



Newsletter

November/December 2021

The topic for this half term is:
Parties

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 2021/22

Welcome Back

We hope you had a lovely half term break and are ready for lots of celebrations this term!

AUTUMN 2021

Half term: 25th-29th Oct
TERM ENDS: Fri 17th Dec
(Early close at 12pm)

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

Letters and themes of the week:

w/c 1st Nov – **k** (Birthday party preparations)
w/c 8th Nov – **e** (Birthday party preparations)
w/c 15th Nov – **h** (Birthday party celebrations)
w/c 22nd Nov – **r** (Birthday party celebrations)
w/c 29th Nov – **m** (Other celebrations)
w/c 6th Dec – **d** (Christmas preparations)
w/c 13th Dec – (Christmas celebrations)

Dates for your Diary

- Monday 13th December – Nativity (all children and parents)
- Friday 17th December – Ark Christmas Party (all children)
- w/c 10th and 17th January – Keyworker Parent Consultations
- Fun In the Forest days (at Wellington) will be Monday and Friday in the Spring term

School Applications

All parents with children who were born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 (living in Bracknell Forest) will be able to apply for a school place from 5th November 2021 for your child to start school in September 2022. The deadline for applications is 15th January 2022. Offers will be made on 16th April 2022. If you have any queries please visit:

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/tarting-primary-school/>



Other local authorities have different processes but the same deadlines. Local schools have open mornings through November and December:

- Crowthorne CofE Primary – Family tours on various dates including Thursday 4th and 11th November (email or phone to book a time slot)
- Oaklands Infants – Private tours can be booked with the school by email or phone
- Hatch Ride – 9.15am on Tuesday 16th November (email or phone to book)
- Jennets Park CE Primary - 4th, 6th, 18th November (email or phone to book)
- Wildmoor Heath – 9th November (10am), 11th November (2pm) (email or phone to book)



Clothing

As the weather becomes colder, please ensure that your child has appropriate warm clothing (coats, hats, gloves). Full waterproofs and wellies are also a good idea on Tuesdays and Thursdays this term as the children like to splash in puddles and climb on wet logs.

Next term our Fun in the Forest days will be on Monday and Friday.

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 even in the winter months.

Painting – We try to put aprons on the children but sometimes they refuse or we don't get to them before they start painting. Please dress your child in old clothes or at least not their best clothes for The Ark to avoid special clothes being spoilt!

Fun in the Forest Volunteer Needed

We have been very grateful to volunteers from the church who have helped to walk the children back from Wellington on our Fun in the Forest Days. We do have a gap on the rota so if you would be willing to come and meet us at Wellington (Byron Drive entrance) around 11:30am and help walk the children back up to The Ark a couple of times a month, please do let Naomi know.

Christmas events

ALL Ark children are invited to take part in both Christmas events.

- **Monday 13th December – 9.30am – Nativity Service in the Baptist Church**

We will allocate parts for the nativity play, so will ask nearer the time who will be attending this event and will give details of costumes needed. We will serve refreshments afterwards for parents and children. Monday children can return to The Ark to resume the session as normal afterwards.

- **Friday 17th December – 9.15am-12pm – Christmas Party in The Ark hall**

All children are invited to the party, which will include party games and a festive snack during the morning. Parents/carers are invited to join us from 11:40am to see the children welcome a special festive visitor and receive a gift from him. In order to help cover costs we ask for a £5 contribution per child. Parents can take children home at 12 noon.



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.



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

A schedule will be put out at the beginning of the Spring term so you can sign up for an appointment to meet with your child's keyworker. This is an opportunity to follow their progress and development. There will be appointments at the beginning and end of sessions during these two weeks (except on Mondays and Fridays when we are at Wellington).

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**) 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.

Snacks

This is a gentle reminder that snacks should be healthy – fruit, salad or a few crackers. No crisps, chocolate or biscuits please!

Christmas Cards

Thank you to everyone who ordered Christmas cards, wrapping paper, gift tags and mugs. Orders should arrive towards the middle of November and will be sent home with your child from The Ark.

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.