



Dear Parents,

We reach the bitter-sweet time of year when we prepare to say 'good bye' to children moving onto school. Although we are sorry to see them go, we are delighted to look back and see how they have progressed over their time with us. We celebrate as we see them confidently move into their next stage with strong foundations. We invite the parents with leavers to a Transition Drop-In where you can see the information that we will be sharing with schools. Date to be confirmed. Please complete a Leavers form to let us know which school your child will be moving to. It helps us support the children and arrange visits with reception teaching staff.

Summer Events

For our leavers, we have been invited to use St John's Church for a *Leavers' Celebration*. This will take place at **2 pm on Thursday 19th July**. The doors will be open from 1.45. We will also bring the children's bags as many of you like to collect your children and their belongings so that you can leave directly from the church after the celebration. If your child is booked in that afternoon, we will escort them to the church and we will hand them into your care at the end of the celebration. If your child does not attend on Thursday afternoons, please bring them to the event and encourage them to sit with their friends for the duration of the event. *Please note, this event is just for children who are leaving to start Primary School. 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 are welcome to take photos after the Celebration with your child's friends (with parental permission) and staff members.*

On **Saturday 28th July**, our Lawford setting are holding an 'Open Morning Fun Event' in their lovely garden. Included will be a 'Bake Off' (£2.50 per baking entry), Raffle, Market Stalls, Bouncy Castle, craft activities and 'Look Around our Nursery'. All welcome to join in the fun. Please put the date in your diary and invite your friends and family.

We would like to ask if anyone would like to join (or head up?) a Colchester FoOM (Friends of Oaklea Montessori). It might be something that could be shared with our Colchester, New Town setting (or not). Previous events have been a 'Pamper & Prosecco' evening, summer sports and fêtes, Christmas bazaars etc. We would love to hear from someone who might be interested in supporting us in this way!

Last year, our other settings engaged with **Essex Wildlife Trust '30 Days Wild' again. Every day, our challenge will be to help Nature in some way.** We

invite you to do the same over the summer period. Please feel free to join in with this, and let us know what you have done!

Reminders

A reminder that half term is week beginning **28th May**. The last day of term is **Friday 20th July**. Although we are not open at St John's this summer, our other settings stay open through the summer. Please let us know if you would like to book additional sessions in the summer holidays in one of our other settings. They would see familiar faces (Katie, Emma, Man-Hing all work at New Town). We would need to know by **8th June**, so that we can organise staffing. We have had an expression of interest from one family about extending the nursery day and holiday activity days. Please let Amanda know if this is something you might be interested in after September.

The autumn term begins on **Monday 3rd September**. If you would like to amend your sessions for September, please let us know by **Half Term (28th May)**. Please find the term dates for September 2018 to August 2019 displayed in the entrance area and on the website.

As the weather has warmed up, please ensure your child arrives at nursery with sun protection *already applied*. For those staying for the whole day, we will re-apply cream, but this is a time consuming activity were we to apply it for all children in every session. We will use Nivea Factor 50 cream, so you do not need to supply any (and save it from being lost). Please advise us if your child needs a different cream (such as if they have allergic reactions to the brand). Please also dress your child in suitable clothes and footwear for the summer (and remember children engage in water, mud and sand play). Light weight long sleeves are the best protection. Please avoid flipflops; children often trip wearing these. We advise they continue to wear wellies or crocs with easy to put on slippers or plimsols when indoors. We have a supply of sunhats. Again, we advise you to keep yours at home (so preventing them being lost). They also need a change of clothing in their bags. Please make sure that all clothing is clearly NAMED and please check the Lost Property before Half Term. *Thank you.*

Our next Photo Day has been booked for the afternoon of **Tuesday 22nd May**. Please see Amanda if your child is not normally in this day to book a slot. Family groups can also be booked. Please return your photo orders no later than **8th June**, so that your orders can be printed and returned to you before the summer break. Our photographer reminds all parents that the printers make an extra charge for late orders.

All parents have been contacted asking for their Data Protection consent. Please let us have your consent **URGENTLY** before the new data protection legislation changes.

One of our parents has expressed a safety concern relating to children playing freely at pickup time. There have been a few near-misses and potentially nasty injuries. We understand that children are ready to 'let off steam' after school, but please make sure your older children behave in ways that are respectful towards other families and their younger children. Thank you.

And...please could you check your child's pockets & bags for bits & bobs. Some parts of our equipment are going missing. Missing parts makes these (often

expensive) items unusable. If in doubt, please just bring it to show us and we'll let you know if it is a vital missing part or something collected from somewhere else! Thank you!

Staff news

We thought you would like to hear about how the staff across the CIC are developing professionally. Some primarily work in other settings but all staff work may work in another setting from time to time. We are delighted that all staff embrace change by committing to training:

Becky, Chloe & and Nickala (based in Ramsey) are focussed on attaining NVQ level 3 qualifications. Chloe joins one of two cohorts this year who are accessing Montessori Foundation training. They include: Colchester based - Emma Calver, Kerry, Cara, Susan, Helen, Tori & Laura and in Ramsey – Vicki, Chloe, Emily, Julie and Rachel (new to the team).

Morgan and Miriam will complete their Level 5 this summer and will continue on the full degree course in the autumn. They work so hard and always give their very best to the children. Man-Hing (Colchester) began her Montessori Level 4 training at Easter.

Hannah (soon to be a mum– CONGRATULATIONS!) has managed an amazing year of successfully completing her teaching practice and starting married life. When she returns after Maternity Leave (& she promises she will!!), she will be a senior member in the Colchester team.

Wendy, an experienced trained primary teacher, is soon to train as a Forest School Leader Training (level 4) and will be our 'peripatetic' Forest School Leader from September benefitting all settings. She will continue as Montessori trainee practitioner at Lawford.

We welcome Hannah Cook to our admin team. Primarily she will support Emily as Business Admin Assistant. Sadly, we say good bye to Beth (Ramsey) in June. We wish her every success in her new employment, but we will miss her.

Bags to school – easy fundraising

Please collect a bag from the lobby & fill the bag with unwanted items of clothing. The next collection day is in June (date to be confirmed).

That's all for now... thank you so much for your support over recent weeks and months. Annamaria and her team are so grateful for it! We trust you all continue to enjoy a lovely summer term being out & about! (Please bring in any family snaps or postcards for children to display, talk about and put into their Journey Books).

Yours sincerely,



Annamaria Guild

Setting Manager

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