



Bulletin

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful start to the new term! Martina and Christiaan are heading up a wonderfully happy effective team. Together they are creating an environment in which your children are settling, thriving and enjoying their time at nursery!

Oti is now part-time in order to study at university. Her days with us are now Mondays and Fridays. Carla is her job share and is working the other 3 days. After just one week, the children have already warmed to Carla, who has fit so easily into the team. Hanni will return from maternity leave later this term as Job Share manager with Martina and SENCo.

Your children are already so settled, and we are all grateful for your encouragement and engagement.

Celebrations!

Thank you to all who shared in Oaklea Montessori's **21st Birthday Celebration** in early September. It was a joy to see some old faces and see what many of our leavers (many now teenagers and young adults!). We would like to keep in touch with all our families and invite you to complete the 'Keeping in Touch' form.

We will let you know about other celebrations later this term. In the meantime, if any of you would like to support the nursery by becoming a 'Friend of Oaklea Montessori' (FoOM) we would be so grateful to hear from you.

Clothing

As you know, the children enjoy a spell outside as soon as they arrive. This means that they need to be wearing clothing suitable for the day, including wellies! All they need to do is hang up their bags and go into the garden. The children will then move inside as they choose. Many may prefer to work outdoors for longer; another reason to dress them for the day's weather.

Please make sure that children have some easy to put on indoor shoes (slippers, plimsols) and clothing that is easy to change inside their bag. We always support and encourage children's independence to dress themselves (as developmentally appropriate). Changing children out of skinny-fit trousers and sneakers/converses is very time consuming! And please.... name everything!!! We have some sample uniform on display which could include jogging bottoms. Please let us know if you are interested in buying any of these items. Thank you!

Term dates and longer opening hours

As you might have noticed, we are filling up fast! We now offer sessions to 5.30 and currently have children on site until 5.30 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays. In the October half term holiday, we will be open on Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st October to 5.30. If you would like to increase your sessions/hours, please tell us as soon as possible. If you would like to book additional sessions in the October half term holiday, please put in your requests by 4th October, so that we can arrange staffing. The autumn term finishes on Wednesday 18th December and we will open for an additional day on Thursday 19th December before the Christmas shut down. Again, please book any additional sessions now.

Dates for your diary

St John's Church have kindly offered the use of the church for our Christmas Nativity on Friday 13th December pm (more details to follow)

Sally, our amazing photographer will be with us on Wednesday 16th October (morning). Please let us know if you would like to book a family photoshoot. If your child does not usually attend nursery on this day, you are welcome to book a slot with Amanda or Martina. We accompany all the children attending that session to have their photo taken. You will then receive the proofs on a 'sale or return' basis.

New telephone system & communication

By the end of this week, we will have a new telephone system! The main number will be 01255 880135 for ALL calls. There will then be an option to contact Colchester, St John's setting (option 4) and an option to leave a message to report an absence or other information. After Tuesday 8th October, the old mobile number will no longer be used for messages, calls etc. Instead, we will use the new telephone system, which will have an option to leave messages. Parentzone comms will then be used to conclude ALL requests, amendments, such as for booking pattern changes.

Bits & Bobs

Please follow important safeguarding measures and ensure that you are not using a mobile phone in site of the nursery or garden area.

A reminder that if you wish to cancel meal costs, such as for a planned holiday, please give at least 1 week's written notice. We understand that some families have not received the updated Payment Policy last month. We will therefore resend to all families. Our apologies if you have already received it.

Thank you again for your support. Our planning for the term is attached with ideas that we hope you can enjoy as a family. We are looking forward to a term of joy and celebrating 'Children, Just Like Me!'

Yours sincerely,

Martina Mehen

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Setting Manager

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Caroline Allen

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Managing Director (Oaklea Montessori CIC)



Autumn 2019

Weeks beginning	Topics	A few ideas for home - Enjoy & bring in for your child's journey book!
9th to 27th September	All About Me!	Talk about your child's life so far... what they looked like as babies, their first words, how they moved, crawled. Celebrate how special they are!
30th September to 18th October	We all have different families	Please share photos and stories of your family with your children. Photos with names and ages of family members would be wonderful to have for their Journey Books! Measure the height of different family members Share pictures of new-borns and elderly folk Where do family members live? Bungalows, flats, residential homes...
21st October to 8th November	We all have different bodies	Make a dentist/Health Visitor appointment Look at the colour of hair, eyes, skin tone of different friends and family Visit a mobility shop or visit someone with mobility aids Play blindfold games Practise healthy routines, such as catching coughs and sneezes and washing hands Check your first aid box together with your child.
11th to 29th November	We eat different food	Talk about dietary differences – focus on religious and health reasons. Look at exotic fruit and vegetables – buy some to try! Involve your child in a shopping trip, talking about different food groups. E.g. Let's choose which carbohydrates we will eat today... Visit a farm park, fish harbour, arable / fruit farm – where does our food come from? Cook and eat together food from another country, such as stir fry Chinese noodles Try to eat with chop sticks!
2nd to 20th December	Celebrating festivals!	Involve your children in deciding who to / what to GIVE as presents this year Make and wrap presents together. Look at different festival artefacts: Jewish menorah, Christian crib scene, Moslem prayer mat etc. Look at Christmas lights in shop windows, compare heights of Christmas trees Involve your child in cooking for your celebration!