



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

SPRING 2026

TERM STARTS: Mon 5th Jan
Half term: 16th – 20th Feb
TERM ENDS: Fri 27th March

SUMMER 2026

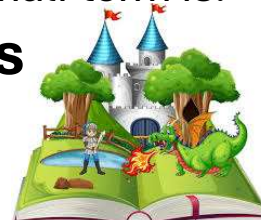
TERM STARTS: Mon 13th April
May Bank Holiday closure: Mon 4th May
Half term: 25th - 29th May
INSET: Mon 1st June
TERM ENDS: Fri 17th July

Newsletter

January/February 2026

The topic for this half term is:

Books



Happy New Year!

We hope you had a lovely Christmas break. Welcome back and a special welcome to our new children and parents.

Letters and themes of the week:

w/c 5th Jan – g (Favourite books)
w/c 12th Jan – o (The Three Little Pigs)
w/c 19th Jan – u (We're Going on a Bear Hunt)
w/c 26th Jan – q (Thomas the Tank Engine)
w/c 2nd Feb – l (Elmer the Elephant)
w/c 9th Feb – f (Goldilocks and the Three Bears)

Absence of children

You must let us know about any absence from preschool. We are now required to phone parents (and all emergency contacts if there is no answer) if we do not know why your child is not in preschool, so please support us by informing us of any absence.

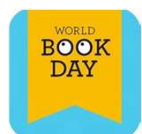
Please phone or text the Ark number (07999 550674), not the admin number, if your child is absent that day. If you know in advance of an absence, or if it is for a longer period of time, please speak to staff or send an email.

Dates for your Diary

- w/c 12th and 19th January - Keyworker meetings
- Fun in the Forest days (at Wellington) resume from Monday 2nd February
- Tuesday 3rd February – St Brendan's visit
- Thursday 5th March - World Book Day (more details below)
- Shine – 21st February at CBC

A few reminders:

- Please ensure children are not eating when they are dropped off and coming into the Ark.
- Children's special toys should be left at home to avoid them being lost or unwillingly shared!
- Please do 'like' the Tapestry posts you see so staff can see you have acknowledged them. Thank you!



World Book Day/Week!

We will be celebrating World Book Day throughout the week of 2nd 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!

Uniform

If you would like to order t-shirts or sweatshirts 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.



Parent – Keyworker Consultations – w/c 12th and 19th January

A schedule will be put up in the first week back in January so you can sign up for an appointment to meet with your child's keyworker. This is an opportunity to follow their progress and development. There will be appointments at the beginning and end of sessions during these two weeks. Keyworkers have been completing progress reports which will be emailed to you before the consultations. If you have any questions about these, please do raise them with your child's keyworker in the consultation.



We are in need of some help walking back with the children from the forest on Mondays and Thursdays from February. If you would be available and willing to help us walk back from Wellington around 11:30 on a Monday or Thursday on a rota, please let Poppy or Heather know.

School Entry – September 2026

For children starting school this September, the deadline for applications is 15th January. Offers will be made on 16th April.

If you are making alternative arrangements for your child's education, please ensure you contact School Admissions to confirm these arrangements: school.admissions@bracknell-forest.gov.uk. If you have any queries please visit: <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/starting-primary-school/>



Fun in the Forest

We will be back in the forest on Mondays and Thursdays this term from **Monday 2nd February**. 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.

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.

If the weather is very unpleasant, we will walk straight back to The Ark. In the case of extremely severe weather we will text to let you know to drop off to The Ark instead but generally we will aim to continue with the planned sessions throughout the winter months.

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 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.