



Lydalls Nursery School and Chameleon Club newsletter – September 2017

Welcome back to a new school year at Lydalls Nursery School and Chameleon Club. We hope that you all enjoyed the Summer despite the weather! The children who were here before the holidays have all settled back in really well and we're enjoying meeting and welcoming new children and families.

Online learning journeys

One of our core professional values at Lydalls is to develop effective working partnerships with parents. Over the last few years we have had requests from families to introduce an online learning journey system. Many settings and schools use secure systems such as this. From this term we will be using an online system called Tapestry and we will need your permission to set up an online learning journey for your child.

A learning journey is a record of a child's progress and development during their time at Lydalls. It includes observations that your child's key person has made of your child as they learn through playing and exploring in the learning environment. It also includes photographs that illustrate *significant* moments in progress and development. Using an online learning journey means that you will be able to access observations, photographs and video film illustrating your child's development, learning and progress as your child's key person makes them available to you. You will also be able to interact with these by adding comments.

We have attached some further information about online learning journeys and a permission form to this newsletter. Please could you sign the permission form and return it to your child's keyperson as soon as possible. Hard copies of this can be obtained from the office.

If you do not want your child to have an online learning journey we will be able to record your child's learning journey on paper. Please do talk to Sarah Phillips or Rebecca if you want further information or if you have any concerns.

Coats

As you know, we play and learn outside in almost all weather at Lydalls and this includes the rain! Please, when you are choosing coats for your child to wear at Nursery can you try to make sure that they are as waterproof as possible. Thank you.

Volunteers needed: Sofa Superheroes and Maths Magicians

We are looking for parents, carers and Grandparents who can come in regularly through the year as volunteers, ideally sparing a regular hour at least fortnightly.

A 'sofa superhero' is a volunteer who can spare some regular time to sit on the sofa and share a story or an information book with our children. A 'maths magician' is someone who can play a simple turn taking number game with a small group of children.

We will run a DBS check on volunteers and provide a full induction that includes Safeguarding training.

Please come and talk to Rebecca if you are interested in volunteering at Nursery.

Labelling

Can I give a quick reminder to put names on the things that your child brings to Nursery? Names on the outside of school bags and lunchboxes, where we often have several that look exactly the same, is particularly helpful. Thank you!

Holiday Club – Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October



Chameleon Club staff run a popular holiday club for children aged between 3 and 5 every school holiday.

If you are looking for childcare for that week we are taking bookings now. Please talk to Maggie in the office to make a booking or Annie Allen, our Chameleon Club co-ordinator, to find out more about the activities and experiences that are on offer.

Applying for Primary School - Children who born between 1.9.2013 and 31.8.2014

Children who were born between 1.9.2013 and 31.8.2014 will be able to start Primary School in September 2018.

Now is a good time to contact local Primary Schools to ask to look around because you will get an idea of how Reception classes feel at the beginning of the school year. Our advice is to visit without your child in the first instance.

All parents must apply to Oxfordshire County Council for a school place between 25th October 2017 and 15th January 2018. This can be done online. You will not receive any forms from Oxfordshire County Council through the post. Please note that applications are not on a 'first come, first served' basis but if you do not apply by the 15th January 2018 you are less likely to receive a place at your school of choice.

The Oxfordshire County Council website is full of advice, guidance and information, including a very useful online distance calculator that shows which schools are closest to your home.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/admissions-infant-and-primary-schools>

We know that this can be an anxious and sometimes overwhelming time for parents and carers. To find out more about the process of applying for a place at Primary school, including how we support the transition process at Lydalls, please come to a 'Starting Primary School' meeting on Tuesday 7th November 5.30pm to 6.00pm.

Facebook and School Website

Don't forget to look at our school website. It contains all sorts of useful information about the school including school policies as well as links to websites that may be of support or interest to families of young children.



www.lydallsnurseryschool.co.uk

We also have a Facebook page 'Lydalls Nursery School and Chameleon Club, Didcot'

Dates for diaries

Thursday 7 th September	Start of Term 1 2017-18
Monday 11 th September	New Parents Evening
Monday 2 nd October	New Children's Tea Party 4 – 4.45pm
Monday 23 rd October – Friday 27 th October	Autumn School Holiday – Nursery Closed Chameleon Club Holiday Club will be running at Lydalls
Wednesday 25 th October	On-line School Application process opens
Tuesday 7 th November	'Starting Primary School' meeting 5.30 – 6
Friday 17 th November	Photographer in to take individual photos
Monday 4 th December	Parents' Evening 4-6pm
Tuesday 12 th December	Trip to Cornerstone for afternoon children – Nursery Closed for afternoon session , Chameleon Club and 30 hour session open as usual
Wednesday 13 th December	Trip to Cornerstone for morning children – Nursery Closed for morning session , Chameleon Club and 30 hour session open as usual
Monday 18 th December	Christmas Parties (timings tbc) – Nursery Closed Chameleon Club and 30 hour session open as usual
Tuesday 19 th December	Last day of term 1 – Nursery Closes at 11.45am Chameleon Club and 30 hour session open as usual
Wednesday 20 th December – Wednesday 3 rd January	Christmas School Holiday – Nursery Closed Chameleon Club Holiday Club will be running at Lydalls 20 th – 23 rd December
Thursday 4 th January	INSET Day – Nursery & Chameleon Club Closed
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th February	February School Holiday – Nursery Closed Chameleon Club Holiday Club will be running at Lydalls
Friday 30 th March – Friday 13 th April	Easter School Holiday – Nursery Closed Chameleon Club Holiday Club will be running at Lydalls 3 rd – 13 th April
Monday 16 th April	INSET Day – Nursery & Chameleon Club Closed
Monday 7 th May	Bank Holiday - Nursery & Chameleon Club Closed
Monday 28 th May – Friday 1 st June	May School Holiday – Nursery Closed Chameleon Club Holiday Club will be running at Lydalls 29 th May – 1 st June
Wednesday 25 th July	Last day of term 6 – Nursery Closes at 11.45am Chameleon Club and 30 hour session open as usual