



Newsletter

January/February 2022

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 2022

Happy New Year!

Welcome to our new families, and welcome back to those of you returning. We hope you have had a lovely Christmas and are ready for lots of learning and fun!

SPRING 2022

TERM STARTS: Tue 4th Jan
Half term: 14-18th Feb
TERM ENDS: Fri 1st Apr

SUMMER 2022

TERM STARTS: Tue 19th Apr
May bank holiday closure: Mon
2nd May
Half term: 30th May-3rd June
TERM ENDS: Thur 21st July

AUTUMN 2022

TERM STARTS: Mon 5th Sep
Half term: 24th-28th Oct
TERM ENDS: Fri 16th Dec
(Early close at 12pm)

Letters and themes of the week:

w/c 4th Jan – **g** (Favourite books)
w/c 10th Jan – **o** (The Three Little Pigs)
w/c 17th Jan – **u** (We're Going on a Bear Hunt)
w/c 24th Jan – **q** (Thomas the Tank Engine)
w/c 31st Jan – **l** (Elmer the Elephant)
w/c 7th Feb – **f** (Goldilocks and the Three Bears)

Dates for your Diary

- w/c 10th and 17th January – Keyworker Parent Consultations (Anna, Anne, Heather & Sue)
- Fun In the Forest days (at Wellington) will be Monday and Friday in the Spring term, starting from 31st January
- 3rd March – World Book Day

Fun in the Forest

We will be enjoying the woods on Mondays and Fridays this term and will resume our days at Wellington from Monday 31st 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 coat and trousers) and wellies if it is likely to be muddy
- Sunhat for sunny days (suncream already applied before drop off)
- Healthy lunch 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.

Toys from Home and Laced Shoes

Please can you make sure children leave toys from home at home. We understand that often children want to bring in a special toy, but the danger is that it will be packed away with our toys in the cupboard and lost! We also request that children don't wear laced shoes as they are unaware when the laces come undone which becomes a trip hazard.

Session Cost Increases

Due to increased costs over the last few years our committee have agreed to increase session prices over the next two years as follows:

From September 2022 session prices will be:

2 year old session - £18

3 and 4 year old session - £16

Lunch clubs - £5.50

From September 2023 session prices will be:

2 year old session - £19

3 and 4 year old session - £17

Lunch clubs - £6

After having a number of last minute drop outs at the beginning of this academic year, we will also be taking a refundable £25 deposit for admissions from September. This will cover administrative costs in the event that a child drops out after May half term. When a child does start at the beginning of a term we will either deduct the £25 from their first invoice, or if they are fully funded, we will refund the deposit to parents within the first three weeks.

Cooking

We often cook with the children, and they will bring home the food they have made in a named plastic box. Please do wash these out and return them to The Ark, otherwise they aren't to hand for the next time we cook.



Parent – Keyworker Consultations – w/c 10th and 17th January

A schedule will be put out at the beginning of the term so you can sign up for an appointment to meet with your child's keyworker. This is an opportunity to hear more about your child's their progress and development. There will be appointments at the beginning and end of sessions during these two weeks. A separate email will be sent with a little more information about how the new revised EYFS has changed our reporting.

Parent Representatives

We are grateful to Millie (Toby'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. Millie and Laura have also set up a WhatsApp group for parents and carers which you are warmly invited to join. Please speak with them or email Naomi for the link.



Snacks

All children need to bring their own snack in a named container. Snacks should be healthy (no crisps or biscuits) and not too big – a piece of fruit, some salad items, raisins or crackers etc. (Grapes should be cut vertically in line with anti-choking guidelines). Drinks of milk or water will be provided when we are at the church. When we are enjoying our "fun in the forest" days at Wellington college, water and a snack will be provided.

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.

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.