



# Newsletter

## February/March 2026



The topic for this half term is:

## Animals and Minibeasts



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

#### SPRING 2026

**TERM STARTS:** Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Jan  
**Half term:** 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb  
**TERM ENDS:** Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March

#### SUMMER 2026

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

#### AUTUMN 2026

**TERM STARTS:** Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept  
**Half term:** 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October  
**TERM ENDS:** Fri 18<sup>th</sup> December

#### Letters and themes of the week:

w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb – b (Farm Animals)  
w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar – j (Pets)  
w/c 9<sup>th</sup> Mar – z (Zoo Animals)  
w/c 16<sup>th</sup> Mar – w (Minibeasts)  
w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar – v (Easter)  
w/c 30<sup>th</sup> Mar – x (Easter)

#### Dates for your Diary

- w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> March - World Book Week (more details below)
- Stay and play weeks TBC
- Fire station visit TBC
- Easter Shine family morning at CBC – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April
- Sandhurst Park trip (all children) – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June
- Sports Day (all children) – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July

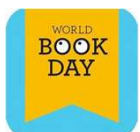
#### Pets

To fit with our topic this half term, we would love to show the children any pets you may have at home! If you have a pet you would be able to bring into the Ark to show the children in the week of 2<sup>nd</sup> March, please let the staff know. Any pet food or equipment you may have would also be interesting to bring along.



#### Fire Station Visit

We are hoping to visit Crowthorne Fire Station this half term. As soon as we know the date, we will let you know and ask if any parents are available to help us walk to the fire station and back.



#### World Book Day/Week!

We will be celebrating World Book Day throughout the week of 2<sup>nd</sup> March. World Book Day is officially on the Thursday when we'll be in the forest, so children are welcome to dress up as their favourite book character any day of that week!

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> July with the procession on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July.

The theme this year is 'Planet Earth.'



There is an opportunity for the Ark to be involved in the procession which we have done very successfully in the past! This would be organised by parents so if you would like to be involved, please let Poppy know ([admin@thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk](mailto:admin@thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk)) so we can see if there is enough interest to have the Ark involved in the procession this year. There would need to be preparation beforehand in organising costumes, props and involvement on the day itself.

More information about the carnival can be found here: <https://www.crowthornecarnival.org>



## Fun in the Forest

Our Fun in the Forest sessions continue on Monday and Thursday mornings. 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 (separate coat and waterproof trousers with elasticated waist) and wellies – the children love to splash in puddles and climb on wet logs
- Warm clothes if it is very cold (hat, gloves, scarf)
- 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

Snacks and drinks will be provided, and staff will have spare changes of clothes in case of accidents. The children will spend the morning walking back to the Ark on the High Street – they will be able to enjoy the outdoors, see the woods in different seasons and will play games, sing and do counting activities during the morning.

## Policies

We are constantly reviewing and updating our policies. Please do have a look through our policies on our website here - <https://thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk/policies.html>

## 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.

## Parent Representatives

We are grateful to Roula (Nicolas' mum) and Ellie (Esther's mum) for being the parent representatives on our management committee. You are welcome to pass them any feedback or suggestions that they can take to the committee meetings. They also host a WhatsApp group for parents and carers which you are warmly invited to join. Please speak with them or email Poppy for the link.

## Contact Details

For any general enquiries, email Poppy Brown (Administrator) at [admin@thearkpreschoolcrowthorne.org.uk](mailto: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.