



Lydalls Nursery School and Chameleon Club Newsletter - February 2017

After a frosty, foggy January I am looking out for early signs of Spring. I have definitely seen some green shoots in the garden so we should soon have an array of daffodils brightening up the outdoor area.

It has also been lovely to welcome the new children who started at Chameleon Club and Lydalls this term. We always look forward to getting to know a whole group of new children and families and we are delighted that you have chosen Lydalls for your child's early education.

Staffing – time to say goodbye to Julie.

Julie Vokins, our Senior Nursery Nurse, has decided to retire at the end of this Spring Term. Julie has worked at Lydalls Nursery School for 30 years, first giving 1:1 support to children with SEN before becoming a key person as we know her now. She was also instrumental in the initial set up of Chameleon Club. Julie has been a key person to countless children at Lydalls and her skills, sensitivity and expertise have enabled so many children to make progress and develop in their early years. I am mindful however, that Julie now wants to focus on her wider family, particularly her young grandchildren, and we should support her wholeheartedly in this decision no matter how much we are all going to miss her. I feel extremely fortunate to have had the privilege of working with Julie and I know that she has been a significant professional influence on myself and many staff, past and present, as well as the students that she has mentored and supported through the years.

I shared this news with the parents and carers of Julie's key children earlier in the term. Sarah Beeton will become this group's key person in the mornings.

Ofsted

On 24th and 25th January the Nursery School and Chameleon Club were inspected by Ofsted. As a maintained Nursery School we receive an inspection every three years so we were ready and waiting!



Until the report is officially published we can't talk about the grade that we've received. This is because grades within the report can go up or down until Ofsted releases it.

We will share copies of the report with you as soon as it becomes available.

Health and Safety - Reminders

Please can I remind everyone to close the metal gates behind them when you leave Nursery, particularly the pedestrian gate that leads to Lydalls Road.

Please can I also remind everyone not to leave drinks or food in children's bags. This is to stop other children from finding food or drink in a bag and then eating or drinking it. We have to be so careful about allergies and intolerances. The children have access to drinking water throughout the session and we have a snack time as part of our routine. Please talk to me or your child's key person if you have any concerns about this.

September 2017 - 30 hours childcare survey

From September 2017 some families with three and four year olds will be entitled to an extra 15 hours of childcare, in addition to the 15 hours that all families currently receive.

The link below explains more about this policy:

<http://www.madeformums.com/news-and-gossip/30-hours-of-free-childcare---will-my-child-get-it/38143.html>

In order to help us plan our offer at Lydalls we are asking parents and carers of 2 and 3 year olds to complete a short survey of their childcare needs.

Before we move forward with any ideas we are waiting for some further information from the Department for Education, particularly around the funding rate for Maintained Nursery Schools.

We will inform you of our plans as soon as we are able to. Watch this space!

Comic Relief Day - Friday 24th March – wear something red!

We will be fundraising for Comic Relief on Friday 24th March. Children and adults are invited to wear something red and make a contribution to this worthwhile charitable cause.

Holiday club

Chameleon Club will be running a holiday club for children aged 3 to 5 years at Lydalls during the February half term holiday.



Forms are available to download from our website www.lydallsnurseryschool.co.uk

Dates for diaries

Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th February	February School Holiday – Nursery Closed Chameleon Club Holiday Club will be running at Lydalls
Friday 24 th March	Comic Relief Day
Monday 10 th April – Friday 21 st April	Easter School Holiday – Nursery Closed Chameleon Club Holiday Club will be running at Lydalls 10 th – 13 th April and 18 th – 21 st April
Monday 24 th April	INSET Day – Nursery & Chameleon Club Closed
Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday - Nursery & Chameleon Club Closed
Monday 29 th May – Friday 2 nd June	May School Holiday – Nursery Closed Chameleon Club Holiday Club will be running at Lydalls 30 th May – 2 nd June
Friday 21 st July	Last day of term 6 – Nursery Closes at 11.45am Chameleon Club is open as usual