



April 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the summer term!

Welcome back from the Easter break – we hope you all had an amazing time. This term, we will be looking at 'Summer' with outdoor activities such as gardening, walks including along to the local park and the woods. We will also be preparing children starting school in September. We will be celebrating many events on the lead up to the Summer Holidays such as: The Queen's Jubilee and Leaver's celebrations.

Primary School

Parents you should have received confirmation of your child's school. Please let us know as soon as possible which school they will be going to, so that we can make contact and prepare your children for their next steps. Please also advise us of your child's last day with us, so that we can prepare their reports in good time.

Sunny Days

As the weather brightens, we ask you to:

- Make sure your child has sun protection applied before coming to nursery. We will only re-apply sun cream to those staying all day at lunchtime using our own sun cream (Factor 50 Children's). If your child attends all day and is intolerant to any specific suncreams, please ensure you give your child's Key Person the sun cream you use and complete a Health Care Plan
- Make sure your child continues to come into nursery with wellies or outdoor shoes. They will need indoor shoes (plimsolls or slippers) in their bag to wear indoors. Outdoors is such a rich learning environment for young children, and we encourage free flow throughout the day.
- Please make sure your child has a suitable sun hat to give maximum protection from the sun.
- And also, please make sure that your child has some warm clothing in these in- between days.
- Please also remember to pack plenty of nappies, nappy bags and wipes for your child's whole session.

Facebook Page

Please check out our Facebook page, Oaklea Montessori St John's <https://www.facebook.com/Oaklea-Montessori-Colchester-St-Johns-767992323392120> As a team, we are learning Makaton with 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. We also have been bringing you Montessori A - Z with photos and explanations of Montessori terminology, activities and quotes. Montessori has been around for over 100 years and is still going strong – which at Oaklea, we like to celebrate with you.

Helping Hands

'Helping Hands' - If there are any services you could offer to support Oaklea, it would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to the duty manager if you have anything to offer... Thank You!

Funding

You can find out more information regarding funding available and tax free childcare at: Childcare Choices 30 Hours Free Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More | Help with Costs | GOV.UK . We also encourage you to contact Employers for Childcare. They offer free, impartial and confidential advice to parents on the financial support available towards childcare costs. hello@employersforchildcare.org or 0800 028 3008 (Mon-Fri 9-5).

Payment, Late Collection Fee and booked holidays

We kindly ask that if you require extra sessions not included in your funding entitlement, any existing balance outstanding on your account is paid in full.

Additionally, we are sure you can all appreciate our staff work to times and ratios, and when there is a late collection, it has a knock-on effect to staff finishing times. Therefore, we will have to use Late Collection fees to cover the cost of staff working extra until your child is collected. We ask you to let us know as soon as possible if you are running late to pick up your child so staff can make alternative arrangements if needed. Failure to do so will incur a penalty fee. We appreciate sometimes it is unexpected and out of your hands and we appreciate these times do occur. When you collect late, you will be asked to sign a late collection form and informed of any penalty charges and care costs.

Please also let the office or duty manager know in advance, if your child will be absent due to a planned holiday, so we can update the registers and get correct meal orders.

Dates for your diary

Fundraising event: please hold the date for Oaklea's fundraising event (please note this will be an adult only event) on Friday 22nd July @ 7.30 -10pm. More details to follow for a good evening.

Leaver's celebration: for our school leaver's we are planning to invite our school leaver's parents for our leaver's celebration in July 2022, we will send more details nearer the time.

Term Dates and booking sessions

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 May half term (Monday 30th – 1st June) will be Friday 16th May. Requests can be emailed. Thank you for your understanding.

And here is a reminder of the term dates:

Summer Term 2022:

Tuesday 19th April to Thursday 21st July 2022
Half term week, commencing Monday 30th May
Summer holidays Friday 22nd July – 2nd September
Return for the Autumn term on Monday 5th September 2022

The nursery will be closed for:

May Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May 2022

Jubilee Bank holidays: 2nd and 3rd June 2022

Summer Bank holiday 29th August 2022

Invitation to talk with your child's key person

We are looking forward to inviting again (since COVID) small groups of parents to these important events two or three times a year, enabling you to spend time with your child's key carer, giving you the opportunity understand the value of the activities and resources that your children love to use. We now give out invitations with a months' notice and then we issue a reminder note a week beforehand. Please let us know if you cannot come as staff will be coming in especially for these events. They use the discussions they have with you to plan meaningful activities for your children based on what you tell us about them.

And finally...

We are really looking forward to the summer term with so many reasons to celebrate. Do check out ParentZone to see what your child gets up to whilst exploring at Oaklea – we love to see your entries too!

With Best wishes from Dawn, Carla and the Oaklea St John's TEAM.