



Newsletter

April 2015

A healthy opening to education, open hearts and open minds at Chelsea Open Air Nursery

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after a sunny Easter break, the summer term has begun, and we are excited about the many activities and events that we have in store over the coming months.

Leading up to the Easter break we had a number of special events, these included a visit from Wild Science, where children took part in an interactive workshop meeting a wide range of animals, including a snake, tarantula and a millipede. The children learnt fun facts about the animals, such as where they live, what they like to eat and how they survive, supporting the children's thinking and questioning skills, introducing them to new language and broadening their experience and understanding of the world.

We also celebrated World Book Day with a fortnight of book related activities. Over the course of Book Fortnight the children became authors, illustrators and publishers of their own books and we celebrated reading by sharing with our friends our favourite place to read; thank you to all of the families who sent in pictures of their children reading to add to our display.

Slip, Slap, Slop!

As the weather gets better it is important that the children are suitably dressed and protected from the sun in order to enjoy their day at school, therefore we ask that you:

SLIP on a t-shirt with sleeves please, no bare shoulders

SLAP on a hat

SLOP on some sunscreen before coming to nursery



And don't forget to always ensure your child has spare clothes on their pegs, as accidents do happen.

Old Pots and Pans

We are collecting old pots and pans to add to our sand pit toys, if you have any old pans that you would be happy to donate to the school please give them to your key worker, thank you.



"Not long to go, so get your vouchers in soon."

Please post any vouchers by Friday 22nd May into the box in the classroom

Healthy Start Award Winners!

We are very proud to announce that COA won an award for the biggest increase in the number of vitamins distributed under the Healthy Start scheme in RBKC. Vitamins are available for children under five years and expectant and breast feeding mothers or those wanting to conceive. Please visit the office to collect your FREE vitamins.



Children's Centre News

The way in which Children's Centres in RBKC operate is changing. Currently there are eight children's centres in the borough, all of whom work in partnership but operate day to day on a separate basis.

From September this will be changing, the individual Children's Centres will consolidate and become two Children's Centres. The Children's Centres will be known as South Locality and North Locality, with High Street Kensington acting as a divide between the two Children's Centre localities. In each locality a centre will act as a hub for the organisation and logistical management of the activities delivered. The remaining children's centres will become spokes to the hub, where children's centre activities will continue to be delivered

Chelsea Open Air will be part of the South Locality Children's Centre, and will be a spoke of the hub; the hub will operate from Cheyne Children's Centre.

From September Chelsea Open Air will continue to deliver Children's Centre services, however they will be led and managed by a central team. The plan is to run a minimum of four Children Centre sessions every week.

The aim of these changes is to strengthen the Children's Centre model in RBKC, providing two larger more robust centres in place of eight smaller more vulnerable centres. It will also ensure there is less duplication of services and more flexibility in the delivery of activities.

These changes will allow for redistribution of resources, which will lead to larger more skilled teams working to deliver the Children's Centre model.

If you would like to know more please come along to the next Parents Forum on Friday 22nd May 1-2pm.

Say Hello and Wave Goodbye

At the end of the spring term we were sad to say goodbye to Lesley, our Teaching Assistant and Learning Partner. Priscilla will be working each morning in the class as a learning partner in place of Lesley. Priscilla has worked at COA for a number of years as a lunch time supervisor and supporting the Children's Centre and is excited by the challenge of her new role.

We also said farewell to Louise, who spent the spring term with COA as part of her final teaching placement of her Teacher Training degree.

Lastly we welcome Farah, who will be working as a volunteer in the office and Children's Centre on Monday and Tuesday and will be in the class on a student placement as part of her Level 2 Diploma for the Childcare and Young People's Workforce on Wednesdays.

Warm regards,

Julie and the COA Team ☺

Dates for your diary:

Special Themes, events and learning opportunities:

Poetry Fortnight: 20th April to 1st May

Living Eggs, taking care of hatchlings: 5th to 15th May

Science Week: 18th to 22nd May

Bank Holiday: 4th May: **School Closed**

Parent Forum: Friday 22nd May 1 to 2pm

Half Term: Monday 25th to Friday 29th May: **School Closed**

May Half Term Holiday Club: Tuesday 26th May to Friday 29th May, 9am to 4pm
Bookings are now being taken; please visit the office to book your child's place

Parent and Keyworker Meetings: Monday 1st June: **School Closed**

Come and meet with your child's keyworker to discuss their progress. Before you leave for half term please look out for a sign-up sheet to book your meeting slot.

Back to School: Tuesday 2nd June

Children Centre Events:

These events are in addition to the nursery school offer and must be booked separately. You are welcome to attend Children Centre events, but make sure the times do not clash with your child's nursery place.

Stay and Play: every week Monday and Thursday 9.15 to 11am for children 0-5 years
and Monday afternoon 1.15 to 3pm for children under 2 years

Sing a Song of Stories: 28th April, 9.30 to 10.30

A fun and interactive session to introduce early literacy

Baby Massage: 28th April to 2nd June, 1.30 to 3pm

For young babies, supporting parental bond and relaxation for parent and child

Baby Sensory Play: 1st May and 5th June 10am to 12pm

A session for young babies up to 15 months, a relaxed and interactive play session

Dads Group: 2nd May and 6th June 10am to 12pm

All male carers welcome, no need to book, just come along!

Sticky fingers Creative Fun: Exploring Expressive Arts and Design

5th May, 10 to 11am: Children 18 months to 3yrs

8th May, 2.00 to 3.00pm: Children 6-18months