



Newsletter - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

The theme for this half-term is:

Food

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

Welcome Back

We hope you 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 2017/18

AUTUMN 2017

TERM STARTS: Weds 6th Sep '17

HALF-TERM: 23rd - 27th Oct '17

TERM ENDS: Tues 19th Dec '17

SPRING 2018

TERM STARTS: Weds 3rd Jan '18

HALF-TERM: 12th - 16th Feb '18

TERM ENDS: Weds 28th Mar '18

SUMMER 2018

Inset (Closed): Tues 17th April '18

TERM STARTS: Weds 18th April '18

Closed: Mon 7th May (Bank Holiday)

HALF-TERM: 28th May - 1st June '18

TERM ENDS: Fri 20th July '18

Letters and themes of the week:

w/c 11th Sept - **s** (*likes/ dislikes*)

w/c 25th Sept - **t** (*Harvest*)

w/c 9th Oct - **p** (*tasting*)

w/c 18th Sept - **a** (*cooking food*)

w/c 2nd Oct - **i** (*healthy eating*)

w/c 16th Oct - **n** (*food from around the World*)

Open Door Policy

We welcome parents/ carers to chat to staff, from 9.15-9.30am every session, to share any information or concerns about their child. We have termly parent consultations for more detailed discussions with your child's keyworker, and so you can have a look at your child's learning journal.

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.

Clothing

Please remember to always supply appropriate clothes for your child (along with spares) according to the weather. We play outside in all weathers, so we ask for a pair of labelled Wellington Boots to be kept in The Ark. Please bring warm clothing, coats, hats and gloves as we get to Autumn/ Winter.



Gerry the Giraffe

Gerry is our toy giraffe, who will be sent home with the children in turn throughout this year. Please feel free to take him on some adventures, and record them in the accompanying diary. Please return Gerry when your child attends The Ark next so that they can tell us about the fun they had together.

Show and Tell

Please see the red door at the entrance to the hall to see the day allocated for your child to bring in a 'Show and Tell' item. It is helpful if it linked to the half-term theme or letter of the week. On arrival, place the item in the box at the back of the hall, and remember to take it home at the end of session.

Parent Representatives

Our parent reps. on the committee this year are Carl Mansell/ Chrissi Frewer (parents of Cali) and Naomi Page (Owen's mum). Please feel free to pass them any feedback or suggestions that they can take to the committee meetings.

Lunch Club

There are still places available for lunch club - held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday straight after the session until 1.15pm. Children benefit from the social experience of eating together, and once finished eating, there are activities which differ from the general morning session. Children need to bring their own healthy packed lunch. Please contact Sarah for more information or to book a place.



Uniform

Our Ark uniform is available to purchase, and is made to order. We offer t-shirts and sweatshirts in either navy or turquoise (see examples hanging in the cloakroom). Please ask for further details from our administrator, Sarah, on 07827 892397 or at admin@thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk. It is best to place a bulk order so please place orders by 19th September. No payment is required until the order is delivered.

Policies

Each year our policies are reviewed and updated. Due to legislative changes there have been some updates this year and this is being completed at this time. 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.

Early Years Pupil Premium

The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is an additional grant available to the childcare provider your child attends for their Free Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds. Childcare providers will use EYPP to improve facilities, equipment and learning experiences which will benefit the growth and development of your child. If you believe you may meet the eligibility criteria please email Sarah so we can submit an application.

Parent Feedback Book

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and comments from parents about any activities held at The Ark. We have a book in the cloakroom area which you are welcome to write in at any time you are in The Ark. Alternatively if there is anything you would like to discuss please feel free to talk to a member of staff.

Dates for your diary:



Harvest Service - Monday 2nd October - 9.30am - Baptist Church

All parents / carers are welcome to join us for our annual harvest celebrations. All children are invited to take part, even if they do not normally attend on a Monday. We donate items to Crowthorne Foodbank, if you would like to contribute. Refreshments will be served after and Monday children only will return to The Ark.

Nativity Service - Tuesday 12th December (provisional date) - at 9.30am - Baptist Church

All parents/ carers and family members are welcome to see the children present the Christmas Story



Christmas Party - Tuesday 19th December - 9.30am - 12pm in Ark hall

All Ark children are welcome, even if not in session normally on Tuesdays. More details to follow

Contact Details

For any general enquiries, email Sarah Webb (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.