



**September/October 2012**

## **WELCOME:**

We are thrilled to welcome our four established children and families back into COA and thank them for helping us to welcome and induct the 56 new children and families who are starting with us this autumn.



We welcome Char Evans and Alex Kelly to the staff team this term, and say thank-you to Rosemary and Shilpi who have been helping us temporarily. We are also in the process of appointing a new Administrative Assistant, a Site Manager and two SEN support staff for children with unique needs who will also join us shortly.

## **CHAR EVANS:**



My name is Char and I am very pleased to be joining the team at Chelsea Open Air and working with you all in a fantastic environment for your children to learn and develop. I am originally from the Shropshire countryside, but have lived in London for eight years now. I trained as a teacher in Early Years Education at Goldsmiths, University of London and have taught in many Early Years settings in London. I also trained to teach English as an additional language at St. George International. I have taught English in India and Thailand and spent the summer holidays teaching English to some Russian 3 year olds in the USA and France. Apart from finding teaching very rewarding, I also enjoy learning about different cultures, exploring the outdoors and I am very interested in the Arts. I look forward to getting to know you all much better over the coming weeks!

## **ALEX KELLY:**

I have recently moved to London from Brighton and I am enjoying London life. This summer I graduated from Brighton University with a degree in Primary Education 3-7. I have worked in various primary schools and nursery setting and I am very pleased to have joined the team at COA. My first few weeks have been lovely and I've enjoyed meeting all of the children, staff and parents.



## STARTING SCHOOL IN 2013-14:

Please be aware that the closing date for applications to primary schools in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Go online now at: [www.rbkc.gov.uk/schools/admissions](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/schools/admissions) and make this important decision for your child's education for the next 11 years. If you are not resident in RBKC you will need to apply via your home borough. Hard paper application forms and the booklet full of hints and tips will be available shortly from COA. National offer day means you will be notified by email on the evening of 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013 and letters will be sent by first class mail on the same day.



## ECO SCHOOL:

This important programme is something which is part of our COA Improvement Plan. We are working with the children to encourage sustainability and eco awareness. Hence we try to teach the children how to look after their world through their environment by growing vegetables, using the compost bin, and reusing paper etc. You can also help at home by teaching your child to turn off taps, turning off lights, discouraging waste by not buying needless new clothes, and using [www.wear-it-out.co.uk](http://www.wear-it-out.co.uk), charity shops, swaps such as 'up cycle' and ethical shops as listed in the Guardian [www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/page/ethicalfashiondirectory](http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/page/ethicalfashiondirectory).



## CHANGES TO OFSTED INSPECTION:

 You may have read about further changes to the criteria for the inspection of schools by Ofsted. The notification of the inspection is announced the afternoon before so there is little time to prepare. We have a statutory duty to inform you too, so this may give you very little warning too. The short notice is of little concern for us as we try our utmost each day to do our best to raise the achievement of the children and their well-being, however it might cause meetings to be rescheduled at the last minute.

## WEBSITE:

At COA we are keen to develop the ways in which we share information with you as parents. One such way is our website, which incorporates information both about our history as a school, what we are currently doing and the activities of the children's centre. We would welcome your feedback on the kinds of information you would most like to see there so why not take a look today [www.chelseapopenairnursery.co.uk](http://www.chelseapopenairnursery.co.uk) and share your ideas with Claire.





## NO PLACE FOR BULLYING:

At their young age many three and four year olds will have times when they hit, bite, scratch or pull/push others or have the same done to them sadly. It occurs for many reasons such as limited language, limited understanding and situations such as sharing toys, where they experience frustration and anger and then can lash out and someone gets hurt. It is generally a rapid physical reaction and not calculated; we deal with such incidents carefully within our positive inclusive culture in order to tackle it and prevent further occurrences. Firstly we support the injured party and then we talk with both children to find out what happened and why. Then they can learn more positive means, as well as to say sorry. In cases where this is particularly challenging they may need to work 1-1 with a staff member or come and sit in Kathryn's office for a while for some time out.



A large part of this process is focussed upon the children, their experiences and understanding of boundaries, rules and expectations of positive behaviour. Thus we are explicit in teaching them:

- That we all treat each other in a way we would like to be treated.
- We consistently model positive behaviours and positive difference and diversity
- We support children to be appropriately assertive and say 'Stop it! I don't like it, because...'

If you are concerned that your child is being hurt talk to your keyworker or Kathryn. Please do not try and deal with it directly with the other child or family. It is best kept in school and sorted here so tomorrow is another day and a new opportunity.

Having consistent and clear boundaries at home will help your child to understand those boundaries here at COA. Multiple studies have shown that such clear boundaries help all adults (parents and staff) to provide a sensitive, compassionate and caring education for children so that they flourish.

## MOBILE PHONES:

Thank you all for being so understanding about not using your mobiles on the premises. The rule is there to protect each and every child so your on-going support is much appreciated.



## HELP US TO HELP CHILDREN:



It has come to our notice that several children have had food in their bags which hang on their lockers. This is not allowed for health and safety reasons. We have several children with severe allergies and food intolerances so please do not leave any food or drink with your child or in their bag. It could be life threatening!

## RECYCLING:



We need all manner of small clean boxes and containers for junk modelling in the making area. We also use bottle tops, ribbon, buttons, wrapping paper, and small items for collage and creative design. If in doubt that something is suitable please ask staff.

## CHILDREN'S CENTRE PROGRAMME:



We have a busy programme of activities running this term, with groups for you as parents to learn new skills, and activities to join in with your child. For more information or to book a place for any of the activities, please speak to Claire, Trish or Heather.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:



*16<sup>th</sup> October, 9:15am or 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1:15pm* - Parents' Meetings with Kathryn

*29<sup>th</sup> October - 2<sup>nd</sup> November* - Half Term (school closed)

*5<sup>th</sup> November* - Parents' Meetings with keyworkers (school closed to children)

*14<sup>th</sup> November, 5pm* - Primary School Application Meeting for parents

*13<sup>th</sup> December, 5pm* - Christmas Lights Celebration, children and families welcome (more details to follow)

*19<sup>th</sup> December, 1-3pm* - Children's Christmas Party (all children attend 1-3pm only)

*20<sup>th</sup> December* - End of term, school closes at 1pm  
(all part-time children attend 9-11:30am, full-time children attend 9am-1pm)

*7<sup>th</sup> January 2013* - school closed for staff training

*8<sup>th</sup> January* - children return