



Welcoming | Involving | Evolving

Oxhey Early Years Centre

Newsletter - 2nd May

Dear Mums, Dads, Carers, Friends and Families Friends and Families



I hope you all enjoyed the long weekend. The weather is forecasted to be fine and bright so children will be able to enjoy lots of outdoor play and learning. Children will be engaging in lots of growing activities too, learning about what is needed for plants to grow and flourish - especially sun and rain! We are also very excited about our chicks hatching - we have 5 in total so far. This will be another wonderful experience for children as they learn first-hand the life-cycle of a chicken.

We are currently busy organising admissions for the next academic year (Sept 17 onwards). Thanks to Wendy, Julie and the team in the Admin Office for their hard work in coordinating this and finding a place for many new children,

especially with all the changes to free funded places this year.

Continuing at OEYC in September

Offers of places for 3-4 year olds

Please make sure you have replied to the email sent out last week offering either a 15 hours or a 30 hours place. Please speak to Wendy or Julie in the office if you are unsure.

If you are accepting a 30 hours place you now need to go on the www.childcarechoices.gov.uk website and enter your details to get your eligibility code (11 digit number). This eligibility checker is now "live". You then need to inform us of your code, along with your NI numbers and child's date of birth so that we can confirm your eligibility with the Herts checker before we can finally confirm your place.

Please read below for all the up and coming events.

The OEYC Learning Journal and weekly rhyme will be sent out separately. Please read this for all the information about what we are learning in the rooms and ideas to support your children's learning at home.

Have a good week.

Rachel Fagan, Head of Centre

Dates of forthcoming celebrations and events for your diary:

Book Fair continues

Children's Group Photographs

Parents' Association Meeting (everyone welcome)

Sponsored Walk in aid of debra- a charity supporting EB (details below) Tues 23rd May

Bank Holiday - CENTRE CLOSED

Half-term for Nursery School and Term-Time Daycare

INSET DAY for staff training all rooms CLOSED

ends Thurs 4th May

Wed 10th May

Wed 11th May (7.30pm)

Tues 23rd May

Mon 29th May

Mon 29th May - Fri 2nd June

Fri 30th Jun





Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you for all your purchases so far. The Book Fair finishes this week on **Thursday 4th May** so there is still time to come and buy from the amazing selection of books and sundries. Remember you can now buy 3 for 2 (getting cheapest one free) on all books. All profits from sales will be spent on purchasing books for our Centre.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR 3-4 YEAR OLD

This link gives details of eligibility criteria

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



Childcare Choices - **GET YOUR 30 HOUR ELIGIBILITY CODE HERE**

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

PLEASE REGISTER FOR UPDATES AT THIS SITE

Children's Group Photographs

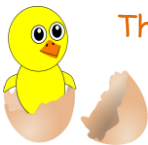


The photographer will be here on **Wednesday 10th May** (morning and afternoon) to take group/room photographs of the children. If your child does not usually attend on this day and you would like them to be included in the photographs, please speak to a member of staff in your child's room.

News from the Parents Association

Sponsored Scavenger Hunt - A big thank you to everyone who participated in this event. Certificates have been sent out to each child who took part - please ask in your child's room if you have not yet received yours. **We raised an amazing £310.10 - well done!**

Chicken Egg Experience



Thank you to everyone who purchased a jewel on our egg in Reception to help raise funds for the chicks. 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! This will end in a couple of days.

PLEASE NOTE we were originally going to have duck eggs but because of the outbreak of Avian flu affecting some ducks, we had to switch to chicken eggs.

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.



Our Next meeting is Thurs 11th May - 7.30pm here in the Rainbow Room. EVERYONE VERY WELCOME - SO PLEASE COME ALONG AND FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP.



LOTTERY FUNDED

Outdoor Learning Project – Rainbow Room Garden

Work is continuing on this and many children have had the chance to go and see the construction workers and digger in action. The work is coming along well with many features now in situ. We hope to have the garden completed by mid June.



Sponsored Walk

On **Tuesday 23rd May** all the children in our Centre will be taking part in our Sponsored Walk - both mornings and afternoons. Another opportunity to keep fit! Sponsorship forms will be sent out in due course. All the money raised will go to the very worthy charity **Debra** which supports children with the skin disorder Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB).



The walk will take us just outside the Centre and through the park. We ask for **as many volunteers as possible** to help us on the day. **All we need is an hour of your time.** There will be a notice outside the rooms this week for you to sign up. This walk is a wonderful opportunity for children to be aware of their environment, noticing things in nature as well as other points of interest.

PLEASE BE AWARE PARKING SPACES WILL BE LIMITED, SO IF YOU CAN EITHER WALK TO SCHOOL, OR PARK SAFELY OUTSIDE THE CENTRE AND REMEMBER NOT TO PARK ON THE KERBS LEADING TO EASTBURY COURT.

Many thanks, Sally Snell (Coordinator).



Sainsbury's vouchers for schools

This scheme has now closed but you still have time to bring in any vouchers you have - maybe at the bottom of your bags or in your cars. Thank you so much to everyone who has supported this - we have had an amazing number of vouchers which we will be able to use to purchase equipment for the Centre to encourage children to keep active, fit and healthy.

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**

