

Lydalls Nursery School and Chameleon Club newsletter – October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a lovely start to the new school year here at Lydalls and have been enjoying welcoming lots of new children and their families. I feel privileged to be writing my first newsletter in my new role as acting headteacher and am excited by all the wonderful experiences children will have here in the year ahead.

Staff News

Maggie Weir our Administrative officer is leaving Lydalls this week. Maggie has been a long standing member of our team and we will miss her greatly. We wish her all the very best for the future.

We are currently recruiting for a new administrative officer. However we will be drawing on some existing members of staff's skills in the interim. Joanne will be working two mornings a week in the office and Sam will be working two afternoons. In addition Lisa, our Business Manager, will be extending her hours. Laura Coster who is a teaching assistant in the mornings will be covering Sam's two afternoons in the nursery.

We are delighted to welcome two new staff members this term. Claire Pugh, a teacher, is working in the mornings and on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. Natasha Manuell is working in both our two year old base and main nursery as a teaching assistant.

Home School Link Worker

Are bedtimes becoming a bit of a battle? Need some advice on helping a fussy eater? Our home school link worker Andrea Grey will be available for 'drop-in' chats, advice and parenting support on Mondays. She is alternating between Monday mornings and afternoons each week. Please talk to myself or your child's key person if you would like to arrange a time to see her.

Andrea is also running several workshops throughout the year. Thank you to all of you who attended the first workshop on 'practical parenting', the event was well attended. The feedback was very positive and we are grateful to have so much support from our parent community when we host events such as these. Andrea's next workshop will be on Friday 9th November 9.30-10.30 and the theme will be 'Children's Anxiety and Wellbeing'.

Labelling

Please make sure that your child's name is written on anything they bring to nursery, including clothes, bags, lunch boxes and water bottles. Water bottles may need to be relabelled regularly if the pen used wears off. This helps prevent things getting lost and helps children (and members of staff supporting them) to find what they need during nursery.

Parent Questionnaire

We were delighted with the very positive responses received in our summer 2018 parent questionnaire. We will share the results with you in the week following half term. Look out for news about this in the reception area!

Footwear

At nursery we encourage children to learn important skills in self-care, including putting on and taking off their own shoes. Lace-up shoes are too tricky for young children and pose a safety issue when laces become untied. For these reasons, please can all children come to nursery in shoes which are easily taken on or off - for example, those with Velcro fastenings.

Applying for Primary School - Children who born between 1.9.2014 and 31.8.2015

Children who were born between 1.9.2014 and 31.8.2015 will be able to start Primary School in September 2019.

Now is a good time to contact local Primary Schools to ask to look around because you will get an idea of how Reception classes feel at the beginning of the school year. Our advice is to visit without your child in the first instance.

All parents must apply to Oxfordshire County Council for a school place between 25th October 2018 and 15th January 2019. This can be done online. You will not receive any forms from Oxfordshire County Council through the post. Please note that applications are not on a 'first come, first served' basis but if you do not apply by the 15th January 2019 you are less likely to receive a place at your school of choice.

The Oxfordshire County Council website is full of advice, guidance and information, including a very useful online distance calculator that shows which schools are closest to your home.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/admissions-infant-and-primary-schools>

We know that this can be an anxious and sometimes overwhelming time for parents and carers. To find out more about the process of applying for a place at Primary school, including how we support the transition process at Lydalls, please come to a 'Starting Primary School' meeting on Monday 5th November 5-5.30pm.

Dates for diaries

Monday 22nd October – Friday 26th October	October Half Term Holiday – Lydalls Closed
Monday 29th October	INSET Day – Lydalls Closed
Monday 5 th November	'Starting Primary School' meeting
Friday 9 th November	'Children's Anxiety and Wellbeing' workshop.
Friday 16th November	Photographer in to take individual photos
Friday 7th December	Christmas Bazaar 4-5.30pm
Monday 10th December	Parents Evening 4-6pm
Tuesday 11 th December	Cornerstone theatre trip for nursery children. Timings TBC. There will be no morning or afternoon session at nursery: children will need to be dropped off at and collected from Cornerstones. Chameleon Club and 30 hour session open as usual.
Thursday 20 th December	Christmas Parties (timings TBC). Chameleon Club and 30 hour session open as usual
Friday 21st December	Last Day of Autumn Term – Lydalls closes at 11.45am
2019	
Monday 24th December – Friday 4th January	Christmas Holiday – Lydalls Closed
Monday 7th January	INSET Day – Lydalls Closed
Tuesday 8th January	Start of Spring Term
Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February	February Half Term Holiday – Lydalls Closed
Friday 5th April	Last Day of Spring Term – Lydalls closes at 11.45am
Monday 8th – Friday 22nd April	Easter Holidays – Lydalls Closed
Tuesday 23rd April	INSET Day – Lydalls Closed
Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday – Lydalls Closed
Monday 27th – Friday 31st May	May Half Term Holiday – Lydalls Closed
Wednesday 24th July	Last Day of Summer Term – Lydalls closes at 11.45am