



Return to The Ark on Thursday 3rd September 2020.

We thank you for the immense support and encouragement received as we welcomed children back last half-term. We now open with the full cohort and are re-issuing the parent guidance to ensure the safety of all.

The Ark Pre-school will re-open to children on Thursday 3rd September. All returning children will be expected back from this date on their normal sessions. New starters are having staggered starts, so staff can spend time to settle them and get to know them, and will have heard individually from me to schedule these.

All our staff are now back working their normal sessions. The staff will not be required to wear PPE, as per the government guidelines, with the exception of any first aid, or attending to the personal needs of a child, such as nappy changes or assisting with a change of clothes.

IMPORTANT: If anyone shows any symptoms of COVID-19 you are not permitted to bring them onto the Wellington College site. If a parent/ carer or child shows any symptoms of COVID-19, you must self-isolate at home for 7 days, and all members of the household must self-isolate for 14 days.

If a child shows symptoms of COVID-19 whilst at The Ark, we will isolate that child from the rest of the group, and the staff member looking after the child will then be required to wear PPE to protect themselves (goggles, gloves, apron and face mask). You may want to talk to your child about this to prepare them. **A staff member will then call the parent/ carer and they will be expected to collect the child immediately.** Therefore, please ensure that we have the latest contact details for you.

If a child is tested and found to have the virus, all the staff and children in the setting will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.

In the unlikely case that a staff member becomes ill and self-isolates at short notice, and we cannot cover the session at short notice with adequate staffing, we will notify parents by 8.30am of our unexpected closure.

Here are some of the changes that we will be making:

- We are not currently staggering starts but this is under review at this moment so please watch out for any change to this situation.
- Arrival: parents will be asked to wait, keeping a 2m distance from each other as they do so, and a staff member will meet children at the boundary (where the Wellington A-Board is normally), whilst another staff member remains with the children already arrived. This process will be reversed at collection.
- Handwashing on arrival, and regular hand washes throughout the session. We will also have hand sanitiser to ensure that if we are away from the facilities we can maintain hygiene.

- We will try to be outdoors for the whole session, unless heavy rain, so please ensure they come in appropriate clothing. In nice weather, please ensure that they have sun cream applied (we will not be able to re-apply this).
- No show and tell (or any toys from home to be brought to The Ark). Children can instead show something each day that they have enjoyed doing or playing with at The Ark.
- The guidelines suggest not to share cups or any crockery or cutlery. As we want to maintain our commitment to reduce our plastic waste, we have decided that we will not provide snacks for this half-term. Therefore, when your child returns please ensure that your child brings a water bottle and a healthy snack.
- Removal of all soft toys and resources, including dressing up clothes.
- Limit the resources available on a given day to allow for cleaning of resources and rotation of resources will allow the 72 hours to pass on which the virus will settle on any surface.
- We will not have resources which are shared by many hands, such as playdough or sand.
- No visitors to the site, and parents/ carers are NOT able to come into the setting boundary/ lodge.
- No off-site trips.

As we will be outside in a forest environment and on the field, please bear in mind that ticks are prevalent, so please check your child daily.

All your child should bring into the site is :

- Change of clothes and indoor shoes in case we have to move indoors.
- Weather appropriate clothes (sun-hat/ rain-proof coat and trousers).
- Snack and water bottle.
- Lunch box for those staying for lunch club.

As all children are now expected to return, we will no longer be uploading the resources online. However, we will keep the links to the online page so if you need to self-isolate there will be activities for your child.

These are unprecedented times and extremely uncertain, so we may continue to make necessary change, which we will communicate to you. Our priority is to continue to provide your child with the nurturing care, whilst ensuring ongoing progress in their learning and development through play, but please bear with us as we make sure we are doing this in the safest way possible.

Please continue to advise of any absences for your child on a daily basis at The Ark site phone number: 07999 550674.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact our administrator, Naomi Page, on 07827 892397 or at: admin@thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk.

Many thanks for your continued support.

The Ark Team.