



Newsletter

September/October 2024

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

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



Welcome Back!

We hope you have all enjoyed the summer holiday and are looking forward to another year of fun and learning. A special welcome to our new children and families!



Term Dates 2024-25

AUTUMN 2024

TERM STARTS: Wed 4th Sep
Half term: 28th Oct - 1st Nov
TERM ENDS: Fri 20th Dec
(Early close at 12pm)

SPRING 2025

TERM STARTS: Mon 6th Jan
Half term: 17th - 21st Feb
TERM ENDS: Fri 4th Apr

SUMMER 2025

TERM STARTS: Tues 22nd April
May bank holiday closure: Mon 5th May
Half term: 26th - 30th May
INSET: Mon 2nd June
TERM ENDS: Fri 18th July

Letters and themes of the week:

w/c 2nd Sep – (Growing)
w/c 9th Sep – s (Babies)
w/c 16th Sep – a (Babies)
w/c 23rd Sep – t (Growing Food)
w/c 30th Sep – i (Toddlers)
w/c 7th Oct – p (Me)
w/c 14th Oct – n (Me)
w/c 21st Oct – c (Adults)



Harvest Festival

The children will be taking part in the Harvest service at Crowthorne Baptist Church on **Sunday 29th September** at 10:30am. All families and friends are invited to watch and see the children take part in the service and sing some harvest songs.



The Ark doors

The outside doors to the church building will now remain closed during preschool hours and will be opened at 12:15 so please wait outside the building. Thank you

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.

Fun in the Forest

We will be continuing to enjoy the woods on Mondays and Thursdays this term, starting from **Monday 9th September**. Please be prompt in dropping off by Wellington Health and Fitness Club at 9.15 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:

- 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 if needed
- Waterproofs in wet weather (separate coat and trousers please rather than all in one for ease of toileting) and wellies if it is likely to be muddy
- 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.

Snacks

All children need to bring their own snack (in a named plastic bag). 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 vertically in line with anti-choking guidelines). Drinks of milk or water will be provided when we are at the church.



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.



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 Representatives

We are grateful to Roula (Christy's mum) and Ide (Aurelio's mum) for taking on the role of parent representatives on our management committee. You are welcome to pass them any feedback or suggestions that they can take to the committee meetings. There is also a parent WhatsApp group which you may like to join for reminders and community – please speak to Roula or Ide about joining this.

School Entry - September 2025

If your child is going to be 4 by 31st August 2025, they will be eligible to start school in September 2025. In the Autumn term you will be able to get information from local schools including when you can go to visit schools on open days.

The Bracknell Forest application process starts in the beginning of November and the closing date for this will be in January. Place offers will be made in April 2025.



Facebook

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



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.