



COA Newsletter

Chelsea Open Air Nursery School and Children's Centre
51 Glebe Place, London. SW3 5JE
Tel: 020 7352 8374 Fax: 020 7376 8350
E-mail: kathryn.solly@coans.rbkc.sch.uk



THANK-YOU!

Thank you to all the parents and carers who supported the children's great physical efforts during Sports Relief Week. The children ran races and enjoyed such challenges as egg and spoon races and sack races. We raised £120 and the staff enjoyed it too!



To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

On Friday June 1st we are holding a special picnic lunch at COA for all the children

to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. The morning part timers are invited to stay on until 1:30p.m. and the afternoon part timers to come and join us at 12noon so we can all join together in a community picnic (weather permitting) in the garden. Everyone is encouraged to dress up and of course we will be flying the flag and raising the bunting!

We will make the sandwiches with the children but will put up lists (like the Christmas party) of other donations of food that families may like to contribute. As it is a special day the Parents Forum will be holding a fundraising raffle over the lunch period to buy outdoor lighting for the garden.

Children will be allowed to leave earlier that day if parents need to take them.

- Full-time children will be at the nursery as normal - arriving at 9am

- Morning part-time children will stay for lunch and leave at 1:30pm
- Afternoon part-time children will arrive at earlier at 12noon.
- The school day finishes as normal at 3.30pm but all children can leave earlier with parents if desired.

We would gladly appreciate if parents/carers are able to contribute food/sundries for the tea-party. A sign-up sheet will be provided on the notice board shortly.

It will be a day of celebration and learning about the Queen as well as focusing on the story Alice in Wonderland.

In the run-up to the party, children will have the opportunity to develop and extend their creative skills through making and designing hats, decorations and bunting, as well as



COA Newsletter

Chelsea Open Air Nursery School and Children's Centre
51 Glebe Place, London. SW3 5JE
Tel: 020 7352 8374 Fax: 020 7376 8350
E-mail: kathryn.solly@coans.rbkc.sch.uk

observational portraits of the Queen to support hand-eye co-ordination skills. The children will also be encouraged to write for different purposes such as shopping list and invitations. They will have access to a range of information and fiction texts about the Queen, and our story focus will be "Alice in Wonderland" by C.S. Lewis. This will continue to support learning and joining in with rhymes and poems.



GET WELL SOON CHRIS:

By now most of you will have heard that sadly Chris experienced some major heart problems over the Easter holidays and had to have an operation. Needless to say it was a very scary time but she is now slowly on the mend I am pleased to

say. Chris we wish you all the very best and send our love!



IDEAS FOR KEEPING FIT FOR THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS:

- Take your child to the park at all times of the year whatever the weather and encourage them to run, skip, hop, as well as climb and balance on the different types of play equipment. Encourage your child to challenge her/himself whilst you are nearby.
 - Make sure your child knows when to wash
- their hands and that they see you doing it too.
 - Use those clean hands cooking as children love to cook and bake and let them help you. Try giving them the ends of pastry to cut with cutters, use with a rolling pin, fork and non sharp knife.
 - Make fruit and vegetable salads, sandwiches, toast and wraps together.
 - Make a path across the floor at home with masking tape with turns and curves. Sing a favourite song such as the 'Grand Old Duke of York', 'Hop Little Rabbit', or 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' and get your child to follow you marching, running, hopping, jumping, skipping, sliding and tip toeing along.
 - Be a good role model and walk too!



COA Newsletter

Chelsea Open Air Nursery School and Children's Centre
51 Glebe Place, London. SW3 5JE
Tel: 020 7352 8374 Fax: 020 7376 8350
E-mail: kathryn.solly@coans.rbkc.sch.uk



A HUGE THANK-YOU...

To the parents' forum for arranging the cake sale at the end of last term, and to all of you who donated, bought and consumed cakes galore! The total sum raised was £258.39, which is a fantastic start to the fund to buy outdoor lighting for the garden, to enable us to effectively use the space all year round.

