



Ladybirds Newsletter
Term 1 Week 2 – w/c 12th September 2016

Our new topic... 'All about me'

Last week the children did really well settling back in at Ladybirds. It was lovely to welcome all our new children, who are also settling in well. We started our new topic and the children have been busy creating little versions of themselves to go onto our big wall display. The children also loved picking our yummy tomatoes and eating them at snack time!

New starters: We had another new starter last week. We hope you will join us in giving a warm welcome to Tillie, whose big brother used to come to Ladybirds. We hope you soon feel at home with us at Ladybirds.

Birthdays: A very happy birthday to Lily, whose birthday was last Monday. We hope you had a lovely day.

Ladybirds Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 28th September 2016 at 9.15am:

Please come along to our meeting, which will be held in the Church. Ladybirds is run by a committee of parents and church members, and we cannot run without enough people on our committee. We are looking for new volunteers to come onto our committee, which meets around 5 times a year to organise things like fundraising and some organisational matters. It is a great way to get more involved in the running of the Pre-school and get to know other parents a bit more.

Attached with this newsletter are a couple of testimonials from parents who were on our committee last year. They explain what it's like to be part of our Ladybirds committee and we hope you will read them and decide to get involved!

Snack time: Thank you for your snack donations – they really help us to keep our costs down. We welcome any healthy snack donations you are able to give – eg. fruit, breadsticks, raisins, are all extremely helpful. There is a bowl in our foyer for any donations.

Primary school places: Now is the time to apply for primary school places for September 2017. The deadline is 15-01-17. You can apply online – www.wiltshire.gov.uk or use a paper application – call Wiltshire Council on 01225 713010.

Thank you, From the Ladybirds team

Ladybirds Pre-school
Committee member testimonials

Kate Chorlton – Ladybirds Committee member and Gracie's mum

Hi, I'm Kate and I am a member of Ladybirds Preschool Committee.

I decided to join because I work in early years myself and I understand how important a committee is, especially as if there aren't enough committee members it can force a pre-school to close. Last April I needed somewhere for Gracie to go, I loved ladybirds and everyone seemed so friendly.

As a committee member I don't really do a huge amount, but what I do makes a difference. There are about 3 or 4 meetings in each school year, (September to July.) They usually last about an hour and we discuss any issues the preschool may have and help to organise all the fabulous events that Ladybirds put on.

I helped out at the Christmas Nativity (my favourite time of the year) by selling and folding raffle tickets on the day, and I also sent out letters in advance to try to get some raffle prizes. The raffle raised a lot of money for Ladybirds which in turn means that my Gracie will have access to better resources. I was working at the Easter parade this year so couldn't help but that was fine, other committee members understood and they did what was needed.

I am about to help out at the upcoming sports day and the end of term picnic. This means I will probably pick up some medals when I do my normal shop for sports day, and I will arrive a bit earlier to help set out chairs and set the food out for the picnic. That's it!!

Gracie is leaving ladybirds (sob sob) for big school, which means I won't be on the committee anymore along with a few other parents. Ladybirds will desperately need some more committee members. It's a great way to get to know some other parents, have some advance warning of dates of events, and give a little something back to the wonderful people who look after your most precious children. I promise you it's really friendly and no pressure so you can just help when you can.

I you have any questions or want to chat to any of the committee members we will all be around on sports day and the leavers picnic.

Thanks

Kate

Joy Wilkinson – Secretary of Ladybirds Committee and Adam's mum

Hi, I'm Joy, Adam's mum and currently Secretary of the Ladybirds Committee. When my daughter started at Ladybirds in 2011 I thought I should go to the Committee's AGM and offer to help. They told me I was hired as Secretary and reassured me that a newborn baby would be no obstacle as it was really very easy! That baby will be starting school in just a few months so it's now my turn to tell **you** that this truly is an easy role for a parent or grandparent to fill!

I think being a Pre-school Committee member is a fantastic thing to take on if you're having a break from work with small children, and great to add to your CV. The role is vitally important to Ladybirds and you have a lot of responsibility in overseeing and supporting the running of the Pre-school, but the actual impact on your time is manageable even when you're juggling babies. We have always made sure that meetings are held at a time convenient to everyone, and understand that nobody can commit to every single activity.

As Secretary you need to be able to write down the decisions made in the meetings, with brief notes about what was discussed (and importantly who agreed to undertake any action points!) Then type it up and get it approved by the Committee Chair before emailing it out to all the committee. It's helpful for everyone if this is done promptly after meetings, but I've had times where I had to be reminded! Traditionally secretary duties include other things too, but at Ladybirds it's really simple. I was sent on a training evening on Pre-school roles and responsibilities when I started, which had useful information, but mainly I just learned from the others on the Committee, who are always so helpful and work well as a team.

Beyond that specific job, I've also done what everyone on the Committee does – go to meetings a few times a year and help set up and run stalls at Christmas and Easter whenever I can. This has given me the opportunity to do things I enjoy, such as providing craft activities, baking cakes and cookies, and producing tote bags last Christmas with the children's art-work as an extra fund raiser. Other little tasks have included wrapping books for Santa to give out at Christmas, sourcing lucky dip prizes, designing invitations to the Teddy Bears' Picnic and shopping for thank you gifts for the staff. Whatever your particular talents, there will be ways you can help as part of the team.