



Newsletter

June/July 2023

The topic for this half term is:
Holidays



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



Term Dates 2023-24

Welcome Back!

We hope you have had a lovely half term holiday! A warm welcome to our new children and families.

SUMMER 2023

Half term: 29th May-2nd June
TERM ENDS: Tue 18th July

AUTUMN 2023

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

SPRING 2024

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

Letters and themes of the week:

Now that we have completed our letters, we are looking at rhyming sounds (Words that rhyme with...):
w/c 5th June – **dog** (Planning for a holiday)
w/c 12th June – **pig** (Packing for a holiday)
w/c 19th June – **sit** (Holiday Homes)
w/c 26th June – **ball** (Holiday Fun)
w/c 3rd July – **cake** (Holiday Fun)
w/c 10th July – **book** (Summer Holidays)
w/c 17th July – No sound/theme: Monday in the Forest, Tuesday is our Leavers' Assembly



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.

Dates for your Diary

- Fun in the Forest days (at Wellington) on Mondays and Thursdays in the Summer term.
- Monday 12th June 8pm - Transition Talk on Zoom (for parents of children going to school)
- Thursday 15th June – South Hill Park trip (all children – parents and carers must accompany children)
- Friday 30th June – St Brendan's visit
- Friday 7th July - Sports Day and "Marathon" (all children)
- Date TBC - AGM (all parents invited)
- Tuesday 18th July - Leavers' Assembly in the church (Parents and carers welcome)

South Hill Park Trip – Thursday 15th June

On Thursday 15th June, The Ark will be closed as we will be having our annual summer trip to South Hill Park. Letters and permission forms will be coming home with your child. The staff will run activities and games to help us enjoy the park, and an ice lolly snack will be provided. This trip is open to all children who attend The Ark, and also to siblings. Parents or another carer are required to accompany their child/children and will be responsible for them for the entire trip. We will finish at 12.15pm and then you are welcome to stay for a picnic lunch.

Fun in the Forest

We will be continuing to enjoy the woods on Mondays and Thursdays 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:

- Long sleeves and trousers or leggings are preferable even in warm weather as this protects against ticks and scratches.
- Hat in sunny weather – and please apply suncream before you drop off
- 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 and a few wipes in a named nappy sack if not yet toilet trained

Snacks and drinks will be provided, and staff will have spare changes of clothes in case of accidents.

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.

Returners in September – Sessions and Lunch Clubs!

Any requests for changes of session in September should have been sent to Naomi by now. All requests have been honoured. If you would like to change your child's attendance pattern in any way and have not yet told Naomi please let her know NOW. Please also advise if you would like to plan ahead for changes later in the year. **A reminder that our notice period is half a term, otherwise payment will be due in lieu of notice.**

We have spaces in lunch clubs in September – this is a great way to prepare your child for school. However, numbers are currently not high enough to make running lunch clubs viable – if you are interested in adding a lunch club on one or two mornings, please let me know as soon as possible so we can confirm either way.

Sports Day and Sponsored Marathon – 11am Friday 7th July

Our Sports Day will be held at the Morgan Recreation Ground. ALL Ark children are invited to take part in our Sports Day - those who do not normally attend on a Friday should meet us at the Morgan Recreation Ground at 11am and will be under parental responsibility at all times.

We will also be holding our sponsored “marathon” to raise funds for The Ark so look out for the letter and sponsorship form after half term. Previous gifts from parents and fundraised monies have paid for the resources the children benefit from now, so please give as generously as you can!

Reminder of Fee Increase

Just a reminder that fees for sessions not covered by funding are increasing from September to: £19 a session for two year olds, £17 a session for three and four year olds and £6 for lunch clubs. Please contact Naomi if you have any queries about this.



New School

This term we will be preparing for the children leaving in the following way:

- Doing lots of work with the children to prepare them for the transition to school,
- Liaising with the schools to share information on the children.
- Holding a transition talk on zoom for parents, so you know how best to support your child. Parents will be emailed directly with details of this.
- Showing the children uniform from local schools.

Ticks

Please do remember to regularly check your child for ticks, particularly after we have been in the Forest.

Instructions for removing ticks can be found on the NHS website here -

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/insect-bites-and-stings/treatment/>

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.