June and 10th July. To book an appointment, please see Lynsey or Simon in the office.

Each one is beautiful!



A HEALTHY START

COA is now an official partner in the NHS Healthy Start Vitamin Programme. Look out for more information coming your way soon.

THE REVISED EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE:

You may have heard that we will have a new curriculum in September which goes with the children into Reception. The aim is to improve children's life chances of children up to age 5. You may also have heard the term '*school readiness*'. This is about each child having the social and emotional skills to progress cognitive, behavioural, physical and emotional capabilities so they can take full advantage of what primary school offers. Each child should be able to engage positively and without aggression with other children as well as responding appropriately to requests from teachers.

A POEM TO THINK ABOUT:

*A child is like a butterfly in the wind,
Some can fly higher than others,
But each one flies the best it can.
Why compare one against the other?
Each one is different,
Each one is special,*

family futures

FAMILY FUTURES

Simon Lewis continues to run one-to-one consultations for families to address a range of work-related, benefit and housing issues. Dates for this term are 1st, 15th, 22nd May, 12th, 26th



COA Newsletter

Chelsea Open Air Nursery School and Children's Centre
51 Glebe Place, London. SW3 5JE
Tel: 020 7352 8374 Fax: 020 7376 8350
E-mail: kathryn.solly@coans.rbkc.sch.uk

Many of our children will have spent nearly two years at COA moving from part time to full time places and hence they will be very well prepared in their play, language, communication, personal, social and emotional skills as well as many emerging skills, understanding and knowledge about a wide range of curricular areas. Others will have only had the 15hour places for a year and due to immaturity may still be developing this solid foundation for primary school. Don't worry as the EYFS goes on into Reception for just this reason so that they can continue to grow, learn and develop whilst nurtured by a trained Early Years teacher within a positive environment. The children will continue to learn holistically by playing and exploring, via active learning and by developing their creative and critical thinking skills within the three prime areas:

- Personal, Social and

Emotional
Development

- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

And the specific areas of learning:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design.



'OUR COMMUNITY' OPEN DAY:

It is that time of year when we start planning ahead for our annual themed open day. This is a special day when we strongly encourage you to take a day off from work/study and join your child in enjoying a series of fun learning activities together from 9:30a.m. to 3p.m.

Each nursery child **MUST** be accompanied by an adult. Parents usually provide an excellent international lunch for the adults and a great time is had by all.

We will be looking for help in several ways such as giving and persuading others to donate raffle prizes, running stalls and general ideas/assistance.

We are planning miniature garden making workshops, poetry creation with Philip the Fire Poet, and dance sessions.

Can you help? If so please let Kathryn know ASAP.

VOUCHERS HELP COA TOO:



Help us collect these Tesco and Sainsbury Active Kids vouchers to help your child please!



COA Newsletter

Chelsea Open Air Nursery School and Children's Centre
51 Glebe Place, London. SW3 5JE
Tel: 020 7352 8374 Fax: 020 7376 8350
E-mail: kathryn.solly@coans.rbkc.sch.uk



BEST YEAR TO BE ALIVE:

A survey from the makers of 'Rocky' chocolate biscuits claims to provide proof that 1976 really was the best year to be a child in Britain.

Based on a survey of 4,000 people, researchers for the brand compiled a list of the ten things which they say make a 'perfect year' in childhood. Freedom, play and time spent outdoors with friends and family are dominant features. Tellingly, although indoor entertainment is recorded as an important component of a happy year, respondents said that the ideal amount of time spent inside was only around a third of that spent playing outdoors with friends.

The worst year to be a child was deemed to be 2011 - when miserable summer weather and working parents kept kids indoors. Fingers crossed for a long hot summer in 2012!

TOP TEN COMPONENTS OF A PERFECT CHILDHOOD YEAR

- A long, hot summer
- 784 hours playing outdoors with friends (more than two hours a day)
- 24 weekend trips with parents and siblings
- Having the freedom to go outside combined with feeling safe away from home
- 280 hours of indoors entertainment (including TV and cinema)
- No school exams
- Parents spending less time at work and more time at home
- Two family holidays

- Spending time with grandparents at least twice a month
- Being allowed to go to bed after 10pm.



