



Welcoming | Involving | Evolving

Oxhey Early Years Centre

# Newsletter - 18th April

Dear Mums, Dads, Carers, Friends and Families



A warm welcome back to those of you who enjoyed a break over Easter. We are now into the summer term - a great time for learning about growth and change (our living eggs will help us to see this first hand - see below) and as the weather is becoming increasingly milder, a great chance too for lots of exploratory outside play.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff that worked in the Centre over the holidays and continued to provide wonderful care and provision.

Moving on to Reception - allocations of primary schools come out this week. This process will continue over the next few weeks, particularly for those of you hoping for a different allocation. If you have any queries or questions about the process, please speak to me or contact your Children's Centre.

### Outdoor Project in Rainbow Room Garden

Over the Easter break the contractors were able to start work on the garden/ outdoor project that we are funding from Tesco and Lottery grants. The garden will have new play and activity areas including an allotment, an amphitheatre, a climbing structure and new play surfaces. I will keep you up to date with progress.

### Continuing at OEYC in September

If your child is staying with us in September please keep up to date with information on 15 or 30 hours free funding for 3-4 year olds - see details below.

**Please read below for all the up and coming events.** We are looking forward to welcoming back Don Rae this Thursday afternoon to deliver the spectacular 'Holi' workshops which were postponed last term due to the Centre closing unexpectedly. Children who attend in the afternoon can dress up in bright colourful clothes for this event.

There will be no OEYC Learning Journal this week but we will send out one next week.

Have a good week.

Rachel Fagan, Head of Centre

### Dates of forthcoming celebrations and events for your diary:

Cultural Event (for PM children only who missed it in March)

Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> April

Duck Egg Experience

begins Tues 25<sup>th</sup> April

Book Fair

Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> Apr - Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> May

Bank Holiday Monday CENTRE CLOSED

Mon 1<sup>st</sup> May

Children's Group Photographs

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> May



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT FUNDING FOR 3-4 YEAR OLDS

### 30 Hours - coming to OEYC September 2017

Parents who are staying with us in Sept and whose child will qualify for 3-4 year old funding were sent important information (by OEYC parent mail) last week. Please make sure you have seen this. The information is also available on the home page of our website or in hard copy in the Reception area

This link gives details of eligibility criteria

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/30-hours-free-childcare-eligibility>



### **Childcare Choices**

This is a new website all about Government help with childcare costs, including 15 OR 30 hours free childcare, Tax-Free Childcare, tax credits, Universal Credit, vouchers and support while you study. Please click on the link to find out more [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

### **News from the Parents Association**



#### **Easter Cake Sale**

Thank you so much for supporting the Easter themed cake sale on the Friday before we broke up. This cake sale was as popular as ever and we raised the grand total of **£180** which was fantastic.

### **News from the Parents' Association**

#### **Sponsored Scavenger Hunt**

We hope you had fun collecting treasure and we look forward to seeing your completed sheets very soon. Please return sponsorship money and your treasure by **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April**. Money should be put in the PA post box situated on the wall outside the Blue Room.



#### **Duck Egg Experience - Our Duck eggs will be here next week!**



We need to raise £300 to fund this event, so if you haven't yet done so, please come and choose a jewel to put on the golden egg in Reception. We suggest a donation of £1. Thank you to everyone who has already purchased a jewel - our duck is looking more sparkly now. Please ask in the office for your jewel now!

#### **Parents Association Whatsapp group**

Interested parents will get information about our upcoming events and how they can support us (it's not just about turning up to meetings!). Ask in the office about adding your phone number to our group.



#### **Summer Fun Day**



We are now starting to collect donations for the raffle which is to be held on the Summer Fun Day in July. If any parents know of a company that could donate a prize or service as a raffle prize we would be very grateful! Prizes could include: restaurant vouchers, beauty therapies, car services, day out tickets, hampers etc.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

The Centre would like to extend warmest congratulations to Julie Marsh (who works in the office) who got married over the Easter break. She is not planning on changing her name!



**For the attention of parents/carers of children having cooked school lunches**



The new summer/autumn menus are now available to collect from reception or alternatively you can look on our website for a copy.

[http://www.oeyc.herts.sch.uk/parents\\_info/index.html](http://www.oeyc.herts.sch.uk/parents_info/index.html)

**Reminder - change of phone number or address**

Please let the office know ASAP if you have any change of details such as a new phone number, email address or home address.

There are specific green forms outside in reception just outside the office.



