



September 2017

Welcome

We would like to say a big welcome to all our new children and families and welcome back to our returning friends! We are thrilled to have you join our learning community and look forward to getting to know you better. Please ask a member of staff if you need any help or advice or consult our Welcome Booklet. These can be found in the entrance to the main classroom.

Staff Team

We would like to welcome Olivia our new Teacher to COA:

Hi all! My name is Olivia Phillips and I will be joining the team here at Chelsea Open Air as class teacher. This will be my first teaching position since graduating from Goldsmiths University in June but I have had a lot of experience working within schools. I'm really excited to be able to use all of my new found knowledge from my teacher training and can't wait to meet all of the children and families here. I'm looking forward to a really exciting year for everyone!



This term we sadly say goodbye to Priscilla our Mid-Day Meals Supervisor and to Jose our Teaching Assistant. We thank them both for their hard work and dedication in supporting the children's learning and wish them well for the future.

Governors

We are looking for a Co-opted Governor (previously known as Community Governor) to join our governing body. These are members of the local community who aren't necessarily linked to the School, ideally we would like them to have some knowledge of finance though this is not essential. The role of the school governor is demanding but very rewarding and is a good way to give back to your local community. School governing bodies are responsible for working with the school to ensure that it delivers a good quality education. Together with the Headteacher, who is responsible for day-to-day management, they set the school's aims and policies. If you are interested or know someone who is please speak to Talia.



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Pushchairs/Buggies

Please support your children in being active and independent by leaving their pushchair at home. By encouraging your child to walk or ride a scooter to school you are helping them to develop strength, stamina and mobility skills.

If you do need to bring a pushchair to school, please ensure you store it appropriately and that it is not blocking our entrances/exits.

Curriculum News

The children are settling in well and having lots of fun exploring their new school, getting to know new friends and adults. They are becoming familiar with the boundaries and expectations of COA, joining in with the routines of the day. For some children saying goodbye is challenging but they are developing their ability to say goodbye with the support of the staff team. The children are building relationships with each other and with the adults through fun games and activities such as circle times and name learning games and songs.

The children have been developing their independence skills by managing their own clothes and belongings. You can support your child in this by encouraging them to take off and hang up their own coat in the mornings and encouraging them to get dressed independently at home. Our challenging garden environment and obstacle courses are allowing children the opportunity to develop their gross motor and balancing skills at their own pace. Children are encouraged to problem solve and think about risk as they navigate different equipment and areas of the garden. The children are exploring a range of tools such as scissors and small hammers. These help them to develop their fine motor skills, hand-eye co-ordination and ability to manage tools safely.

We have been exploring different textures such as cornflour, soil and gloop. The children have been exploring colour and mark making through paint, chalk and pens.

We are enjoying a range of Traditional Tales with the children, using story sacks, props and lots of role play opportunities. The repetitive and rhythmic language used in these stories supports children's engagement and language development. Many of the stories we are enjoying at school such as 'The Three Little Pigs', 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'The Billy Goats Gruff' can be found in our home loan system for you to borrow. Through exploring these tales the children are also developing mathematical concepts such as one to one correspondence and size.



What a great start to the year!

Best Wishes

from The COA Team

