



# Newsletter

January 2014

*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 2014 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. This included making some wonderful decorations for our Christmas tree. Every year the school takes part in the Christ Church Christmas Tree Decorating competition to raise funds for the church. This year our tree theme was A Wonderful Web Sight, the children created magical sparkling webs to decorate the tree, with a web fairy on the top. Felicity and Bonyo took two children to the church to help decorate the tree, which later filled our classroom with sparkle.

The children also enjoyed learning some traditional carols which we sang at the Christmas Lights celebration. Thank you to everyone who came to the event and joined in with the singing, and enjoyed a hot chocolate and some yummy cakes. Thank you to the Parents Forum who supported the event, selling raffle tickets, encouraging local businesses to donate prizes for the raffle, and baking some wonderful cakes. The event rose over £530 which will be put towards updating our IT systems, including the introduction of i-Pads to further support the children's learning.

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, helping the police man find poor Dolly, who had run away.

## **Parent Lending Resource Library**

We are delighted that so many families are making use of the resources available to borrow and enjoying extending their child's learning at home. Unfortunately some of the science boxes and story sacks have not been very well looked after and have been returned in a poor state, which means we have had to close the Leading Resource Library for a couple of weeks while we sort out the resources and story sacks.

We would love for all families to continue to use the library, but please ensure you do the following:

1. Allow your child to choose a resource, only one per family at any time
2. Sign out the resource in the folders available in the library
3. Enjoy and have fun learning with your child at home together
4. You can keep a resource for up to one week
5. Return the resource to the library and sign it back in, so that we know you have returned it
6. Make sure you and your child take care of the resources and they are returned in the same state you took them in, so that the next family can enjoy them
7. We understand that there may be accidents some times, if anything is damaged or broken please let a member of staff know when you return it so that it can be repaired ready for the next family

[www.Givingabit.co.uk](http://www.Givingabit.co.uk)

Parents, we need your support!

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.



### **Thank you**

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. Small and interesting objects that often end up in the bin can provide a great learning resource such as yoghurt pots, stock cube boxes, buttons, corks, lids, ribbon, wool, string, old gift wrapping paper, greeting cards and material.

Thank you as well to the parents that have kindly donated clothes for our spare clothes boxes, this has been invaluable; we are still collecting girls' knickers and socks. Remember to keep a spare change of clothes here for your child and to top it up when items are used.

### **Half Term Holiday Club**

This half term (17<sup>th</sup> Feb to 21<sup>st</sup> Feb) our holiday club will have a creative theme looking at shape, colour and pattern based around the story of Elmer the Elephant. 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.

### **After school Club**

This term we will be introducing special themed after school sessions, starting off with a series of cookery activities. Look out for information in your child's locker. Places can be booked in the office.



This is our Book Club, where you can purchase very reasonably priced books, and the school gets 20% of all sales in credit for books. If anyone wants to purchase books from the latest Scholastic Catalogue there is still time. Please give your order form to Lesley or to the office by Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

### **Say Hello and Wave Goodbye**

Finally I would like to welcome a new member of staff to our team; Julie Wilkinson joined our team this term and will be working as a Learning Partner.

At the end of last term we were sad to say goodbye to Natalie, who had been a Learning Partner since September, Natalie has moved to Switzerland where she will be providing childcare for families on their skiing holidays, we wish her all the best for her future.

Wishing you all a prosperous 2014!

Warm regards,

Julie and the COA Team ☺

# Dates for your diary:

**Half Term:** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February

**31<sup>st</sup> January:**

Chinese New Year, year of the Horse

**10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> February**

Carers Week

**6<sup>th</sup> March**

World Book Day

## **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.

**Every Sunday 1pm to 3pm:**

**FREE Swimming for Dads and Kids at Chelsea Sports Centre:** pick up your vouchers in the office

**Tuesdays: 14<sup>th</sup> January to 11<sup>th</sup> February 2pm to 2.45pm**

**Dancing for Mums and Children:** A fun and energetic session incorporating Zumba & other dance styles

**Fridays: 17<sup>th</sup> January to 28<sup>th</sup> March 1pm to 3 pm**

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

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January and 28<sup>th</sup> February 1pm to 3pm**

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

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March 10am to 12pm**

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

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

**Holiday Club:** 9am to 4pm

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 10am to 12pm**

**Family Film Sharing:** Run by the Portobello Film Festival Team, enjoy a FREE family film

**Wednesdays: 19<sup>th</sup> February to 26<sup>th</sup> 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

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 1.30pm to 3.30pm**

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