

We are all feeling very festive at the nursery, the children seem very excited and we thrive on their enthusiasm. We are busy doing lots of Christmas crafts, singing and baking. Unfortunately, our annual family Christmas party cannot be held this year due to Coronavirus. However, the children will be having a Christmas party in their rooms on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December; we have a very special guest making an appearance and he is extremely busy this time of year, as I'm sure you can imagine! The children have made their very own post box for Christmas cards, it is in their room if your child would like to post any cards to give to friends at nursery. As you will know the nights are getting very dark and the car park is very busy at pick-up times. Could you please give extra attention to those who may be walking with children to cars or walking home? We have recently had new lights installed outside the pre-school unit. Asma (from the Jelly Baby room) will be leaving us in December to start her maternity leave; we wish her all the luck and we will keep you posted of any news!

**Our Topic at nursery for the Autumn Term is.....  
'Celebrations and festivals'.  
The book for this month is 'How many quacks till  
Christmas?'**

Find out what we are up to on a daily basis by following



us on **TWITTER**; search for swansyardley. Or go to our nursery website and read our room blogs or learn about future events on [www.littleswans.org.uk](http://www.littleswans.org.uk)

## Heroes News

This month Heroes will be engaging in lots of Christmas activities such as making cards, crackers, Christmas tree decorations, Christmas biscuits and calendars. The children will be performing their Christmas nativity which will be performed in Nursery on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December and filmed for parents. If your child does not usually attend this day please drop them at nursery for 9.45am and collect them by 11.15am. The Heroes will be focusing on their 3D shapes and learning about the letters in their name and using magnetic letters to try and spell their names. In addition, children will be working on their pencil control and giving meaning to the marks they make on their paper. For example, mark making letters to Santa. The Heroes children have made a fantastic advent calendar display which they will be looking at daily; recognising numbers and counting how many remaining doors until Christmas.

## Rolos & Sweeties News

This month Rolos and Sweeties will be doing lots of fun Christmas activities, such as making Christmas cards, crackers calendars and placemats. The children will be practicing their Christmas songs and Makaton signs for their Christmas production. Children will be learning how to use their tripod grip by writing letters to Santa and using their communication skills to tell their friends what they have written. The children will then post these in their very own post box that they made using cardboard and a variety of craft resources. The staff will be providing lots of cooking activities for the children which will provide them with opportunities for them to develop their listening and attention skills, weighing (comparing quantities) and discussing what happens to ingredients before and after they are heated. The children have made a fantastic advent calendar display which they will be looking at daily; recognising numbers and counting how many remaining doors until Christmas. Please can Sweeties and Rolo's children come in a Christmas jumper for their Christmas production (9.45am-11.15 am for children who do not usually attend Nursery on this day) on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

## Smarties News

It is nearly the end of the year but Smarties still have a busy month before they break up for Christmas. We will be doing lots of creative activities to make things such as Christmas hats, cards and tree decorations. Staff will also continue to develop children's confidence and independence with toilet training and learning to put their coats and hats on. The smarties children will also be working on their communication and language skills, through various activities such as answering questions during story time or answering open ended questions from staff in relation to the activities that they are engaging in. We will be learning about shapes and using shape sorters and shape templates to help us. Another area we are really working hard on is our sensory exploration. We will be experimenting our play and exploring skills using resources such as rice, pasta and spaghetti. In addition, we will be mixing colours using food colouring into the rice, pasta and spaghetti to anticipate what might happen. We will also be developing our problem-solving skills with activities such as a dinosaur hunt where the children have to work out how to get the dinosaur out of the trap. Staff have really enjoyed watching the children grow and develop in Smarties this term and we will see you all in the new year

