



Newsletter

February 2014

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back from half term, I am delighted that spring has decided to join us at long last!

We have had a fun and exciting start to 2014 with lots of events and different learning opportunities for the children to enjoy.

We led a project for a week for Chinese New Year, the year of the horse. The children were able to build their understanding of the festival through stories, games, dressing up and art projects. This holistic approach ensured that all children were able to gain an understanding of the festival and take part in some way. The week concluded with a Chinese dance workshop, during which all of the children learnt about traditional dance and music and got to try on a Chinese dragon head.

The children enjoyed Carers Week, where members of the community visited the school to meet the children and talk to them about how they support the local community. Visitors included the Mayor and Mayoress of RBKC, local police officers, a vicar, Lesley's mother who crocheted friendship bracelets with the children and a number of parents who came to share their talents. A BIG thank you to all that supported the week. During the week the children developed their personal, emotional and social skills and gained a better understanding of their community.

Some children have also benefitted from weekly speech and language groups, led by speech therapist Deborah Skinner alongside our staff team which has supported the children's language development and supported our practice.

Additionally we have had regular music sessions, led by a parent whose child attends the children's centre and a number of parents have joined us to read to the children on Friday mornings. If you would like to volunteer and spend some time supporting the class please talk to Talia or Alex.

This half term the children will be enjoying World Book Day, the children will become authors and illustrators of their own stories during COA Book Fortnight, parents will also be welcome take part by coming to read to the children. Look out for a signup sheet and more information in your child's locker.

Spring Bulb Competition

Congratulations to all of the children who took part in this year's London Children's Flower Society Spring Bulb Competition. We had 46 entries and of those 36 were awarded a Gold Certificate, 8 were awarded silver and 2 were awarded bronze.

Well Done!



Gardening Day

Do you have green fingers? We are planning a gardening day on Sunday 16th March 11am-2pm. We are looking for keen gardeners, no experience necessary to come along and help get the garden ready for the warmer weather after the rather wet winter we have had. Many hands make light work!

Please look out for a signup sheet. We request that children do not attend on this day as there will be lots of garden tools around and it will not be a safe place for the children to play.

www.Givingabit.co.uk

Parents, we need your support! Have you signed up yet?

Last term we set up an account with the company Givingabit, to raise vital funds for the school. It is quick and easy to join and each time you shop online we will raise money through donations from the companies you shop from. Most of the major online retailers are available through the Givingabit website such as Amazon, Sainsburys, Waitrose, Boots and Carphone Warehouse, to name a few.

Please sign up to Givingabit and join our online community to support the school.



Donations for the Creative Area

Thank you to all of the families who have been donating items for our creative area, please continue to do so as it really helps children to develop their creative skills. We are currently looking for paper with interesting patterns, such as old wrapping paper, empty jam jars, 2 litre bottles (such as water/coke bottles), dry pulses and dry pasta (such as lentils, chick peas, black eye peas or rice, please don't bring in kidney beans as these are poisonous when uncooked)

Easter Holiday Club

We are now taking bookings for the Holiday Club during the Easter Holidays (14th April to the 25th April, excluding Good Friday and Easter Monday) Holiday club is £35 per day 9am to 4pm and needs to be booked in advance. Please visit the office to book your child's place.

Wave Goodbye

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to Helen, who has been a Nursery Officer and Keyworker since September. We wish her the best of luck in her future career, she will be greatly missed.

Warm regards,

Julie and the COA Team ☺

Dates for your diary:

Easter Holiday: Monday 14th April to Friday 25th April

6th March: World Book Day

3rd March to 13th March: Chelsea Open Air Book Fortnight

21st March: Sport Relief

2nd April: Bring your grown up to school day

7th to 11th April: Easter Celebrations

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.

Fridays: 17th January to 28th March 1pm to 3 pm

Next Steps: Support and guidance for parents looking to move into study or back to work

Friday 28th March 1pm to 3pm

Job Shop: Support and guidance to find your perfect job, book an appointment in the office

Saturday 1st March, 5th April and 3rd May 10am to 12pm

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

Monday 14th April to Friday 25th April (excluding Good Friday and Easter Monday)

Holiday Club: 9am to 4pm: holiday fun for children aged 3 to 7 years.

Wednesdays: 19th February to 26th March 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Knitting Group: A session for parents to learn a new skill or enjoy having the time to take up an old skill, book your place in the office.

Tuesday 11th March 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Cake Decorating for Parents: a fun session for parents to learn new skills

Wednesday 26th March 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Learning More than one Language: A workshop to support parents with bilingual children

Thursdays: 27th February to 3rd April 9.30am to 11am

Hear Me Follow Me: A drop in session led by Speech and Language Therapists to support all children