



COA Newsletter

Chelsea Open Air Nursery School and Children's Centre
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A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

WELCOME BACK

We would like to wish all our children and families a very Happy New Year, as we welcome you back for what we are sure will prove to be a busy and exciting spring term.



SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Please remember that the deadline for submitting Primary School applications for the academic year 2012-13 is **15th January 2012**. Also remember that if you are applying for a place in a church school you will also need to complete the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and return it directly to the school. Dates for the return of these forms differ, so please check directly with each school. If you need any further support please contact the admissions team on 020 7361 2210.

STAFFING UPDATE

Kathryn, our headteacher, remains on long term sick leave, but hopes to begin a phased return to work very soon. Talia will continue to cover Kathryn's role, with support from Claire, but will be out of the classroom for 2-3 days a week in order to fulfil her leadership responsibilities.



This term we welcome Morag Carmichael to the staff team; Morag is an experienced, fully qualified teacher and will share Talia's keyworker responsibilities. We know you will make her feel welcome and she is very much looking forward to working in partnership with you and your children.

CURRICULUM NEWS

After the Christmas break, we are back and ready for another successful half-term. Some of the areas we will be focusing on in our teaching and learning include:

- **Designing and Making Fortnight:** this offers children the opportunity to develop and further their thinking, planning, and making skills in creating constructions and collages using a range of different materials and construction kits.
- **Chinese New Year focus festival:** this year we will be celebrating the Year of the Dragon and will be learning about the festivity through many activities such as cooking, music and sharing information books and stories.
- **Forest Schools:** a small group of children will be going on Forest School expeditions in Holland Park as we continue to develop their understanding and learning in/of the natural environment.
- **Science Fortnight:** towards the end of the half-term, we look forward to teaching and learning all things science, developing investigation and exploration skills.

In other areas of the curriculum we will be focusing on shapes and pattern, and introduce the



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concept of measuring and comparing different lengths. We continue to strengthen physical development through using a range of equipment and tools, and to use these with increasing confidence and safety.

The use of the home-loan resources has been encouraging; please continue to borrow the many resources available to share at home. A user questionnaire will be sent out very soon to get your thoughts and ideas.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are very grateful to you, our parents and carers, for the many and varied ways in which you help to keep COA going.

One area in which we are often looking for support is for parents to accompany small groups of children and staff on expeditions in the local community, in order to maintain a high adult-to-child ratio.

This includes expeditions that your child is not involved in, so if you have a few hours to spare, please have a look at the dates below and let us know if you can help.

Forest School

10th Jan

18th Jan

25th Jan

31st Jan

1st Feb

8th Feb

For more information, please talk to Chris.

Science Museum

28th Feb

For more information, please talk to Talia.



DADS GROUP

Our drop-in group for Dads continues to run on the first Saturday of every month. All are welcome, with older and younger siblings too.

Sat 7th Jan

Sat 4th Feb

Sat 3rd March



MONEY MATTERS

We are hosting a training workshop on Thurs 12th Jan from 9:30am - 2:30pm. The workshop will help you to take control of your finances and manage money more effectively. You will not be asked any personal information about your money! The workshop will cover:

- Income and expenditure
- Setting a budget
- Smart spending
- Dealing with a financial crisis
- Borrowing
- Saving
- Where to go for advice and support

Please speak to Simon or Lynsey in the office to book a place.