



Welcoming | Involving | Evolving

Oxhey Early Years Centre

# Newsletter - 28th November

Dear Mums, Dads, Carers, Friends and Families



The festive season is now upon us and we are all looking forward to the annual **pantomime trip on Friday** - oh yes we are! Information has gone out regarding the arrangements for the trip and they are also included in this Newsletter. If you are still not sure please speak to a member of staff. Please remember **BLUE ROOM IS CLOSED ON FRIDAY**.

## Tesco Bags of Help Award

Tesco will let us know at the end of November which amount we have "won". Thanks again for your votes and fingers crossed for one of the higher amounts.

## Blue and Purple Room Parents: TAPESTRY Online Learning Journal

We are continuing to receive good feedback on Tapestry. If you have not yet accessed your child's Learning Journal please visit the office and ask Wendy to resend you the link. For safeguarding reasons this link only stays open for 24 hours so any link already sent will have expired.

## Outdoor Learning

Recently some parents have been asking that their children stay inside as they have a slight cough, cold etc. It is part of our ethos, and our Centre Development Plan, that we use the outdoor learning environment to its full potential and that the children are able to access this freely for the majority of their sessions. Please see the section below giving more information about the importance of outdoor play and learning. Staff support children in the outdoors and will support them in being adequately dressed and keeping warm. If your child is in nursery and wants to use the outdoor learning environment this will be encouraged and supported by staff.

## Snow Plan and Emergency Closures

As we are now entering the winter season when snow can hit us at any time, a letter detailing our **snow plan** will be sent out to every parent later this week. Please read this carefully. If you are unsure of anything in this letter, please speak to a member of staff.

A separate email will also be sent out with details on how you can register on the Schools Closure Notification system.

We are now in a very busy season for events so please read the information below. In particular, if you are able to, please book time off work for your child's sing-song at the end of this term. Please speak to a member of staff in your child's room for the times and more information.

Please also remember to keep in touch with children's learning in our OEYC WEEKLY LEARNING OVERVIEW (emailed separately).

Have a good week.

Rachel Fagan - Head of Centre



Photographs will be in the rooms early this week for you to collect.



Dates of forthcoming celebrations and events for your diary:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Toy Sale organised by PA                                      | Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov - Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec  |
| Panto Trip - Watford Palace Theatre (BLUE ROOM CLOSED)        | Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec                                 |
| Chocolate tombola   | Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec                               |
| BR and PR Festive Sing Songs - DO COME ALONG                  | Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec                               |
| Visit to Elderly neighbours at Eastbury Court for a Sing-Song | Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec                                |
| OR Singsong and party   | Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec                              |
| PR and BR Parties and visit from Sshhh.....a special visitor  | Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec                              |
| Last day of term for Nursery School & Term Time only Daycare  | Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec                                |
| Christmas Jumper day - more details to follow                 | Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec                                |
| Daycare CLOSED for Christmas holiday                          | Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec - Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017 |
| INSET DAYS - STAFF TRAINING ALL ROOMS CLOSED                  | Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017        |
| ALL ROOMS OPEN FOR START OF SPRING TERM                       | Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017                            |
| Deadline for applications for admissions to Reception classes | Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan                                |
| Bag2School event  | Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan                               |

**Arrangements - Pantomime, Beauty and the Beast 2nd Dec at Watford Palace Theatre**



Please meet at the Theatre from 1.15pm where members of staff will be on hand to direct you to the 187 seats we have booked in the circle. The performance starts at 2.00pm. If your child is having lunch at the Centre on that day, please collect them in good time to get to the Theatre - they should be ready for collection by 12.30 - 12.40 pm.

**You do not need tickets** - we will hold these and tick you off as you arrive. If you wish to sit with friends please come into the Theatre together. The performance will finish soon after 4.00pm and there will be a short intermission during this. We know you will all have a fabulous time - oh yes you will!!

Please note if you are coming into Watford by car there are a number of car parks nearby. Log onto [www.watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk/your-visit/](http://www.watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk/your-visit/) for more information.

There is also Gade Car park and Queen's Car park nearby. It is a busy time of the year so please be prepared for the car parks to be quite full.

Please also note **BLUE ROOM IS CLOSED** on this day.

News from the Parents Association

Our **toy sale** is underway and will end on Thursday. Thank you for supporting this event so generously. You may add any unwanted good quality toys (please make sure puzzles are complete) and books by Wednesday. Please leave them in sealed bags outside reception. It's a good chance to have a clear out before Christmas and help raise money for the Centre.



