

Oaklea St John's  
12<sup>th</sup> January 2024



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! & THANK YOU!!!

Welcome back after the Christmas break. We hope you enjoyed a lovely Christmas. Thank you for all your Christmas good wishes, gifts and cards. They have meant so much to us all!

### ***Reminder: School Applications***

Applications for school need to be completed and submitted by the national closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions-to-essex-schools-for-the-next-school-year>

### ***Clothing***

With the seasonal changes and spending time each day outdoors, please remember to arrive at nursery with your child dressed suitably for the weather (warm wellies, coats, hats, scarves and gloves). Please make sure they have indoor shoes such as slippers and a change of clothing are inside their bags. Outdoors is such a rich learning environment for young children, and we encourage free flow throughout the day as well as starting each session outside. Please make sure all clothing is named.

### ***Funding***

You can find out more information regarding funding available and tax free childcare at: Childcare Choices, [Sign in to your childcare account - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/sign-in-to-your-childcare-account) To keep getting funded childcare if you're working or Tax-Free Childcare, you must sign in every 3 months and confirm your details are up to date. If you're eligible for funded childcare, sign in to get a code, which will go on your funding form that are required to submit for each term.

### ***Absences***

Although nursery attendance is not statutory, it is important for parents/carers to report their child's absence to nursery on the first day. Nursery has to follow guidelines set out by the local authority regarding the regular attendance of all children. Please report all absences on our landline number 01255 880135. If you are planning a holiday, please fill in a form that the duty manager can give you or email [stJohns@oakleamontessori.co.uk](mailto:stJohns@oakleamontessori.co.uk). Thank you for your understanding.

### ***Your Children's teeth***

Oaklea Montessori nursery encourages all families to register their child at a dentist by the age of 1 year or when they get their first tooth and to think about the foods and drinks that you are feeding your child, as some things have a high sugar content. Please see the website for more information with our oral health policy.

### ***Reminder no mobile phones***

Parents collecting children / visiting the nursery are kindly requested to keep any personal cameras, mobile phones or any other recording equipment in their pocket or bag. Parents or visitors who either arrive using a mobile phone or take a call on a mobile should immediately be told to end their phone call or leave the premises.

### *Toys*

When children first start at nursery, they may want to bring a comfort/toy from home. As they settle, they will no longer need to bring toys from home. Often, these can even be a hindrance (possibly broken, spoiled, played with by another child or even preventing them engaging with nursery equipment). Please consider keeping toys at home and bringing them at pickup time. *Thank you!*

### *Dates for your diary*

**Staff Training Day – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February**, the nursery will be closed for ALL Children, as your staff will be updating their Safeguarding.

**World Book Day - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March**, more details to follow.

Please see below for more dates for your diary.

We wish you a wonderful start to 2024 and look forward to sharing your children's learning and development with you all!

Yours sincerely,

*Dawn Lewis*  
*Setting Manager*

*Carla Gunn*  
*Deputy Manager*

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### ***Dates for your Diary***

#### Spring Term 2024

**Half term** week commencing Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

**Staff Training Day** – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February (Closed for ALL Children)

**World Book Day:** 7<sup>th</sup> March

**Good Friday:** Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March Closed for All Children

**Easter Monday** – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April Closed for All Children

**Easter Break** – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April inclusive

#### Summer Term 2024

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July

**Bank Holiday** – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May Closed for ALL Children

**Bank Holiday** – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May Closed for ALL Children

**Half term** week commencing Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May.