



September 2023

Oaklea Montessori Ramsey

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your families are all safe and well and that you have been able to enjoy some of the hot spells over the summer period as well as splashing in lots of puddles too! We are excited to welcome back our existing families alongside new families too.

#### *First day back...*

We are expecting a busy first week back and thank you in advance for your support and patience as we settle children back into Oaklea. Our 9am drop off and our 3pm collection will be our busiest times at Ramsey. Please use the car park with care and caution at these busy times, using the limited marked spaces provided. Please note you can park along the road leading up to the nursery, using the school path rather than the road, which leads to our side gate, to get to us safely. We will continuously reflect and review on how we can make things easier and quicker at these times. We are also here for you (parents & carers), so please do not hesitate if we can help you in the office at all. Squirrels and Owls will continue to queue alongside the front of the building and Little Sparrows parents are to wait outside the main entrance (by the main office). We will continue to be open to feedback about this, noting that children settle quicker and build their independence and confidence by getting themselves to their space alongside their friends.

#### *New Families...*

Please ensure you read all documents in your welcome pack carefully to ensure they are familiar with our policies and procedures, and should they have any questions in relation to the details in the welcome pack please direct them to [admin@oakleamontessori.co.uk](mailto:admin@oakleamontessori.co.uk)

#### *Existing Families...*

If you wish to familiarise yourselves with our policies and procedures to let us know and we will be happy to forward on the relevant documents. You can find key policies on our website too.

#### *Facebook and Parent Zone...*

Please like and join our **Facebook page...** we put out lots of information via Facebook about what your children have been up to, Sign of the Week, important notices and much more.... [Oaklea Montessori Ramsey | Facebook](#). **ParentZone** – a place for you to share your child's learning journey at home! We love to see what you get up to. This is a great way of sharing experiences and giving your child an opportunity to share this with us. Please continue to share... if you need any assistance with ParentZone please pop into the office and someone will be happy to help!

#### *Staff news...*

There have been some new faces at Nursery over the summer, most of whom you have met or seen. Charlotte has started her Level 3 course; Amy has completed her Level 3 over the summer and Kacey has also passed her Level 2 – hooray! We will be welcoming Kimberley to the team at the start of term too – welcome!

Adell has started her maternity leave and we wish her all the best in this next exciting chapter in her and her family's life.

#### *Working with families...*

We will be continuing to provide an Oaklea Food bank and Tooth Brushing station in the front foyer. Please donate and take as much or as little as you want. At the end of each term, we will donate what is left to the local food bank. This is something the children will help us to fill up with trips to the shop. If this is something you want to access more discretely, please speak to any member of

staff and they can assist you further. We also have our favourite book borrowing library for you to access freely! Let us know your favourite books – sharing is caring! Reminder to regularly check lost property as this quickly builds up! If your child has left something behind, please check lost property in the foyer before asking a member of staff. At the end of term, any unclaimed lost property is donated to charity.

### *Expanding Rooms...*

As we are growing in demand for childcare spaces, we have created an adjoining room for Owls which is dedicated to Children who will be leaving for school in 2024. This area is set up with later Montessori Activities to help further their development and learning. Heather, our Level 4 Montessori Practitioner will be leading this area and really strive in getting your child ready for their next learning journey. If your child is going to school in 2024, then they will be invited at least once a week to join Heather and friends in this new space. If you have any questions, please ask and photos are coming soon!!

### *Reminders....*

Named slippers or comfy indoor shoes must be brought in each time your child attends, as well as wellies for outdoor play. This helps with keeping the indoor floor as clean as possible and supports your child with the work cycle and routines. (We have kept some left-over slippers from last year in the foyer. If these fit your child, please help yourself and simply rename). Please ensure your child's bag also includes lots of spare named clothes for all eventualities (please bring clothes you don't mind getting messy... contact the office if you would like to purchase further Oaklea clothing). If in nappies, please provide plenty of nappies, wipes, nappy cream, and nappy bags. If your child has a comforter whilst they settle, we invite you to bring these, but please leave all toys at home. Additionally, we continue our policy of No Calpol, to reduce the risk of spreading illness – if your child is unwell, please keep them at home where they can rest and recuperate so they can return quickly to explore with their friends and teachers.

### *Funding and Sessions...*

You should have by now received a funding form for your child for the Autumn Term, if you are eligible, we have already had lots returned to us, thank you. If you are still to return your form to us, please do so ASAP. If you believe your child is entitled to funding but you have not received a form yet, please contact the office and we can investigate this further for you.

*Important note:* *If we do not receive a completed and signed funding form, your child may not receive funding for the Autumn Term resulting in sessions being invoiced.*

We still have some spaces for the Autumn term – please enquire if this is something you are looking for! (Little Sparrows and Squirrels/Owls)

Additionally, if you would like ad hoc sessions, please ensure your invoice is settled as we are unable to cater for ad hoc sessions otherwise.

Any amendments to funded sessions for the Autumn Term must be actioned before headcount day, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023, if you require any changes to your child's sessions, please put your requests in before 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023. This will allow us time to check our systems and process your changes, if possible, in time for headcount day.

Any changes to funded sessions requested after headcount day will unfortunately not take effect until the Spring Term as you will have missed the deadline for the Autumn Term.

If you have any questions regarding funded sessions, please do not hesitate to contact the office for the further information.

*Topic....*

Our topic for this term is 'All About Me'. Please continue to bring in photos for your child's journey book and upload observations to Parent zone. We love seeing them and your photos from home allow your child to feel close to you when they are at nursery. We will also be looking at things all Autumn... when will the leaves start to fall? What colour are they? Can you spot any hedgehogs?

Enjoy your weekend and we look forward to seeing you next week!

Yours sincerely,

*Miriam Saxon*

*Setting Manager*

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*Term Dates*

**Autumn Term 2023**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Half term week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Christmas Shutdown** – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January inclusive

**Spring Term 2023**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March (Term time restarts 8<sup>th</sup> January)

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

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

**Summer Term 2023**

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

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