

Date: January 2022



Dear Parents,

*Happy New Year! & THANK YOU!!!*

As this is the first parent newsletter of 2022, we hope you enjoyed a lovely Christmas and New Year. Thank you for all your Christmas good wishes, gifts, and cards. They have meant so much to us all!

Thank you also to all of you who have been posting photos and observations through Parent zone to add to your child's learning journey. There are some wonderful things happening and it is a delight for us to share them with you.

### *Welcome*

You might have seen some new faces to the team at the end of last term. We are delighted to have welcomed them to our staff team, Dawn the Colchester manager and Oaklea Director, she has been part of the Oaklea family since 2004; Emma who has moved from Oaklea New Town, is now job sharing the deputy manager role alongside Carla; Maisie our new apprentice and Ginny the mealtime assistant. They have an amazing work ethic and are much loved by the children!

### *Facebook pages*

Please check out our Facebook page, Oaklea Montessori St John's. Also we would also be grateful for parents to support the work of FoOM (Friends of Oaklea Montessori), please ask if you would like more information to help fundraise for Oaklea St John's.

### *FEES*

The Directors recently met to review fees. This is due to our increasing costs including the rise of the National Minimum Wage and increasing materials, food, heating, maintenance and rent costs. The new fees will come into effect from 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

The new session fees are: £6.60 per hour; breakfast £1.50; hot lunch £3.50; Tea £2.20  
Holiday club (school age children, previously at Oaklea) £7.90

### *30 hours*

You will need to apply, or reapply, if relevant, for the 30 hours funding by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Please let Amanda know your funding code and national insurance number.

### *Parking*

Please be aware the car parking on the Ipswich roadside, is for disabled parking only. If you are parking there when dropping off your children, please be aware this is at your own risk. St John's has a large car park off St John's Close.

### *Clothing*

We will be noticing the seasonal changes happening by spending time each day outdoors, so please remember to arrive at nursery with your child dressed suitably for the weather (warm wellies, coats, gloves). Please make sure that **named** slippers and a change of clothing are inside their drawstring bags. Outdoors is such a rich learning environment for young children and we encourage free flow throughout the day. It's best to name all items if you can.

### *Term Dates and booking sessions*

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I am sure you appreciate that staffing for holiday periods needs careful planning. For this reason, we remind those of you who wish to book additional sessions in the holidays.

The dates for making requests for holiday bookings are set out below:

**The final day to book sessions in the February half term (Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> February) will be Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February.**

**The final day for booking sessions in the Easter holidays (4<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> April) will be Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

Requests can be emailed. Thank you for your understanding.

And here is a reminder of the term dates:

Spring Term 2022:

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Half term break Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

Summer Term 2022:

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Half term commencing Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May.

**The nursery will be closed for:**

**Staff Training day: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

**May Bank Holiday: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

**Jubilee Bank holidays: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> June.**

Other dates for your diary: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022: World Book Day, be lovely to see your children dress up as their favourite book character.

### *Bits & Bobs*

Do you know we have 'help your child at home' leaflets? If you would like any, please ask, These are:

- Encouraging Independence
- Supporting communication
- Child bereavement
- Potty training
- Separation and divorce
- Hitting, biting, kicking
- Dummies and Soothers
- Starting literacy

Unless your child needs a comforter, we would politely ask you to leave your child's toys at home. This is to prevent them from getting lost, broken, and due to hygiene especially with COVID.

Please find attached our latest **COVID policy**, as you will appreciate this is subject to change.

As a team, we are learning Makaton alongside the children with a 'Sign of the week'. To keep you updated so you can join in at home, these are highlighted on our Facebook page beginning of each week, <https://www.facebook.com/Oaklea-Montessori-Colchester-St-Johns-767992323392120>

*and finally...*

We wish you a wonderful start to 2022!

Yours sincerely,

Date: January 2022

Dawn, Carla and Emma.