with a sense of adventure at New Ark!

When you book a party at New Ark Play....



You can;

- Decorate our party room with your own theme
- Bring party food and cake
- Play party games

Your guests can ;

- Feed & groom animals on our City Farm
- Take part in a Treasure Hunt in our Woodland Garden
- Explore our traditional Adventure Playground



The cost is ;

- £100 for up to 10 children
- Additional children £7 each
- Parents free, no hidden charges

"Had my son's 6th birthday party here today and I couldn't have wished for anything better for him! In his words **'it was the best day, and best party ever'** Staff were so kind, laid back, organised and helpful which honestly made the day a breeze! Will be recommending this place to everyone! Thankyou x" Thank you so much for hosting Indigo's 5th birthday party. What an incredible time we all had, adults and children alike. Can't thank you enough for everything you did to help make the day so perfect."





To discuss your requirements telephone Carolyn or Sam weekdays between 10am-12pm on 01733 340605

Farm Report

It's been another busy year for us here on the farm and despite the lingering effects of COVID-19 restrictions and financial challenges, we have continued to care for and keep our farm animals



well fed and healthy, providing our unique community resource for all to enjoy.

The caring environment and hard work of staff and volunteers has enabled our farm to flourish with many welcomed new additions of rabbits, chicks, and most recently Cheddar our English Black Pig, who we were pleased to be able to rehome.

We have a wide and varied group of people who come to the farm throughout the year and we welcome regular visits from children attending our Toddler sessions, Preschool and Play Support Service who benefit greatly from engaging in tasks and activities on the farm, and the therapeutic effects of animal handling and grooming. We have a number of adults with additional needs who similarly



find the farm a safe and supportive environment in which to socialise and build their confidence and skills.



Many local schools, colleges and adult support groups have enjoyed experiencing our facilities and we have regular visits from a number of local special schools including Marshfields and Medeshamstede.

We have delivered our in-house animal care course to students with additional needs from the

John Mansfield Campus at Peterborough City College and provided work placements for

students undertaking animal care qualifications.

We have also offered opportunities for young people working towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award to undertake enrichment activities.



www.newarkplay.co.uk



We have continued to provide birthday party experiences on our farm and Eco Centre, which have proved very popular this year.

The dedication and generosity of volunteers in addition to strong community links have helped tremendously throughout the

year. In March we were lucky enough to have a visit from a Princes Trust group who were invaluable in providing materials and a makeover for the farm and our Eco Centre. They worked very hard giving a variety of furniture and structures a fresh coat of paint, and replenishing the gravel on the farm,





Financial challenges have certainly had an impact but we have been busy fundraising with a variety of activities, including taking some of our small animals to Serpentine Green Shopping Centre, where we were able to raise awareness about New Ark's facilities and services. We were extremely proud when one of our young people who attends the farm on a placement from the John Mansfield Campus at Peterborough City College set up and ran her own fund-raising activity to raise money for New Ark.

Here at the farm we rely heavily on support from local volunteers and donations to help fund the wonderful work we do and would like to thank all our volunteers and supporters whose hard work and contributions to the farm really do make such a difference.

Carolyn Bellamy, Farm Manager



Volunteer Stories

My name is Michelle and I have been helping out on New Ark Farm for over two years as a volunteer on a Monday morning. My duties include feeding and cleaning out the Guinea pigs and rabbits, feeding the chickens, ducks,



turkeys, sheep, horse and pig. I enjoying caring for the animals ensuring they are

getting the best quality care I can provide. Carolyn who runs the farm helps support me and gives me professional guidance to ensure everything is done properly. I love attending the farm and helping as it

gives me a sense of achievement and something completely different to do from my usual role within the NHS.

Hello, my name is Natalie and I always enjoy coming along to New Ark to meet up with other volunteers and staff. I engage in socialising and help look after the animals. I have a great rapport with all the friendly faces I see at the farm, and look forward to it every week. I have been volunteering on the farm for seven years and enjoy every minute.

I also help by making tea and coffee for the other volunteers; which I enjoy as I can have a good laugh at the same time. I am very adaptable to a diverse range of people, and can recognise their needs and make sure they feel welcomed into a great team on the farm.



If you're going on holiday, why not treat your pet to a holiday too?

For a small daily fee of ± 1.50 per night, you can board your small animals with us while you are away on holiday. We can care for guinea pigs, rabbits and chickens.







Treasurer's Report

It has been another challenging year for New Ark due to the continued impact of COVID-19 and things were very quiet at the start of the year. Slowly but surely the children are coming back, which is positive to see.



