



Newsletter - APR/ MAY 2018

The theme for this half-term is:

HOMES

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:

Wednesday 18th April - Friday 20th July

Closed for Bank Holiday - Monday 7th May

(Closed for half term Mon 28th May - Fri 1st June; Re-open MON 4th JUNE)

2018-19 Term Dates (Provisional)

Autumn Term 2018: (INSET - Tuesday 4th September)

Term starts **Wednesday 5th September - Friday 21st December**

Half term - 22nd - 26th October

Spring Term 2019: (INSET - Monday 7th January 2019)

Term starts **Tuesday 8th January - Friday 5th April**

Half term - 18th - 22nd Feb

Summer Term 2019: (INSET - Tuesday 23rd April)

Term starts **Wednesday 24th April - Fri 19th July**

Half term - 27th - 31st May; Closed for Bank Holiday Mon 6th May

From the second week back we will have completed the letters, so we will look at rhyming sounds:

w/c 16th Apr - 'y' (*My Home*)

w/c 14th May **MUG** (*Fairy Tale Homes*)

w/c 23rd Apr - **HAT** (*My Home*)

w/c 21st May - **TREE** (*Homes from other cultures*)

w/c 30th Apr - **PAN** (*Things in the Home*)

w/c 7th May - **HEN** (*Types of Houses*)

2018-19 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, please complete a change of session form so we can plan ahead. Any planned increase, even for Spring or Summer terms 2019 would be helpful. If you are on a waiting list for another pre-school or nursery, please let us know, as this is helpful when organising admissions from September.

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

Notice of increase in fees from September 2018

For any families staying on at The Ark next academic year we will be increasing fees for 2 year olds to £16 per session. The fee for children over 3 years will remain at £13 per session (applicable from the first full half-term following a child's 3rd birthday). Lunch club also remains at £4.50 per club.



New School

This 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 on 26th June for parents, so you know how best to support your child. Look out for further details on this.
- Invite reception teachers in to The Ark to see the children in their familiar setting.

30 hours' Free Childcare

If your child is turning 3 before 31st August 2018 you will be eligible for universal funding of 15 hours free childcare. You may also be eligible for 30 hours free childcare but you must apply for this. The deadline for this is 31st August but please apply as soon as possible so we can process it before the end of term.

See <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/par/app/applynow> for 30 hours. We must obtain the 30 hours' code and verify it before the deadline in order to claim your free hours for you. These 30 hours can be shared across two settings (i.e. The Ark and another pre-school or a childminder). Please contact Sarah if you have queries or want more information.

Please remember that if you have a code, **you must check this every 3 months** to maintain eligibility.



Crowthorne Carnival

Thanks to those who would like to take part in the procession, as well as those offering help to prepare. The procession date is 7th July, where we will need to meet around 10am at Wellington College and the procession should finish at Morgan Rec. around 2pm. We plan to have a working party to prepare props and costumes on mornings of 23rd or 30th June, so please save the dates. More details will follow shortly.

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.



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



- **Stay and Play week** - week commencing 14th 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 2nd July.
- **Sports Day/ Picnic** - Fri 22nd 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** - Tues 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 South Hill Park** - Thursday 12th 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.
- **ARK AGM** - Friday 20th July at 11.15am in the Baptist Church - all are encouraged to attend.
- **Leaver's Assembly** - Friday 20th July at 11.45am in the Baptist Church - 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 or email:

admin@thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk

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 between 9.15am - 12.15pm Mon - Fri.