



### **March 2016 newsletter**

Spring seems to be just around the corner. Despite the frosty mornings the bulbs that the children planted in the Autumn have been a glorious first burst of colour in the garden. Even more exciting is noticing that the days are starting to get longer. Now we just need some warmth in the sunshine!

Easter is early this year and so this is a short but busy half term.

### **Didcot Gateway – Business as usual at Lydalls!**

A planning application has been put in by South Oxfordshire District Council that includes the land that Lydalls Nursery is situated on. It is still very early days in terms of the process of a planning application.

Oxfordshire County Council own the land that the Nursery is built on and they will not sell the land to developers unless they are able to provide a building that is 'like for like' in size both indoors and outdoors.

Whatever the outcome of this or future applications, Lydalls Nursery School and Chameleon Club are not at risk of closure and it is business as usual at Lydalls. The rumour that Lydalls is closing is one I would like to put to rest and would appreciate your support with this in the wider community, so if anyone asks you, we are still accepting children on our waiting lists.

### **Staffing**

Heather Ross has now returned to work after her operation and we are all delighted to see her again. The children really missed her!

Sue Dodd, or 'Sue the Cook' as the children call her, has joined Helen Fenn to work in breakfast club.

Pam Knedler is recovering from an operation on her arm and we hope to welcome her back before the Easter holidays. In the meantime you will see the familiar face of Steph Todd, one of our fantastic Nursery Teaching Assistants, working in the two year old base. Annie Allen and myself are working alongside Kate Winchcombe at tea club.

### **Don't forget to come and say hello! Register with your child's group leader**

Each group leader has their own register so you must tell them that your child has arrived at Nursery. This means that we have had a safe handover between home and Nursery.

On days when your child's group leader has PPA (planning and record keeping time) or if they are absent due to illness or training please register with the member of staff named on the whiteboard outside the classroom.

The register is open between 8.45am and 9.15am in the mornings and between 12.45pm and 1.15pm in the afternoons. Children who arrive after these times, when the register is closed, will be marked as 'late' in the register.

We know that some children are so keen to get started when they come to Nursery that they happily rush off to play straight away but please don't forget to tell us that your child is here before you leave!

### **Parents Evening**

We will be holding a Parents Evening on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March between 4pm and 6pm. This is an opportunity for you to talk to your child's group leader about your child's learning and development. It is also an opportunity to look at your child's learning journey and enjoy the photographs and observation notes that celebrate the experiences they have been enjoying at Nursery.

Sheets to sign up for a slot will be on the office door next week.

### **Annual Questionnaire**

We have attached our annual questionnaire to parents to this newsletter. We would be very grateful if you could spare the time to complete this as it gives myself and the Governors valuable feedback. (A hard copy can be obtained from the office if required).

Completed questionnaires should be put in the labelled box in the reception area by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Parent Mail**

There has been an upgrade to the Parent Mail system and Maggie is wondering whether everyone is receiving the information that she sends. As well as newsletters, Maggie also sends group planning via Parent Mail.

Talk to Maggie in the office if you're experiencing a glitch in the system.

### **The electronic gate to Nursery – Don't be polite! If you don't know them, don't open it!**

Being polite, we often find ourselves holding gates and doors open for people we don't know when we're out and about. Nursery, however, should be the exception to this rule.

If you don't recognise someone at the gate and they don't know the code, please don't open the gate for them. Visitors and people who forget the code can be easily buzzed in via the camera entry system.

Please can I also ask you not to let children 'ride' on the black gate into Nursery. Putting weight onto the gate puts a strain on the electronic wiring system causing loose connections and also makes the gate drop which affects the closing mechanism. When this system isn't working effectively, safety and security are compromised so please, no rides on the gate.

### **Follow us on Facebook**

We have a school Facebook page. It is Lydalls Nursery School and Chameleon Club, Didcot. Please have a look at it and follow us!

## Lost Property

Any lost property which is unnamed or unclaimed in the lost property basket will be sent to the charity shop immediately after the Easter holidays.

Please take the time to look to see if anything belongs to your child.

## Sainsburys Active Kids

We are collecting these vouchers and a box is in our reception area. We are always looking for volunteers to help count these! Let your child's group leader know if you would like to help.

## Dates for diaries

Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent's Evening 4 – 6pm
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Lydalls Questionnaire Deadline
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> – Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Forest School Week
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Easter School Holiday – Nursery Closed</b> <i>Chameleon Club Holiday Club will be running at Lydalls 29<sup>th</sup> March – 8<sup>th</sup> April</i>
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>INSET Day – Nursery &amp; Chameleon Club Closed</b>
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Group Photos
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Parent's Evening
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	<b>May School Holiday – Nursery Closed</b> <i>Chameleon Club Holiday Club will be running at Lydalls 31<sup>st</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June</i>
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term 6 – <b>Nursery Closes at 11.45am</b> <i>Chameleon Club is open as usual</i>
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July – Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	<b>May School Holiday – Nursery Closed</b> <i>Chameleon Club Holiday Club will be running at Lydalls 21<sup>st</sup> July – 23<sup>rd</sup> August</i>
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> & Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	<b>INSET Days – Nursery &amp; Chameleon Club Closed</b>