We had our Christmas Wonderland in

December 2021, which was our first fundraising event since before the pandemic, It was so lovely to be able to invite our children, families and supporters back to the site in larger numbers and the event went well.

We also had our **Good Friday Family Fun Day and Easter Egg Hunt** in April 2022 (the first for nearly three years!). We were really unsure how this would go, but need not have worried as it was EXTREMELY busy and really enjoyed by the many families that attended, as feedback showed.

We embarked on a fund-raising campaign during February 2022 in support of our COVID-19 recovery plan and in a bid to combat our dramatically rising energy costs. With the support of the local press, radio and television news we were able to raise awareness of our cause and the response from our families, supporters, volunteers, local businesses, local councillors and MP, and members of the public was phenomenal.

The accounts for 2021-22 have been returned and as a result of everyone's hard work and support I am pleased to announce we have broken even.

This was a great result but we have to work hard on all fronts to keep this going in the right direction, especially as our energy costs have gone up considerably and we strive to keep our prices as low as possible to ensure New Ark is accessible to everyone. We must continue to seek out new and innovative fundraising activities to sustain New Ark for future generations and we need your support and ideas to do this.

Finally I would like to thank all those that have helped and continue to help with fundraising for us.

Rob Brown, Treasurer



Thank You!

AA Chartered Accountants Adams Cash & Carry Anne & John Green Annette Donovan Arron Patel Azets BGL **Blenheim Letting** Agents **Boxing Futures** Cambridgeshire Probation Community Pavback Team Carol, Tina & Tracey Hallett **Charlie Killick Chris Welch City College** Peterborough Clare Duffy **Cotes Brasserie Dave Flanigan Dave Phillips** David & Josh Curphey Dawn, Darren & Immy Spiby **Derek Portlock Des Hopwood** Earl Fitzwilliam **Charitable Trust** Elijah Dawson Ellyn Godwin **Emily Browett** Erin Lovett **Evadne Dawson** FastSigns Food Cycle

Freddie Chant Freena Davis Gina Cook Goldstar Cabs Gray's Amusements Hannah Murthwaite Hazel Milford Head Office Ian & Martin Bowles **IKFA** Jackie Allen (Councillor) Jan Ruffles Jane Carpenter Jason Fenn 'Magic Man' Jemilla Scotten Jim Everitt Jiva's Cuisine John & Chloe Davey John & Hazel Greenwood John Mansfield Campus - City College Peterborough Karen Lane Karen Maycock Karrone Green Ken Maggs Accountant Kiley Woolgar Lauren Carey Luke & Tony from Stattoo Mark & Wendy Smith Marks & Spencer Michelle Stapleton & daughter

Middleman Entertainment Morrisons Nadine McCormick Naidre Werner Natalie Guarnori Nicky Ridge Nicola Reynolds Paul Bristow (MP) Pauline Stapleton Perkins Peterborough Football Club Princes Trust Rebecca & Elijah Punter Robert Harding **Rosemary Steel** Sarah Lodhi Savills Serpentine Green Shameem Dar Shaz Nawaz (Councillor) St James's Place Suk Fong Choi Syvita (Premier Store) Term Times Tesco The Willow Café Unite the Union Waitrose Wayne Miller-Molson Wensum Print

Show your love for New Ark!

There are lots of different ways you can support us to keep adding value to our community....

You can donate to our Local Giving page www.localgiving.org/charity/ newarkplay and share the link across your networks

Sign up to www.Easyfundraising.org.uk (search for New Ark Play Association Ltd) – over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you shop with them via easyfundraising – at no extra cost to yourself!

You can also support us at no cost through Amazon Smile - search for Newark Play Association at www.Smile.Amazon.co.uk

Follow, like and share our social media posts across your networks - New Ark Adventure Playground on Facebook; @NewArkPlay on Instagram; and @NewArk_Play on Twitter

Recommend our services and facilities to your friends, family, school, college, employer, and any clubs and groups you are involved in.





Organise a fund-raising event for us in your neighbourhood, or at your work, school or college (e.g a coffee morning or a sponsored activity)

Ask your employer to sponsor New Ark – many organisations allocate funds for Corporate Social Responsibility activities. Could your employer support New Ark with funding, resources or by sending a project team to do some maintenance work? (e.g. painting our playground structures)

Come along to our fundraising events and bring your friends and family along to join in the fun

Book one of our fabulous birthday parties!

Give us your ideas! This is a community effort and all ideas are welcome.

Email Newarkplay.office@gmail.com

