



October/November 2012

CELEBRATIONS:

Sincere congratulations to the whole COA team for the fantastic result in the recent nursery school Ofsted inspection in early October. When you read the report I am sure as COA families you will also want to congratulate the whole nursery school and children's centre staff.



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 15th January 2013. Go online now at: 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 17th April 2013 and letters will be sent by first class mail on the same day.



RECONSTITUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY:

It may be of interest to you that the governors held an extraordinary meeting in early October in order to take advantage of a change in government school law, which allows us to revert to a smaller, yet more responsive governing body. The governors voted in favour of a new structure made up of 9 representatives as follows:

- 1 staff governor plus the Headteacher as an ex officio governor
- 1 local authority governor (This would be the longest serving of the LA governors)
- 4 parent governors
- 3 co-opted governors (formerly community governors)

The Local Authority has now been asked to allow this reconstitution and if it agrees, will redraft the instrument of governance so strategic reorganisation can take place. Once this has happened we wish to create three main sub committees in order to work more effectively for the children and families. These committees are:

Achievement:

- Curriculum
- Admissions

- SEN/Inclusion
- Performance Management and Continuing Professional Development

Resources:

- Finance
- Pay and Personnel
- Premises
- Health and Safety

Partnerships:

- Parents
- Community (including the Children's Centre)
- Fundraising
- Special Projects

Our present governing body consists of:

Chairman of Governors- Maria Elena Arana (LA appointed)

Vice Chairman of Governors- Councillor Charles Williams (LA appointed)

Staff governor- Michelle Burrridge (on maternity leave)

Parent governor- Fergus Greer

Parent governor- Jacqueline Hill

Parent governor- Avis Hawkins

Parent governor- vacant

Co-opted governor- Simon Lewis

Co-opted governor- Sheba Azam

Co-opted governor- vacant

Co-opted governor- vacant

We have four applications of interest for the vacant spaces. Two are ex parents, one a grandparent of a present child and another from a community service provider who regularly attends COA. Governors will consider these expressions of interest at their next meeting on 7th November at 6:30p.m.

PUNCTUALITY MATTERS:



Arriving on time makes a real difference to your child's play and learning; being late can make it harder for them to settle, as the other children are already engaged in learning and playing. Please remember that all children are expected on site by 15 minutes after their usual starting time. After that arrivals are marked late and such records are passed on to your child's primary school. Primary schools do not see this as positive so please be prompt!



WHAT IS OBSERVATION?

The first principle of the revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) begins: "Every child is a unique child..." We observe children in order to capture and understand this uniqueness and as a way into their world, in order to understand what interests them, where they have needs and other factors in their individual worlds. Thus we build up a picture of them in terms of knowledge, skills and attributes as well as identifying any difficulties or developmental delays. Observation, put simply, involves looking at, listening to and identifying what children are doing, engaged by and curious about, as well as noticing the way they approach things and their emotional responses to some experiences. This is done so we can ensure that the experiences and activities on offer, including the quality of adult interaction, are matched to the children's levels of development and supports their learning. The following are the EYFS principles for observation:



- starts with the child
- is integral to everyday practice
- reflects multiple perspectives-that of the child, their family and staff
- is based on a belief that each child is unique
- is focused on identifying a child's interests, strengths and learning, and developmental needs,
- is used to inform discussions between staff and families about children's learning and progress
- is central to assessment and planning
- records the three Prime areas - Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Communication and Language; Physical Development, as well as the Specific areas - Literacy; Mathematics; Understanding the World; Expressive Arts and Design

Observation also records:

- playing and exploring
- active learning
- creating and thinking critically

These are the characteristics of effective learning.

DADS' GROUP:

The first Saturday of each month here at COA is Dads' Group, where we open the nursery and the garden to children aged 0-7 years and their Dads (male carers) to come and play for the morning. The session runs between 10am and 12pm and is open to anyone who resides in RBKC or accesses Early Education within the borough. The group is run by Claire and Heather from the children's centre, who are on hand to answer any questions you may have and help make links between local families; so why not come along and join in the fun! Our next groups are on Saturday 3rd November and Saturday 1st December 2012.

PARENTS' FORUM:

The next meeting of the COA Parents' Forum will take place on Tuesday 13th November at 2pm. The purpose of the forum is to enable parents to share their ideas, and to help shape the services that we offer at COA, both in the nursery school and in the children's centre, and to explore ways that you can support us through the many skills and talents that you as parents and carers have. There are lots of ways to be involved, even if you aren't able to be attend, so please speak to Claire if you would like more information.

NHS DENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ORAL HEALTH SURVEY OF THREE YEAR OLD CHILDREN IN ENGLAND 2012-2013



The Community Dental Service from Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust in Kensington and Chelsea is responsible for the Dental survey of three-year-old children this year as part of the NHS Dental Epidemiology rolling programme. This has been agreed by the Strategic Health Authority dental public health network.

The aim of the survey, which is coming to COA, is to measure the prevalence and severity of dental caries (decay) in three-year-old children in Kensington and Chelsea is to:

- i) enable the Primary Care Trust (PCT) to undertake health needs assessments;
- ii) provide standardised data to inform Local Authority profiles as requested by Communities and Local Government (was Office of the Deputy Prime Minister);
- iii) provide standardised information for comparison locally and regionally between counties of UK and internationally; and
- iv) enable the PCT to contribute to the requirements of the Water Act (2003) with regards to monitoring dental and general health of the population on a four-yearly basis.

The government has shown a clear intention of improving oral health of children and information collected by these nationally coordinated dental surveys provides valuable information on the progress made towards these aims.



ADVICE AND SUPPORT:

Sometimes family life can be challenging and as parents you may find yourself trying to deal with a whole range of issues. At times like this it can be helpful to have someone to talk to informally, who can offer a listening ear and expert advice and support where needed. Sophie Parry-Williams from the Family Resource Project offers just that; she has worked in partnership with COA for nearly 2 years, offering free confidential support to families on a range of family issues, including managing challenging behaviour, fussy eaters and setting boundaries and routines, to family breakdown and separation. If you would like to make an appointment to meet informally with Sophie, then please speak to Claire, who will be happy to arrange this for you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

29th October - 2nd November - Half Term (school closed)

3rd November, 10am - Dads' Group

5th November - Parents' Meetings with keyworkers (school closed to children)

13th November, 2pm - Parents Forum

14th November, 5pm - Information Meeting re. Primary School Applications

1st December, 10am - Dads' Group

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

19th December, 1-3pm - Children's Christmas Party (all children attend 1-3pm only)

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

7th January 2013 - school closed for staff training

8th January - children return

