



Newsletter - APR/ MAY 2019

The theme for this half-term is:

TRANSPORT



Tel: 07827 892397 (Enquiries)
07999 550674 (During session)

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



TERM DATES

SUMMER 2019

TERM STARTS: Weds 24th April
Closed: Mon 6th May (Bank Holiday)
HALF-TERM: 27th - 31st May '19
TERM ENDS: Fri 19th July '19

AUTUMN 2019

Insets (Closed): 2nd/ 3rd Sept '19
TERM STARTS: Weds 4th Sept '19
HALF-TERM: 28th Oct - 1st Nov '19
TERM ENDS: 19th Dec '19

SPRING 2020

Insets (Closed): 6th Jan '20
TERM STARTS: 7th Jan '20
HALF-TERM: 17th - 21st Feb '20
TERM ENDS: 3rd April '20

Now we have completed our letters, we are looking at rhyming sounds (Words that rhyme with.....):
w/c 22nd April - Rhyming poems (*Transport Experiences*) w/c 13th May - HEN (*Sea Transport*)
w/c 29th April - HAT (*Road Transport*) w/c 20th May - MUG (*Air Transport*)
w/c 6th May - PAN (*Rail Transport*)

2019-20 Academic Year

Looking ahead to the new academic year, we want to give existing children the option to increase sessions before offers are made to new applications. Therefore, please complete a change of session form so we can plan ahead. Any planned increase, even for Spring or Summer terms 2020 would be helpful. If you are on a waiting list for another pre-school or nursery, please let us know, as this is helpful when organising admissions from September. A reminder that our notice period is half a term, **otherwise payment will be due in lieu of notice.**

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 18th June for parents, so you know how best to support your child. Look out for further details on this. If there is enough interest we can look at putting this talk on in an evening - please email admin@thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk if this is of interest.
- Invite reception teachers in to The Ark to see the children in their familiar setting.



Stay and Play week - w/c 20th May

We will be holding a Stay and Play week in the week commencing 20th May. There will be a sign-up sheet so you can sign up to spend time with your child and us all during an Ark session. If you bring your sibling with you please ensure you are responsible for them at all times.

Reducing waste at The Ark Pre-school

We continue to try to support Crowthorne's aim to become plastic free. Please remember bring in your milk bottle tops and trigger sprays for recycling.

When plastic boxes are brought home with cooking please wash and return them. A replacement can be bought for 50p, or you can supply a replacement.

Other ways we are reducing plastics are: We are reducing use of nappy sacks by only using them for soiled nappies; we will only use wipes for nappy changing; we reuse all our plastic wallets and only laminate what is required; archived paperwork is taken out of wallets before filing.



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Mobile Phones at The Ark

Please can we remind all parents/ carers that we cannot allow the use of mobile phones inside the Ark hall or playground. This is for safeguarding reasons, to avoid the risk of unauthorised photos being taken of our children. The directive has come from Bracknell Forest Early Years Team, and is being judged by Ofsted under their safeguarding monitoring, so please help us to adhere to our policy. If another adult picks up your child please tell them about our policy to avoid embarrassment.



Parent Survey 2019

We are issuing our annual parent survey, which is important to gain feedback from parents and carers, as part of our ongoing attempt to keep improving our provision. This year we are offering the survey online, but please do let Sarah know if you require a hard copy as we can supply these. Please do take part in this survey as the feedback is really valuable. You be emailed a link directly, or can access the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DTTBD66>. The deadline for responses is 22nd May.

30 hours' Free Childcare

If your child is turning 3 before 31st August 2019 you will be eligible for universal funding of 15 hours free childcare. You may also be eligible for 30 hours free childcare but you must apply for this. The deadline for this is 31st August but please apply as soon as possible so we can process it before the end of term.

See <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/par/app/applynow> for 30 hours. We must obtain the 30 hours' code and verify it before the deadline in order to claim your free hours for you. These 30 hours can be shared across two settings (i.e. The Ark and another pre-school or a childminder). Please contact Sarah if you have queries or want more information.

Please remember that if you have a code, **you must check this every 3 months** to maintain eligibility.

Summer Weather

In the hope that the summer term will actually bring summer weather, please can we remind parents to include a hat and a change of clothes (in the event of clothes getting wet with water play) in their bags. Please also apply sun-cream to your child before dropping them at The Ark.



Eating at The Ark

Please can children NOT eat at The Ark prior to the start of the session. It is a better start for them to come in having eaten and does not cause issues with other children wanting food, or allergies amongst our cohort. All children will then have their snack together at snack time.

Dates for your diary: (Some are provisional but we will inform of any changes):

- **Ambulance visit** - Thursday 16th May - we are still awaiting further details but will confirm asap.
- **Stay and Play week** - week commencing 20th May - parents/ carers spend a morning at The Ark to join in and observe the fun and learning, as well as look through learning journals with your child.
- **Transition talk** - Tuesday 18th June in the Baptist Church. ALL parents/ Carers are welcome to our annual coffee morning where Heather will help give you advice on how to support your child (and YOU) as you all prepare for this next step in their education.
- **Summer visit to St Brendan's** - Friday 21st June - for Friday children only. More details to follow
- **Parent/ Keyworker consultations** - week commencing 1st July.
- **Summer Trip to Sandhurst Park** - Thursday 4th July - 9.30am. For all Ark children. More details to follow.
- **Sports Day/ Picnic** - Friday 12th July at Morgan Rec. ALL Ark children and ALL parents/ carers welcome. Please stay at the Rec. for a (bring your own) picnic afterwards.
- **ARK AGM** - Friday 19th July at 11.15am in the Baptist Church - all are encouraged to attend.
- **Leaver's Assembly** - Friday 19th July at 11.45am in the Baptist Church - All are welcome to the assembly and we hope ALL Ark children going to 'Big School' can attend this.



Contact details

For any general enquiries, call Sarah Webb (administrator) on [07827 892397](tel:07827892397) or email: admin@thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk

If you need to speak to a member of staff urgently or calling if your child cannot attend, call the Ark setting on [07999 550674](tel:07999550674) between 9.15am - 12.15pm Mon - Fri.