



Welcoming | Involving | Evolving

Oxhey Early Years Centre

Newsletter - 31st October



Dear Mums, Dads, Carers, Friends and Families, We would like to extend a warm welcome back after the half-term break. Thank you to our hardworking all year round team for making the week involving and engaging for the children who were in day care last week.

We would like to wish a 'Happy Diwali' to those families celebrating this Festival. Would you like to come in and share with us how you celebrate Diwali in your family? Please speak to your key person, if so, as we warmly welcome hearing about

festivals and celebrations that are important to your family

Now is the time of year when we explore the theme of Light and Dark and talk about the fireworks, illuminations and celebrations we might see around us as the nights draw in. Look out for our wonderful displays around the Centre. Don't forget to keep safe if you are around any fireworks, sparklers or bonfires this season. There are many websites offering advice on how to keep children safe - for example <http://www.capt.org.uk/safety-advice/staying-safe-around-fireworks>

Scavenger Hunt

I hope you were able to look for autumn treasures last week. Please return your forms to the box in the reception area.

Attendance in Blue and Purple Rooms

Now that the majority of the children are settled I would like to remind you of the importance of regular attendance and of the need to inform the office by phone if your child will not be attending a session. We aim to have 95% attendance for all children, not easy in the season of coughs and colds. I will be monitoring each child's attendance on a regular basis and will speak to you to offer support if your child's attendance is causing concern. Children who have 95% or higher attendance will have a special certificate put into their Learning Journal.

Staff Update

We would like to extend our congratulations to Emily in the Purple Room, who was recently married. Her married name is now Emily Strange. We wish Emily and her husband good luck for their future together.

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to Annie Burke in the Orange Room. Thank you to Annie for all her hard work and dedication to the children and families of this Centre over the past few years. We wish Annie well for the future.

Tesco Bags of Help Award - voting opens TODAY

If you, family or friends shop in Tesco (in Watford and/or South Oxhey) please ask them to use their token (given out at the checkout) to vote for Oxhey Early Years Centre. If we get the most votes our award will increase from £8,000 to £12,000. You can vote multiple times over the next 2 weeks

Please read the information below and don't forget to keep in touch with children's learning in our **OEYC WEEKLY LEARNING OVERVIEW**, (emailed separately) This overview gives **ideas to help your child learn at home**. Following up on ideas explored in Nursery deepens children's learning and makes strong links between home and OEYC helping our children reach their full potential.

Have a good week

Rachel Fagan - Head of Centre

Dates of forthcoming celebrations and events for your diary:

Diwali - Festival of Lights

Voting for Tesco Bags of Help - in local stores

On-line Applications OPEN for Reception Class (details soon)

Parent Consultations for Blue and Purple Room

Parent Consultation Evening for Orange Room

EB awareness day - wear your Tee-shirt inside out (see below)

PA Meeting 7.45pm here at OEYC

Scholastic Book Fair

Children in Need - Pudsey Bear (dress up day)

Toy Sale organised by PA

Panto Trip - Watford Palace Theatre (BLUE ROOM CLOSED)

Sun 30th Oct -Thurs 3rd Nov

Begins 31st October

Mon 7th Nov

Week beg: 7th Nov

Thurs 10th Nov (6 - 8pm)

Wed 9th Nov

Tues 15th Nov

Tues 15th - Fri 18th Nov

Fri 18th Nov

Thurs 24th Nov

Fri 2nd Dec

TESCO Bags of Help

Help us to gain £12K for our outdoor learning project

voting has now begun in stores - please tell family and friends to vote for Oxhey Early Years Centre

Children's Individual Photographs - Deadline for orders Thursday 10th Nov

Proofs of your children's photos together with order forms will be in your children's rooms tomorrow. Please follow the instructions on the order forms

and return these together with payment to the main office **no later than 4pm Thurs 10th Nov**



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 will **open** on **Monday 7th November** and the **deadline** will be **Sunday 15th January 2016**

For more information please visit www.hertsdirect.org/admissions

Wear your tee shirt inside out and help raise awareness of EB

We are holding a special fund raising day on **Wednesday 9th November** to

raise people's awareness of the skin condition Epidermolysis bullosa (EB)

This is a general term used to describe a group of rare inherited skin disorders that cause the skin to become very fragile. In people with EB, any trauma or friction to the skin can cause painful blisters.

