



Newsletter

January/February 2021

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

www.thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk

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

The theme for this half term is:
Toys



Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

We hope you have had a wonderful Christmas holiday.
A special welcome to our new children and parents.

Term Dates 2020/21



The Ark returns for the new academic year on 6th September 2021. All term dates for 2021/22 are on our website.

SPRING 2021

TERM STARTS: Mon 4th Jan

HALF-TERM: 15th - 19th Feb

TERM ENDS: Thur 1st Apr

SUMMER 2021

TERM STARTS: Mon 19th Apr

Closed: Mon 3rd May

(Bank Holiday)

HALF-TERM: 31st May - 4th June

TERM ENDS: Fri 16th Jul

Letters and themes of the week:

w/c 4th Jan – o (Favourite toys)
w/c 11th Jan – u (Toys in the past)
w/c 18th Jan – q (Baby toys)
w/c 25th Jan – l (Children's toys)
w/c 1st Feb – f (Hobbies/interests)
w/c 8th Feb – b (How toys work)

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**) 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

This half term the children will continue to go for their walk straight after drop off. We would therefore appreciate if children were dropped off in their waterproofs (coat and trousers is preferable to all in one suits for toileting) and wellies. After the walk we will go inside for craft, singing, stories and play so please send your child with a pair of clean indoor shoes, slippers or non-slip socks to wear in the Lodge.

It would be really helpful if you could help your children practise putting on their own coats and boots – this is especially important to prepare children for going to school.



Covid

Just a reminder that no one displaying any symptoms of Covid should come to The Ark, or on to the Wellington site. If someone in your household does display symptoms or has a test for Covid, please do let us know so we can inform the relevant authorities.

Parent key-worker consultations

Parent key-worker consultations will be the week commencing 18th January. A sign up sheet will be available at The Ark the week before. The consultations will take place outside, in line with the government regulations at the time. If your child also attends another setting please email Naomi in advance so she can print extra copies of the report for you to share with them.

If for any reason you are unable to make the face to face consultations, please do let us know and we will try to arrange a zoom call with your child's keyworker for you.

Snacks

All children need to bring their own snack (in a named bag) and named water bottle. If snacks can be sent in a sealed plastic bag, named with permanent marker, we will send these home at the end of the session so they can be reused. This is easier than a lunchbox for the children to carry when we go for picnics. Water bottles should contain water only (not squash or fizzy) and snacks should be healthy – a piece of fruit, some salad items, raisins or crackers etc.

Books and Electricals

If you are having a post-Christmas clear out, we'd appreciate donations of picture books in good condition suitable for 2-4 year olds. We would love to have some new stories to share with the children at The Ark.



We also can use electrical items that no longer work in our ICT learning – the children enjoy taking them apart with screwdrivers, exploring the insides and investigating the components. If you have any old electrical goods waiting to go to the tip, please speak to the staff at The Ark to see if we can use them!

Amazon Smile

We are registered with Amazon Smile – you can select us as your charity to support, and when you shop (using the link smile.amazon.co.uk/) we will receive a percentage of your spending, at no cost to you. This money will help us buy new resources, toys and books for the children so we would really appreciate your support.

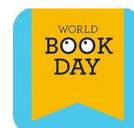


Parent Representatives

Kristie Williams (George's mum) and Millie Foyle (Toby's mum) are our parent representatives on the committee. You are welcome to pass them any feedback or suggestions that they can take to the committee meetings.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 4th March, where children will be invited to come to The Ark dressed up as their favourite book character.



Lunch Clubs

We have a few spaces left at lunch club on Tuesdays and Wednesdays this term. This runs straight after the morning session for one hour from 12.15-1.15pm and the cost is £5. Please contact Naomi if you would like to sign your child up.

Uniform

If you would like to order t-shirts (£4.95) or sweatshirts (£8.95) with The Ark logo on, please contact Naomi. These come in navy or teal, and the sizes are 3-4 or 5-6 years.

Contact Details

For any general enquiries, email Naomi Page (administrator) at 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.