

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward to the holiday season here at Lydalls and have a range of festive experiences planned for our children and school community to enjoy. As we get nearer to Christmas, you will notice a variety of learning opportunities and Christmas activities which have been carefully planned by the team at Lydalls to support children in developing their skills across the curriculum, whilst being full of festive fun!

What follows in this newsletter is a list of significant festive dates and experiences, as well as other updates, reminders, and news.

If there is something you think it would be helpful for me to include in the next newsletter, please let me know.

Friday 17th November: School photographer taking individual portraits

The photographer will be in school to take individual portrait shots of the children and these will be taken in their regular nursery session for those that usually attend on a Friday. However, if you have a younger child(ren) and would like a sibling shot to be taken, then please wait after drop-off and let your child's group leader know so that these can be done first.



If your child does not usually attend nursery on a Friday but you would like them to have a photograph taken, please arrive between 9.00am and 9.30am and report to Reception so that we can ensure your child's photograph is taken before the nursery children; we will try to work through everyone as swiftly as possible, but please be advised there may be a bit of a wait!

To help children understand what this experience will be like, we watch this short clip with them beforehand, you might like to watch it together at home too: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVcF93uuhv4>

Monday 20th November: Parents Evening

Parents evening will be taking place on Monday 20th November. There are sign-up sheets on the door of the office. This is your opportunity to sit down with your child's key person and talk about how your child is getting on at nursery/chameleon club and what the next steps in their learning are. Please sign up for a slot and attend this important event.

Due to having 2 groups, Sally and Steph will have additional slots available, the details of which will be confirmed presently.

Lucy, Miriam, Pam and Kate's time slots will be 4-5pm. All other groups will be 4-6pm.



Friday 1st December 4pm-6pm: Christmas Bazaar

- Please join us at our Christmas Bazaar nursery fundraiser for festive fun, stalls, games and Father Christmas!
- Thank you very much for your generous donations for the bazaar. We would still welcome donations for the tombola and bottles of wine for our 'water or wine' stall. Ideas to donate for the tombola include: boxes of chocolates, stationery, craft packs, soft toys, games, gardening items, cosmetics, hair clips and ribbons, books, Lego, lollies or chocolates.
- Please note that the Christmas Bazaar is a family occasion. You must stay with your child. The event is not one in which you drop your child off or leave them at nursery until 6pm.
- Raffle tickets will given out soon. Don't forget to return them if you wish to enter the raffle.



Tuesday 12th December: Lydalls Panto

During the covid-19 pandemic we began putting on our own pantomimes for the children here at Lydalls because we were unable to visit the theatre. We have a lot of fun putting on the performances and can see how much the children enjoy them – the Lydalls panto has therefore become a Christmas tradition! Our pantomimes are based on one of our core stories and include familiar phrases and songs for children to join in with. This year we will be putting on a show called 'Goldilocks and the 3 Reindeer'. There will be performances in both the morning and afternoon during the normal session times. Children will attend nursery as usual.



Wednesday 13th December: Party Day (main nursery only)



- We will be holding a Christmas party for the children on Wednesday 13th December from 8.45-11.45. This includes **ALL** children from **both the morning and afternoons**.
- **There will be no afternoon session for afternoon only children.** Please come to the party in the morning instead. If you have concerns about this please come and speak to me and I will do my very best to accommodate any alternative arrangements.
- We will be open as usual for 30 hour and all day children, as well as for the 2 year old base.
- We will have party food at 10.30am and ask for contributions of £2 per child towards this. We will have a festive basket at the door to collect donations nearer to the time, however please do not worry if you are unable to contribute.
- The children will perform their Christmas songs at 11.15am. Please do come and join us.
- After the party all 15 hours children will then go home. If your child normally stays until 3.45pm but you have come to watch the singing and would like to collect them early that day, you are welcome to do so. Any children staying all day will eat lunch a little later than usual due to having party food in the morning. Please keep in mind that they may eat less than usual from their lunch box due to enjoying party food earlier in the day.

2-Year-Old Base Parties

Due to the younger age of children in our 2-year-old base and because they do not all attend on the same day, children will have party activities throughout the week beginning 11.12.23 and enjoy a little party food at snack times.

