



**Welcome
to the
Chelsea Open Air
Community
Programme**

*A healthy opening to education
'Open Hearts and Open Minds'*

Welcome

This Welcome Booklet provides information about The School and Community Programme and how we learn and play at COA. Our Programme is delivered during term time and offers drop-in groups, themed workshops and parenting support for families with children from birth to 5 years old. We have a maximum capacity of 10 families per session with a booking system for some of the workshops.

We offer information and advice on Day Care and Nursery provision as well as Children's Centres within the locality. We also offer support in applying for local Schools.

We plan our activities termly and you can find our activity calendars and other information on the School's website;

www.coans.rbkc.sch.uk



Our Ethos

The Nursery School and Community Programme offers a full range of learning and development opportunities that meet the needs of children and their families, building upon the historical strengths of the Nursery School. We believe that outdoor play supports all areas of learning and is an integral part of children's development. At Chelsea Open Air children have access to the outdoors all year round, no matter what the weather!

History

Our school was founded in 1928 by Doctor Susan Isaacs and Natalie Davies. In the 1920's there was a countrywide educational movement which recognised the educational value in outdoor play. The garden is still central to our philosophy and combines with our indoor areas to provide a complete and balanced learning environment.

In 1978 the school became part of the Inner London Education Authority and is state funded. In 2006 it became one of the first Children's Centres in the Borough providing a 'one stop shop' for local families, babies and young children. The School later became a 'linked' site to the Children's Centre Services in the South Locality and in 2016 we established our own thriving Community Programme.

Open Morning

Throughout the year we run three Saturday Open Mornings. These are an opportunity for parents who are considering sending their child to Chelsea Open Air to tour the school, meet the Headteacher and other staff, and to explore our beautiful garden. Please bring your child with you when you visit.

Dates will be published on our school website or please contact the school office to make an appointment.



Health Professionals/ Practitioners

We work closely with external partners such as Music Therapists, Health Visitors, Speech and Language Therapists and Occupational Healthcare professionals. This enables us to sign post or refer you to the appropriate agencies if necessary.

Inclusion Coffee Morning

Half termly Inclusion Coffee Mornings are held for parents of children with additional needs. This is an opportunity to get together and share ideas and challenges. We invite visitors such as Speech & Language Therapists to these sessions to talk about their roles, how they support children and answer any questions.

If you have any questions please speak to your Keyworker or Talia the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

Please see our website for our SEND information or speak to a staff member. You can view the The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea SEND Local Offer here:

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/localoffer>



Parents as Partners

We aim to work in partnership with parents to meet the needs of children both individually and as a group.

We are keen that parents and carers are actively involved and participate in their child's learning and development via the Community Programme and also through our half termly Parents Forum. The Parents Forum is a body which gives parents a voice and enables them to share ideas and contribute to the future of the school.

We encourage you to support your children during their play experiences creating positive relationships by getting involved and being a good role model.

During Community Programme activities you are responsible for your child at all times whilst on the premises.



Safety First

It is our responsibility to ensure all the children in our care are safe at all times. With this in mind we do not allow the use of mobile phones or cameras in the building.



Photographs

You will be asked to complete a photographic permission form; this will enable members of staff to take photographs of your child during their learning experiences to use for displays and learning tools.

Buggies/Prams/Scooters

All buggies, prams and scooters are to be left outside the building against the wall keeping exits clear in case of a fire. We are unable to take responsibility for any loss or damage to items left here.



Forest School

'Opportunities to learn in a woodland setting do much to promote children's learning and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.' - Ofsted, 2015

Forest School is an approach to outdoor learning which originates in Scandinavia. It provides children with a valuable opportunity to learn about the natural environment through play. During these positive outdoor experiences children learn how to manage risk and to use their own problem solving skills. They build their self-esteem and grow in confidence. The children develop their physical and social skills whilst cooperating with others. At Chelsea Open Air we have fully Forest School trained staff and we offer one Forest School Taster session per term.

Themed Activities

We also run themed creative workshops designed to support your child in the Prime Areas of Learning; Personal, Social & Emotional Development, Communication & Language and Physical Development.

These are run by different staff members and may include Music sessions, Poetry and gardening. The sessions are designed for children aged 6 months to 5 years.

Stay and Play

Stay and Play is a fun and stimulating environment where children aged 0-5 years and their parents engage in developmentally appropriate activities which help to improve and promote children's development in the three prime areas, enabling them to become confident, competent learners.

You will have the opportunity to explore the outdoor environment at the end of the morning Stay and Play.

Please ensure that your coats and large bags are left in the entrance hall on the hooks provided and bags containing valuables are left in the designated area identified in the room, off the floor and out of children's reach.

No hot drinks are permitted on site and no food due to risk of allergies.

On your first visit you will be asked to complete a registration form. You will be required to complete the sign in register on each visit.

If your child is unwell, has a temperature, fever or has an infectious disease such as, chicken pox then please do not attend. This helps to reduce the risk of infection spreading.

If your child has diarrhoea you will be asked to keep your child at home for 48 hours. They can return to the setting a full day after the diarrhoea or vomiting stops.

If you are unable to attend a booked workshop due to ill health then please inform the office so we can offer the place to a family on the waiting list.

We have policies and procedures in place to protect your child/children, you and the staff team. They are available for you to read on request.

Planning and Evaluating

Our sessions are structured around the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS) which will prepare your child for school. The EYFS consists of seven areas of learning that enrich a child's overall development. A child's introduction to Early Years Education focuses on the three prime areas of learning;

- **Communication and Language-** Giving children opportunities to experience a language rich environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

- **Physical Development-** This involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children are helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development-** Helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.

Each child comes into the setting with their own particular experiences and understanding which are unique to them.

While you are with us we aim to support your child's learning and development by offering age appropriate, fun, purposeful play experiences.

During the sessions we observe your child's play and interests which feed into our planning cycle.

Getting Messy and Water Play

It is highly likely that your child will get wet or messy as they engage with and investigate different activities and resources. Tactile, messy play and water are fantastic ways for your child to explore and learn across the whole curriculum. It taps into a child's curiosity about the world around them and feeds their irresistible urge to try new things out and experiment.

We recommend your child wears comfortable clothes you are happy for them to get messy. We also advise you bring spare clothes when attending sessions and bear in mind that you may get messy too!



Session Routines

Morning Session	
9.30am	AM Session begins
9.30-10.35am	Time to play and interact with your child/children
10.35-10.40am	Tidy Up Time
10.40-10.45am	Snack Time
10.45-11am	Rhyme, Song or Story Time
11.00am	Explore the garden/ Themed Activity
11.30am	Home Time

Open Morning

Once a term we open the Nursery School to prospective parents and carers, this is an opportunity to meet the Head Teacher and other teaching staff, explore the environment and get involved in fun learning experiences with your child. This time enables you to gain an understanding of how we deliver the EYFS, the fun learning experiences we offer here at COA and ask any question you may have in relation to admissions.

