

Dear Parents and Carers,

With warmer weather hopefully around the corner, a fun and learning filled spring term comes to a close. We are hoping all of our families have enjoyed this term at Lydalls, especially those who are just finishing their first term with us. We look forward to welcoming more new families after the spring break.

## Attendance

Please make sure that your child has good attendance at nursery and let us know if they will not be coming. Good attendance means that your child attends at least 90% of their sessions. Good attendance can help your child to:

- ✓ Make friends and learn social skills
- ✓ Build good habits for school and further studies
- ✓ Play, learn and have fun
- ✓ Develop in all areas of learning



## Being on Time

Being on time is also really important as it helps your child to settle into their nursery day more quickly. It can be more difficult for children who arrive late to 'catch up' with their friends games and to join in. It is also disruptive to other children's learning to have people 'coming and going' when they drop off late.

In the morning our drop off times are 8.45-9.15 and in the afternoon 12.45-1.15. Please try not to arrive outside of these times, however we understand that being late may be unavoidable now and again and we would much rather you came along than not at all!

On Forest school days we request that you arrive by 9am or 1pm so that children can get started with this lovely experience as soon as possible.

**Please make sure you register with your child's key person at the beginning of every session, even if they are out in the garden. It is vital, for safety reasons, that they are marked in the register. Please check the whiteboard each day for any changes regarding who to register with (e.g. because your child's key person is in a meeting).**

## Illness

If your child is unwell, you must contact us to let us know, detailing the reason for this – either by leaving a message on the absence line or sending an email. Please be specific and not just state "unwell" because we have to monitor illness trends.

Children should not be brought to nursery if they have a fever and this includes if you have given them Calpol or other medicines to reduce a fever. Children also have to be at home for 48 hours after they have recovered from diarrhoea or vomiting. However, children should be brought to nursery if they have a mild cold, with symptoms such as a cough or runny nose, if they are otherwise feeling well.

It is common for young children to develop colds and other mild illnesses when they start nursery because their immune systems are developing. Please be reassured that this is normal and that at Lydalls we have a careful cleaning regime to minimise the spread of illness to the best of our ability.

Please [click this link to a poster](#) containing some very good advice about when you do or do not need to keep children off school.

## Forest School

We have been delighted to be able to offer Forest School sessions to all children in the main nursery this term.

Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It supports play, exploration and supported risk taking, as well as developing confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

There are some wonderful photos and observations on Tapestry of children's Forest School experiences – be sure to log into your account to view them.



Our congratulations and thanks go to Sally Oxley, who has worked so hard to gain her Forest School qualification and set up our own forest school here on site at Lydalls.

Remember to bring your child ready for Forest School on their allocated day and come straight over to the Forest School garden. Children need to be dressed appropriately for the weather and should have on wellies and waterproof clothing.

## What has been happening at Lydalls this term?

There have been so many exciting things happening at Lydalls this term, including...

We welcomed in the spring season with the arrival of an incubator full of chicken eggs! This experience inspired children to learn new vocabulary, respond creatively, understand how to take care of living things and deepen their understanding of growth, change and lifecycles.



On World Book Day we dressed up and had a day themed around 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea', culminating in a tea party. Here is Claire-Louise dressed as the giraffe from one of her favourite books 'Giraffe's Can't Dance'.

Children learnt all sorts of new skills at Forest School and developed their confidence to try new things, such as cooking vegetable kebabs on a camp fire (demonstrated here by myself and Steph Cole).



Creating fabulous and well-designed models with the blocks, such as this wonderful castle.

Making Easter nests and going on an Easter egg hunt.



## New Shelter



You may have noticed our new shelter above the sandpit in the garden. We are delighted to have completed this project which provides children with shelter from both the rain and the sun. The children tell me the white drainpipe is also the home of Incy Wincy Spider!



## Tapestry

Remember to activate your Tapestry accounts to see some of the things that your child has been learning at nursery. We post photos of significant experiences or learning on Tapestry and not daily or weekly summaries of everything children have done. Staff focus is on their interactions and work with children, however the carefully chosen photos they add are really lovely to see and children often like to talk about them at home with you too. We also really like families adding their own photos or observations of their child's learning and development. If you'd like to find out how to do this, [click here](#):



## Bag Reminders

Please do leave the laminated photo label on your child's bag and transfer it on to any new bag you then bring in. This really does make bags easier to identify for children and staff and means less time is wasted looking for bags in the session, which is frustrating for all involved.



Please make sure your child has at least one complete change of clothes in their bag – including socks and trousers.

Please ensure clothes are the only items in your child's bag. Food, snacks, nappy bags, creams or lotions may be dangerous to other children.