Our final event of this term will be a **chocolate tombola** on **Tuesday 13th December**, to correspond with the Christmas sing-songs. We will be asking you to bring in something 'chocolatey' with a festive or Christmas theme. More details will follow shortly.

Our first event of the Spring Term will be a **Bag2School collection** on **24<sup>th</sup> January 2017**. Bags will be given out before the end of term. Please remember to save any clothes, soft toys, paired shoes, hats, belts and handbags for this event. You can bring your filled bags in on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January. You may have as many bags as you wish.





## Don't be late to apply for school!

If your child was born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013, you will soon need to apply for a place in Reception for September 2017

On-line applications are now open and the

deadline will be Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016

For more information please visit [www.hertsdirect.org/admissions](http://www.hertsdirect.org/admissions)

### Information from the Council for Outdoor Learning - importance of outdoor play

In recent years there has been a cultural shift in our society that has reduced the access and use of outdoors for many young children. A number of factors are blamed, including increased fear amongst adults in relation to children's safety, anxieties about the threat of abduction, and technological advances leading to an overwhelming prominence of more sedentary indoor activities, such as television and computer games. However, the developmental needs of young children have remained constant and the outdoor environment continues to be essential to their health, development and well-being.



The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum, which covers children from birth to the end of the Reception year, places strong emphasis on the importance and value of daily outdoor experiences for children's learning and development.

- Learning outside the classroom supports the development of healthy and active lifestyles by offering children opportunities for physical activity, freedom and movement, and promoting a sense of well-being.
- Learning outside the classroom gives children contact with the natural world and offers them experiences that are unique to outdoors, such as direct contact with the weather and the seasons.
- Playing and learning outside also helps children to understand and respect nature, the environment and the interdependence of humans, animals, plants, and lifecycles.
- Outdoor play also supports children's problem-solving skills and nurtures their creativity, as well as providing rich opportunities for their developing imagination, inventiveness and resourcefulness.
- Children need an outdoor environment that can provide them with space, both upwards and outwards, and places to explore, experiment, discover, be active and healthy, and to develop their physical capabilities.
- The outdoor environment offers space and therefore is particularly important to those children who learn best through active movement. Very young children learn predominately through their sensory and physical experiences which supports brain development and the creation of neural networks.
- For many children, playing outdoors at their early years setting may be the only opportunity they have to play safely and freely while they learn to assess risk and develop the skills to manage new situations.

Learning that flows seamlessly between indoors and outdoors makes the most efficient use of resources and builds on interests and enthusiasms

- Anyone who takes children outside regularly sees the enjoyment, and sense of wonder and excitement that is generated when children actively engage with their environment.

Please follow this link for the Council for Outdoor Learning for more information

<http://www.lotc.org.uk/why/early-years/>

**Early Years Club (0-5years old) Friday (term time only) in the Rainbow Room  
9.30 - 11.**

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 Please use the SCC entrance.



**Christmas Post Box**



Our Christmas Post Box will soon be in the Reception area ready for children to post their cards to their friends. **THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO SEND CARDS TO THEIR FRIENDS.** They can practise writing their names or letters on the cards too. Please look on the box for posting times - the last day for posting children's cards is **Friday 16th December**. Please make sure you put the name of the child and the initial of their surname, together with the room they are in and whether am or pm. eg. *Holly T B/R AM*.

A class list will be put up outside each room if you are not sure of names etc.

**All About Boys Workshop - Highly recommended**

This workshop is targeted at mums with sons under 5yrs and will provide you with:

- . An understanding of your son's development and behaviour
- . Ways to provide him with boundaries and discipline
- . Gain confidence to support boys through difficulties - We will look at:
  - . Differences between boys and girls development
  - . Strategies that support discipline and boundaries
  - . How to understand why boys do what they do and how to motivate them.



Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016 9.30am - 11.30am

South Oxhey Children's Centre, Northwick Road, WD19 6NL

Too book your place please ring 0208 428 3591



**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)**

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: [oxhegroupcc@pre-school.org.uk](mailto:oxhegroupcc@pre-school.org.uk) You can also follow us on Facebook for the most up to date information about what's going on in the centres!

**Forthcoming course on Oral health for children on Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Jan at South Oxhey**

