



Newsletter

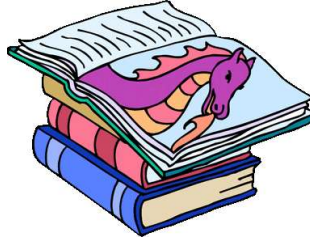
January/February 2024

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 topic for this half term is:

Books



Term Dates 2024

SPRING 2024

TERM STARTS: Tue 2nd Jan
Half term: 12th - 16th Feb
TERM ENDS: Thurs 28th March

Happy New Year!

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

SUMMER 2024

TERM STARTS: Mon 15th Apr
Half term: 27th - 31st May
INSET: Mon 3rd June
TERM ENDS: Fri 12th July

Letters and themes of the week:

w/c 1st Jan – **g** (Favourite books)
w/c 8th Jan – **o** (The Three Little Pigs)
w/c 15th Jan – **u** (We're Going on a Bear Hunt)
w/c 22nd Jan – **q** (Thomas the Tank Engine)
w/c 29th Jan – **l** (Elmer the Elephant)
w/c 5th Feb – **f** (Goldilocks and the Three Bears)

Dates for your Diary

- w/c 8th and 15th January - Keyworker consultations
- Fun in the Forest days (at Wellington) resume from Monday 29th January
- Monday 15th January – Closing date for school applications online
- Thursday 7th 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.

A few reminders:

- Please ensure children are not eating when they are dropped off and coming into the Ark.
- Children's special toys should be left at home to avoid them being lost or unwillingly shared!
- Please do 'like' the Tapestry posts you see so staff can see you have acknowledged them. Thank you!

Parent – Keyworker Consultations – w/c 8th and 15th January

A schedule will be put up in the first week back in January 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 which will be emailed to you before the consultations. If you have any questions about these, please do raise them with your child's keyworker in the consultation.



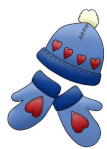
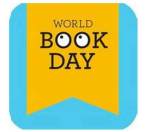
Lunch Clubs

We have a spaces left at lunch club on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays this term. This runs straight after the morning session for one hour from 12.15-1.15pm and the cost is £6 (or it can be part of your child's funded hours if they are 3-4years old). Children enjoy playing with further activities in a smaller group and it is great preparation for school. Please contact Poppy if you would like to sign your child up.



World Book Day/Week!

We will be celebrating World Book Day throughout the week of 4th March. World Book Day is officially on the Thursday when we'll be in the forest, so children are welcome to dress up as their favourite book character any day of that week!



Fun in the Forest

We will be enjoying the woods on Mondays and Thursdays this term from 29th January. 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 separate coat and waterproof trousers with elasticated waist) and wellies – 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 2024

For children starting school this September, the deadline for applications is 15th January 2024. Offers will be made on 16th April 2023.

If you are making alternative arrangements for your child's education, please ensure you contact School Admissions to confirm these arrangements:

school.admissions@bracknell-forest.gov.uk. If you have any queries please visit:
<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/school-admissions-tarting-primary-school/>



Parent Representatives

We are grateful to Roula (Christy's mum) and Laura (Oliver'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. They also host a WhatsApp group for parents and carers which you are warmly invited to join. Please speak with them or email Poppy 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 Poppy Brown (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.