



Newsletter

April/May 2023

The topic for this half term is:
Transport

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 2022-23

Welcome Back!

We hope you has a super Easter holiday! A warm welcome to our new children and families.

SUMMER 2023

TERM STARTS: Mon 17th Apr
May Bank Holiday closure: Mon 1st May
Coronation Bank Holiday: Mon 8th May
Half term: 29th May-2nd June
TERM ENDS: Tue 18th July

AUTUMN 2023

TERM STARTS: Mon 4th Sep
Half term: 23rd-27th Oct
TERM ENDS: Fri 15th Dec
(Early close at 12pm)

SPRING 2024

TERM STARTS: Tue 2nd Jan
Half term: 12-16th Feb
TERM ENDS: Thur 28th Mar

Letters and themes of the week:

Now that we have completed our letters, we are looking at rhyming sounds (Words that rhyme with...):

w/c 17th Apr – **rhyming poems** (Transport experiences)
w/c 24th Apr – **hat** (Road transport)
w/c 1st May – **pan** (Rail transport)
w/c 8th May – **hen** (Sea transport)
w/c 15th May – **mug** (Air transport)
w/c 22nd May – **tree** (Favourite transport toys)



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.

Dates for your Diary

- Fun in the Forest days (at Wellington) on Mondays and Thursdays in the Summer term.
- Thursday 4th May – Pre-school Photos with Bea Wardlaw
- 16th, 17th, 19th May – Stay and Play week
- Monday 12th June - Transition Talk on Zoom (for parents of children going to school)
- Thursday 15th June – South Hill Park trip (all children)
- Friday 30th June – St Brendan's visit (parent help appreciated)
- Friday 7th July - Sports Day (all children)
- Tuesday 18th July - Leavers' Assembly

2023-24 Academic Year

Looking ahead to the new academic year, we want to give existing children the option to increase sessions before offers are made to new applications. If you would like to increase your child's sessions in September, please email Naomi (admin@thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk) before half term.

A reminder that our notice period is half a term, otherwise payment will be due in lieu of notice.

Fun in the Forest

We will be enjoying the woods on Mondays and Thursdays this term, commencing the 17th April (first day back after the holiday!). 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 – the children love to splash in puddles and climb on wet logs
- 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 suncream before you drop off
- 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.

Party in the Park - 6th May

Crowthorne Parish Council are organising a Party in the Park event on Saturday 6th May to celebrate the King's Coronation. There will be a large screen broadcasting the live event and a stage for local music and entertainment acts. Bring a picnic or purchase food from one of the stalls. There will also be competitions for children, including one to make a crown from recycled materials. We will be making crowns at The Ark in the weeks leading up to this event and if your child would like to take part in the competition you will need to bring them along to the celebration on 6th May where the crowns will be judged and prizes awarded. To find out more about the events planned by CPC visit - <https://www.crowthorne-pc.gov.uk/index.php>

Lunch Clubs

We have spaces left at lunch club on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays this term. This runs straight after the morning session for one hour from 12.15-1.15pm and the cost this term is £5.50 (or it can be part of your child's funded hours if they are 3-4 years old). This is great preparation for school. Please contact Naomi if you would like to sign your child up.



Reminder of Fee Increase

Just a reminder that fees for sessions not covered by funding are increasing from September to: £19 a session for two year olds, £17 a session for three and four year olds and £6 for lunch clubs. Please contact Naomi if you have any queries about this.



New School

This term we will be preparing for the children leaving in the following way:

- Doing lots of work with the children to prepare them for the transition to school,
- Liaising with the schools to share information on the children.
- Holding a transition talk on zoom for parents, so you know how best to support your child. Parents will be emailed directly with details of this.
- Showing the children uniform from local schools.

Pre-school Photos – Thursday 4th May

As part of our Fun in the Forest session on 4th May, Bea Wardlaw (Ru's mum) will be taking our pre-school photos. Bea is a professional photographer and has generously offered a percentage of any photos sold to The Ark. If your child doesn't attend on the day and you would like to have individual photos taken, or have them included in the Class of 2023 group photo, you will need to bring them to join us from 11.30am. More details will follow.

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.