

Hello everyone and welcome to our new families and children who have joined the nursery. We have a very busy month planned and we are all looking forward to over indulging in some chocolate at Easter. At the start of the month we sent a message to all parents about our Easter bonnet/ basket parade at nursery on Wednesday 6th April. Many local shops have lots of lovely decorations in stock such as feathers, chicks, animal eggs etc... as well as bonnets and baskets to help you make an entry with your child at home. Karen our nursery cook will be judging the parade and winners will receive a chocolate Easter eggs. Can all entries be in to nursery no later than Monday 4th April? So a busy creative weekend ahead. Thank you ☺

Follow us on  TWITTER, search for swansyardley and Facebook. Or go to our nursery website and read our room blogs or learn about future events on www.littleswans.org.uk

You can also keep up to date with nursery events on Facebook Little Swans Day Nursery @Littleswansdaynursery

Rolos News

This Month the Rolos will be learning all about the Easter celebration. We will be having a go at creating our own Easter baskets using paper bowls, ribbons, feathers and tissue paper. We might even sneak a little chocolate treat in there! The children will be encouraged to use their skills such as cutting, sharing creative ideas and experimenting with colour. We will also be making Easter cards and providing the children with some shop brought cards so they can develop their own ideas and thoughts from these examples to create their own individual cards using their mark making skills. As its Easter and the shops are full of chocolate, the Rolos children will also be making their own treat; a chocolate nest. To link in with Easter and spring we will also be learning about new life such as chicks and lambs, this will introduce the children to the topic ready for when we have our own chicks to care for at nursery next month. The fun doesn't stop there we will be taking part in a Easter egg hunt, incorporating numbers to encourage our number recognition as well as working as a team to hunt for the eggs. As well as this many of our families will be participating in Ramadan this month, we will be talking with the children about this and how it is celebrated in the Muslim communities. To support the children's understanding we will be doing activities around food as well as using our library visits to find out more information by looking through books. We have begun to create our 'school role play' area for the children to explore, we are hoping this will support the transitions for children who will be leaving us in September to start reception. To end the month we will be making flags in recognition of St Georges day, the children will have the opportunity to design their own flag on paper using paint, they will also be able to create their impression of a dragon using tissue paper and cardboard as well as making shields using tin foil, card and felt tips. For international dance day we going to have some dancing completions and games, showing of our best moves and exploring different types of dance and ways to move our bodies. This month is going to be packed of fun and we are so excited ☺

Our Topic at nursery for the Spring Term is.....
THE ENVIRONMENT

Smarties News

This month the Smarties will be enjoying activities planned around various religious festivals and events. At the start of April it is Ramadan, we will have discussions during focus time with the children about Ramadan and share stories to develop their understanding. We will encourage children who have families who participate in Ramadan to share their experiences. We will make food paper plates and encourage all children to create a plate of food that they have or like to have for their evening meals. It is also Easter this month, the children will be taking part in creative activities such as making cards and Easter baskets. We will also be doing an Easter egg hunt for the children. We will be talking to the children about Ester and making their Easter bonnets/ baskets at home to participate in the parade as well as encouraging the children to show their creations to their friends at nursery. We have Parents evening this month and the children have been really busy this term with all their mark making and display board work, which we are sure they are excited about showing you. The children in Smarties love to dance and move their bodies to the music. The 29th of April is international dance day so we will join in with the rest of the world doing lots of dancing to various music and moving our bodies in a variety of ways to sounds. This month we really want to focus on communication and Lanaguage in the Smarties room, encouraging pronunciation and understanding of Lanaguage. We will be focusing on this aspect of learning throughout our routines and activities, asking lots of open ended questions and encouraging children to follow instructions given. Alongside our communication with the children we will be linking this to encouraging children to share and turn take.

Jelly Babies News

This month the children in Jelly Babies will be taking part in lots of fun Easter activities, in most of the activities we have planned the children will be using their senses to explore and investigate different textures and sensory feelings. Of course we will be doing all the activities alongside our friends and teachers so will be continuing to develop our personal, social and emotional skills. So this month the staff team in Jelly Babies have planned for the children to create their own Easter eggs using a plastic egg which they will decorate using glue and tissue paper as well as other items of decoration that the children select during the activity. We will also be creating our own Easter cards and baskets, staff will provide the children with a variety of mark making materials and the children will be encouraged to get messy and involved, whilst having fun making their own special creation to take home to celebrate Easter. We will also be making Easter baskets and sneaking in our own little chocolate treat to enjoy, maybe on the journey from nursery to home 😊 To carry on the theme of Easter for the children and some adults 'Chocolate' we will be doing a cooking activity and the children will be able to create their own chocolate nest using shred dies and chocolate... yummy!!!

We will also be taking part in an Egg hunt to see what wonderful things we can find as well as linking a lot of activities to Easter we will also be developing our fine and gross motor skills through making large movements using paint as well as using a potato masher to create our own eggs.

Jelly Tots News

Welcome to another month of fun and learning. This month will be an exciting month, but very busy with a nice reward of some chocolate eggs to look forward to. The children will be making Easter cards this month using different materials such as feathers, paint, tissue paper and cotton wool. The children will be given support to make their own creations to bring home to share with the family. We will also be making bird net cakes using our skills to mix the melted chocolate together. We can't wait to taste of sweet creations!

