



Welcoming | Involving | Evolving

Oxhey Early Years Centre

# Newsletter - 6th March



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

A big thank you to all parents who came in to read books to children last week as part of World Book Week, it was lovely to see children and adults sharing books and conversations.

We are all looking forward to our annual cultural event and dress up day this Thursday. Please read below for more details.

Please remember the online Nursery Admissions closes at the end of next week (Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March). If you are still unsure how this works please call in the office.

The Learning Overview and weekly rhyme is emailed separately - this includes ideas of how to support your child's learning at home and our weekly rhyme.

Have a good week.

Rachel Fagan, Head of Centre



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

Cultural Event & Dress up Day (organised by PA) details below	Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> March
Hindu Festival of Holi	Mon March 13 <sup>th</sup>
On-Line Nursery Admissions <b>CLOSES</b>	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> March
<u>Blue/Purple Room Parent Consultations</u>	Wk. beg. 20 <sup>th</sup> March
<u>Orange Room Parents Social Evening (6 - 8pm)</u>	Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> March
Comic Relief- Red Nose Day	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> March
PA Coffee morning	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> March
Easter Cake Bake Sale - organised by the PA	Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> March
Last day of term for Nursery School & Term-time only Daycare	Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> March
Good Friday - Bank Holiday - <b><u>ALL ROOMS CLOSED</u></b>	Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> April
Easter Monday - Bank Holiday - <b><u>ALL ROOMS CLOSED</u></b>	Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> April
<b><u>ALL ROOMS OPEN</u></b>	Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> April

## Cultural event and dress up day this week Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March



To celebrate the arrival of spring the PA are sponsoring a day of workshops for the children at the Centre inspired by the Indian Festival of Holi.

**Come dressed in brightly coloured clothes for this event!**

Don Rae, an experienced Performing Arts teacher who has worked around the world and also with schools in the local area and has been to us on 2 previous occasions will be coming in to run a series of workshops for every child to be involved in. They will be based around the Indian Festival of colour and the arrival of spring (Holi). Children will be able to capture and respond to this experience by listening and dancing to Bollywood style music and trying on colourful turbans, scarves and bangles. It promises to be an exciting and exhilarating day - just the thing to banish those winter blues and we are all looking forward to it.

## Parent Governors Needed

We have 2 vacancies for parent governors of the maintained nursery school (Blue and Purple Rooms) Please see the information below:



Are you interested in being a School Governor?

OEYC is made up of a maintained nursery school and a day care provider.

The Maintained Nursery School has a governing body that acts as a "critical friend" to the Head and Senior Leadership Team.

Our governing body is made up of 4 parent governors, 4 co-opted governors, a staff governor, the Head of Centre and a local authority governor.

We currently have 2 vacancies for parent governors.

What is the time commitment?

The minimum commitment is to attend 1 evening meetings per half term, (usually lasting 2 hours) and you would also need to commit time to reading the papers in advance of these meetings.

You are encouraged to visit the Centre once a term to observe us "in action" and would be given a theme for your visit linked to the Centre Development Plan.

Do I get any training?

The Centre subscribes to Governor training run by the local authority and you can attend training on a variety of subjects at no cost to you. You will be asked to attend a one day Governor Induction training within the first six months of becoming a Governor.

What to do next

Please contact Rachel, the Head, either by speaking to her when you are dropping off or collecting or by email at: [head@oeyc.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@oeyc.herts.sch.uk) or on the phone 01923 330300 option 5.

People with experience in finance/ accounting or people with links to the local community or with experience of working for large organisations such as the NHS, a county council, a big multinational, a large charity would all have skills and expertise that would benefit OEYC.



bookstart

### **Bookstart vouchers**

Please note that if you received a £1 voucher with your book last week, they can be spent at the next Scholastic Book Fair here at the end of April even though it states on the voucher they must be used by the 26<sup>th</sup> March in stores.

### **Appropriate footwear**

Please remember, if you send your child in to the Centre wearing wellies, you must remember to provide them with appropriate indoor shoes as well.

Wearing wellies all day can be unhealthy for children's feet and if children are outside jumping in puddles and mud, this can be transported on to the carpets. Many thanks.



### **Sainsbury's vouchers for schools**



Sainsbury's have now started up their **Active Kids** voucher scheme again. We welcome any vouchers you collect. There is now a box in reception for these. Thank you to everyone who has already put their vouchers in. The more we collect the more equipment we can get for your children.

## News from the Parents Association

### Coffee Morning - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March - 9.30am - 11am

We will be holding another Coffee morning in the Rainbow Room on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March to coincide with the Early Play and Learning session. Please do drop in from 9.30am onwards and purchase a cup of coffee/tea and a piece of cake. It will be a wonderful opportunity to take time out and have a chat with other parents. All money raised will go towards the PA funds which put on events such as the Duck Egg Experience (see below), our cultural day and our annual visit from farm or zoo animals.



Every year the Parent's Association fund the Duck/Chicken Egg experience that we have in nursery. The children learn so much from watching the eggs hatch and become ducklings or chicks. We need to raise £300 to fund this event, so we have set up a giant golden egg in the hallway. You can make a suggested donation of £1 for your child to stick a jewel on and support this experience. Please ask in the office for your jewel now!

### Sponsored Scavenger Hunt

Competition sheets will be coming home with your children soon ready for the Easter Holidays - something fun to do and at the same time help raise funds for special events and for purchasing bikes, scooters, buggies etc.

We hope you have fun collecting treasure and we look forward to seeing your completed sheets after the Easter holiday! Please return sponsorship money and your treasure by **Friday 21st April**.



We are continuing our 'Walk on Wednesday' campaign to encourage everyone to keep fit and enjoy some quality time together. 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. **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 now an increasing number of things to see (and hear and smell) now that spring is approaching

### 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

Blue and Purple Room Library Day (every Friday) - We need your help! Library and Book Sharing Day will continue this Friday -10<sup>th</sup> March until the end of term. Thank you to those parents who have already signed up to help. Please add your name if you are able to help too. If you want to find out more, please speak to Rachel or Sally.



### Voluntary Contributions Explained

We have always provided an opportunity for our children to attend Yoga and Creative Play (Woodoaks) sessions whilst in the **Blue** or **Purple** Rooms on a Thursday. This means that every child does one half-term of Creative Play and one half-term of Yoga during their time in the Centre. Your child also receives a healthy snack every day.

In order to keep providing these additional opportunities for your child(ren) and to cover our snack costs, we ask our families for voluntary contributions towards these costs. We have calculated an amount of **£25.00** per child per term, which amounts to just under £2 per week per child. This covers healthy and nutritious snack costs of £1.50 per child per week, plus a small contribution towards Yoga and Music sessions. The contributions are to cover our costs only and do not make any profit. Contributions can be paid termly, half termly or weekly.

**Termly, £25.00; Half-Termly £12.50; Weekly £2.00; Weekly - snack only £1.50**

Reminder letters have now gone out to parents/carers, so please bring your contribution to the Office, (or in the red post box just outside the office) making cheques payable to Oxhey Early Years Centre.). Please ensure that you write your child's name clearly on the back of the cheque together with "Voluntary Contribution". You can also pay by card in the office, by childcare voucher or directly to our bank account (please ask for the details in the office).

If your child does not do Creative Play or Yoga for any reason, we would be very grateful for a contribution towards the snack costs of £1.50 per week. We do hope that we will be able to continue to provide these fabulous sessions with your help. Please note, those children in the **Orange** Room who are asked to pay voluntary contributions, the amount will be different as those children do not attend Yoga/Creative Play sessions.

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) 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

