



Dear Parents,

Although we continue to enjoy the glorious summer, we are beginning to look forward to the autumn term when we will welcome new children, see staff settling into new positions, discover the beauty of autumn and enjoy a new topic - *Once Upon a Time...*(see below).

Getting to know you...

As part of our new welcome arrangements, all new families now attend an 'Induction Meeting' *before* their child's first session at nursery. This is in addition to attending a 'Meet & Greet', where they meet their child's key person. Wherever possible this can be scheduled before or after the meeting. At this important session, parents will learn about Oaklea, be introduced to some of our policies and procedures, be registered for Parentzone and enjoy getting to know other families in an informal, friendly atmosphere.

Parentzone for existing families...

Over recent months, we have been pleased to invite all our existing families to a Parent Forum to set up *Parentzone*. If you have not yet attended one of these, please make every effort to attend **one** of the following:

Thursday 23rd August (1300 to 1400 or 1415 to 1515)

At these informal meetings, we can also respond to questions and share other aspects of nursery procedures. Please understand that:

- We cannot set Parentzone up for parents who do not attend a face to face meeting.
- No child will be able to start at Oaklea without attending an Induction Meeting, when they will be registered for Parentzone.

Once Upon A Time...

This autumn, we will be opening-up the wonder of much loved books, rhymes and children's stories with the children. We invite you to share this topic with your own children and have some suggestions below. However, we would also LOVE to invite you to share one of your favourites with the children. Maybe a story that you loved as a child, or a story or rhyme from a different culture or language. Maybe a grandparent has a special rhyme that they play with their grandchildren. Whatever it is... please do let us know. All the children (not least your own) will find this an enriching experience.

- *Dates for the diary*
- On **Wednesday 31st October**, we shall be closed for staff training
- Local churches are inviting all families for the Free Family Fun Festival in Colchester Castle Park on **Sunday 15th September**.
- We will be collecting for Operation Christmas Child from **1st to 30th October**.
- We will be fundraising for BBC Children in Need on **Friday 16th November**.
- Sally our photographer is booked for **Thursday 1st November AM**. You are welcome to book a session through the office if your child is not booked in on Thursdays or you would like to book a 'family photo shoot' at the start of the day.
- **Term dates are from:**
- Tuesday 4th September to Monday 17th December (inclusive).
- Half term week commencing 22nd October
- **Christmas closure dates** (affecting children booked through the year):
- Thursday 20th December 2018 to Wednesday 2nd January 2019 inclusive.

Staff news

We are delighted to let you know the following appointments have recently been made:

Heather has accepted the position of Assistant Manager. This is primarily so that she can relieve Catherine (still the setting manager) so that she can carry out her additional responsibilities. Heather will be supported by a strong team (Shara, Matthew, Wendy and Morgan). They will be joined by Marina and an apprentice. Marina is a Senior Montessori Practitioner and SENCo, moving from our New Town setting. She is an experienced level 4 Montessori practitioner, who has already worked some shifts at Lawford. Morgan is now a level 5 practitioner and about to start the final year of her degree.

Wendy has been busy this summer completing Forest School training. As soon as the course work is processed, she will be able to lead regular Forest Schools sessions. In the meantime, these will be 'Woodland Walks'. Miriam has moved across to the Ramsey setting as she too completes the final year of her degree. We also hope to appoint an apprentice this summer.

Fundraising & Helping Hands

Thank you so much for all who have supported the recent Open Morning. We know that you have been so generous in your support. **Wow! What a success!** The final tally is yet to be confirmed, but is definitely over £350. I know that Heather will make sure that it is well spent and that you see the new resources as they arrive and used to benefit the children. A MASSIVE thank you to Heather who masterminded the event. We invite those of you who have a flair for fundraising to support and help put on future events.

Thank you... Thank you... Thank you... Thank you... Thank you... Thank you.



We also wonder if you could help sand and re-varnish one (or more) children's wooden chairs, which after 9 years are looking a little tired!!

Clothing

When the season changes and the weather cools, please make sure that children arrive with suitable **named** clothing for being outdoors. This includes wearing warm wellies with easy-to-put-on-slippers. We have a supply of hats, so please feel free to leave yours at home.

That's all for now...

We trust you all continue to enjoy a lovely summer. Please bring in any family snaps or postcards from your days out or holidays for children to display, talk about and put into their Journey Books.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Theodosius

Catherine Theodosius
Setting Manager

Caroline Allen

Caroline Allen
CIC Managing Director

PTO

Once Upon A Time....

Weeks	Story/rhyme	Ideas to do at home
3 rd & 10 th Sep	Little Red Riding Hood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the library; choose some books to borrow... • Talk about 'stranger danger' and keeping safe. • Enjoy a walk through the woods
17 th & 24 th Sep	Rosie's Hat & Room on a Broom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find all the hats you can for dressing up! Please take some photos for your child to bring in! • Invite your child to sweep the path (they will be introduced to this at nursery!)
1 st & 8 th Oct	Owl & the Pussycat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy a trip to a local port / boating lake / harbour / RNLI shop or event. • Count out 5 £1 coins and then swop for a £5 note. • Allow your child to pay for something using coins when out shopping.
15 th & 22 nd Oct	Wheels on the Bus (Samaritan's Purse)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please bring in small gifts for Samaritan's Purse shoe box appeal. https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/ • Watch the youtube video 'Love in A Box' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1tt7cmJGkA • Visit somewhere using public transport rather than a car.
29 th Oct & 5 th Nov	What the Ladybird Heard & The Hungry Caterpillar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit a Natural History Museum (Colchester?) or Open Farm • Choose some life cycle books when visiting the library • Choose a plant to plant that butterflies will be attracted to next year (Buddleia?)
12 th & 19 th Nov	Three Little Pigs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at different styles of housing where you live. • Build something at home & allow your child to 'help' (hold a spirit level, use a tape measure etc.)
26 th & 3 rd Dec	Gingerbread Man	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try your hand at making a Bake-Off style show stopper. Take pictures and we will vote for the best!!
10 th Dec	Twinkle, Twinkle, Bright New Star	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find lots of stars to decorate your home for Christmas. • Read about the 3 Wise Men who followed the star. • Look out of the window and enjoy the night sky with your children before you draw the curtains. Remember the hot long days (summer) and compare with short days (winter).

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