



Newsletter

March/April 2023

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:
People Who Help Us



Term Dates 2022-23

SPRING 2023

TERM STARTS: Tue 3rd Jan
Half term: 13-17th Feb
TERM ENDS: Fri 31st Mar

SUMMER 2023

TERM STARTS: Mon 17th Apr
May Bank Holiday closure: Mon 1st May
Coronation Bank Holiday: Mon 8th May
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)

Letters and themes of the week:

w/c 20th Feb – j (Doctors, nurses and vets)
w/c 27th Feb – z (Fire service)
w/c 6th Mar – w (Police)
w/c 13th Mar – v (The street)
w/c 20th Mar – x (My family)
w/c 27th Mar – y (Easter)

Dates for your Diary

- Fun in the Forest days (at Wellington) on Tuesdays and Fridays in the Spring term.
- Thursday 2nd March - World Book Day – trip to Crowthorne library for stories and crafts
- TBC - Trip to Crowthorne Fire Station
- Thursday 15th June – South Hill Park trip
- Friday 7th July - Sports Day
- Tuesday 18th July - 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.

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.

Reminders!

Children must not come in to The Hub eating at drop off as this is a choking hazard. If you wish your child to finish eating something they must finish outside before they are passed over to a member of staff.

Please can children not bring in toys from home as these can easily get lost or broken. If a young child needs a comforter in the form of a toy or dummy this should be left in their bag and their key worker will access it if needed.

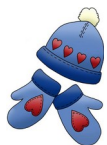
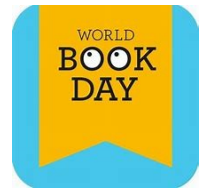
Lunch Clubs

We have 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 £5.50 (or it can be part of your child's funded hours if they are 3-4 years 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 2nd March with a visit to Crowthorne Library. The children will enjoy an interactive story time, crafts and a photo booth – we always encourage children to come to The Ark on World Book Day dressed up as a favourite book character! Photos will be posted on the Library's social media if parents gave the relevant permissions on their registration documents so look out for these!



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 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.

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..



Fire Station Visit – To be confirmed

We hope to visit Crowthorne Fire Station this half term as part of our People Who Help Us topic. The date is still to be confirmed so look out for this in the weekly emails after half term.

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.

Parents Who Help Us

As part of our topic 'People Who Help Us' we would love to have visitors to The Ark this term who work in a relevant industry and can speak with the children about their job. We are especially keen if a parent, relative or friend works in any of the jobs listed in the themes above – please speak to Heather if you can help!

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.