## Jelly Babies

This month in Jelly Babies we shall be adding some Christmas fun into our activities. We will be making our Christmas crackers, place mats, baubles and Christmas cards; children will be taking these home to show you! In the Jelly Baby room we have our advent calendar which babies have created through their messy and sensory play activities. This month we will be joining in group activities such as singing, we will be using singing spoons (wooden spoons with paintings of nursery rhymes on) for the children to select. The group will then sing the nursery rhyme which the child has selected while using their Makaton signs with the support of the staff. The baby children will also be exploring their outdoor area using a variety of resources such as the balls, push along toys and the large sit in cars. Staff will be setting up mirror play using a variety of resources such as the mirrored blocks, mirrored balls, silver foil and mirrored stones. The mirror play will provide children a variety of learning opportunities such as encouraging them to say single words such as their name, body parts they can see etc. In addition, staff will extend this and place Christmas decorations into the sensory bottles for the younger children to explore the shiny materials, baubles and tinsel. Staff will be setting up problem solving activities for the children such as the ball ramp and object permanence boxes. Staff have really enjoyed watching the children grow and develop in baby room this term and we will see you all in the new year.

## Upcoming Events and Dates

### December Dates for your Diary

- **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas dinner for all children.
- **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December:** Heroes Christmas production 10-11am (being filmed for parents)
- **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December:** EYFS assessment online tracker sent home to parents **AND** parents to hand in presents to staff that will be from Father Christmas (given to children on party day). We kindly ask that presents are clearly labelled with child's name, no bigger than A4 size and no more than 5 spend.
- **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December:** Rolos Christmas production 10-11am (being filmed for parents)
- **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas party day for the children in Nursery
- **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December:** Last day for term time (grant children) only children before the Christmas holiday starts.
- **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas jumper week in Nursery.
- **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December-** Nursery will be closing at 12.15 and Nursery will re-open on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021!

### Drop in SENCO Session

Rose is the nursery's setting-based SENCO and will be offering parents and staff a drop-in session (ring the nursery on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 10am until 11am. *This session provides you with the opportunity to seek advice if you have any concerns regarding your child's development or would like information about other professionals and their services in the local community.*

### Notice for Parents

- Jelly Babies parents can you please make sure that you label all of the child's belongings such as their coat, shoes, food supplies etc. ....
- Please speak to management if you cannot access the learning journal site as we send important messages via this portal.
- Pre School parents can you please ensure your child is wearing suitable footwear for the weather, such as shoes with good soles as the wet weather makes the outdoor areas slippery.
- Can we please remind all parents to bring in their child's water bottle each day filled with fresh drinking water. These will be refilled throughout the day and sent home at the end of each day to be cleaned.
- Please make sure that your child brings in a Nursery bag with them each day as they may have letters, or creations they have made to go inside. It is also essential that they have a pair of spare clothes as children can have accidents, get messy or wet!

### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PARENTS!!**

#### **Christmas Payments**

As you are aware the nursery closes for a week at Christmas.

This week is still payable as stated in your contract.

**Therefore two weeks fees will be due on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020.** This will cover the following weeks:

**Week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> December – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021** Payments will be as normal from Friday 8th January 2021

Parents who pay their childcare fees directly to the nursery through BACS/ voucher payments **do not need to amend their payment dates. Thank you**

#### **Coronavirus notice for parents**

- Thank you to all parents who have been wearing face masks when dropping or collecting their child from nursery. If you have not been wearing a face mask then we would appreciate your cooperation going forward with this as we are using this as a measure to avoid transmission of the infection when you are bringing/ dropping your child into nursery.
- Please could all parents stick to the dropping off times in the morning.  
**Drop off times are the following:**  
Smarties and Pre School - 7.30am, 8.30am, 9am and 9.30am  
Jelly Babies - 7.40am, 8.40am, 9.10am and 9.40am
- Please could parents continue to ring the Nursery if your child is ill so that we can monitor illness. If your child is showing any signs of coronavirus they will need to isolate for 10 days or get a coronavirus test.

**Thank you for your continued support to keep everyone safe.  
May we take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and  
Best wishes for 2021**