GOVERNOR'S AGM FOR PARENTS:

Advance notice of the governor's annual general meeting for parents to be held on Thursday May 24th at 5:30p.m. with a crèche if required.



QUESTIONNAIRES

We need your help in completing a parent questionnaire during the week of June 13th as we have commissioned specifically to evaluate the nursery school. This helps



COA Newsletter

Chelsea Open Air Nursery School and Children's Centre
51 Glebe Place, London. SW3 5JE
Tel: 020 7352 8374 Fax: 020 7376 8350
E-mail: kathryn.solly@coans.rbkc.sch.uk

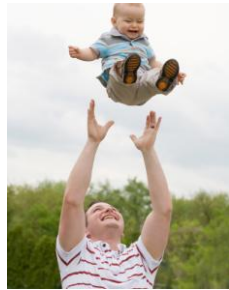
us gather information to prove to Ofsted and local authority inspectors about the quality of what we do. By commissioning these questionnaires you can be entirely sure that the contents will remain confidential too. If there are any aspects you are unsure of or you need some help we can arrange for a member of the Parents' Forum to help you. Then we'll get a 100% return. Later on we will send out a questionnaire regarding the Children's Centre services.



LEAVERS:

It is that time of year when families get to know which primary school their child will be attending. Please let the office know as soon as you can as we need to fill our places for the autumn

term. We will also start to prepare these children for their transition in a variety of ways so it helps everyone if we know they are leaving us in order to get paperwork completed etc. If you need any help or advice contact Kathryn or Claire as soon as possible.



TIPS FOR DADS INVOLVEMENT:

Research has shown that when Dads play an active role with their children, their involvement has a positive impact on their children's lives. For example, children are more likely to:

- Have better relationships throughout their lives
- Be happier themselves

- Do better at school and in their exams
- Be less likely to be involved in crime

(Based on the National Service Framework for Children, Young People & Maternity Services, 2004; p69)

Here are a few suggestions to try out together:

- Share an interest or hobby but remember a few minutes of focus on experiencing it is the most effective way to gain their interest.
- Take part in a physical activity e.g. swimming, going for a walk, and gardening.
- Visit the local library and share books of interest together.
- Get involved in some way or another in your child's nursery or primary school.
- Come and join in Fathers Story Week from June 12th and Bring Your Dad to School Day on



COA Newsletter

Chelsea Open Air Nursery School and Children's Centre
51 Glebe Place, London. SW3 5JE
Tel: 020 7352 8374 Fax: 020 7376 8350
E-mail: kathryn.solly@coans.rbkc.sch.uk

Tuesday June 19th



WANTED:

- We need bedding plants for the children to plant in our garden. Can you help by donating some please?
- We need lots of 3D junk for the children to use in model making please.
- A reminder that any recent new parents are really welcome to join the Parent's Forum and learn the ropes before the established parents move on with their children.



SHINE WEEK:

During the week of June 25th we will be celebrating a range of achievements by the children. These will include such areas as intellectual, physical, creative, gardening and caring/empathy skills. The children will get to wear a special sash bearing the title of their achievement and we will photograph them. This is an adaptation of an idea Kathryn saw used in Hong Kong several years ago and gives us the chance to celebrate the many positives in all of us.



FINGER RHYMES:

With thanks to Helen Huleatt at Community Playthings who gave me permission to publish this for you. In many cultures finger games have been enjoyed by parents and young children for centuries. They can be enjoyed in nursery as well as at home. Finger games are a lot of fun for circle time. As a practitioner, I used them a lot and was sometimes surprised how seriously children took the lyrics. Once during a favourite finger game:

*Up the tall white
candlestick crept little
Mousie Brown,
Right to the top, but he
couldn't get down.
So he called to his grandma,
Grandma! Grandma!
But grandma was in town.*



COA Newsletter

Chelsea Open Air Nursery School and Children's Centre
51 Glebe Place, London. SW3 5JE
Tel: 020 7352 8374 Fax: 020 7376 8350
E-mail: kathryn.solly@coans.rbkc.sch.uk

*So he curled himself into a ball
And ro-o-o-lled himself down.*

One child's chin began to quiver as she called 'Grandma! Grandma!' feeling Mousie's distress quite personally!