We currently have a little boy in the Blue Room, Freddie, who has this condition. His skin is as fragile as a butterfly. Children with this condition including Freddie often wear their clothes inside out so as not to cause friction to their delicate skin. We will be asking you to wear a jumper or tee-shirt inside out on this day to help raise awareness of what life is like for these children. More details will follow soon - Look out for posters.

Meanwhile if you would like to find out more about this condition please follow the following link <http://www.debra-international.org/epidermolysis-bullosa.html>





News from the Parents' Association - Scavenger Hunt for Half-Term week

We hope you had fun collecting your treasures and we look forward to seeing your completed sheets this week! Please return sponsorship money and your treasure by Friday 11th November.

The Next **PA meeting is Tuesday 15th November** here in the **Rainbow Room 7.45pm** everyone very welcome - do come along and see what we do and find out how you can help.

Colds and flu

We are now in the season for coughs, colds, viruses, temperatures.....Please be reminded that if your child is unwell and has a temperature over 37.5°C then they should stay at home until they are well enough to return. We support the children here to blow noses and dispose of tissues in the bins, wash hands afterwards and put their hands over their mouths when they cough but inevitably germs will pass round. Please reinforce hygiene rules with your children at home and hopefully some illnesses may be reduced.



Please remember to phone the office by 9am to notify us of your child's absence. (1pm if your child only attends in the afternoon).

For more information on how all the family can stay well this winter please follow the following link <https://www.nhs.uk/staywell/#ZKTjkiUmbORFloyy.97>

There is also information on this link about the **Flu vaccination for young children.**

In the autumn/winter of 2016-17, the vaccine will be available free on the NHS for eligible children, including:

- . children aged two, three and four on August 31 2016
- . children in school years one, two and three in some parts of the country.
- . all primary school-aged children will be offered the vaccine as part of a test programme
- . children aged 2 to 17 with long-term health conditions.

Over the next few years the programme will be extended gradually to include older children.

URGENT REMINDERS from Julie Marsh - Finance Officer

There are still a number of parents who have not brought in their **Child's Birth Certificate yet. Please bring an original copy ASAP.**

We will take a photocopy of this and return to you straight away. It is a requirement that **we must see every child's Birth Certificate in the Centre.**



Autumn/winter lunch menus for children who have school lunches



The new autumn winter lunch menus have arrived. You can pick up one from reception or see the display board just before the double doors in reception. Alternatively follow this link to our website

http://www.oeyc.herts.sch.uk/parents_info/index.html to view the menu

We are continuing our 'Walk on Wednesday' campaign to encourage everyone to keep fit and enjoy some quality time together. Make the most of the autumn weather (wrap up warmly) and walk, cycle or scoot to school



every Wednesday then receive a special sticker. It's also a wonderful way for you and your children to stay in tune with the environment and each other. **Why not switch off your phones for the duration of your walk to avoid distractions and focus on your interactions with your child as you walk!** There are still many wonderful things to see (and hear and smell!) now that autumn progresses and winter approaches. Go on - embrace the elements.

Early Years Club (0-5years old)



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 information call 01923 330300 opt 1

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**



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

or call the following numbers

Tel: South Oxhey: 0208 428 3591 Ebury: 01923 255054

Sunshine: 01923 254563

Or Email: oxheygroupcc@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!

The Giving Machine www.thegivingmachine.co.uk

Shopping online and/or for the different festivities coming up? Please sign up - it's easy and free! This is a totally free website designed to benefit a charity you nominate. Every time you shop online (having logged in to The Giving Machine website first) a donation from the shop is given to your chosen charity.

Many big name stores such as Amazon, M&S, John Lewis etc. have a link from their web page. We would urge everyone to consider using this site and nominating 'Oxhey Early Years Centre' as a beneficiary. It's really easy to use and a great way to credit the Centre at no cost to yourself. Please spread the word amongst family and friends who order online too.

