

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are enjoying preparing for Christmas here at Lydalls and have lots of wonderfully festive learning opportunities and activities planned for your children at nursery. The children have begun learning their Christmas songs and I am sure you will enjoy their performance at the Christmas parties. On behalf of the Lydalls team, I would like to wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.



Cornerstones Theatre – Tuesday 17th
December



Please make sure you have returned your permission slip for this performance of 'Pinocchio'. We regret this experience is not suitable for 2 year olds.

In the morning, children need to be dropped off with their key person at the theatre at 9.45am and picked up again at 11.45am.

In the afternoon they need to be dropped off with their key person at the theatre at 12.45pm and picked up again at 2.45pm.

Please take your child to the toilet before registering them with their group leader. When collecting your children after the performance, please allow the staff space to gather the children together in their groups and to carefully hand over children back to their parent/carer one at a time.

30 hours children should be brought to nursery at the usual time and will be walked to and from the theatre with nursery staff. Breakfast club will be open as usual.

Christmas Bazaar – 6th December
4-5.30pm

Thank you to everyone for all your support and contributions for our Christmas Bazaar. I would like to thank the Lydalls team and in particular Claire-Louise for organising what I am sure will be a wonderful evening. **Please do come along and join in the fun and show your support for our school.**



Christmas Party Day - Wednesday 18th December



We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £2 to provide food at the Christmas Party. Please send payment to the office in an envelope marked Christmas Party and your child's name.

Morning children

- Please bring your child to Nursery at 10.30am on party day
- We would like to invite you to hear the children singing a selection of Christmas songs at 12.00pm
- The party will end at 12.30pm

Afternoon children

- Please bring your children to Nursery at 1.30pm on party day
- We would like to invite you to hear the children singing a selection of Christmas songs at 3.00pm
- The party will end at 3.30pm

30 Hours Children

- Sessions will run as usual for 30 hour children if you need all day childcare on party day and breakfast club will be open. However, if you would like your child to come for the party only, please come to the one in which your child would be with their primary key person (e.g. Joanne in the afternoon or Lucy in the morning) and not when they are usually with Helen in the Gecko's group.
- Children staying all day will not need a lunch box as they will be enjoying lovely party food!

Chameleon Club 2 Year Olds

- 2 year olds will be enjoying party games and activities throughout the final week and will enjoy party food on party day.
- If your 2 year old does not attend nursery on Wednesdays, but you would like to join in with party day, we would really like for you to bring them along to the party tea at 11.15am or 2.15pm. Please note you must stay with your child. **Please let the 2 year old staff know if you will be joining us by Friday 6th December.**
- We feel 2 year olds are a little young to be 'performing' the Christmas songs, however we would like for their parents/carers to come and sit with them in some reserved seating so that they can join in with this experience. All 2 year olds (even those who usually attend on a Wednesday) must be with a parent if attending the singing.

School Places

Parent or carers of children born between **1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016** (inclusive) need to apply for a primary or infant school place for their children by 15th January 2020. You can find more information here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/infant-and-primary-school>.

Parents of children born between 1 April 2016 and 31 August 2016 may request that their application is deferred for entry to an infant and primary school in September 2021 if they believe it is in their child's best interests. You can find more information here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/defer-reception-application>

Christmas Present Information

Children will be making Christmas bags to take home, containing Christmas arts and crafts. We will be adding a little treat and present to each bag. Some of our older children will be given a bouncy ball. Whilst lots of fun and age appropriate, we are obliged to advise you that these toys should be used under supervision and that they are not suitable for children under 36 months due to choking hazards. This warning is also on each individual bouncy ball.



Core Stories and Games



Last year around Christmas time, many parents were asking us for lists of our core stories for the year, as well as the names of some of our favourite maths games. Our core stories this year are: The Little Red Hen, We're Going on a Bear Hunt, The 3 Little Pigs, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Jack and the Beanstalk. Some of our favourite maths games are from 'Orchard Games' and include 'Catch and Count', 'Monster Bingo', 'Ladybirds' and 'Dotty Dinosaurs'.

Parents Evening

This will be taking place on Monday 9th December. Please sign up for a parents evening slot with your child's key person using the sign-up sheets on the office door.



Office Opening Hours

A reminder that the office opening hours are 9am to 2.30pm. Another member of staff may be able to help you when the office is closed – for example if you would like to collect a holiday form or hand in a letter.



30 Hours (Full days)

If you are a working parent, you may be entitled to an extended 30 hours a week of free early education for your child, from the term after they turn 3. We offer these full days here at Lydalls, subject to availability. Please go here for more information: https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/oxfordshire/fsd/files/parents_guide_to_30_hours.pdf

Outdoor Days



Children have been really enjoying their outdoor days this term. They have been learning about the natural world, developing their co-operation and negotiation skills, challenging themselves when climbing and balancing and developing speaking and listening skills in conversations with their friends and grown-ups. After the camp-fire this week we will be taking a break from outdoor days in order to let the land recover and will let you know when we will restart in the new year.

Entrance Hall

Please do take care in the entrance hall, especially when waiting to come into nursery and help children to wait with you, rather than run around. A calm atmosphere helps children settle more quickly into their nursery day and helps prevent accidents. Please also note that the entrance hall is not a supervised area, so please do not leave unattended babies and young children in this space.



Dates For Your Diary

Key dates for this term:
6th December 4pm-5.30-pm: Christmas Bazaar
9th December 4pm-6pm: Parent's Evening
17th December: Theatre trip to Cornerstones for nursery aged children. Nursery will be open as usual for 30 hours children and 2 Year Olds, but closed to all other sessions due to the trip.
18th December: Christmas Parties. Join us at 12pm and 3pm to hear children sing their Christmas songs. Please note changes to session times detailed in this newsletter.
19th December: Last day of autumn term. **Lydalls closes at 11.45 for all children.**
7th January: First day of the new term. Nursery open to all children.

For a full list of dates, please visit our website: <https://www.lydallsnurserschool.co.uk/term-dates/>

What to bring...

Please make sure that children bring at least one full change of spare clothes to nursery each day, including socks, trousers and a jumper. If they wear their wellies to nursery, please put a pair of shoes in their bag for them to change into as their wellies may become wet and muddy. Please also remember to bring a water bottle and to let your child's key person know if you forget this, so they can help your child find a cup to drink from.

