

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge thank you to each and every one of you for your continued support and patience during these times of uncertainty as we have continued to adapt to life amidst the Covid-19 pandemic this term. It has been wonderful to hear the school full of the buzz of children learning once again, following the disruption earlier in the year. We have been working hard to ensure that there is a joyful and exciting Christmas atmosphere here at Lydalls (please take a look at our [Christmas video](#) on Facebook) and are really enjoying the build up to Christmas with your children. There are lots of fun learning opportunities, for example; practising our number skills whilst counting out amounts for our reindeer food recipe, being creative and practising our early writing skills when making Christmas cards and developing our understanding of the world when experimenting with marbling ink.

On behalf of the Lydalls team, I would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas. We look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.



Dates For Your Diary

17th December 2020: Christmas Parties.

Please note there are no changes to session times (see details later in this newsletter)

18th December: Last day of autumn term.

Lydalls closes at 11.45 for all children. There is no lunch club or afternoon sessions on this day.

4th January 2021: INSET DAY. Nursery Closed to all children.

5th January 2021: Orientation sessions for new children. No other sessions will be open that day.

6th January: Nursery sessions resume as normal for all children.

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



Christmas Panto

"Who's been eating my Christmas pudding?"

We are sadly unable to visit the Cornerstone or enjoy a theatre visit this year. However, staff will be putting on a play for the children on Wednesday 16th December, called 'Goldilocks and the 3 Reindeers'.



Christmas Party Day – Thursday 17th December



Children in the main nursery

This year there will be no change to the session times on party day. This is because we feel that children and their families have already had so much disruption to their school and working lives that we didn't want to add any more! Therefore, party days will happen during your child's usual nursery session on Thursday 17th December.

We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £2 to provide food at the Christmas Party. The member of staff on the gate will have a basket for contributions in the coming days. 30 hours children will not need to bring a packed lunch on party day.

Chameleon Club 2 Year Olds

2 year olds will be enjoying party games and activities throughout the final week and will enjoy Christmas party food during snack times (e.g. Christmas biscuits). This is because not all 2 year olds come to nursery on the same day and so we are running their party experiences through the week.

Christmas Singing

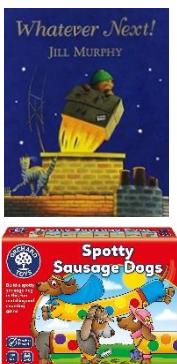
Those of you who have experienced Christmas with us before will know that children in the main nursery usually perform Christmas songs to their families at the end of each party. Children are busy learning their Christmas songs, however Covid restrictions mean we are sadly unable to invite you to watch. We will instead film the Christmas singing and upload the videos onto Tapestry for you to enjoy at home.

School Places

Parents or carers of children born between **1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017** (inclusive) need to apply for a primary or infant school place for their children by 15th January 2021. 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 2017 and 31 August 2017 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>



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: Dear Zoo, Whatever Next, Goldilocks and the 3 Bears, The Gingerbread Man and The 3 Billy Goats Gruff'. Some of our favourite maths games are from 'Orchard Games' and include 'Spotty Sausage Dogs', 'Ladybirds', 'Postbox Game' and 'Dotty Dinosaurs'.

Covid-19

Thank you again for all of your support as we have navigated the 'new normal' and adapted to new routines and procedure to keep our school Covid Secure.

As this letter goes to print, current advice from PHE is as follows:

- If you, your child or any other member of your household develops a new, continuous cough, a temperature or a change in/loss of taste and smell, you should all immediately self-isolate and arrange a coronavirus test for the member of the household with symptoms. The dedicated NHS line for Covid-19 is 119. You can get also book a free NHS test through the [NHS website](#).
- If someone tests positive for covid-19, they must self-isolate for at least 10 days and all remaining members of the household should isolate for 14 days.
- If the test result is negative, the isolation period ends and all household members may return to work/school as soon as they feel well enough to do so.
- If the test result is positive, you should inform us immediately so that we can take the necessary action in terms of ensuring all other parties potentially affected are made aware of the situation and understand what to do next. **Please email the office to inform us of positive cases during times in which the school is closed – including weekends and holidays.**

We appreciate that it can be frustrating to self-isolate and keep your child at home when they appear to be well again, but we are bound by PHE guidance and would like to thank you for your continued support with ensuring our staff, children and their families are as safe as possible during these unusual times we find ourselves in!

We really do appreciate all the support and understanding you have shown for these procedures. Your caution and actions help us to stay covid secure.

Office Opening Hours

The standard office opening hours are Monday-Friday, 9.00am – 2.30pm although we do endeavour to extend the opening hours for 2 days per week. Currently, the Office is open until 4.00pm on a Monday and Thursday. At the moment we are only able to let essential visitors into the building. Please call us on the phone if you would like to speak to someone in the office, or ring the bell on the gate and wait for someone to come and speak to you.



Housekeeping

Thank you for your continued support in following the one-way system to help maintain social distancing. For your safety and the safety of others, please continue to follow the one-way route as swiftly as possible and we would appreciate it if you could hold any extended personal conversations with other parents outside the premises.

We continue to disinfect our play equipment at the end of each Nursery session, which means that unfortunately, we cannot allow other children to play on any of the apparatus in order to avoid "bubble breaches". Thank you for your understanding with this.

Please make sure that your child stays with you and at a safe social distance of at least 2 metres from others when waiting to come into nursery with each day. One of the main ways in which we are keeping covid-secure is by operating in smaller bubble of children. Please do not allow your child to play with children outside of their bubble when waiting to come into nursery. This could compromise the safety of an entire bubble and could lead to the closure of the whole nursery, rather than a single bubble, should a case occur.

Lydalls Nursery School continues to be a mobile phone free site, so please ensure you do not use your phones anywhere on the premises whilst waiting to drop off/pick up your child.

Thank you!

Parentmail, Tapestry and Facebook



By now, all new families should have received their activations for Tapestry and Parentmail; if you haven't received yours or you require some assistance in setting these up, please do get in touch with the Office staff who will be happy to help you. Tapestry is a really lovely way to see some of the achievements your child makes at Nursery and parents are always welcome to make their own contributions to their child's online learning journey. Parents regularly tell us how much they enjoy using Tapestry and it is another way of communicating with our families. Please remember that as a safety precaution, we will not link your child's Tapestry profile to your account until you have activated your login and signed the reply form (letters were sent out at the end of September) confirming you have done so- if you need another copy of letter, please ask a member of staff.

Parentmail is another 'tool' we use as we send out many important communications via this application including weekly group plans, newsletters and urgent messages such as unexpected school closure (e.g. due to adverse weather conditions, closure of bubbles if a case of covid occurred, burst pipes etc.). Therefore, we would strongly encourage you to check your Parentmail account on a regular basis- you should also receive email notifications when a new message has been sent to you. For those of you with smartphones, you can download apps for both Tapestry and Parentmail which you may find more convenient than logging into the website each time you receive a notification.

If for any reason, you are unable to use Parentmail and would prefer to receive notifications another way, please contact the Office who will endeavour to make alternative arrangements for you.

We regularly post helpful updates, links to what we are learning at nursery and helpful information to our Facebook page. Please do check in there and show your support by liking or sharing our posts if appropriate and you are able to do so.

