



# Newsletter

## January/February 2023



The topic for this half term is:

## Toys



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

[www.thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk](http://www.thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk)

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



### Term Dates 2022-23

### Happy New Year!

We hope you had a lovely Christmas break. Welcome back and a special welcome to our new children and parents.

#### SPRING 2023

**TERM STARTS:** Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan  
**Half term:** 13-17<sup>th</sup> Feb  
**TERM ENDS:** Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Mar

#### SUMMER 2023

**TERM STARTS:** Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Apr  
**May Bank Holiday closure:** Mon 1<sup>st</sup> May  
**Half term:** 29<sup>th</sup> May-2<sup>nd</sup> June  
**TERM ENDS:** Tue 18<sup>th</sup> July

#### AUTUMN 2023

**TERM STARTS:** Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Sep  
**Half term:** 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> Oct  
**TERM ENDS:** Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Dec  
(Early close at 12pm)

### Letters and themes of the week:

w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan – o (Favourite toys)  
w/c 9<sup>th</sup> Jan – u (Toys in the past)  
w/c 16<sup>th</sup> Jan – q (Baby toys)  
w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan – l (Children's toys)  
w/c 30<sup>th</sup> Jan – f (Hobbies/interests)  
w/c 6<sup>th</sup> Feb – b (How toys work)

### Dates for your Diary

- Fun in the Forest days (at Wellington) resumes from 31<sup>st</sup> January, on Tuesdays and Fridays in the Spring term.
- w/c 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January - Keyworker consultations
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January – Closing date for school applications online
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Visit to St Brendans
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - World Book Day

### Absence of children

We require a phone call or a letter every day that your child cannot attend preschool. The local authority has asked us to keep this information, so please support us in this.

Please phone THE ARK number (**07999 550674**) not the admin number, if your child is absent that day. If you know in advance of an absence, or if it is for a longer period of time we require a letter please.

We reserve the right to contact parents if your child is absent and we have had no contact.

### Clothing - Please note!

- Coats should be named.
- Please don't send children to The Ark in lace up shoes as they come undone and this is a trip hazard. Velcro is preferable.
- Clothes should be suitable for messy activities, and children should be able to manage them independently for toileting.

### Parent – Keyworker Consultations – w/c 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January

A schedule will be put out at the beginning of the Spring term so you can sign up for an appointment to meet with your child's keyworker. This is an opportunity to follow their progress and development. There will be appointments at the beginning and end of sessions during these two weeks. Keyworkers have been completing progress reports over the holiday which will be emailed to you by the end of the first week back. If you have any questions about these, please do raise them with your child's keyworker in the consultation.

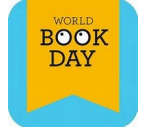
## Lunch Clubs

We have a spaces left at lunch club on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays this term. This runs straight after the morning session for one hours from 12.15-1.15pm and the cost is £5.50 (or it can be part of your child's funded hours if they are 3-4years old). This is great preparation for school. Please contact Naomi if you would like to sign your child up.



## World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, where children will be invited to come to The Ark dressed up as their favourite book character.



## Fun in the Forest

We will be enjoying the woods on Tuesdays and Fridays this term. Please be prompt in dropping off as we will not be able to wait for a long time for children who are late. If you are going to be late please call the Ark staff on **07999 550674** (not the Admin number).

Children should bring:

- Waterproofs in wet weather (preferably coat and trousers) and wellies if it is likely to be muddy – the children love to splash in puddles and climb on wet logs
- Warm clothes if it is very cold (hat, gloves, scarf)
- Healthy lunch in a named plastic bag if staying for lunch club
- Any medication (inhaler, epi-pen etc) in a clearly named plastic bag
- Nappy, wipes and a nappy sack in a named plastic bag if not yet toilet trained

Snacks and drinks will be provided, and staff will have spare changes of clothes in case of accidents. The children will spend the morning walking back to the Ark on the High Street – they will be able to enjoy the outdoors, see the woods in different seasons and will play games, sing and do counting activities during the morning.

Pick up will be as normal from the church on the High Street at 12.15pm. Children staying for lunch club will be collected from the church at 1.15pm as usual.

If the weather is very unpleasant, we will walk straight back to The Ark. In the case of extremely severe weather we will text to let you know to drop off to The Ark instead but generally we will aim to continue with the planned sessions throughout the winter months.

## School Entry – September 2023

All parents with children who were born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 (living in Bracknell Forest) will be able to apply for a school place from 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022 for your child to start school in September 2023. The deadline for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Offers will be made on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023. If you have any queries please visit:

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/s-tarting-primary-school/>



## Parent Representatives

We are grateful to Sara (Henry's mum) and Laura (Archie's mum) for being the parent representatives on our management committee. You are welcome to pass them any feedback or suggestions that they can take to the committee meetings. Sara and Laura also host a WhatsApp group for parents and carers which you are warmly invited to join. Please speak with them or email Naomi for the link.

## Facebook

We post regular updates and photos to our Facebook page – please do join us by searching for @ArkPreschoolCrowthorne and liking the page.



## Contact Details

For any general enquiries, email Naomi Page (Administrator) at [admin@thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk](mailto:admin@thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk) or call on 07827 892397. If you need to speak to a member of staff urgently, or your child cannot attend, call the Ark setting on 07999 550674 between 9.15am – 12.15pm Mon – Fri.