



Dear Parents,

*Happy New Year! & THANK YOU!!!*

Welcome back after the Christmas break. We hope you enjoyed a lovely Christmas. Thank you for all your Christmas good wishes, gifts and cards. They have meant so much to us all!

Thank you also to everyone who came to Lawford Church for 'Happy Birthday Jesus'. It was very special, and we thank Simon, the vicar for enabling us to use the church.

Thank you also to all of you who have been posting photos and observations through Parentzone 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.

We welcome home Emma, from our St Johns setting who went out to Romania to distribute shoe boxes to children. Some of you may remember her from when she worked at Lawford. We are so proud of her and her photos are amazing! A link to the feature video is now on the Oaklea facebook pages and the website. Please feel free to share this link with family & friends.

I also want to 'shout aloud' and let you know that the Oaklea staff's generosity continued even at their Christmas party, when they raised £250 for Great Ormond Street Hospital. For me, this speaks of individuals across the Oaklea group who are selfless, kind-hearted and generous; these same individuals care for your children each and every day. I am so proud of them all. What a staff team!!!

### *Topic*

In January, we plan to continue for another month the topic (Once Upon A Time) that the children have been enjoying since September. After that, we will enjoy celebrating the transition from Winter to Spring. Please enjoy the suggestions below and let us know what you've been doing. We would also welcome other ways you might be involved. Visits to nursery by family (parents, grandparents etc.) are always very meaningful. Recently the children in one of our settings have enjoyed learning some Boogie Shoes dancing and simple Spanish.

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

Oaklea Montessori CIC  
 Mayes Lane, Ramsey, Harwich CO12 5EL  
 Tel: 01255 880135  
 ☎ Lawford 01206 616090  
 www.oakleamontessori.co.uk



named slippers and a change of clothing are inside their drawstring bags. Outdoors is such a rich learning environment for young children and we encourage freeflow throughout the day.

### *Staff*

We are delighted to welcome Rebecca onto the Lawford staff team. Yas has decided to increase her working hours at our Ramsey site, which is closer to home for her.

### *School Admissions*

The deadline for school applications for 2019 was 15<sup>th</sup> January. As soon as you have confirmation of a place, please let us know so that we can invite class teachers to meet you child in a familiar setting.

### *Orwell Park School: Art Exhibition*

The Oaklea children have been invited to participate in the Orwell Park Nursery Art competition being organised by Orwell Park School. The theme is "Happy Hedgehog Homes". The children will soon be preparing their creations and we will be asking for your consent for their names to be attached to the reverse of their finished art work. The exhibition will be on 1<sup>st</sup> February between 9.00am and 12.00pm. Open to all and refreshments will be available.

### *Term Dates and booking sessions*

I am sure you appreciate that managing to staff prudently for holiday periods needs careful planning and we are introducing some key dates, so that we can ensure that booking requests are managed well and staffing is in place. In future, all requests to book additional sessions in holiday periods will require at least half a term's notice although we understand that this clearly is not possible for February half term. The dates for making requests for holiday bookings are set out below.

**The final day to booking sessions in the February half term (Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February) will be Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January.**

**The final day for booking sessions in the Easter holidays (8<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April) will be Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.**

**The final day to book sessions for May half term (Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May) will be Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.**

Requests can be emailed to [admin@oakleamontessori.co.uk](mailto:admin@oakleamontessori.co.uk). Thank you for your understanding.

And here is a reminder of term dates:

Spring Term 2019:

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Half term break Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Summer Term 2019:

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Half term commencing Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May.

### *ITCH meetings*

Some of you have received invitations to Invitation to Celebrate Hour meetings (ITCH). If you are unable to attend, please let us know as staff often stay on to facilitate these meetings.

### *And finally...*

Unless your child needs a comforter, we would remind you to leave your child's toys at home. This is to prevent them from getting lost or broken.

There are details on the Lawford FoOM facebook page and a poster about two local workshops. They are run by a well-respected Montessori colleague, Sarah Rowledge who is inspirational. The workshops are on Positive Language (an amazing way to manage children's behaviours) and Early Maths. Both are highly recommended.

If any of you have a 'surplus to requirement' windbreak, Wendy, our Forest School leader in training, would be very grateful for one!

We wish you a wonderful start to 2019 and look forward to sharing your children's learning and development with you all!

Yours sincerely,



*Catherine Theodosius*

**Catherine Theodosius**

*Setting Manager*

**Caroline Allen**

*Managing Director (Oaklea Montessori CIC)*

## Spring Term 2019

| <b>Weeks beginning</b>                           | <b>Topics</b>                                  | <b>A few ideas for home - Enjoy &amp; bring in for your child's journey book!</b>   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>7<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January</b> | <b>The Gruffalo &amp; The Gruffalo's Child</b> | Woodland walks – finding different habitats (a log pile house, a tree-top house etc.)<br>Visit the library and choose some habitat books and of course the Gruffalo.<br>Enjoy bed-time stories with your children. Let us know their favourites on Parentzone.  |
| <b>28<sup>th</sup> Jan to 1st Feb</b>            | <b>The Princess &amp; the pea</b>              | Involve your child to make the beds – they will love it!<br>Cook a new dish with peas – pea soup, pea puree, pea pasta...<br>Dressing up as royalty!  |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>     | <b>Winter to Spring</b>                        | Talk about and look at different type of trips & winter activities (winter walks, skiing, mountaineering etc.)<br>Check the daily weather (& make a daily weather chart)<br>Watch winter sports on TV<br>Make ice in the freezer and watch it thaw (in a warm place and a cold place).  |
| <b>18<sup>th</sup> Feb to 1st March</b>          | <b>Celebrate Spring - Farm Animals</b>         | Visit a farm or go for a walk where there are horses, sheep, pigs...<br>Go to the library and find farm animal books – non-fiction & fiction. Windy Edge Farm series<br>Let your child take photos of their favourite farm animal and upload through parentzone<br>Pretend to be that favourite animal (skip like a lamb, roll in mud like a pig, trot like a horse etc.) |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>   | <b>Plants &amp; Seeds</b>                      | Make a bird feeder using sunflower seeds and then plant a sunflower seed.<br>Enjoy walks and look for buds on trees.  |
| <b>18<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>  | <b>Easter &amp; New Life</b>                   | Cook with eggs – use the yoke and white for different recipes.<br>Make an Easter tree display.<br>Enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt with friends and family.<br>Visit a Church to see an Easter garden display.  |