



## **The Ark Pre-School Chair's Report 2022/23**

Thankfully, this year has been another year with no surprises or disruption the day to day running of the setting and we continue to run very smoothly within our lovely new hall at Crowthorne Baptist Church.

Routines are now well established and this year, we have been able to further refine these and make them work even better for staff and children. It has been wonderful to have once again established the opportunities for children to be out in the community, welcome parents into our setting so they can see the children at play for themselves and to settle on a new manageable routine for our popular Fun in the Forest sessions.

It has been a great pleasure to see the partnership between The Ark and Crowthorne Baptist strengthen since we have returned to the new building. Church volunteers have been valued in their regular help within the sessions, walking children back from Wellington College on the Forest Sessions, and helping with sewing pencil cases for the leavers. In addition to this, we had the privilege of welcoming many families into the church Harvest service and again to host the nativity service in the main Heart of the church.

Once again, we must thank all of our parents for their support throughout the last academic year. I am particularly grateful for our two parent representatives who take all of your feedback and enable us to hear your voices and to communicate with you all about what is going on in the setting. This link between committee and parents is invaluable and I am very grateful for the time they give.

At the end of each year, I want to thank all the committee members, who as volunteers, give their time willingly to support the running of the setting. The committee meet to share the successes and the challenges that the setting experiences and to think strategically about how we can create the best provision we can to meet the needs of every child and family, within the means that we have available and keeping to the vision which is at our very heart. Every person is committed to this aim and I thank everyone for this. I must highlight and give a specific note of thanks to our treasurer, Justine, who works incredibly hard to ensure that our finances are all clear and we always know our financial position, as well as other expert industry knowledge that she brings.

We continue to be blessed by talented, nurturing, caring and reliable staff and this stable team are our greatest asset. We are so fortunate to have decades (if not centuries) of experience between them all and their love of working with the children is clear to see in them all. Huge thanks are given to Anna, Anne, Sumita and Clare for their superb contributions and unwavering commitment. Heather leads this team confidently and allows us to be confident of the continued success of The Ark. Finally, the unseen support of Naomi keeps everything organised, smooth running and compliant. It is the passion of this team that is our greatest selling point and immense thanks are extended to everyone.

I wish everyone a wonderful summer and look forward to meeting new families when the Autumn term comes around again.

Sarah Webb  
Committee Chair  
11/07/2023