

# Lydlynch Preschool

Lydlynch Road, Totton, Southampton, SO40 3DW

Tel: 023 8086 3176 Email: [enquiries@lydlynchpreschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@lydlynchpreschool.co.uk)

Registered charity number: 1111596



Dear Parents / Carers,

On behalf of the team at Lydlynch Pre-School we would like to extend a warm welcome to all of the new families that have joined us following the Christmas and New Year break and welcome back everyone else.

Please see below the latest news from the pre-school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the team.

Kind regards,  
The Pre-School Team

## FUNDRAISING

We would like to say a big 'Thank You' to all parents and carers for their continued support during our fundraising events and for donating their time in supporting the Lydlynch Team. Your continued support helps us to provide the children with Christmas presents and an annual pre-school trip as well as improving the setting for the children.

So far, this academic year, we have raised the following from our varied events.

- Pumpkin Stay and Play - £72.00
- Group photograph (from June) - £178.41
- Christmas Cards - £34.00
- Christmas Baubles - £72.00
- Christmas Photos - £242.51
- Christmas Carol Concert and Fayre - £174.60

The team have purchased new aprons for the children and fixed our weathered climbing wall to make it more sustainable so that the children can enjoy it all year round. If you are interested in getting involved with the fundraising team or have any new ideas, please contact [sam@lydlynchpreschool.co.uk](mailto:sam@lydlynchpreschool.co.uk).

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

We are now able to offer an after school club to all children aged 3 and above that attend Lydlynch Pre-School and Lydlynch Infant School. The session runs between 15:00 and 17:30, at a cost of £12.50, this includes a snack. In the last two weeks the children have been baking chocolate chip cookies, playing lots of different games, getting support with reading homework, embracing the cold weather to play on the bikes then dancing to Jump Start Johnny to warm up and selecting what new resources they would Sam to purchase for them to use 😊.

If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## Closure / Inset Dates

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**  
Pre-School reopens
- 13<sup>th</sup> February – 17<sup>th</sup> February**  
Half term
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February**  
Pre-School reopens
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**  
Pancake stay and play 2pm
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March**  
Easter craft stay and play 2pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> April – 14<sup>th</sup> April**  
Easter holidays
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April**  
Pre-School reopens
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May**  
Bank holiday
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**  
Pre-School trip – location TBC
- 29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June**  
Half term
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June**  
Pre-School reopens
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June**  
Royal tea party stay and play 2pm
- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July**  
Pre-Schools 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July**  
Last day of the summer term
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July**  
Graduation party for school leavers



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## TEAM NEWS

We are happy to announce that despite a very bumpy ride with training providers going bust, work being lost and having to start her apprenticeship from scratch, Beth has now passed her apprenticeship and is now a fully qualified Level 3 Early Years Practitioner. WELL DONE BETH 😊

We also have another exciting announcement – Karla is expecting her first baby! The little bundle is due to arrive in June. Karla will be staying with us for as long as she can, but we understand how unpredictable pregnancies can be.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Stay and play sessions are events that all parents and children can attend, it doesn't matter if your child does not attend that session. We have tried to organise them to fall on different days of the week to help parents attend who may have other commitments on certain days.

**Pancake Stay & Play** – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February – This stay and play event is booked in advance as we need to know how many pancakes to make. We ask for £2 per family, which is payable in advance, to cover the cost of ingredients and toppings.

**Easter Craft Stay & Play** – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – This stay and play event is booked in advance, there is a charge of £3 per child and this covers the cost of a craft kit and special treat. There are Easter themed crafts, an egg hunt and cakes for sale.

**Royal Tea Party Stay and Play** – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June – This stay and play event is booked in advance as we need to know how many sandwiches we will be making. We ask for £2 per child to cover the costs of the food and there will be themed crafts and a cake sale.

**Summer Birthday Party** – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July – Lydlynch Pre-School is turning 18!!! After COVID-19 ruined the plans we had to celebrate our 'Sweet Sixteen' birthday, we have decided that we will instead celebrate turning 18 with a big Summer Party / Birthday Fayre. We will start planning for the event after the Christmas break, if you have any ideas or are able to help to man a stall, please let a member of the team know.

