

Newsletter

March/April 2022

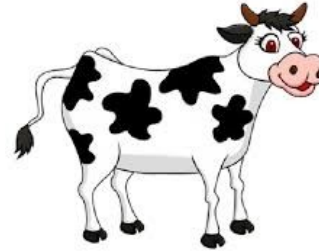


Tel: 07827 892397 (Enquiries)
07999 550674 (During session)
www.thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk

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

The topic for this half term is:

Animals and Minibeasts



Term Dates 2022

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: Mon 2nd May
Half term: 30th May-3rd June
INSET day: Mon 6th 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 21st Feb – **b** (Farm Animals)
w/c 28th Feb – **j** (Pets)
w/c 7th Mar – **z** (Zoo Animals)
w/c 14th Mar – **w** (Minibeasts)
w/c 21st Mar – **v** (Easter)
w/c 28th Mar – **x** (Easter)

Dates for your Diary

- Fun In the Forest days (at Wellington) will continue on Monday and Friday this half term, and will move to Tuesday and Thursday after Easter
- Thursday 3rd March – World Book Day
- Crowthorne Fire Station visit
- Thursday 23rd June – Sandhurst Park trip
- Saturday 9th – Monday 11th July – Crowthorne Flower Festival
- Friday 15th July – Sports Day at Morgan Recreation Ground

Fun in the Forest

We will be enjoying the woods on Mondays and Fridays this half 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
- Sunhat for sunny days (suncream already applied before 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, wipes and a nappy sack in a named plastic bag if not yet toilet trained

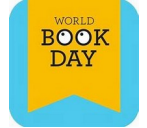


Snacks and drinks will be provided, and staff will have spare changes of clothes in case of accidents. The children will spend the morning walking back to the Ark on the High Street – they will be able to enjoy the outdoors, see the woods in different seasons and will play games, sing and do counting 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.

World Book Day

We would love to celebrate this day by inviting the children to come dressed as a favourite book character, and to bring in their favourite book from home to share. Please make sure books are named!



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.

Extra Inset day

Please note that an extra inset day has been added on Monday 6th June. This is in lieu of the extra bank holiday for the Queen's Jubilee which falls during half term: schools and early years settings have been informed that we can take an extra inset day during the term so staff don't miss out.

Flower Festival

We will be creating a display for Crowthorne Flower Festival which runs 9-11th July at St John's Church. If any parents would like to help with this please speak to Anna.



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.

Pots, Pans and Utensils

We are planning to utilise the outside space at The Ark by attaching some "musical" noise making items to the fence. If anyone is getting rid of old saucepans or utensils in the next couple of months, we would appreciate donations!

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.