



Newsletter

September/October 2022

The topic for this half term is:
Growing - Babies/Me

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!

We hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer holiday and are looking forward to another year of fun and learning. A special welcome to our new children and parents.

AUTUMN 2022

TERM STARTS: Mon 5th Sep
Half term: 24th-28th Oct
TERM ENDS: Fri 16th Dec
(Early close at 12pm)

SPRING 2023

TERM STARTS: Tue 3rd Jan
Half term: 13-17th Feb
TERM ENDS: Fri 31st Mar

SUMMER 2023

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

Letters and themes of the week:

w/c 5th Sep – s (Babies)
w/c 12th Sep – a (Babies)
w/c 19th Sep – t (Food)
w/c 26th Sep – i (Toddlers)
w/c 3rd Oct – p (Me)
w/c 10th Oct – n (Me)
w/c 17th Oct – c (Adults)

Dates for your Diary

- Fun in the Forest days (at Wellington) will on Mondays and Thursday in the Autumn term, starting from Thursday 8th September.
- Sunday 25th September – Harvest Service at Crowthorne Baptist Church (children taking part)
- Tuesday 27th September – St Brendan's trip

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.

School Entry - September 2023

If your child is going to be 4 by 31st August 2023, they will be eligible to start school in September 2023. 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 from 5th November and the closing date for this will be 15th January. Place offers will be made on 16th April 2023.

Parent Reps

Our pre-school is run by a committee. We are grateful to Sara (Henry's mum) and Laura (Oliver's mum) for taking on the role of parent representatives on our management committee this year. You are welcome to pass them any feedback or suggestions that they can take to the committee meetings. There is also a WhatsApp group for parents run by the parent reps.



Sports Day Marathon Fundraising

Thank you to all the children who ran in our Sports Day marathon and all the parents, friends and relatives who sponsored them. We raised £80.50 which will be put towards a new balance bench for The Ark.

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.

Fun in the Forest Days

We be back at Wellington College this term for Fun in the Forest!

On Mondays and Thursdays from 8th September, all children are to be dropped off at Wellington Business Park by the swimming pool. They must be handed over to a member of the Ark staff and will be given a high-visibility jacket to wear.

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
- Sunhat for sunny days (suncream already applied before drop off)
- Healthy lunch 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 in the woods and will then walk 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.



Facebook

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



Snacks and Food Safety

All children need to bring their own snack on days when we are at the church. 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 in half vertically in line with anti-choking guidelines). No nuts should be included in snacks or lunchboxes.



Drinks of milk or water will be provided when we are at the church. When we are enjoying our “forest school 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.

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.