We will endeavor to keep our Facebook Page, Family newsfeed and the website up to date with the information on all of the upcoming events.

## PRE-SCHOOL FEES

We have recently sent out an email regarding an increase in fees which will take effect from April, as stated in the letter this is a decision that has not been reached lightly and is needed to ensure that the pre-school remains open.

Breakfast Club: Increase from £4.80 to £5.00 per session – 4.5%

2 year olds: Increase from £5.40 to £5.80 per hour – 7.5%

3 – 4-year-olds: Increase from £4.80 to £5.20 per hour – 8%

As a charity run pre-school, we rely heavily on the prompt payment of pre-school fees. If you are struggling to pay your bill, please do not hesitate to speak with a member of the management team.

## FAMILY

Since returning to pre-school in January the team have been working hard behind the scenes to transfer our learning journeys from Tapestry to Family. Family is a digital platform that provides us with an all-in-one solution for communication, learning journals, and invoicing. Using the Family app parents can –

- Stay informed of your child's learning and development through their online learning journal.
- Receive and send private messages to practitioners and management safely and securely.
- Report sick days and holiday to the pre-school with one click.
- Get an overview of all events in their personal calendar.
- See photos and videos of their children's day in the newsfeed.
- Get status updates and receive important reminders.
- View their child's sessions and invoices.
- Made aware of any toileting, accidents, and naps as soon as they happen.

## Can you help?

The team are always appreciative to receive donations that will enhance the children's learning experiences. If you are having a clear out we are on the lookout for the following;

- Real life clothes for dress up.
- Yoghurt pots/loo rolls/ cereal boxes etc for junk modelling
- Any paints or creative resources to enhance our creation station
- Any out-of-date food stuff that we can use for sensory activities

## Important Information

Please ensure all bags, lunchboxes, water bottles, clothes, hats, sun creams and toys are **NAMED** to avoid lost property.

If your child is likely to be absent, please inform us by 9am (where possible). You can do this via the Family app, leave a voicemail at the pre-school or send an email.

It is vital that you notify a member of staff when someone else will be collecting your child. Please ensure that the collecting adult has the password that was provided at registration. We will not be able to let your child leave the premises if the proper procedure is not adhered to. Please could we also remind parents/carers that anyone collecting children must be over 18 years of age.

The pre-school encourages healthy eating and therefore would ask that your child's lunch box does not contain fizzy drinks, chocolate, sweets etc. Due to allergies, the pre-school is a **nut free zone** so please ensure that there are **no products that contain nuts** in your child's lunchbox. Please ensure that grapes and cocktail sausages are cut in half to minimise the risk of choking.

Due to the unpredictability of our weather, please make sure that your child has appropriate outdoor clothing, such as a jacket, wellington boots, hat and gloves etc. Please note that if your child does not have appropriate outdoor clothing or protection they may be unable to access the outdoor areas.

As the weather is getting colder, please can you ensure that you wrap your children up nice and warm, supply spare clothes and wet weather gear for rainy days.

If your child is in nappies please can you supply spare nappies and wipes so that we can change them when required. The pre-school have been spending a lot of money on nappies and wipes lately, which is something that we can't really afford to do. We would really appreciate your support with this.

## Parking

Please may we ask that you park considerately and do not block resident's driveways. We have received complaints from residents regarding blocked access to properties, so we ask you to bear this in mind when you are parking outside the school.

We also ask parents and carers who are dropping off and collecting their children to reserve caution when reversing and driving up and down the road.

If you choose to park in the surrounding streets, please park sensibly and safely by:

- Not blocking driveways
- Not mounting grass verges or parking on open spaces
- Not obstructing access, especially for delivery and emergency vehicles

The police regularly patrol the local area and will issue fixed penalty tickets to vehicles if they are repeatedly found to be obstructing the pavements or driveways.

Thank you for your co-operation.