



Newsletter

September/October 2021

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:

Food



Welcome Back!

We hope you have enjoyed the summer holiday and are looking forward to another year of fun and learning. A special welcome to our new children and parents.



Term Dates 2021/22

AUTUMN 2021

TERM STARTS: Mon 6th Sep
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 6th Sep – s (Likes and dislikes)
w/c 4th Oct – a (Cooking food)
w/c 13th Sep – t (Harvest)
w/c 11th Oct – i (Healthy eating)
w/c 20th Sep – p (Tasting)
w/c 18th Oct – n (Food from around the world)
w/c 27th Sep – c (Growing food)

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

All children need to bring their own snack (in a named plastic bag). If snacks can be sent in a sealed plastic bag, named with permanent marker, we will send these home at the end of the session so they can be reused. Snacks should be healthy (no crisps or biscuits) and not too big – a piece of fruit, some salad items, raisins or crackers etc. (Grapes should be cut vertically in line with anti-choking guidelines).



Drinks of milk or water will be provided when we are at the church. When we are enjoying our “forest school days” at Wellington college, water and a snack will be provided.

Parent Representatives

We are grateful to Millie (Toby's mum) and Laura (Archie's mum) for taking on the role of parent representatives on our management committee. You are welcome to pass them any feedback or suggestions that they can take to the committee meetings.

Forest School Days

We will be trialling using the Wellington College site this term. This is a new adventure for us so please bear with us as we may need to adjust the system at some point!

On Tuesdays and Thursdays from the week commencing 27th September, all children are to be dropped off at Wellington Business Park. They must be handed over to a member of the Ark staff and will be given a high-visibility jacket to wear.

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 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.

Facebook

We post regular updates and photos to our Facebook page – please do join us by searching for @ArkPreschoolCrowthorne and liking the page.



New Building

We are excited to be welcoming children into our newly refurbished building this term. Pick up and drop off is through the doors on the front left of the building. In the foyer are hooks where children's coats should be hung up, and bags placed underneath. There will be boxes for snacks and lunchboxes to go in. Children should take their animal name card from the box and bring it into the Hub to self register when the doors open at 9.15am. Please bear with us as we settle in!

Policies

Each year our policies are reviewed and updated. We require all parents to read the policies annually and to sign to confirm that they have been read and understood. Forms will be in the baskets within the next week or two, and we would be grateful if you could read the policies online, or sign out a hard copy, and sign the form asap.

Uniform

If you would like to order t-shirts (£5.75) or sweatshirts (£10.20) with The Ark logo on, please contact Naomi. These come in navy or teal, and the sizes are 3-4 or 5-6 years.

School Entry for September 2022

If your child is going to be 4 by 31st August 2022, they will be eligible to start school in September 2022. In the Autumn term you will be able to get information from local school which hopefully will include open days this year. The Bracknell Forest application process starts from 5th November and the closing date for this will be 15th January. Place offers will be made on 16th April 2022.



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.