## Sun Safe

With summer on the way, we are preparing for some lovely warm weather! After Easter please make sure children come to nursery wearing sun cream and with a named sunhat. If your child attends nursery all day we will reapply sun cream after lunch. We use Nivia Sun Kids Sensitive Sun Spray, Factor 50. If you know that your child is unable to use this sun cream, please bring a named bottle and give to nursery staff. Sun cream (along with food stuffs etc.) must not be left in children's bags.

Throughout the summer term children must have tops with sleeves. No vests or strappy tops please (short sleeves are okay).

Summer shoes and sandals must fully support children's feet and be safe to run and climb in. No flip flops please.



## School Places

National Offer Day for children starting primary school in September is April 19<sup>th</sup>. Check to see which primary school your child has been offered!

In the summer term primary schools nearly always invite children for settling visits. At nursery we have a transition week all about starting school and at this time spend group times with children going to the same schools. For this reason we strongly encourage you to resist taking your child on holiday in June or July.



## Site Safety and Housekeeping



Phones or any device that could take a photo are not to be used once you step onto the site. This includes in the carpark or on the footpath when you are queuing up at drop off or pick up times.



Under no circumstances should children be allowed to play in the car park at pick up or drop off times. You and your child must wait on the footpath at all times. Families whose children continue to run around the car park may be asked not to come onto the school site until 8.45 or 12.45.



Please close the big black gate which leads onto the road behind you when entering or leaving nursery. Please do not allow any child to enter the gate code on the second gate. This is for the safety of all children. Thank you.



Please remember to send your child with a spoon or fork in their lunchbox where this is needed. If you'd like some inspiration for what to put in your child's lunchbox, [click here](#). Due to allergies children must not bring foods or products containing nuts or kiwi fruit.



When leaving the nursery or 2 year old base, parents and visitors must wait and ask a member of staff to let them out of the door. Please do not press the button and open the door yourself. This is to keep all children safe.



There are lots of children in our school which means lots of clothing, shoes and accessories which can easily get confused for another child's or lost.

**Please name everything!**

## Clothes Appeal



We are rapidly running out of any spare trousers or socks. If you or someone you know is looking to donate second hand pairs, we would gladly receive donations.

When considering the clothing your children wear to nursery, please remember to send them in things which are easy for them to take on or off themselves – such as jogging bottoms or leggings.

*Thank you*

## Healthy Teeth!

Busby House Dental Centre will be running clinics for children during the Easter Holidays 2023. You can contact their reception team on 01235 816486.



For NHS advice on looking after children's teeth click [here](#).

For a video about how to care for the teeth of children aged 3-8, click [here](#) and for children aged 0-3 click [here](#).

## Website, links and ideas

[Turn2us](#) - helps people in financial need gain access to welfare benefits, charitable grants and other financial help (including with energy and water bills) – online, by phone and face to face through their partner organisations. You can visit their website for a range of really helpful information and advice.

[50 Things to Do Before You are 5](#) – Simply put, there is no more powerful way to improve our children's life chances and futures than by spending time with them and by talking with them. When life is busy, it's easy for communication to become about what we are telling or directing children to do. Here is an app that can help find free and easy ways to reconnect and enjoy time spending together.

[Tiny Happy People](#) – Support and ideas for developing children and babies' language and development.

[Gingerbread](#) - Information to help single parents support themselves and their families.

[Childcare Choices](#) - Government help with childcare costs for parents. Whether you have toddlers or teens, you could get support.

## Local Events over Easter

There are activities for children in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse taking place over the Easter break.

There's something for everyone whether your child loves being outdoors, is interested in theatre or likes to get stuck into a bit of craft. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils' Active Communities teams have a range of free and low-cost activities for children and their families to enjoy.

[Follow this link](#) for more information.

## Dates for Your Diary

Upcoming key dates:

- 31<sup>st</sup> March: Last day of Spring Term. Lydalls closes at 11.45.
- 17<sup>th</sup> April: INSET Day. Lydalls closed.
- 18<sup>th</sup> April: Lydalls reopens for the summer term.
- 28<sup>th</sup> April: INSET Day. Lydalls closed.
- 1<sup>st</sup> May: Bank Holiday. Lydalls closed.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> May: New Families Welcome Evening. 4-5pm.
- 8<sup>th</sup> May: Bank Holiday. Lydalls Closed.
- 16<sup>th</sup> May: Farm Visit (traveling farm visiting the nursery).
- 17<sup>th</sup> May: Photographer in school. Group photos.
- 29<sup>th</sup> May-2<sup>nd</sup> June: Half Term. Lydalls Closed.
- 30<sup>th</sup> June: Family Picnic. 5pm-7pm.
- 21<sup>st</sup> July: Last day of Summer Term. Lydalls closes at 11.45.

