



Newsletter

April/May 2026



The topic for this half term is:

Homes



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 2026-2027

SUMMER 2026

TERM STARTS: Mon 13th April
May Bank Holiday closure: Mon 4th May
Half term: 25th - 29th May
INSET: Mon 1st June
TERM ENDS: Fri 17th July

AUTUMN 2026

TERM STARTS: Wed 2nd Sept
Half term: 26th - 30th Oct
TERM ENDS: Fri 18th Dec

SPRING 2027

TERM STARTS: Mon 4th Jan
Half term: 15th - 19th Feb
TERM ENDS: Thurs 25th March

Letters/rhyming sounds and themes of the week:

As we have completed the alphabet in the first week of this half term, we are moving on to rhyming sounds.

w/c 13th Apr - x (My home)
w/c 20th Apr - y (My home)
w/c 27th Apr - pan (Things in the home)
w/c 4th May - hen (Types of houses)
w/c 11th May - mug (Fairy tale homes)
w/c 18th May - tree (Homes around the world)



Dates for your Diary

- Thurs 7th, Mon 11th & Thurs 14th May – Fun in the Forest taking place in Chaucer Woods (drop off at the Ark)
- Saturday 13th June – Shine at CBC
- Thursday 18th June - Sandhurst Park trip (all children)
- Monday 29th June - Transition Talk online for parents of children going to school (evening)
- Thursday 2nd July – Fun in the Forest at Chaucer Woods (drop off at the Ark)
- Saturday 4th July – Carnival procession
- Tuesday 7th July @ 8pm- AGM, all parents invited
- Friday 10th July - Sports Day (all children)
- Friday 17th July - Leaver's Assembly

Story sacks

This term, children will start taking it in turns to bring home a story sack. This is a bag which contains a favourite book along with items to help children interact with the story.

We would love you to read this book to your child every day for the week you have the story sack and help your child engage with the items in the bag. There will be a list of what's inside, with ideas of what you can do with them. We hope your child enjoys them!



Crowthorne Carnival 2026

Crowthorne Carnival takes place every other year with lots of events going on around Crowthorne and a wonderful procession down the High Street including lots of local schools, businesses and groups.

Carnival week is 4th – 13th July with the procession on Saturday 4th July.

The theme this year is 'Planet Earth.'



We are planning to take part in the procession – all Ark families are invited! More details will be sent out soon. More information about the carnival can be found here: <https://www.crowthornecarnival.org>

Fun in the Forest

As the weather (hopefully!) stays sunny and gets warmer this term, please note:

- Children should bring a sunhat for sunny days. Please apply sunscreen before dropping children off.
- Children should still wear long sleeves and trousers to protect from ticks and scratches.
- No sandals or crocs please – children should wear trainers (without laces) or wellies.



Please bring:

- 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, wipes and a nappy sack in a named plastic bag if not yet toilet trained
- Separate waterproof trousers and coat in wet weather (please NO all in one puddlesuits) and wellies if it is likely to be muddy

Ticks are most active from March to October – please check your child regularly, especially after Fun in the Forest sessions. Children should wear long sleeves and trousers and closed shoes (trainers or wellies) while in the woods to protect against ticks.

Parent Representatives

We are looking for two new parent representatives for our management committee from September 2026. We are extremely grateful to Roula (Nicolas' mum) and Ellie (Esther's mum) for being the parent reps this year. Please email Poppy if you would like to find out more or are interested, or speak to Roula or Ellie about what the role involves.

**HELP
NEEDED**

2026-27 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 change or increase your child's sessions in September, please email Poppy before May half term -admin@thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk.

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

Absence of children

Please phone or text the Ark number (07999 550674), not the admin number, if your child will be absent. If you know in advance of an absence, or if it is for a longer period of time, please speak to staff or send an email. We are required to phone all contacts given if we do not know why your child is not at the Ark.

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.