



Newsletter - Jan/ Feb 2019

The theme for this half-term is:

TOYS



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

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

Happy New Year from all at The Ark

We hope you had a lovely break and ready for the year ahead.

Term Dates 2018/19



SPRING 2019

Inset (Closed): Mon 7th Jan '19

TERM STARTS: Tues 8th Jan '19

HALF-TERM: 18th - 22nd Feb '19

TERM ENDS: Fri 5th April '19

SUMMER 2019

Inset (Closed): Tues 23rd April '19

TERM STARTS: Weds 24th April '19

Closed: Mon 6th May (Bank Holiday)

HALF-TERM: 27th - 31st May '19

TERM ENDS: Fri 19th July '19

The Ark returns for the new academic year on Wednesday 4th September 2019

Letters and topics of the week:

w/c 7th Jan - **u** (Favourite toys)

w/c 21st Jan - **l** (Baby toys)

w/c 4th Feb - **b** (Grown up toys)

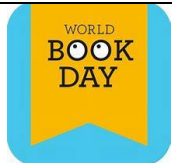
w/c 14th Jan - **q** (Toys in the past)

w/c 28th Jan - **f** (Children's toys)

w/c 11th Feb - **j** (How toys work)

Lunch Clubs

We are able to provide additional staffing to offer more places at lunch clubs on Mondays and Tuesdays, which were full. If you would like your child to join lunch club at £4.50 per session please let Sarah know at: admin@thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk.



World Book Day - 7th March 2019

We will be celebrating World Book Day in March, where children will be invited to come to The Ark dressed up as their favourite book character. Also please bring in your favourite book to share with your friends.

Parent/ Key-worker Consultations

These will take place in week commencing 14th January. Schedules will go up w/c 7th January for you to sign up to see your child's key-worker. Reports have been emailed to all parents for your review ahead of the meeting. If you have not received this email please contact Sarah.

PANTS

This term we are going to be 'talking PANTS!' We are following the NSPCC Campaign, to ensure children understand why we wear underwear, their right to privacy, and they know that they can say "NO" if an adult makes them feel uncomfortable. All of this will be entirely age-appropriate. A parent guide will follow. See also: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>



Child Absence

If your child is absent from The Ark for any reason please do call The Ark directly on 07999 550674. Any call or text to the admin phone delays the information getting to us as Sarah cannot guarantee to pick up messages in the mornings. We require a call EVERY DAY your child is absent.

Primary School Admissions

By now, I hope that everyone with a child who will be 4 years old by 31st August 2019 will have applied for primary school for their child, for a start in September 2019. The applications should be made online; if you have had no communication from Bracknell Forest Council with a unique reference number, please contact school admissions without delay on 01344 354144/ 01344 354023.

The deadline is **noon on 15th January 2019**. School offers will be sent by email on 16th April 2019.



Trip to Camberley Fire Station

On 4th March, we have arranged a trip to Camberley Fire Station and this trip is open to ALL Ark Children (even if you do not normally attend on Mondays). We will meet there at 9.30am. We require all children to be accompanied by an adult. All staff will be involved in this off-site trip so The Ark will be closed on this day. Further details will follow with a separate letter nearer the time.

Parent Help

From January, the children who leave to go to school in September will start sewing their pencil cases. We would like parent help to allow this to be done, and would be grateful if you could spare half an hour first thing to work with the children. Please speak to Heather if this is something you could help with.



Shoe Boxes

You have probably heard of Operation Christmas Child, run by Samaritan's Purse where a shoebox with gifts is given to children across the World at Christmas, and may be the only gift they receive. Each month we will collect a different item and you are welcome to donate. Children can be involved later in the year when we make the boxes up. If you want to make your own box we will need them into The Ark by October half-term. Information can be found at: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

In January we are collecting **small** soft toys (remember to keep it shoebox-sized).

WANTED PLEASE

If you have any children's magazines, we would welcome them at The Ark. Please bring them in at any time. Many thanks.

Dates for your diary:

- w/c 14th January - parent/ keyworker consultation slots all week,
- Tuesday 15th January - primary school application deadline at 12 noon (for Sept 2019).
- Monday 4th March 2019 at 9.30am - Ark visit to Camberley Fire Station.
- w/c 11th March - Stay and Play week
- Tuesday 2nd April - local visit to St Brendan's Care Home (for Tuesday children only).

Contact details.

For any general enquiries, call Sarah Webb (administrator) on 07827 892397.

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.