



The Ark Pre-School **Chairperson's Report 2020/2021**

At the start of this year, we all hoped that life would have returned to normal for us. Thankfully, due to Early Years settings being deemed low-risk, we have been able to continue with much normality through this year. Our only sadness is that we have been restricted with parental and volunteer engagement for much of the year but are thankful for the continuity provided by our wonderful staff team and supportive parents.

As the year progressed, we have been grateful that volunteers have been able to return and are thankful to Avril, Sally, Liz and members of Crowthorne Baptist Church, including the new pastor and his wife, Kevin and Wendy.

All the staff, including Naomi have done a sterling job keeping up to date with the ever-changing rules and regulations around COVID19. The changes and pressures are constant but hopefully we're "on the other side" of this now but will continue to keep abreast of all government guidance and regulations.

We have now come to the end of our time on site at Wellington College and we are extremely grateful for the welcome, flexibility, practical help and willingness to enable us to continue our outstanding provision in their extensive grounds, particularly through these challenging times. They have been understanding and generous over the last 19 months, extending our tenancy more than once. We believe that a strong partnership has been forged and we hope this will continue as we regularly visit the site when we have returned to the High Street.

We are excited to return to our purpose-built facilities, back on site at Crowthorne Baptist Church, where the links between The Ark and the church can be consolidated. We feel it is important to be partnered with Crowthorne Baptist at the heart of the High Street. However, we are working hard to find ways to create plenty of time for the children in the natural outdoor environment, which we have hugely appreciated whilst at Wellington.

The Committee will see a slight change in July 2021, as Emma is stepping down as Ark Co-Chair. We are delighted that she is happy to remain on the committee and continue to support The Ark. She would like to thank our fully committed staff team and committee, in particular Heather,

Naomi and Sarah for the truly outstanding jobs they do and wonderful support they have given whilst she has been Chair.

Emma Frost and Sarah Webb
Chairpersons
8th July 2021