



Newsletter

March 2015

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring is finally here and the lovely sunshine is bringing our garden to life! We have had a wonderful start to our spring term, and there are still lots of exciting events to come!

Leading up to the half term we had a week of celebration for Chinese New Year, the children enjoyed making stir-fry, lanterns and shadow puppets, as well as getting to grips with chop sticks in the home corner and dressing in traditional Chinese outfits. The highlight of the week was the Chinese Dance Workshops, where we welcomed a professional dancer to the school who taught the children some traditional dance moves and provided them with the opportunity to try on a Chinese Dragons Head.

Shortly before this everybody took part in our Health and Self Care week, where they had the chance to learn all about the importance of a healthy lifestyle which included finding out about healthy foods, exercise and self-care routines like brushing teeth.

Well done to all who took part in the spring bulb competition, we were very proud of the beautiful flowers that you had grown at home, great job and lots of well-deserved prizes won!

Book Fortnight

This half term we will be celebrating literature during our book fortnight with the children becoming authors, illustrators and publishers of their own stories. This should build on their love, knowledge and understanding of books.

The fortnight will end on Friday 13th March with a chance for all of the children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

Easter Holiday Club

This Easter break (Tuesday 7th to Friday 17th April) we will be running our ever popular holiday club based on the theme of 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'. Holiday club is £40 per day 9am to 4pm, for children attending COA and their siblings there is a special discounted price of £35 per day; places need to be booked in advance in the school office.

Spare clothes and wellies

Please make sure that your child always has spare clothes at school, as accidents do happen. Also if you have any old clothes in size 3-4 years we are happy to accept donations, this includes underwear.

Also it is important that your child has a pair of welly boots at school so that when the Spring Showers arrive they will still be able to access the garden without getting soggy feet!

Snails on holiday...

The eagle-eyed amongst you may have spotted that our snails have disappeared from the classroom, do not fear, they have just gone for a little holiday to the Treehouse.

Comic Relief:

The parents forum has arranged a day of fun events for comic relief (see below). If you are able, please donate a cake for the bake sale, you can bring them in on Friday 13th, in the morning. Thank you.

Warm regards,

Julie and the COA Team ☺

News from the Parent Forum: Written by Justine Fung, Vice Chair

The last parents forum meeting saw a great turnout from parents who provided welcome feedback, suggestions and ideas. Your continued support and involvement will be greatly appreciated.

Here is an overview of outcomes from recent parent forum meetings:

The introduction of a text messaging service to communicate with parents and carers. If you have not received a message from the nursery and would like to, please ensure your mobile number/s are up to date in the office. Please note that this service is for outgoing messages only and you cannot reply to them.

Following enquiries regarding safety in the nursery and playground, the forum were presented with a health and safety overview by Simon, which included comprehensive records of equipment maintenance, safety inspections and injury logs. If you would like this information please feel free to ask at the office.

Parent resources such as science boxes, story sacks and math packs are always available for taking home and enjoying with your children of all ages. A small selection of these will be made available near the entrance at pick up time, and also at the resources library upstairs. Please ask Leslie if you need help/ideas of how to use these resources.

Upcoming events to note-

March 13th - Parent forum **comic relief fundraising** activities.

@Morning drop off: Parents and children are invited to take fancy dress selfies at our dress-up table for comic relief . Gold coin donation.

@Afternoon pick up: there will be a fundraising cake sale outside the nursery. If you would like to donate a cake please bring to the nursery at drop off time.

Thursday 19th March, 9.30-10.30: Next meeting - all parents and carers are invited to attend our next meeting. If you have items to highlight, please forward them to iva_netzova@yahoo.co.uk to add to the agenda, which we will aim to email out prior to the meeting.

Dates for your diary:

2nd March to 13th March: Book Fortnight

Friday 13th March: Come to school dressed as your favourite book character

Friday 13th March: Comic Relief fundraising

Morning drop off - Parents and children are invited to take fancy dress selfies at our dress-up table for comic relief. Gold coin donation.

Afternoon pick up - there will be a fundraising cake sale outside the nursery. If you would like to donate a cake please bring to the nursery at drop off time.

Thursday 19th March: Parent Forum 9.30 – 10.30am

Friday 20th March: Bring your Grown Up to School Day

An opportunity to see how we work and play at COA, look out for a sign-up sheet by the front door.

Thursday 2nd April: Last day of term - all children to attend in the morning, part time children will leave at 11.45, full time at 1pm.

Easter Holidays: Friday 3rd April to Friday 17th April: School Closed

Easter Holiday Club: Tuesday 7th April to Friday 17th April, 9am to 4pm

Back to School: Monday 20th April

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.

School Ready Programme: 17th March to 31st March 10 - 11.30am

A series of sessions aimed at children about to start Nursery School

Sticky fingers: New Beginnings: 1.30 – 2.30pm

Children 6-18months 25th March, and children 18 months to 3yrs 1st April

FACES Employment surgery: 18th March 1 - 3pm

For parents looking to return to work or study.

Sensory Story and Learning together Library: 12th March 9.30 - 10.30am

An interactive and exciting introduction to story time.

Baby Sensory Play: 27th March 10am - 12pm

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

Dads Group: 7th March and 11th April 10am - 12pm

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