



Newsletter

November 2013

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are half way through the first term of our academic year and the children are thriving! They have all settled in really well, are making friends and building relationships with their key workers and other adults.

Our parent meeting day was a great success and provided a wonderful chance to meet with your key worker and find out how your child is getting on. Thank you to the parents who completed the feedback forms, I am delighted to say that 94% of parents felt the meeting was highly successful and the feedback was very helpful in order to understand your views. We really welcome your feedback and if you ever have any comments, compliments or complaints please do not hesitate to come and talk to us. You can also complete a parent feedback card in the office, the small purple cards on the front desk.

During the last term we enjoyed a number of celebrations and special events, this included an African Drumming workshop to celebrate Black History Month and as part of our bonfire celebrations the children enjoyed a session making a fire bowl, this promoted lots of wonderful language and early science understanding.



Parents Forum

Our Parents Forum is starting to gather momentum and we have a few key parents who are working very hard to establish a strong forum, so thank you to all who are involved. If you are not part of the forum yet it is not too late to get involved, Edith, Luke and Phillip's mother, is collecting email addresses of all parents to improve communication for the forum, please speak to Edith to give her your email address.

The Parents Forum is spearheading a number of fundraising projects to support COA. They are arranging a Festive Raffle; look out for tickets that will be put in your child's locker in a few weeks' time, each family will have £7.50 worth of tickets to sell to friends and family. More tickets will be available from the office.

www.Givingabit.co.uk

Another fundraising project that the Parents Forum is supporting is 'Giving a Bit', an online facilitator that you can join and shop through, which will raise vital funds for COA. You should have had some information in your child's locker, it is quick and easy to join and a number of online retailers are available on their website. Please tell your friends and family, more information is available from Simon in the office.



What to wear to COA...

We would like to remind parents of the importance of wearing old clothes to nursery; our environment is free flow where children can choose to play indoors and outdoors. Every day the children have the opportunity to build in the sand, dig in the mud, splash in the water and paint. As you can imagine (and as some of you have found) these activities can be very messy, but the children are having opportunities to develop their creative, physical and social skills as well as an incorporation of all other areas of learning. Our main focus is on providing your child with the best, well-rounded education and start to school that we possibly can, this will involve messy play.

What to wear to nursery school:

- ✓ Please make sure your child has clothing that is easy to remove, for example elasticated waist, to support independence.
- ✓ Please wear lots of thin layers as it keeps you warmer than one thick layer.
- ✓ Please do not wear anything that you would not be happy about it getting dirty.
- ✓ Please bring welly boots and a warm waterproof coat to nursery school
- ✓ Don't forget a hat, scarf and gloves

COA clothing is available in the office; it is hard wearing and could be kept just for school

Donations for our creative area needed...

Thank you to all of the families who have been bringing in junk for the children to model with, it has been a fantastic help. We are still collecting boxes and cartons, but would really like some smaller cartons which will help to extend our imaginations in the junk modelling area, we need:

- ✓ Small containers, i.e. yoghurt pots and stock cube boxes
- ✓ Buttons, corks, lids, ribbon, wool, string...
- ✓ Old gift wrapping paper
- ✓ Old Greeting cards (no rude ones!)
- ✓ Material

Small and interesting objects that often end up in the bin can provide a great learning resource, and are always welcome here at COA; all we ask is please no toilet rolls, thank you.



Scholastic

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 wanted to purchase books from the latest Scholastic Catalogue there is still time. Please give your order form to Lesley or to the office by Friday 22nd November.

Say Hello...

Finally I would like to welcome some new members to our team, Bonyo, our new school site manager and Debby who you may recognise as she has been at COA on a casual basis supporting the children's centre for some time and is now working as a learning partner while Seema is on maternity leave.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 26th November 1.30 to 3pm

Play, Make and Say: A group for parents run by the Speech and Language Therapist Team, a crèche is provided for younger children not at nursery. Please book your places in the office

Every Sunday 1pm to 3pm:

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

Friday 29th November 1pm to 3pm

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

Thursday 5th December 9am to 11.30am

School Admission Team advice drop in: find out about the school admission process

Saturday 7th December and 11th January 10am to 12pm

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

Friday 13th December 9.30am to 12.30pm

Family Day: A Christmas themed day, nursery children can attend one family day per term

Thursday 12th December 5pm to 6pm

Christmas Lights: A celebration for all of the COA nursery families, festive carols, mince pies and fun!

Tuesday 17th December

Children's Christmas party: All children to attend from 1pm-3.30pm only (no morning session) for lots of festive fun!

Friday 20th December

Last Day of Term: all children to attend in the morning, part time children will leave at 11.30, full time at 1pm

Monday 6th January

School Inset Day: No School today

Tuesday 7th January

First Day back from the Christmas holiday!

Wishing you all a wonderful festive season,

Warm regards,

Julie and the COA Team ☺