



Date: 14/06/2024

Dear Parents,

Time to Celebrate!

We have had a busy Summer Term so far and the children have had so many wonderful learning opportunities, a huge thank you to our amazing staff team who have gone above and beyond for the children.

Holidays and 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 **Oaklea St John's: 01206 589995 / Oaklea New Town: 01206 587448**

Funding

Please make sure, if eligible, you apply for or renew your working entitlement code for the Autumn term by 31st August, this is to be renewed every 3 months. You can find out more information regarding funding available and tax-free childcare at: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>. The parent FAQs leaflet from Essex County Council regarding available funding is attached.

Did you know that Oaklea Montessori nursery also offers the Stretched funding for the 50 weeks that Oaklea is open?

As Oaklea Ramsey was the head office for Oaklea Montessori nursery, we have had to update the *Tax-Free childcare information* for the Colchester settings. The postcodes have therefore been updated on the system, which you may need to re-register to make payments. If you have problems with this, then please let us know.

St John's postcode to enter is CO4 0HP

September 2024 – introducing consumable charges:

Unfortunately, the funded hours are significantly lower than our hourly rate and as such do not cover the rising costs of consumables. The Early Years Entitlement funding is intended to deliver free, high quality, flexible childcare. It is **not** intended to pay for the costs of meals, drinks, snacks, other consumables, extra hours or additional activities. *We have kept the price low, although will keep under review.*

To help the nursery remain sustainable, a consumable charge of £1 per 3-hour core session 9-12pm / 1-4pm or £2 for all day 9-3pm, will be introduced September 2024. This will be automatically added to your monthly invoice.

Observations and Assessments

For our leavers, we will support their transition to school. They will have fewer observations which will not be linked to EYFS development statements. Thank you for your comments on your child's 'learning journal' report, this will be forwarded onto your child's reception teacher in the next couple of weeks.

Please note that you will need to send the 'learning journal' reports to yourself no later than 6 weeks after your child has left nursery. After this, their records will be unavailable in compliance with GDPR protocols.

Leavers Celebration

Our leavers celebration for our school leavers will take place on **Tuesday 16th July 3-4pm. This event is just for children who are leaving to start Primary School.** If your child does not attend on Tuesday afternoons, please bring them to the event and encourage them to sit with their friends for the duration of the event. *Please do NOT take photographs, there are some very good reasons why some parents and carers do not wish their child's photograph to be taken! You may want to take photos after the Celebration with your child's friends (if parents agree) and staff members.* Please advise us of your child's last day with us. *Thank you.*

We wish all our school leavers all the best for the next stage of their learning journey, please do come back and visit us.

Training Day...

Our Autumn Term Training Day will be on Friday 6th September. We will therefore be closed for all children on this date. Autumn term will start on **Monday 9th September.**

Term Dates

And here are 2024 /2025 term dates:

Summer Term 2024

Last day of term – Friday 19th July

Leaver's celebration – Tuesday 16th July 3-4pm (for Primary school leaver's)

Bank Holiday – Monday 26th August CLOSED

Autumn Term 2024

Training Day - Friday 6th September (Nursery closed for ALL children)

Monday 9th September – Friday 20th December 2024

Half term: 28th October – Friday 1st November

Spring Term 2025

Monday 6th January – Friday 28th March 2025

Half term: 17th February – 21st February 2025

Good Friday Bank Holiday – Friday 18th April CLOSED

Summer Term 2025

Easter Monday – Monday 21st April CLOSED

Tuesday 22nd April -Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Bank Holiday Monday 5th May CLOSED

Bank Holiday Monday 26th May CLOSED

Half Term 27th May - 30th May

Booking Holiday Sessions

We are open throughout the holidays. If you would like your child to attend, you **must** advise us no later than Friday 28th June 2024 for the Summer holiday, including the hours you require. **So, please think ahead NOW**, as we need to have the correct staff / child ratios! If your child is FEEE funded and would usually have claimed all their hours during term time, these sessions will be chargeable. We will be doing lots of activities to support children who will be starting school in September. As usual we continue to offer Holiday Club and Activity Days for older siblings/after school children. We are hoping to explore our local community more this Summer.

September sessions

For those of you who will be staying with us, we only have limited availability from September so if you require any session changes, please let us know as soon as possible, and be aware these may not always be possible. You may be added to our waiting list. Please send any session amendments to:

stjohns@oakleamontessori.co.uk

Polite Reminder

Please continue to dress your children ready for the weather and activities that children engage in. Please make sure your child has sun protection applied *before* they arrive at nursery and a named sunhat. Even in the summer, children need to arrive wearing wellies/crocs with easy-to-put-on indoor shoes or slippers in their bags. They also need a change of clothing in their bags and please make sure that all clothing is clearly NAMED.

Illness

Please can we remind all parents to adhere to the following guidelines if your child is poorly (please see notice board for the up-to-date public health guidance). For sickness/diarrhoea children cannot attend until 48 hours after the last bout of illness. Please note, **we cannot issue unprescribed medication**. 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.

Community Centre – shared space

Please be mindful at drop off and collection times of other groups that use the hall.

And finally...

Wishing you all a lovely last few weeks of term!

Yours sincerely,

Dawn Lewis
Oaklea Director

Carla Gunn
Setting Manager