



Newsletter

June 2015

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

Dear Parents,

As the weather gets warmer and we bask in the lovely sunshine the children continue to grow and learn together enjoying wonderful experiences that they will remember for years to come. To ensure your child can enjoy the learning environment please make sure they arrive with sun cream on and their shoulders covered.

Over the past few months the children have had lots of hands on experience with animals, learning care and respect animals. Through Living Eggs the children delighted in seeing ten eggs wiggle, crack and hatch out ten little chicks, which we cared for and fell in love with over the two weeks they were with us. The children named the chicks and learnt lots of subject specific language. They gained an understanding of the life cycle of a chicken and how they grow, develop and change over time.

The children are now enjoying a similar experience on a smaller scale (literally); we have watched our caterpillars grow over the course of a few weeks, they are all now in their pupas. Very soon they will emerge as Painted Lady Butterflies, which we will be able to release into our garden.

A special and exciting day that all of the children and adults enjoyed was Farm Day, the day was a wonderful opportunity for the children where they could get hands on with the animals, brushing the donkeys, feeding the greedy goats and sheep and cuddling the rabbits and the guinea pigs. It was also a delight to have a pig roaming around the garden, sunning himself by the vegetable patch as the beautiful cockerel sauntered by and the ducks quacked away.

Aside from our animal antics the children have also benefitted from some special weeks, firstly poetry fortnight before half term supporting the children to become poets and build an appreciation for poetry; learning about different types of poems, such as tongue twisters and shape poems.

The children also become budding scientists during science week, where there were many opportunities for experimentation, predictions and discovery. Taking part in experiments such a chemical reactions to make Flubber, discovering physics through activities linked to forces such as wind and gravity and biology through activities such as observation of changes to a decomposing fish.

Amongst all of this learning and fun our vegetable patch is starting to produce the fruits of our labour, the children have been watering the plants, learning about growth over time and the virtue of patience. They are now harvesting fresh strawberries for snack times every few days and we hope the tomatoes and peas will come along soon to continue our harvest.

Thank you

We would like to say a big thank you to all of our parent helpers over the past term, all of the children have benefitted from expeditions into the community and we are very grateful to all of you who have been able to come along and support us, without which such trips would be impossible.

Congratulations

We are very proud to announce that two of our pupils have had their art work selected to be displayed at the Leighton House Schools Art Exhibition. Sharon led a project with a group of children to create a frieze of tiles depicting different life cycles. Of the two pieces of work submitted by the school one was

selected for the exhibition. If you would like to see it the work will be on display until the 28th June, at Leighton House Museum, 12 Holland Park Road, W14 8LZ. Children under 5 years are free and adults are £7.

Parent Survey Results

Thank you to all parents that completed our parent survey. The survey gives us a chance to hear your views and ensure that our families are happy with the education provided at COA.

Across all areas we are very pleased that you are 100% happy with our school, giving the school top marks in all areas.

Improvements since last year:

My child is well looked after at COA: increase of 8% to 100% satisfaction

COA manages behaviour well: increase of 4% to 100% satisfaction

COA is well led and managed: increase of 4% to 100% satisfaction

We value your voice and are always happy to hear any compliments, and if you have any concerns please do not hesitate to talk to your key worker in the first instance or Julie.

Open Day: 10th July

You should already have received your invitation to our Open Day, a fantastic day where you can come to school with your child to learn together in fun and exciting workshops throughout the day. It is also a fundraising opportunity for the school and if you can help in any way to make the day a success please talk to Julie, or sign up on the sign-up sheets (they will be displayed from the 29th June)

Children's Centre News

We are now moving into our last few months as a registered Children's Centre, as from September we will be de-registering and the future Children's Centre activities at COA will be managed and led by Early Help, who's office will be based at Cheyne Children's Centre.

We are currently consulting with parents in regards to what you would like COA to deliver in place of the Children's Centre activities, under our new School Community Programme. Questionnaires were distributed in the children's lockers last week, if you have not done so, please return them to the office, we want to hear your views.

Over the past few months our families have enjoyed lots of great activities and events. Many mothers took up the opportunity for baby massage in May and June, where lots of the siblings of the school children had a chance to get involved. Furthermore, we are now welcoming our new cohort of children through our Ready Steady School programme, preparing them for their first day in September.

Our Summer Holiday Club is set to be jam packed, with fun and games, running from the 27th July to 28th August, Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm. Places are filling up fast so please go to the office to secure a place before they all go.

Say Hello and Wave Goodbye

At the end of May we were sad to say goodbye to Clarissa, who has worked in the school office for the past two years. She has moved on to a new challenge in a larger school. Ann has come to work in the office three days a week over the summer term whilst we recruit for this role.

Warm regards,
Julie and the COA Team ☺

Dates for your diary:

Parent Forum: Tuesday 30th June 9.30 to 10.30am

Open Day: Friday 10th July 9.30am to 3pm

Leavers Picnic: Wednesday 15th July

All children are invited to spend the whole day at school, 0845 to 1545

Leavers Sharing: Friday 17th July 10 to 11am

On the last day of term families are invited to celebrate their child's achievements before they leave COA

Last Day of Term: Friday 17th July

All children will attend in the morning from 8.45am, and part time children will leave at 11.45am and full time children will leave at 1pm.

Summer Holiday Club: Monday 17th July to Friday 28th August, 9am to 4pm

Bookings are now being taken; please visit the office to book your child's place

For those returning next term: Back to School: Monday 7th September

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: Monday and Thursday 9.15 to 11am for children 0-5 years
and Monday afternoon 1.15 to 3pm for children under 2 years
(Monday sessions are term time only)

Positive Parenting: 24th June and 1st July 9 to 11am (booking required, crèche available)

Discussion group offering suggestions and ideas on positive parenting, helping you manage day to day challenges to promote your child's development. *Topic; Hassle Free Shopping with Children*

Baby Sensory Play: 3rd July and 7th August 10am to 12pm

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

Dads Group: 4th July and 1st August 10am to 12pm

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

Sing a Song of Stories: Thursday 9th July 1 to 2pm

A fun and interactive session to introduce early literacy, based on the story of Chicken Licken