We will also be having an egg hunt in the garden areas, we will be learning to recognise colours in different environments and trying to find the colour eggs that our teachers tell us to find. The children will also be continuing to learn 2D shapes as well as practising their counting skills. Some children can count 1-10 already so we will challenge those children to learn to count to 20. Communication will be a focus throughout the month, introducing new vocabulary to the children during activities and challenging their understanding through given more complex instructions to follow. The children will also have sand and water play throughout the month and we will be encouraging children to recognise different emotions such as happy and sad. Circle time activities will enable staff to use puppets and props to further develop children's awareness of different emotions as well as talking about our likes and dislikes. Our book of the month is "Say goodnight to the sleepy animals". With the book of the month we will explore different animals, the sounds they make and where they live as well as create our own animal pictures and prints.

Heroes News

Hello everyone and we hope you are all well 😊 this month like the other areas in nursery the children in Heroes will be taking part in lots of Easter activities. Our Easter celebrations and activities in will be done a little earlier in Heroes as many of our children will be breaking up for the Easter holidays. We will be making Easter cards and the children will be asked to create an Easter experience on the card such as an Easter bunny, we will provide the children with a variety of creative resources and colours so they can really use their imaginations and creative minds. We will also be learning about Easter using books and clips on the interactive whiteboard, the learning will explore the messages being Easter and why we celebrate. We will be decorating and painting eggs and then using the eggs to be competitive with each other in an egg and spoon race at nursery. We will also be doing our own Easter egg hunt, however we will not be hunting for chocolate but items that are associated with Easter through the learning we have done. In May we will be having the chicks to take care of in the preschool areas, so support our understanding in advance we will be discussing new life and the things we need to provide to help living things grow. Ramadan is also another festival many of our children in Heroes will be celebrating this month. The children will be learning about Ramadan and why people in the Muslim communities fast. The children will also create Ramadan colanders, similar to an advent calendar where the children will count down each day how many days of Ramadan are left until the children celebrate Eid, which is a festival celebrating the ending of the fasting period. We will continue with our number recognition learning this month also, the children have been working really hard with this area of learning and they are making good progress. At the end of next term many of our children will be leaving to go to school. So when the children return from May onwards we will be focusing on continuing to prepare the children for the transition and become school ready. Parents are due to be allocated their child's school for September this month, please inform a member of staff once your school place has been confirmed by the local authority so we can link this into our planning as well as prepare end of year reports to share with your child's new school / teacher. Have a good month all 😊

PARENT NOTICES

Staff annual leave for this month: April

1st April - Miss Tranter and Elle

4th- 8th April - Elle and Iqra

11th April - Taz

13th & 14th April - Rafhit

14th April - Elle

19th - 22nd April - Aisha

29th April - Emily and Elle

Staffing

Sharon will be starting at nursery on the 11th April 2022. Sharon will be the assistant manager at the nursery and will be here between the hours of 7.30am - 4pm. Sharon will also cover Miss Tranter's Annual leave on these occasions she will be available between 7.30am - 6pm.

Room Messages:

Smarties:

Can parents please remember to put their child's coat on their peg and put their bag outside on the bag trolley? Could parents also remember to wash their child's hands in the children's toilet area in Smarties before handing their child over to a member of staff?
Thank you

Rolos:

Could parents please bring in empty toilet rolls and any junk boxes they may have at home.
Thank you

Rolos and Heroes:

We visit the library every Monday. Rolos go to the library during the mornings. Please make sure your child is in nursery for 10am and Heroes go in the afternoon at 2pm. Thank you

April Dates for your Diary

1st April - Marks the start of national pet month. Children will be doing some activities around this topic throughout the month. If your child has any photos of their pets they would like to share then please bring them into nursery with them.

Sunday 3rd April - Start of Ramadan

Monday 4th April - Entries for our Easter bonnet/ basket parade to be brought into nursery

Wednesday 6th April - Easter Bonnet/ basket parade at nursery

Friday 8th April - Friday 22nd April - Nursery closed for term time only children (grant)

Friday 15th April - Nursery closed Good Friday

Monday 18th April - Nursery closed bank holiday Monday

Tuesday 19th April - Nursery reopens - normal times

Monday 25th April - Nursery Menu changes to summer menu

Monday 25th April - Nursery reopens to grant children following the Easter holidays

Thursday 28th April - Parents Evening- starts at 5.10pm. Please book your appointment with a staff member in your child's room

Friday 29th April - International dance day

Important Notices

A reminder as of Friday 1st April 2022 nursery fees increase. All parents have received a letter regarding increase in fees. Please amend your payments accordingly and change any direct debit/ voucher payments to reflect the changes. Thank you

Mobile Phones

Can we please remind parents not to use their mobile phones when on the nursery premises. Due to safeguarding mobile phone usage is not allowed in all areas of the nursery as they have cameras and some conversations are not always suitable for children to hear. We also feel that this is a valuable time to communicate with staff about your child and mobile phones can be a distraction. Thank you

Have a great month all!!

Staff Team at Little Swans 😊