



End of Year Newsletter

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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 for the support you have given to us, and your children throughout this last, rather challenging, year.

Term Dates 2021/22

SUMMER 2021

We close at 12.15 on Friday 16th July.

AUTUMN 2021

TERM STARTS: Mon 6th Sep
Half term: 25th-29th Oct
TERM ENDS: Fri 17th Dec
(Early close at 12pm)

SPRING 2022

TERM STARTS: Tue 4th Jan
Half term: 14-18th Feb
TERM ENDS: Fri 1st Apr

Fundraising

The children had a great time running their marathons on our sports days. We were really sad not to be able to share this time with parents, but we hope you have enjoyed the photos on Tapestry and Facebook. 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!



Outdoor Provision next term



We will be trialling using the Wellington site two days a week from the third week of term. Initially this will be on Tuesdays and Thursday (commencing on 21st 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. More information about this will be given in the Autumn.

Thank you to Wellington College

We would like to thank Wellington College for their hospitality over the last couple of years. They have really gone above and beyond for us and have worked so hard to make our time on site the best it could possibly be. We'd love to give something from the children, so if you would be happy to help your child make a thank you card or picture over the summer and return it next term or to the church over the summer that would be wonderful. We will present these at the beginning of next term.

Parent reps – thank you!



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

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 enable you to download your child's journal. 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.

For the next schools/ setting, few seem to use Tapestry at this time but if you find out that they do we can transfer records there to continue the existing learning journal. Schools have been asked but in case things change please do let Naomi know.

School Entry for September 2022

If your child is going to be 4 by 31st August 2022, they will be eligible to start school in September 2022. 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.

30 Hours Free Childcare

If your child is turning 3 before 31st August 2021, you will be eligible for universal funding of 15 hours free childcare. 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>

Thanks to Sally and Avril

We have been so blessed to have Sally Clarke and Avril Doyle volunteering with us again this term. They have particularly focussed on helping our school leavers to sew their pencil cases which takes a lot of time and one to one help. We are delighted to say that they will both be back with us again next term. Thank you Sally and Avril!



New EYFS

This September all Early Years settings will be transitioning to the new EYFS curriculum. One of the key changes is that staff will be expected to do less paperwork and spend more time with the children. This is obviously a positive change for both staff and children, but it will mean that you may notice fewer Tapestry updates, as staff will only be recording "wow" moments or evidence of next steps. We will also be expected to communicate with parents and children about the importance of good dental care so look out for this next year!

Contact Details over the Summer

You can contact our administrator Naomi Page at admin@thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk throughout the holidays or call on 07827 892397. She 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!



This last year has been a very challenging one and we would like to say a huge thank you to parents, childminders and carers for how you have supported us. We have been especially grateful for your speedy adoption of new rules and circumstances (masks and one way systems!), your help as we prepare for our move at the end of term, and your positivity and encouragement throughout the whole year. We look forward to welcoming back those of you returning in September – have a wonderful summer!