



End of Year Newsletter

July 2023

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www.thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk

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Goodbye!

We wish all children leaving us all the best for the next stage in their adventure, whether that is big school or another pre-school or nursery.

We are always sad to see children go but we know there is lots more learning fun ahead of you. Thanks to all parents and carers for the support you have given to us, and your children throughout this last year.

Term Dates 2023/24

SUMMER 2023

We close at 12.15 on Tuesday
18th July.

AUTUMN 2023

TERM STARTS: Mon 4th Sep
Half term: 23rd-27th Oct
TERM ENDS: Fri 15th Dec
(Early close at 12pm)

SPRING 2024

TERM STARTS: Tue 2nd Jan
Half term: 12-16th Feb
TERM ENDS: Thur 28th Mar

Fundraising

The children had a great time running their marathons on Sports Day. We were delighted to be able to share this special event with parents again! Please bring all sponsorship money in before the end of term. This money will be spent on resources to directly benefit the children and it will make a huge difference so THANK YOU!



Parent reps – thank you!



A huge thank you to Sara (Henry's mum) and Laura (Oliver's mum) who have been our wonderful parent reps on the committee this year. We are saying goodbye to Sara as Henry goes off to school in September, and Roula (Christy's mum) will be joining the team alongside Laura. Please do share any feedback, comments and ideas you may have with Roula and Laura – we really value parent input as we seek to provide the best we can for the children.

Thanks to Volunteers!

We have been so blessed to have Avril and Sue volunteering with us again this year – especially helping our school leavers to sew their pencil cases which takes a lot of time and one to one help. Thanks also to Sally who supported with this project, and those who very kindly knitted us some lovely doll's clothes.

Also, huge thanks to Sze and Liz who have been with us almost every week, and all the wonderful volunteers who have helped on trips and with walking the children back from Wellington college.



Holiday Activities



- **Crowthorne Summer Activities:** On the Morgan Rec every Friday from 28th July to 18th August, 3-5pm – free activities (bouncy castle, climbing wall, assault course, crafts, Bible story)
Visit: www.churchestogetherincrowthorne.org.uk for more information.
- **SHINE OUT!:** An informal service for families run by Crowthorne Baptist Church: on 13th August, 3-4.30pm at the Morgan Rec for outdoor games, crafts and activities.
- **Summer Reading Challenge:** Children going to school in September can sign up at Crowthorne library.

Tapestry End of Year Information

We hope you have enjoyed the regular updates on your child's activities and progress this year.



For those leaving us, we will create a PDF of your child's journal for you to download. You will have 28 days to download it. If you are unable to download it yourself we can also email you a PDF of it – please contact Naomi (admin@thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk) if you would like this. We will delete your child's records after a time to allow room for new records to be created so please do download all information as soon as possible. Any videos will need to be downloaded separately as these cannot be included in the journal. We will send an email to notify you when the document is ready for download.

We can transfer journals so will do this if a child's new setting uses Tapestry.

Changes of Details

If your child is staying with us next year please make sure you have updated us with any details that have changed since they started at The Ark – address, phone number, other nurseries or childminders etc.

Fun in the Forest next year



Our Fun in the Forest days at Wellington College will continue next year from the second week of term. This will be on Mondays and Thursdays (commencing on 11th September). Parents will need to drop their child off at Wellington Business Park where you will hand your child over to a member of staff. Children will need to be suitably dressed for the weather on the day, and will only need to bring medication (e.g. inhaler/epipen). Snacks and drinks will be provided, and the children will make their way through the Wellington campus, and back to The Ark on the High Street for collection at 12.15pm.

15 and 30 Hours Free Childcare

If your child is turning 3 before 31st August 2022, you will be eligible for universal funding of 15 hours free childcare. Forms have been sent home for all children staying with us next year, which you must complete to allow us to claim the funding.

You may also be eligible for an additional 15 hours of extended funded childcare, but you must apply for this before the end of the summer. You can check eligibility and apply here -

<https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>

School Entry for September 2024

If your child is going to be 4 by 31st August 2024, they will be eligible to start school in September 2024. In the Autumn term you will be able to get information from local school which hopefully will include open days this year. The Bracknell Forest application process starts from 5th November and the closing date for this will be 15th January. Place offers are made on 16th April.

New Administrator and Contact Details over the Summer

I will be leaving The Ark at the end of the summer holiday and I'm delighted to introduce Poppy Brown as my replacement! Poppy is also a new Ark parent from September so I'm sure you will get to know her quickly.



You will be able to contact us at admin@thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk throughout the holidays or call on 07827 892397. I will be taking some holiday time so please be patient if you are waiting for a response. If you need to notify us about an absence on the first day back please call the Ark setting on 07999 550674 between 9.15am – 12.15pm.

Thank you!



We have had a wonderful year here at The Ark and we'd like to say a huge thank you to parents, childminders and carers for how you have supported us.

We look forward to welcoming back those of you returning, and our new children, in September – have a wonderful summer!