



Newsletter - APR/ MAY 2017

The theme for this half-term is:

TRANSPORT

Tel: 07827 892397 (Enquiries)
07999 550674 (During session)

The Ark Pre-School, Crowthorne Baptist Church, 144 High Street, Crowthorne, Berks, RG45 7AT

TERM DATES:

Summer Term Dates:

Thursday 20th April - Thursday 20th July

Closed for Bank Holiday - Monday 1st May

(Closed for half term Mon 29th May - Mon 5th June incl.; Re-open TUES 6th JUNE)

Autumn Term Dates 2017: Wednesday 6th September - Tuesday 19th December (provisional dates)
(Half-term 23rd - 27th October)

Now we have done all our letters, we will be looking at rhyming words

Words that rhyme with:

w/c 17th Apr - **HAT** (*Transport Experiences*)

w/c 8th May - **PEN** (*Sea Transport*)

w/c 24th Apr - **DOOR** (*Road Transport*)

w/c 15th May - **CAR** (*Air Transport*)

w/c 1st May - **PAN** (*Rail Transport*)

w/c 22nd May - **BED** (*Favourite Vehicle*)

2017-18 Academic Year

Looking ahead to the new academic year, we want to give existing children the option to increase sessions before offers are made to new applications. Therefore, if your child is with us next year, please can you complete a change of sessions form so we can plan ahead? Any planned increase, even for Spring or Summer terms would be helpful. If you are on a waiting list for another pre-school or nursery, please contact Sarah, as this is helpful information when organising admissions from September.

A reminder that our notice period is half a term, **otherwise payment will be due in lieu of notice.**

Lunch Club

There are still places available in lunch clubs (Mon-Weds) if you wish to add your child to the list for after Easter. It is great preparation for school. Please contact Sarah.



New School

Next term we will be preparing for the children leaving in the following way:

- Doing lots of work with the children to prepare them for the transition to school,
- Liaising with the schools to share information on the children.
- Holding a transition talk one morning for parents, so you know how best to support your child. Look out for further details on this.

If you have not done already please do let us know where your child will be attending school from September, so we can contact their new teachers to arrange a visit at The Ark.

Parenting Course

Crowthorne Baptist Church is hosting a 'Positive Parenting' course, and it will be held in the church. Sarah is attending and would like some company so please join us. The course will run on Tuesday evenings for 6 weeks, from 6th June - 11th July (inclusive). It will be 7.45-9.45pm, with refreshments from 7.30pm. Please email Sarah to note interest.

Additional Funding at the Co-op



The Co-op has chosen us as one of their 3 community funds for the next 6 months. We would love as much support as possible to give us much-needed funds to update our resources. If you are not already a member of the Co-op it is very easy. Once signed up, 1% of Co-op branded purchases goes to the fund and you can select us as your chosen fund so we receive all of these contributions. Please do support us. The link for membership is: <https://membership.coop.co.uk>. Once a member you can choose your cause by clicking on: <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes>.



Legislation Changes

We have monitored the interest in parents taking up the **30 hour entitlement** in the last 6 months. Despite some interest, unfortunately it does not make it viable to open for longer hours at this time. We will continue to monitor and will look to extend our opening hours if it becomes feasible to do so.

If you are looking to use your 30 hours across more settings, you must apply for an eligibility check. You will then get a number from DfE and need to give this to Sarah. You must check for eligibility by 31st August, in order to claim your 30 hours from September 2017. Any checks after this do not give 30 hours until January 2018. Checks can be made from 28th April on

We have registered for the **government Tax-Free Childcare scheme**. Parents who register can pay a tax free amount into the scheme to use to pay for childcare. For every 80p paid in, the government pay in 20p. See <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/par/app/applynow> for 30 hours & tax-free childcare.

Summer Weather

In the hope that the summer term will actually bring summer weather, please can we remind parents to include a hat and a change of clothes (in the event of clothes getting wet with water play) in their bags. Please also apply sun-cream to your child before dropping them at The Ark.



Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

We still have another few weeks to keep collecting the vouchers to help The Ark buy resources. They can be put in the box on the window-sill in the cloakroom.

Dates for your diary: (Some are provisional but we will inform of any changes):



- **Stay and Play week** - week commencing 15th May - parents/ carers spend a morning at The Ark to join in and observe the fun and learning, as well as look through learning journals with your child.
- **Parent/ Keyworker consultations** - week commencing 3rd July.
- **Sports Day/ Picnic** - Fri 23rd June at Morgan Rec. ALL Ark children and ALL parents/ carers welcome. Please stay at the Rec. for a (bring your own) picnic afterwards.
- **Transition talk and coffee morning** - Mon 26th June in the Baptist Church. ALL parents/ Carers are welcome to our annual coffee morning where Heather will help give you advice on how to support your child (and YOU) as you all prepare for this next step in their education.
- **Summer Trip to Sandhurst Park** - Thursday 6th July - 9.30am. More details to follow but there will be no return to The Ark after the trip so no lunch club on this day.
- **Leaver's Assembly** - Thursday 20th July at 12 noon in the Baptist Church - we encourage ALL parents/ carers to come to our AGM. All are welcome to the assembly and we hope ALL Ark children going to 'Big School' can attend this.

Contact details.

For any general enquiries, call Sarah Webb (administrator) on [07827 892397](tel:07827892397).

If you need to speak to a member of staff urgently or calling if your child cannot attend, call the Ark setting on [07999 550674](tel:07999550674) between 9.15am - 12.15pm Mon - Fri.