

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that the end of the autumn term is almost upon us and Christmas is just around the corner. We have been busy here at Lydalls with fun Christmas themed learning opportunities: for example, practising writing in Christmas cards, learning Christmas songs, sharing Christmas and winter stories, exploring the different textures of Christmas decorations and measuring ingredients to make reindeer food.

I would like to extend my thanks to you all for the patience, understanding and co-operation you have shown to our school as we have all continued to navigate COVID-19 measures. We really do appreciate your support. I would also like to say a special thank you to the entire Lydalls team, whose dedication and positivity (even in the face of an ongoing pandemic!) make Lydalls such a special place to be.

On behalf of everyone here at Lydalls, I wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas.



#### Dates For Your Diary

14<sup>th</sup> December 2021: Christmas Parties.

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

16<sup>th</sup> December 2021: PM – Cornerstone Trip for N2 Children

17<sup>th</sup> 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.**

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021: INSET DAY. Nursery Closed to all children.

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

6<sup>th</sup> 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->



#### Christmas Party Day – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December



##### **Children in the main nursery**

Christmas parties will take place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December during your child's usual nursery session,

**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. Please do not bring in any food –we will use the donations to buy party food.**

##### **Rising 3s in the main nursery**

If your child is a rising 3 and doesn't usually attend on a Tuesday they are welcome to come to this extra session so that they don't miss out on the festivities. Please let your child's group leader know if you are planning to attend. There will be no extra charge for this session.

##### **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 we have made the decision that sadly we will not be able to invite families into the nursery to watch the Christmas singing. We have carefully risk assessed doing so, but due to the context of rising COVID cases and our small space to seat families, the risk is simply too high. We will instead film the Christmas singing and upload the videos onto Tapestry for you to enjoy at home.

#### Face Coverings



If you need to come inside the nursery for any reason, including to speak to someone in the office or use the toilet, you must now wear a face covering (unless you are exempt). Two visitors/households/families are permitted in the entrance hall at any one time. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

## School Places

Parents of children born between **1 September 2017** and **31 August 2018** (inclusive) need to apply for an infant or primary school place for September 2022 for their children by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022. 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 2018 and 31 August 2018 can request that their application is deferred to September 2023 instead of the 2022/23 academic year 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->

## Are You Worried About a Child?

It is everybody's responsibility to keep children and young people safe. If you're concerned that a child is being abused or neglected you should report it so that the child can be protected.

**If you think a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999.**

**If you have a concern about a child, please call MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) on 0345 050 7666.**

There is more information on the OSCB (Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board) [here](#).

You can read our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy on our website [here](#).

## COVID-19

A reminder that current and reputable information about COVID-19, including the symptoms, when to self-isolate and when and how to get tested are available on the NHS website here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Please remember that you only need to have one symptom of COVID-19 to have to self-isolate and book a test.

## Sickness and Absence



When reporting your child absent on the answerphone please make sure you say why they are not at nursery and the symptoms they have. If you have booked a PCR test please also say that in the message or we will have to call you back to request you do so where your child has a cough, temperature or a loss/change of their taste or smell.

If your child tests positive over the weekend or in the evening, please continue to email the office.

## 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 Tuesday and Friday.



## Housekeeping



Please make sure that your child comes to nursery in shoes which they can learn to be independent in taking on and off. Our young children at Lydalls are simply too young to learn to tie their laces and this causes a number of issues. The first is a safety issue because young children do not realise that their laces are undone and therefore do not ask for help to tie them up immediately. This could cause an accident. Secondly, we are encouraging children to develop the skills they will need at school by helping them learn to put on and take off their own shoes. This is not possible with lace up shoes and it means that children have to wait to be assisted when changing, which can be frustrating for them. Lastly, staff tying multiple pair of laces throughout the day means less time supporting children develop new skills, such as sharing with a friend, writing their name or mastering riding the 2 wheeler bike. Please help us by not sending lace up shoes. Thank you.

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



Thank you!

## Cornerstone Trip



### A reminder about the arrangements for the Cornerstone Trip: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December

#### N2 children who attend 15 hours per week only (8.45am – 11.45am or 12.45pm – 3.45pm):

The theatre visit will replace your child's usual session for the day of the performance; please drop off your child at the Cornerstone between 12.45pm and 12.50pm and our **staff will meet you outside the theatre, in the reception areas**. The performance lasts approximately 50 minutes so please be ready to collect your child from the Cornerstone at 1.50pm. **Please note that there are no other morning or afternoon sessions for 15 hour children running on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December.**

#### N2 children who attend 30 hours per week or attend Top-up Sessions on Thursdays:

You may drop off your child as usual at 8.45am (or 8.00am if they attend Breakfast Club); children will walk down to the Cornerstone along with our staff after Lunch Club. We will take all children's belongings to the theatre so that they are able to be collected from the Cornerstone at 1.50pm; if you are unable to pick up your child and need them to be brought back to Nursery, you will have indicated this on the permission slip you returned to nursery.

#### 2-Year Old Children and Rising 3s:

If your child usually attends Nursery on a Thursday, there will be no change to their session times, so please bring them in as usual. For this day only, we will make provisions for afternoon rising 3 children to join the 2-year old base; this will be a familiar setting to them as they have previously attended Chameleon Club anyway. For those children who attend Lucy's rising 3 group in the morning, their session will continue as normal. For those rising 3s in Lucy's group who attend all day on a Thursday, they will also join the 2-year old base in the afternoon.

Visits to the Cornerstone have become part of an annual Christmas tradition at Lydalls Nursery School so all children are given the opportunity to partake in this experience at some point during their time here. Therefore, please rest assured that if your child is not age-eligible to join us this year, they will be invited next year when they are in year N2.

## 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, COVID related issues, or 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. You do not need a Facebook account to access our Facebook page.

