



End of Year Newsletter

July 2024

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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 2024/25

AUTUMN 2024

TERM STARTS: Wed 4th Sep
Half term: 28th Oct - 1st Nov
TERM ENDS: Fri 20th Dec
(Early close at 12pm)

SPRING 2025

TERM STARTS: Mon 6th Jan
Half term: 17th - 21st Feb
TERM ENDS: Fri 4th Apr

SUMMER 2025

TERM STARTS: Tue 22nd Apr
Half term: 26-30 May
INSET: Mon 2nd June
TERM ENDS: Fri 18th July

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 Roula (Christy's mum) and Laura (Oliver's mum) who have been our wonderful parent reps on the committee this year. We are saying goodbye to Laura as Oliver goes off to school in September, and Ide (Aurelio's mum) will be joining the team alongside Roula. Please do share any feedback, comments and ideas you may have with Roula and Ide – 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. Also, huge thanks to Liz who has been with us on Wednesdays, and Sze who has been with us every Thursday 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 26th July to 16th August, 3-5pm – free activities (bouncy castle, climbing wall, assault course, crafts, Bible story)
Visit: <https://churchestogetherincrowthorne.org.uk/crowthorne-summer-activities/> for more information.
- **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 us (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 9th 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 2024, 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 2025, they will be eligible to start school in September 2025. In the Autumn term you will be able to get information from local schools 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.

Administrator and Contact Details over the Summer

I will be handing back to Poppy at the end of this term as she returns from her maternity leave.

You will be able to contact Poppy at admin@thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk throughout the holidays or call on 07827 892397. I'm sure Poppy 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!