



Lydalls Nursery School is an Oxfordshire County Council 'maintained' Nursery School for children between two and five years of age. Like other types of school, we are led by a Headteacher and Governing Body. Our teaching team includes a lead teacher, who deputises for the Headteacher in her absence and who is also our SENCO, a part-time teacher, Nursery Nurses and Teaching Assistants. We have been on our current site for 75 years and have a well-developed indoor and outdoor learning environment with high quality resources. Our school is currently graded by Ofsted as 'Outstanding' in all categories (January 2017). We regularly host meetings and deliver continued professional development to colleagues from other schools and settings. We work closely alongside Oxfordshire County Council's Early Years advisory team and we are strategic partners to the Ace Centre Teaching School and Didcot Girls School Teaching School Alliance.

Our specialism at Lydalls Nursery School is supporting children's language, literacy, communication and interaction. Many of the children are working below age stage expectations in the Prime Areas of learning when they start at Lydalls, in particular in CL3 Speaking and PSE3 Managing Feelings and Behaviour. We are proud of our inclusive culture and have successfully supported many children with complex and challenging additional needs to make good progress from their starting points. The number of children in the school for whom English is an additional language has risen over recent years and in September 2017 these pupils made up 17% of the Nursery. At Lydalls we recognise the importance of early intervention and we work closely with a range of professionals from other agencies to support children and families. Some of our families are supported by a 'Team around the Family' and some are supported by Social Care.

In April 2014 we opened a two year old base, 'Chameleon Club' for sessional childcare. Children can enter the two year old base from their second birthday and 15 hour funded places are offered the term after a child's second birthday. Eight places are available in Chameleon Club in any one session and in September 2017 there were 24 children on roll. In September 2017, 46% of two year olds were in a receipt of a funded place. 20% of the children in the two year old base in September 2017 had English as an additional language. The Chameleon Club has a separate admissions policy to the main Nursery but children who attend are given priority for a Nursery place.

In the Nursery School, there are 120 'universal' part-time places for Nursery aged children. Children can enter the Nursery class the term after their third birthday. All children receive 15 hours of 'universal' early education as either a morning or afternoon place from Monday to Friday. Some families are entitled to an additional 15 hours of childcare for three and four year olds. Families can also 'top up' their funded hours at breakfast, at lunchtime and for an hour before or after their 30 hour entitlement.

A holiday club for children from 3-5 years is run by our 'all year round' staff on site in the Chameleon Club two year old base. We offer 16 places but in previous Summer holidays we have also included funded 2 year olds if ratio allows. The holiday club provides continuity for working families and parents value the relationships they have with familiar key staff. Holiday club hours and routines mirror those in term time, opening at 8.00am and closing at 3.45pm. Holiday club always closes in the final week of the Summer holidays to allow for a deep clean. It is also closed on Christmas Eve until the beginning of the Spring Term in January.

