

Dear Parents and Carers

### WELCOME

Welcome back to a new school year, and a special welcome to all our new families. This term we are delighted to introduce you to four new permanent members of staff, most of who are already familiar with Lydalls. Kate Placentino will be returning as a teacher on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Gemma Souch has helped as a supply nursery nurse over the last year and is now a permanent member of staff every afternoon. Heather Ross has worked with our Opportunity Group for several years, she has also helped in Nursery and Chameleon Club, and she joins our staff as a full time teaching assistant. Finally we welcome Karen Russell who will work as a nursery nurse every morning and all day on Mondays and Tuesdays. Their photographs are displayed in the entrance hall.

### BUILDING WORK

This year promises to be very exciting. We are starting on the plans to extend our building to provide a larger base for the Chameleon Club and improve our facilities.

### EXTRA HOURS

This term will see the introduction of our offer of extended hours. All part time children will be entitled to an additional session. More details of the session your child has been allocated and how the session will operate will follow shortly.

### EVERY CHILD A TALKER

During this year the school is taking part in a Government funded project entitled 'Every Child a Talker'. The aim of the project is to work with parents, carers, staff and children to develop the children's communication skills. Janet is co-ordinating this project and more details will follow. To support children's speaking and listening skills we have planned this terms activities around the theme 'Let's talk about it' a curriculum newsletter will be sent out next week.

### PARENTMAIL AND SHARING INFORMATION

Many of you will now be receiving your newsletters by email. If you are not yet, but would like to, please complete the attached form and hand into the school office. In order to continue to develop our systems for sharing information with you we are going to send details each week of what your child will be finding out about or practicing during group times, there will also be suggested ways that you can support your child's learning at home. We welcome your feedback on how useful you find this and any suggestions for further development.

In order for you to share information with us we are introducing a 'sharing information' box. If your child has done something interesting, learnt a new skill or has told you about what they have done at nursery, please fill in a form which can be found by the register and pop in the 'sharing information' box.

### CHAMELEON CLUB

During the October holiday we are running the Chameleon Club at Willowcroft School. This new venture proved very successful over the Summer Holiday with Kate and Helen running the club for the 3-5 year olds. Older



children will be able to go to the Neighbourhood Kids Club also run at the school. Confirmation of the dates when the club will run and booking forms are to follow. Term time places are also available in the Chameleon Club please see Kate if you would like to book any sessions, the sessions are as follows:-

Session	Cost
Breakfast Session (8 - 9am)	£4.50 includes breakfast
9 - 11.30am	£9.50 includes snack
11.30 - 1pm	£6.00 (plus £2 for school lunch)
1 - 3.30pm	£9.50 includes snack
3.30 - 5.30pm	£8.50 includes teas
Full Day (8am - 5.30pm)	£33.00 includes breakfast, snacks and tea (plus £2 for school lunch)

You may be eligible to claim tax credits towards your childcare costs or use Childcare Vouchers. Steve Laurence, who is employed by the County to help parents with this, can be contacted on 01235 547175.

You may also be able to get financial help from our Pathfinder funding for afterschool or holiday clubs, chat to Kate or Claire about this.

### PATHFINDER - FUN FOR FREE!

Many children benefited over the summer holiday from using Pathfinder funding to pay for holiday clubs, swimming or dance lessons and days out. We are really fortunate to have been reallocated money this year. If you would like your child to benefit and are finding it difficult to pay for extra activities please talk to your group leader or Claire. Examples of activities available in Didcot are below.

### REGULAR CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AT CORNERSTONE

- Youth Dance

11 week courses starting Thursday 24 September 4-7 years, 5-5.45pm, Price £37  
Join our youth dance programme, master all forms of dance and develop your own style.

- Storytelling Dance

11 week course starting Thursday 24 September  
3-4 years, 2-2.30pm, Price £25

Tell a story through dance with your child using Disney tunes as inspiration.

- Ballet

11 week courses starting Thursday 24 September  
3-4 years, 1.15-1.45pm, Price £25  
4-7 years, 4-4.45pm, Price £37

TO BOOK CALL CORNERSTONE ON 01235 515144

### DIDCOT FIRST

Attached is a list of other local activities and events taking place in and around Didcot in September.

## DATES

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	First day of term 1 2009/10
Weds 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Last day of term 1
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	First day of term 2
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Parents Open Evening
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Bazaar 2-4 School Closes at 12.30
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Last full day of school
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Party for Julie's group & Part Time Afternoon children 10-12 Christmas singing to parents 12 - 12.30
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Party for Sally's group & Part Time Morning children 10 - 12 Christmas singing to parents 12 - 12.30
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	First day of term 3
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Last day of term 3
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	First day of term 4
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Last day of term 4
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of term 5
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Bank Holiday - Nursery Closed
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Last day of term 5
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> June	First day of term 6
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Last full day of term 6
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Last day of term 6 School Closes at 12.30

Claire White  
Headteacher

## **PARENTMAIL**

I am able to receive information and give permission for my email address & mobile no. to be registered with ParentMail®.

Parent Name/s \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Childs name \_\_\_\_\_

Form/class (GROUP LEADER) \_\_\_\_\_

My Email address/es \_\_\_\_\_ (insert email address/es)

\_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Telephone numbers

(Mother) \_\_\_\_\_ / (Father) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_