

February 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.



### *Good Wishes and Welcome*

We have been sending our good wishes to Adell, who left for Maternity in the beginning of the Autumn Term, and now has had a beautiful baby girl. At the end of the Autumn term, we sent our good wishes to Ashleigh, who went on Maternity leave and has welcomed a beautiful baby girl. We have had lots of cuddles and can't wait for more!

You might have seen some new faces to the team since Christmas. We are delighted to have welcomed our new Apprentices, Jess and Kacey, to our staff team. They have an amazing work ethic and are much loved by the children already!

### *Facebook pages*

Please check out our Facebook page, Oaklea Montessori Ramsey ([Oaklea Montessori Ramsey | Facebook](#)). As a team, we are learning British Sign Language (BSL) 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. We will also be updating our 'Helping Hands'. If there are any services you could offer to support Oaklea, it would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to the Office if you have anything to offer... Thankyou!

### *FEES*

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

**The new session fees are: 0-2 £6.40 per hour (Little Sparrows); 2years £6.40 per hour (Squirrels); 3-5years £6.20 per hour (Owls); breakfast £1.50; hot lunch £3.50; Tea £2.20; 5+ School Children £7.90 per hour (Saplings).**

### *30 hours*

If you are applying for the 30 hours funding in the Summer Term, you will need reapply by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Please email your funding code and national insurance number to: [admin@oakleamontessori.co.uk](mailto:admin@oakleamontessori.co.uk). 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](#)

### *Parking*

Please be aware we are working alongside the school to keep our car park as Oaklea's and the Children Centres parking only. We kindly remind all road users to drive with caution in and around our car park. Thank you in advance for adhering to this.

### *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** spare clothing is inside their nursery bags. Outdoors is such a rich learning environment for young children, and we encourage free flow throughout the day. Please remember to bring in slippers (or similar inside footwear) is packed in your child's bag at every session. This keeps your child's feet nice and warm and protects our Nursery flooring. Please also remember to pack nappies, nappy bags and wipes for your child.

### *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.

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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. It would 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.

### **and finally...**

We wish you a wonderful start to 2022!

Yours sincerely,

Miriam, Dana and the Oaklea Ramsey Team