

# LYDALLS

## NURSERY SCHOOL



and CHAMELEON CLUB

### April 2016 newsletter

It is officially Summer at Lydalls and we have got lots of experiences planned around growth and change to look forward to over the next few months. These include a visit from the travelling farm, hens' eggs hatching and caterpillars transforming into butterflies.

We will also be developing a planting and growing area in the garden with the children and we are hoping to catch the sunshine outside my office and alongside the green fence. Watch this space!

### Health and safety: sunscreen and sunhats

Summer hasn't exactly taken off yet but we do implement our sun safety measures from the beginning of term.



We have a basket of sunhats for anyone to borrow but please could children bring their own named sunhat to Nursery if possible.

Please could you put sunscreen on your child before they come to Nursery.

If your child attends Chameleon Club in the afternoon we will put sunscreen on them at lunchtime. Please come and talk to us about Nursery sunscreen if you are concerned about allergies etc.

### Health and safety: Watch the gate!

Please remember that you are responsible for your child's care and supervision until you hand them over to a member of staff at the beginning of their session and from when we hand your child back to you at the end of the session.

We have a member of staff on the door as an additional safety measure at the end of the session but it is a very busy time and your child is excited to see you! We strongly advise you to make sure your child is holding your hand or close by your side as you leave.

Please could you make sure that all doors and all gates are closed behind you as you leave. It only takes a minute for another child to slip out of the gate behind you and the consequences don't bear thinking about.

## **Parent Questionnaire**

Thank you to everyone who completed the Parent Questionnaire that we sent out towards the end of Term 4. It is always useful feedback on different aspects of our practice including our settling procedures, Chameleon Club and partnership with parents. It does impact on our thinking as we make plans to move the school forward so thanks again to everyone who took time to complete it and make comments.

Responses were very similar to those received over the last three years but this year there were more 'strongly agree' responses to many questions in all aspects of the questionnaire.

The final page of the questionnaire is an overall summary. 97% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that their child was happy at Nursery, that their child makes good progress, that their child was well looked after and that they would recommend the Nursery to another parent.

Needless to say, we continue to strive to maintain quality, to improve and to develop.

## **Code of conduct**

Attached to this newsletter is the Oxfordshire County Council code of conduct for parents and carers that we have adopted at Lydalls Nursery School. Please could you sign this and return it to your child's group leader by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

## **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May is Groundforce morning at Lydalls**

Could you spare an hour or two on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May between 9am and 12.30pm to help us with some gardening and odd jobs in the Nursery garden? Jobs will include;



- Weeding and digging out flower beds
- Planting
- Helping us to create a mud kitchen!

We will put a 'sign up' sheet in reception so please come and join Julie Vokins on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

Any donations of plants would also be very welcome.

## **Cake Sale – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

Julie Vokins is organising a cake sale on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May to raise money for an ornamental wind chime for the children to enjoy in all weathers in the garden. Look out for posters nearer the time.

## **Supporting your child with reading – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 5pm to 6pm**



Sarah Phillips our literacy coordinator is delivering a session for parents and carers on supporting your child with reading. This will include information on early phonics teaching and ideas for how you can support your child at home.

## **Transition to Primary School: Is your child leaving Lydalls this Summer?**

Children who are due to start Primary School in September have now been allocated their places.

Understandably, children and parents can be excited and nervous about this next step. We work hard to help children make this transition confidently but at this time we will not be talking about Primary School because, for a young child, September is a long way away!

Some parents find it helpful to know which other children are transitioning to the same Primary School as their child but it is your choice whether you want to share that information. We will put up lists on the office door for you to add your child's name if you would like to do so.

As part of our transition policy a member of staff will make a visit with your child to their new school in June or July and from that point we will be actively having conversations about the different schools that children are going to, their new teachers, etc.

When your child has their transition visit with Nursery staff we will ask you to meet us at their new Primary School and handover to us there. You will also need to be able to pick your child up from their new school at the end of the transition visit.

Please note that because of staffing needs in the Nursery it may not be your child's key person who accompanies them on their visit to their new Primary School.

When we know dates for school visits these will be displayed on the whiteboard outside the Nursery.

Some families choose to delay their child's start to Primary School. A child can stay at Nursery until the term after their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday and some families have already indicated that their child will be moving to school in January 2017 or after Easter in 2017. Children who are Reception aged are entitled to a full time place at Lydalls, 8.45am to 2.45pm.

If you are delaying or deferring your child's start to Primary School please talk to Rebecca if you have not already done so.

To help us make plans and organise school visits please can you complete the slip at the end of this letter.

## Holiday club at Chameleon Club

Holiday club is open for all children from 3 to 5 years of age. It is run by Annie and her team and will be open during May half term and during the Summer holidays – see dates below.

Holiday club forms and more information about holiday club is available online at [www.lydallsnurseryschool.co.uk](http://www.lydallsnurseryschool.co.uk) and in the school office.

## Parent Representative for Chameleon club Committee



We are looking for a parent representative for our Chameleon Club Committee. We meet once a term (3 times a year) to discuss the on-going wrap around and 2 year old facility offered by Lydalls. If you are interested please talk to Annie in the 2 year old room or tell someone in the office.

## Dates for diaries

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Primary School slip return date
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Code of Conduct return date
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Groundforce Day
9 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Eggs hatching at Nursery
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Supporting your child with reading 5 – 6pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	'Farms to Ewe' at Lydalls
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Group Photos
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Cake Sale
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>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Parent's Evening
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Family Picnic
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>Summer 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>
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Start of Term 1 2016-17

### Included :

- Slip for Primary School return slip – Return date Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May
- Parent Code of conduct – Return date Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May