**Absences:** help us to keep children's attendance at 95% or above!

How you can do this:

**\*Bring your child to all of their sessions wherever possible.**

**\*Let the Head & office know** if you are requesting a holiday during term time.

**\*Remember** to phone the office before 9am on the day of your child's absence if

he or she is unwell - 01923 330300 option 1. This really helps the Admin Team to determine the reason for absence for our reports and data collection. It also prevents you from being charged for any lunches as we can cancel them in good time.

**Blue and Purple Room Library and Book Sharing Fridays**

We are continuing this through the summer term and we will **need parents to help out**. If you can spare an hour or so in the morning or afternoon of any Friday we would greatly appreciate it. Please sign up on the lists outside Blue and Purple Room or speak to Sally or Rachel for more information.

**May I also remind you to sign in the designated book folder - on top of the book cases - when your child returns their book.**



We still have **blue book bags** for sale £4 each. Please ask in the office.

**Sainsbury's vouchers for schools**

We are continuing to be part of the Sainsbury's **Active Kids** voucher scheme. Thank you to those of you who have already brought vouchers in. There is a box in reception for vouchers. We welcome any vouchers you collect. The more we collect the more equipment we can get for your children. We have until June before this scheme closes.



**Hiring our Rainbow Room - Please come and look around this ideal venue**



If you are planning a **children's party** or other **family event** and need to hire a venue, then why not consider our lovely **Rainbow Room**? There is a wonderful outside area included too as well as a small kitchen. This is available at Weekends - both Saturday and Sunday. Alternatively if you or someone you know needs a room for classes such as **Pilates, Yoga, Zumba, Choir, Keep-**

**Fit, Tuition**.....our venue would be ideal. For more information and prices and to book a time to view the facilities **please ring 01923 330300 opt 1 or email at [admin@oeyc.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oeyc.herts.sch.uk)**

**Early Years Club - Play and Learn Every Friday (term time only) here in the Rainbow Room 9.30 - 11.** Please use the SCC entrance.

Do come along with your baby or child. These are drop in sessions (term time only) and only **£2.50 per family per session**, which includes a healthy snack. Prepared to get messy! Always lots of fun exploratory play - paint, sand, water, soil, pasta.....Great outdoors space too and session finishes with singing and music.



Very friendly group organised by very friendly staff. For more info. call 01923 330300 opt 1



To find out all the news and activities available at the **Oxhey Group Children's Centres (Ebury, Sunshine and South Oxhey)** please follow this link [www.pre-school.org.uk/oxhey-group-childrens-centres](http://www.pre-school.org.uk/oxhey-group-childrens-centres)

or call the following numbers: South Oxhey: 0208 428 3591

Ebury: 01923 255054 Sunshine: 01923 254563

Or Email: [oxheygroupcc@pre-school.org.uk](mailto:oxheygroupcc@pre-school.org.uk) or pick up a leaflet from Reception

You can also follow them on Facebook for the most up to date information about what's going on in the centres!

**Also New at Sunshine Children's Centre - Busy Feet Explorers Music & Movement group Drop in Session £2 per family every Friday Term Time Only 1.30-2.30pm 2 - 5 yr olds Phone 01923 254563 for more information.**

#### **Volunteers needed**

They are currently also looking for volunteers to help them in a variety of ways, admin, playgroups, maintaining resources.....Volunteering will also help you enhance your CV at the same time supporting a fantastic service.

For more information, please contact Ceres El-Khalifa on 01923 255054

#### **Up and coming workshops and courses:-**

**Healthy Eating Cookery Course** - Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 10 - 12noon for 5 weeks - Ebury CC

**Understanding your Baby's Brain** - Wed 26<sup>th</sup> April 10.30 - 11.30am (1 session) South Oxhey CC

**How to look after baby's and your teeth** - Tues 13<sup>th</sup> June 1.30pm (1 session) South Oxhey CC

**How to keep your child safe in the home** - Tues 4<sup>th</sup> July 1.30pm (1 session) South Oxhey CC

**About Boy's Course** (understanding boys development & behaviour) Tues 18<sup>th</sup> July

9.30 - 11.30am South Oxhey CC

For more information and/or to book a place phone 02018 428 3591

**Keeping your Children Safe online** - Wed 19<sup>th</sup> April 10.00 - 11.30 South Oxhey CC

Phone Joanne @Ebury CC on 01923 255054 to book your place on this free workshop

