



Newsletter - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019

The theme for this half-term is:

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

FOOD



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 2019/ 20



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

SUMMER 2020

Insets (Closed): 21st April '20
TERM STARTS: 22nd April '20
HALF-TERM: 25th - 29th May '20
TERM ENDS: 17th July '20

Letters and themes of the week:

w/c 2nd Sept (Food)

w/c 9th Sept - s (Likes and Dislikes)

w/c 16th Sept - a (Cooking Food)

w/c 23rd Sept - t (Harvest)

w/c 30th Sept - i (Healthy Eating)

w/c 7th Oct - p (Tasting)

w/c 14th Oct - n (Food from around the World)

w/c 21st Oct - c (Growing Food)

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.



Parent Representatives

We have two parent reps. on the committee and you are welcome to pass them any feedback or suggestions that they can take to the committee meetings. This year we are grateful that Katherine Bond-Smith (Edward's mum, and Naomi Page (Emily's mum) continue to be our Parent Reps. Look out for their photo in the cloakroom so you know who they are.



Misty the Cat

Misty is our toy cat, 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 Mo 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. If possible, please link the 'Show and Tell' item to the letter or theme of the week, but you are welcome to bring anything that your child wants to share.

Collection Procedure change - Important!

We continue to review our processes to ensure the safeguarding of our children, as well as being GDPR compliant. As part of this, we now require a slip to be completed by a parent to authorise collection of a child by an alternative adult. The adult will also be required to share a password (each parent will give this to The Ark when they start). If you wish to change a password please do that in the first week back at The Ark. If we are unsure that an adult should collect a child then we will not release them until we have made contact with a parent. Permission slips will be in the cloakroom area, or you can ask a member of staff. Completed forms should be handed to a member of staff.

Uniform

Our Ark uniform is available to purchase, and is made to order. We offer t-shirts (£4.95) and sweatshirts (£8.95) in either navy or turquoise (see examples of colours with T-shirts 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 20th September. No payment is required until the order is delivered.

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 30th September - 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.

Visit to St Brendan's Care Home - we hope to visit in October and December this term. Dates are to be confirmed. Parental help to walk children there and back will be needed please.

Nativity Service - Tuesday 17th December at 9.30am - Baptist Church

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



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

All Ark children are welcome, even if not in session normally on a Friday. 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.