Two- and three-year-olds have an impulse to experiment with words. When they create nonsense words like iggy-giggy, this is often labelled silliness. But this urge represents an important phase in language development, and we should provide constructive outlets for it. Rhythmic poetry offers one such outlet. I have had whole groups of twos and threes joining the refrain on

*What does the train say,
jiggle joggle, jiggle joggle,
What does the train say,
jiggle joggle jee?
Will the little baby go riding
with the loco?
Lokey mokey pokey stokey
smokey chokey chee!*

Finger games and poems evolve into circle games engaging the whole body, like 'I'm a little teapot short and stout' or 'Ring a ring o' roses.' Children love these. Nigerian friends introduced me to singing games from their culture, which I used in the setting as well. There are good collections of nursery rhymes and finger games to be had, as well as the Mother Goose type we all know by heart. One of my favourites is *This Little Puffin, Nursery Songs and Rhymes* compiled by Elizabeth Matterson (Penguin Books Ltd, 1969).

Singing and chanting games with large-motor action are a lot of fun and support children's sense of rhythm. They strengthen friendship among the children, as well as fine-tuning their audio skills. Since circle time is intense and focused, carers need to be sensitive to children's responses. Keep the session brief, and wind down if you feel the

children getting restless. You want circle time to be something children anticipate with pleasure!



KEEPING OUR FUTURE SAFE:

With Maria Elena Arana our long standing Chair of Governors, I recently attended a Parliamentary Meeting at Portcullis House. This was a new experience for me and I was really surprised at the numbers of representatives attending and the distances they had travelled in order to share their concerns about the steady loss of maintained nursery school provision across England. Key facts emerged:



COA Newsletter

Chelsea Open Air Nursery School and Children's Centre
51 Glebe Place, London. SW3 5JE
Tel: 020 7352 8374 Fax: 020 7376 8350
E-mail: kathryn.solly@coans.rbkc.sch.uk

- Nursery Schools have provided **consistent quality** as measured by Ofsted as providers of excellence in learning and teaching over the years.
 - They provide a **unique universal service open to all** local families irrespective of their ability to pay
 - They make a **genuine difference to children's achievements** because of the highly qualified teachers, headteachers and other staff they employ who have in depth knowledge and understanding of child development and pedagogy.
 - They have **highly effective leadership with specialist skills in learning, teaching and improving outcomes** for all young children
 - They are a **key asset to the training and professional development** of other early years settings to improve their outcomes by running courses and visits, training staff and students as well as carrying out research
 - They are **beacons of excellence in showing principled ways of working with young children** to show their progress.
- So what is happening?
- **Parents are unclear as to what is happening** and need much clearer information as to what is real quality in early years.
 - **Ofsted keeps changing the parameters of quality** and at present seem focussed on numerical data of doubtful quality due to such small numbers in early years settings. This is versus tangible representations of children's learning (their profiles) which are owned by the children and their families.
 - **There is a tension between the legislation from the previous government and the present one** as to what is best for young children and what can be funded. There is no connection between funding levels and performance levels.
 - Local authorities are in some cases



COA Newsletter

Chelsea Open Air Nursery School and Children's Centre
51 Glebe Place, London. SW3 5JE
Tel: 020 7352 8374 Fax: 020 7376 8350
E-mail: kathryn.solly@coans.rbkc.sch.uk

disinterested or ignoring maintained nursery schools as **they do not understand how they are outstanding in a nursery school which undergoes the same Ofsted inspection as a primary school** when there is no separate judgement for a nursery class within a primary school.