Thursday 14th December Biscuit making and film day

We will make Christmas biscuits during the session and eat them on the carpet whilst watching a children's Christmas themed film.



Monday 18th December: Theatre trip to Cornerstones



- This year we are delighted to return to the Cornerstones theatre to see the show 'Heart of Winter', a musical production about a girl who goes in search of winter!
- Letters with attached permission slips will be given out soon. Please make sure you return your promptly.
- Tickets cost £10 per child, however we are supporting the financing of this trip for all children and ask for a voluntary donation of £5 per child. All other costs will be met by our 'Friends of Lydalls' fund (this is one of the things we raise money for during the year) and Early Years Pupil Premium.
- The performance begins at 10am for morning children and 1.30pm for afternoon children. We will be asking families of 15 hour children to meet us at the cornerstone and have made provision for staff to walk down with children attending full days. There will be further detail in a letter about this trip which will be going out soon.
- To help get your child ready for this trip, it would be a good idea to pop down to the cornerstones with them for a visit.
- This trip event is for our older N2 children only, those in the 2 year old base or 'rising 3s' in the main nursery will be able to attend next year when they are that little bit older.

Wednesday 20th December: Last Day of Term

11.45: Nursery closes to all children

Beginning of term dates

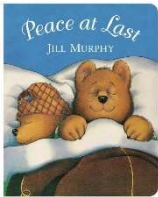
- 8th January – INSET DAY – **Nursery is closed to all children**
- 9th January – Orientation Day
 - Nursery is open for orientation sessions and welcome visits for new starters.
 - Nursery is open to children attending for full days (30 hour and top up sessions)
 - Nursery is closed to children attending 15-hour places in the main nursery (i.e. mornings or afternoons).
 - The 2 year old base will be closed
 - We are trying to balance the needs of new children with existing parent's childcare needs. If your child's group is not listed above as able to attend, but this causes you a problem with work, please come and talk to Sarah.
- 10th January – Nursery opens as normal for all children.
 - If your child will be new to the main nursery (moving up from the 2 year old base), please come on the specific start date which has been shared with you in our starting nursery correspondence.

School Places

Parents or carers of children born between **1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020** (inclusive) need to apply for a primary or infant school place for their children by 15th January 2024. You can find more information here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/reception-applications/make-application>

Parents of children born between 1 April 2020 and 31 August 2020 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



Around Christmas time, parents often ask 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, Goldilocks and the 3 Bears, Peace at last, Owl Babies and Jack and the Beanstalk. Some of our favourite maths games are from 'Orchard Games' and include 'Ladybirds', 'Postbox Game' (great for our younger children) and 'Dotty Dinosaurs'.

Curiosity Cuboid

We are still looking for things for our curiosity cuboid. Please let us know if you have something interesting which may spark children's curiosity and be a talking point. In the past we have had things such as bird nests, snake skins, pumpkins, and different types of eggs. We would love some broken electronics where we can take the covers off and let children view the inside mechanisms.



Links and Ideas

[Didcot Community Larder](#) - A community larder is a 'pop-up' hub, a place to access food that is surplus, make friends, access additional services and save money on your bills. Community Larders are not food banks and some larders have been set up like your average store. Community Larders are unique in their own way, "reducing food waste, creating opportunities, engaging with communities".

[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.

[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.

Housekeeping



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. School sites are private spaces. The taking of unauthorised photos and videos is prohibited.



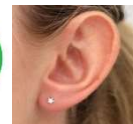
As the weather gets colder and wetter, please make sure your child comes to nursery with everything they need of the day, including:

- Hat
- Gloves
- Warm waterproof coat
- Wellies
- Waterproof trousers (especially on Forest School days)
- A pair of shoes to change into when they take their wellies off.
- At least one change of clothes (and ideally 2 or 3).

Please make sure that you write your child's name on all of their clothing and belongings.

**KEEP ON
THE
PAVEMENT**

When waiting to come into nursery, please make sure that children stay on the pavement. It is not safe for children to play in the car park. Our registration periods are 8.45-9.15 and 12.45-1.00. If your child is struggling to wait, we recommend that your try to avoid queuing and come a little later within the drop off times.



If your child has their ears pierced, they must only wear studs at nursery due to the risk of hoops or dangly earrings getting caught or pulled out.

Thank you!

