



Newsletter

January 2015

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year, and welcome back from the festive holidays, I hope 2015 brings you all lots of fun and happiness.

The children enjoyed a wonderful build up to the festive break, with lots of exciting and interesting activities and learning opportunities to support their understanding of the meaning of Christmas. We also had a special event to celebrate Hanukah, with the support from Benjamin's father, who kindly led a group time.

The special events leading up to Christmas included taking part in the Christ Church Christmas Tree competition, all of the children made special decorations using sticks and colourful ribbons to adorn the tree, unfortunately we did not win, but the tree did look wonderful in the Church, and made a great addition to our classroom afterwards.

Thank you as well to everyone who came to our Christmas Lights celebration, the children were all busy learning carols leading up to the evening and sang beautifully for their parents. Thank you to parents who donated raffle prizes and cakes for the refreshments stall, thanks to your support we raised over £400 for the school fund, which will be put towards special events during the year, such as the farm and theatre visits.

To celebrate the end of many of the children's first term here at COA we had a wonderful party and were delighted that Theatre Bugs were able to come along to entertain the children through a theatre production with much laughter and fun.

Outdoor play: what's it all about...

Our garden is an integral part of our learning environment and key to providing a well-rounded, supportive education through which the children can learn and thrive. Established as an Open Air Nursery in 1929 we have a long history of supporting the children to learn through play, exploration and discovery in the garden.

Our garden is very special and we ensure that the children can access the whole curriculum in the garden; this includes ICT, cookery, art, as well as activities that you may expect to find in the outdoors, like physical games, planting, growing, sand and water play. We place as much importance on planning and organising our garden as we do for indoors.

Through careful planning the children can learn and explore the garden in a way they cannot do inside. They have an opportunity to experience a sense of adventure, excitement and fun, be independent, inventive and creative, develop knowledge and understanding of the natural environment, for example life cycles, experience the seasons in all their richness, take risks and solve problems and develop a sense of awe and wonder in the natural world.

But as well as all this, there is something more... something very special, which we delight in and value enormously about our garden. Something which we believe to be part of the very essence of childhood, this is the world of imagination, fairy-tale, magic, pretend, enchantment, story and the whole exciting world of fantasy.

A key element of the planning for our whole learning environment is to ensure that the classroom and garden are safe, secure and fit for purpose. Every activity is risk assessed to ensure the child

can play, explore and take risks in a safe and controlled way. Through careful preparation and consideration we give the children opportunities that at first glance may provide challenge; however by providing appropriate adult support the children can master skills, such as using a hammer, climbing a ladder, or taking part in a fire bowl activity.

Events to look forward to this half term

This term we have lots of fun and interesting events for the children to look forward to. Firstly we will be celebrating carers week, where the children will have the opportunity to meet local professionals and residents who support us in the community for example doctors, dentists, fitness. These visits will help to develop the children social and personal skills as well as their understanding of the world.

We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year at the end of this half term where the children will have a chance to become Dragon Dancers.

We are welcoming back our local Speech and Language Therapist who will be visiting the school on a weekly basis to ensure we have a language rich environment for the children to thrive in.

Expeditions

This term we will be starting to take all of the children on expeditions into the local community, such trips include visits to local museums, parks and places of interests. We plan to ensure that every child will go on an expedition over the coming two terms, so do not fear if they are not on the first one, they have not been forgotten.

We will be looking for parent volunteers on these outings, and will need your permission to take your child on an expedition, so please return letters promptly and let us know if you are able to come along to help on the day.

Half Term Holiday Club

This half term (16th Feb to 20th Feb) our holiday club will have a focus on Chinese New Year, looking at different aspects of the festival, the food, culture, dance and art. Holiday club is £40 per day 9am to 4pm, for children attending COA there is a special discounted price of £35 per day, places need to be booked in advance in the school office.

Say Hello and Wave Goodbye

This term we are pleased to welcome Louise:

“My name is Louise Collins and I am currently completing my final ‘block school experience’ placement for my Primary Education degree, at Chelsea Open Air Nursery School. The course of my training will run until Easter and I am really looking forward to getting to know the children and working with the staff during the spring term.”

At the end of January we will also be welcoming Alena who will be joining us as a Learning Partner for the duration of this academic year.

At the end of last term we were sad to say goodbye to Julie Wilkinson, who had been a Learning Partner, we wish her all the best for her future.

Wishing you all a prosperous 2015!

Warm regards,

Julie and the COA Team ☺

Dates for your diary:

Half Term: Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February: School closed

9th January 9.30 to 11.30am:

School Admission Session: For families who have not completed their school application

19th to 23rd January

Carers in the Community Week

9th to 13th February:

Chinese New Year celebrations, year of the Sheep

Parents Forum:

13th January, 1.30 to 2.30pm and 12th February, 9.30 to 10.30am

Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February

Holiday Club: 9am to 4pm

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.

Thursday 8th January to Thursday 29th January 10 to 11am

Sing a Song of Stories: for children 18 months to 3 years, a fun interactive story session

Saturday 10th January, 7th February and 7th March 10am to 12pm

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

Tuesday 13th January to Tuesday 10th February 1.30 to 3pm

Baby Massage: for babies aged 3 to 6 months

Friday 16th January 9.30 to 10.30am

Sensory Story and Learning Together Library (PACT)

Friday 30th January and 27th February 10am to 12pm

Baby Sensory Play: for babies under 15 months

Sticky Fingers: Creative Fun

3rd February 10 - 11am for children 18mths to 3yrs & 5th February 1.30 - 2.30pm for children 6-18mths

Monday 16th February 9.30 to 10.30am: HALF TERM Fun

Playdough workshop

Tuesday 17th February 10am to 12pm: HALF TERM FUN

Family Film Sharing: enjoy a family film in a relaxed cinema environment

Thursday 19th February 9.30 to 1pm: HALF TERM FUN

Family Day: Chinese New Year Parade and picnic

Friday 20th February 10 to 11am: HALF TERM FUN

Yoga session for children ages 3 and 4 years, parents have to stay with their children.