- **As Heads and senior staff age and retire they are not being replaced** and nursery schools are being closed or federated with local primary schools that may or may not be expert in educating young children.
- The numbers of **trained early years teachers are reducing** due to budget savings.
- **Staff in other roles are less qualified** than previously and

hence cheaper to employ.

- **Children are spending the much shorter time of a year in nursery** due to the single point of entry and the reduction to only 15 hours of free nursery education and will in fact be less 'school ready' in government terms than when they had two years here.

What are we going to do?

- **Provide a free conference with an experienced speaker for parents and carers past, present and future** on Saturday May 26th from 10-12 a.m. with visits from 9-10a.m.
- If you want to know more talk to Kathryn.

- If you want to help please talk to Fernanda and the Parent Forum as they are providing refreshments.



WORLD OF WORK RESEARCH:

Recent research about future work skills have provided the following key findings from the Apollo Research Institute: They identified 10 skills that they believe will be vital for success in the future workforce:

- **Sense-making:** ability to determine the deeper meaning or significance of what is being expressed
- **Social intelligence:** ability to connect to others in a deep and direct way, to sense



COA Newsletter

Chelsea Open Air Nursery School and Children's Centre
51 Glebe Place, London. SW3 5JE
Tel: 020 7352 8374 Fax: 020 7376 8350
E-mail: kathryn.solly@coans.rbkc.sch.uk

and stimulate
reactions and desired
interactions

- **Novel and adaptive thinking:** proficiency at thinking and coming up with solutions and responses beyond that which is rote or rule-based
- **Cross-cultural competency:** ability to operate in different cultural settings
- **Computational thinking:** ability to translate vast amounts of data into abstract concepts and to understand data-based reasoning
- **New media literacy:** ability to critically assess and develop content that uses new media forms, and to

leverage these media
for persuasive
communication

- **Transdisciplinarity:** literacy in and ability to understand concepts across multiple disciplines
- **Design mind-set:** ability to represent and develop tasks and work processes for desired outcomes
- **Cognitive load management:** ability to discriminate and filter information for importance, and to understand how to maximize cognitive functioning using a variety of tools and techniques
- **Virtual collaboration:** ability to work productively, drive engagement, and demonstrate

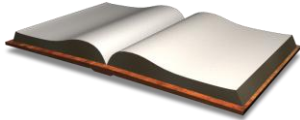
presence as a member
of a virtual team

I'd say that there is a clear role for nursery schools in developing these skills. What do you think?



COA Newsletter

Chelsea Open Air Nursery School and Children's Centre
51 Glebe Place, London. SW3 5JE
Tel: 020 7352 8374 Fax: 020 7376 8350
E-mail: kathryn.solly@coans.rbkc.sch.uk



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday May 7th: BANK HOLIDAY-COA closed
Tuesday May 8th to Friday May 11th Early Education Pioneer Nursery visitors
26th May Free Parents Conference 'All Our Futures' 10a.m. to 12 noon with visits from 9a.m.
Thursday May 24th: AGM for Parents
Monday May 28th Jubilee Week and Mad Hatters Picnic Party Fri June 1st
Monday June 4th: BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday June 5th: BANK HOLIDAY
Wednesday June 6th to Friday June 8th: COA+ Holiday Club
Monday June 11th: Parents meeting keyworkers Day-book your appointment soon.

Tuesday June 12th Fathers Story Week-Philip Wells the Fire Poet

Wednesday June 13th: Mobile Farm visit day

Thursday June 14th: Governors Curriculum visit morning

Governors Meeting at 6:15p.m. Observers welcome.

Tuesday June 19th: Bring your Dad to School Day.

Monday June 25th: Shine Week

Tuesday June 26th: Philip Wells the Fire Poet second visit.

Thursday June 28th: RECRO workshop day

Wednesday July 4th: 'Our Community' themed open day 9:30a.m. to 3p.m.

Thursday July 12th: Leavers Picnic

Friday July 20th: End of term leavers sharing. All part timers from 9-11:30a.m. All full timers from 9a.m. to 1p.m.

Monday July 23rd: Holiday Club starts. Book your places now!