



Newsletter

June 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, the summer is here and for many children this will be their last half term before moving onto reception! But before we wish the children farewell we have lots of exciting events in store.

Over the past month the children enjoyed going on expeditions; we took small groups of children on expeditions to visit the Butterfly House at the Natural History Museum, took a step back in time at Carlyle House and got down with nature at the Ecology Centre in Holland Park. All of the expeditions were carefully planned and linked with the curriculum to support the developmental needs and interests of the children invited. We are delighted that so many parents were able to join us as helpers, and would like to thank them for their support.

During the month of May we have been looking at change, and how things grow. This was supported through the arrival of ten eggs which the children had the joy of watching hatch, then over the course of the next two weeks they helped to care for the chicks, cleaning their home each day, giving them food and water and ensuring they were warm and safe.

The children's understanding of life cycles continued with the arrival of fifty caterpillars, which the children were able to watch form into chrysalises before the half term break, on the children's return from the half term they had become beautiful butterflies. These projects have really supported the children understanding of nature and the world around them; they have learnt lots of new subject specific language and had the opportunity to care for another life.

Farm Day

This learning will continue on the 12th June when we will be visited by Millers Ark, a mobile farm that will be setting up in the nursery garden. During the day the children will have lots of hands on experiences, feeding the animals, grooming and taking care of them. They will have the chance to get close to a wide variety of animals, such as pigs, goats, sheep, donkeys and chickens.

Giant African Land Snails

In addition to the chicks and butterflies we also have some Giant African Land Snails which the children help us to care for. You can be part of this project by bringing along food for the snails.



The snails love to eat: Dandelion leaves, lettuce, cucumber, carrots, celery and cuttlefish. Thank you.

Creative Fun

Thank you to everyone who kindly brings in some amazing bags of bottles and packets for our junk modelling. In addition to these large items we really need small interesting items, such as corks, dry pasta, dry beans, buttons and ribbon. If you have any items that may be exciting to make and play with please bring them in.

Open Day

On Wednesday 9th July COA will be hosting our annual Open Day. During the day parents are invited to come into COA with their child and take part in a number of exciting workshops and learn alongside their child. This is not a normal school day and children must attend with an adult.

During the day we will also have a number of information stalls, fundraising opportunities and an international picnic lunch.

To make this day a success we need your help, can you donate a prize for the raffle, bake a cake, volunteer on the day to run a stall or sell raffle tickets? Please let us know if you would like be involved.

Ofsted

We are very honoured that after three outstanding Ofsted inspections we were invited to be part of a project to share our practice with Ofsted inspectors and other early years professionals. Last summer Ofsted visited COA to film in the garden and look at our planning and profiles, the films are now available to watch on line, visit www.youtube.com and search Right from the Start Chelsea Open Air Nursery School. Look for episode two and six in the series.

Summer Holiday Club

We are now taking bookings for the Holiday Club during the summer holiday (28th July to 29th August, Monday to Friday apart from 25/08/14 which is a bank holiday) Holiday club is £40 per day 9am to 4pm and needs to be booked in advance. Please visit the office to book your child's place.

School Swap

COA is part of School Swap, a web site that allows you to sell or donate on line those family items you no longer need and buy those you do. No listing fees, postal costs or trips to the post office. Register now for free and save money whilst helping COA to fundraise.



Say Hello...

Maria Pizzo has recently joined our team; she is currently studying to become a nursery officer at Westminster Adult Education Services. Maria will be with us every Tuesday on a student placement as part of her studies.

Dates for your diary:

Last Day of Term: Tue 22nd July, School will finish at 1pm

Open Day: Wed 9th July 9.30am - 3pm, you will need to attend with you child

Dad's Group: Sat 7/6, 5/7 and 2/8 from 10am – 12pm

Summer Holiday Club: 28th July to 29th August 9am – 4pm

Speech and Language Workshop: Language and Literacy Skills needed to be school ready:
4th July 9.15-10.45, book you place in the office

Warm regards,

Julie and the COA Team