



Newsletter

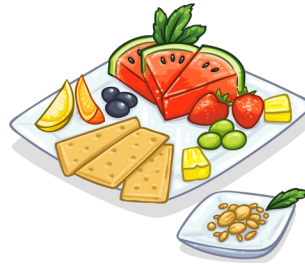
September/October 2023

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 all enjoyed the summer holiday and are looking forward to another year of fun and learning. A special welcome to our new children and families!



Term Dates 2023-24

AUTUMN 2023	SPRING 2024	SUMMER 2024
TERM STARTS: Mon 4 th Sep Half term: 23 rd -27 th Oct TERM ENDS: Fri 15 th Dec (Early close at 12pm)	TERM STARTS: Tue 2 nd Jan Half term: 12-16 th Feb TERM ENDS: Thur 28 th Mar	TERM STARTS: Mon 15 th April May bank holiday closure: Mon 6 th May Half term: 27 th - 31 st May INSET: Mon 3 rd June TERM ENDS: Fri 12 th July

Letters and themes of the week:

w/c 4th Sep – s (Likes and dislikes)
 w/c 11th Sep – a (Cooking food)
 w/c 18th Sep – t (Harvest)
 w/c 25th Sep – i (Healthy eating)
 w/c 2nd Oct – p (Tasting)
 w/c 9th Oct – n (Food from around the world)
 w/c 16th Oct – c (Growing food)

Dates for your Diary

Fun in the Forest days (at Wellington) on Mondays and Thursdays from w/c 11th September.

- Sunday 1st October - Harvest Service at Crowthorne Baptist Church (children taking part)
- Tuesday 3rd October - St Brendan's trip

Parent Representatives

We are grateful to Roula (Christy's mum) and Laura (Oliver'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. There is also a parent WhatsApp group which you may like to join for reminders and community – please speak to Roula or Laura about joining this.

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**) not the admin number, 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.

Facebook

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



Fun in the Forest

We will be continuing to enjoy the woods on Mondays and Thursdays this term. 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:

- Long sleeves and trousers or leggings are preferable even in warm weather as this protects against ticks and scratches.
- Hat in sunny weather – and please apply sunscreen before you drop off if needed
- Waterproofs in wet weather (preferably coat and trousers rather than all in one for ease of toileting) and wellies if it is likely to be muddy
- Healthy lunch in a named plastic bag if staying for lunch club
- Any medication (inhaler, epi-pen etc) in a clearly named plastic bag
- Nappy and a few wipes in a named nappy sack if not yet toilet trained

Snacks and drinks will be provided, and staff will have spare changes of clothes in case of accidents.

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.

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 Fun in the Forest days at Wellington college, water and a snack will be provided.

Please note that children are only allowed to eat during snack time at The Ark as this allows us to supervise them properly. Children should not be entering The Ark with food in their mouth or hands.

Uniform

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

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.

School Entry - September 2024

If your child is going to be 4 by 31st August 2024, they will be eligible to start school in September 2024. 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 in the beginning of November and the closing date for this will be in January. Place offers will be made in April 2024.



Contact Details

For any general enquiries, email Poppy Brown (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.