

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy new year! It has been wonderful to see you all again following the festive break and to welcome new children and their families to Lydalls. As 2024 stretches out in front of us, we look forward to all the exciting activities and experiences we have planned throughout the year. As always, please don't hesitate to drop by and talk to me with any comments or queries - I'm always happy to help.

Forest School

Forest School sessions will begin again for children in the main nursery the week beginning 22.01.24. Please dress children in warm clothing, including a winter coat, gloves, hat, warm socks, waterproof trousers, and wellies.

Please see [page 11 in our handbook](#) for further information about Forest School, including what to bring and where to drop your child off on a Forest School day.

Allocated Forest School Sessions:

- Monday mornings: Sally and Lucy's morning groups.
- Monday afternoons: Sally, Claire-Louise and Joanne's afternoon groups
- Friday mornings: Claire-Louise and Steph T's morning groups.



New Children's Tea Party

We are holding a new children's tea party for all children who are new to Lydalls this term.

New children and their families will be given a party invitation.

The party takes place here at Lydalls on Monday 29th January 4pm-4.45pm.

It would be lovely to see as many of you as possible. If you can do so, please let the office know that you plan to come to the new children's tea party. This helps us decide how much party food to buy and reduces food waste. However, you are also more than welcome to just turn up on the day.



Headteacher welcome meeting for new parents and carers



On Monday 22nd January at 6pm I will be hosting a welcome meeting for families new to nursery this term.

There will be a presentation from the headteacher with lots of information about your child's time at Lydalls.

This meeting will be virtual, and I will write to you all using Parentmail to share the link you will need to join the meeting.

If you are not a new parent but missed the previous meeting, please feel free to join us.

Primary School Applications



The application process for primary school places closes on 15.01.24. Children born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 (or those older children who have delayed their primary school starting date) will be eligible to start their Reception year at primary school during the academic year 2024/25. Please make sure you apply within the given timeframe.

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.

Oxfordshire Family Information Service

Provides free information and advice on a variety of services for children and young people, parents and families. You can find the website by [clicking here](#).





Save the Dates

Parents evening will be Monday 18th March.

Our family picnic will be after school on Friday 5th July.



Housekeeping and Site Safety



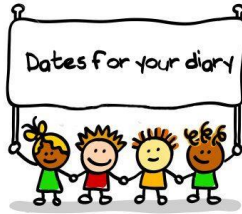
There are lots of children in our school which means lots of clothing, shoes and accessories which can easily get confused for another child's or lost.

Please name everything!



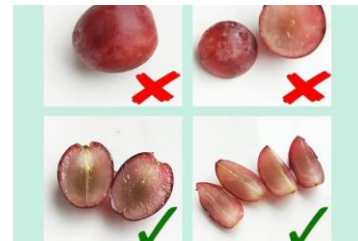
Phones or any device that could take a photo are not to be used once you step onto the site. This includes in the carpark or on the footpath when you are queuing up at drop off or pick up times.

Dates for Your Diary



2024

- Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February: 1/2 Term – Lydalls Closed
- Monday 18th March: Parent's Evening 4-6pm
- Thursday 28th March: Last Day Spring Term – Lydalls Closes at 11.45am
- Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April: Easter Holiday – Lydalls Closed
- Monday 15th April: Orientation Day – Open sessions to be confirmed.
- Tuesday 16th April: Lydalls reopens fully for all children.
- Monday 6th May: Bank Holiday – Lydalls Closed
- Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May: 1/2 Term – Lydalls Closed
- Friday 5th July: Family picnic
- Wednesday 24th July: Last Day Summer Term – Lydalls Closes at 11.45am
- Thursday 25th July to Friday 30th August: Summer Holiday – Lydalls Closed



Grapes, cherry tomatoes and other similarly shaped small food– need to be sliced before you give them to young children because, otherwise, they can be a choking hazard. The correct way to slice them is lengthways. Please make sure all such foods are appropriately chopped up if in children's lunchboxes.



Please park considerably outside out school. This includes avoiding parking on our yellow school keep clear lines. School Keep Clear markings are there to keep the space outside of schools free from parked vehicles so that children can be seen more easily when crossing the road.

New Parking Restrictions

We have been informed that parking in the bays opposite the nursery will soon be limited to 30 minutes. Only those with a resident's permit will be able to park for longer than 30 minutes. When we were first alerted to this scheme, we protested that it was not helpful for parents to only be able to park outside of the school for 30 minutes, however the scheme has proceeded, nonetheless. I was told that these things are kept under review and therefore recommend that families contact the council to express their opinion, should the parking situation cause them concern.

