

We are looking forward to another exciting half term filled with new learning opportunities, even if they are virtual for some of our families who have chosen to isolate at home!



The children and staff miss you all and are looking forward to seeing you when you return (a staff member per room will be recording an interactive video for the learning journal area so children still have a sense of belonging at Nursery). This half-term we will be looking at the story 'The Gruffalo's Child'. The children will participate in Valentine's Day activities. There will be art and craft activities related to the Valentine's Day theme. We will be discussing the emotion "love" with the children and ways of showing people we love them; children will identify the heart symbol. In addition the older children will discuss how to keep their heart healthy. We will be sending weekly learning on the learning journal site to reflect the learning taught in Nursery rooms so please log in and have a look out for activities. We kindly remind all parents it is essential to phone nursery if your child will not be attending for any reason especially during the current pandemic.

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

'The Environment'

The book for this month is:

'The Gruffalo and The Gruaffalo's child'

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

Heroes News

This month the children in the Heroe's room have been interested in 'construction' so staff are going to follow the children's interest and they will be setting up activities around this theme. The children will be making their own construction plans, talking about different types of building and looking at different occupations such as a builder/construction builder. The Heroes will be making their own Valentines decoration which will be used to decorate their room. The children will be baking Valentines biscuits and talking in detail about our feelings and who is special to us and why. We would like to thank all of the parents for engaging in the weekly phonics sheet with your child at home and giving us verbal feedback in relation to their progress.

Rolos & Sweeties News

This month the Rolos and Sweeties will be exploring the role play area as a love potion making area. They will be encouraged to use mathematical language, recognise numbers, use a tripod grip to write their ingredients and explore different textures and materials. The children will be using a variety of crafts to make their own interpretation of Valentine's Cards and will be using wool to weave hearts. We will be using a love bear by putting a note inside about who we love and why. The children will be using hoola hoops and fabric to make a dragon for Chinese New Year. They will carry this activity out in the garden where they have the space to move around; the children will also use scissors to make Chinese lanterns. The Rolos and Sweeties will be engaging in different cooking activities such as making heart pizzas, heart biscuits, valentine's cupcakes and also pancakes for Pancake Day. We will be focusing on the book of the month 'The Gruffalo' and the children will be using the animals to play in the coloured spaghetti to re-enact the story. We hope you are all keeping safe and well and would like to thank you all for being so co-operative.

Smarties News

In February the Smarties will be participating in Valentine's Day activities and will be making cards for their families to take home. We will be making heart shaped cookies and pizzas. This will provide the children with learning opportunities to follow instructions, explore ingredients and to encourage children to learn new vocabulary. The Smarties will be using shapes for a purpose as they will be using junk materials to create models of their choice. The Smarties will be learning about the world around them and growth as they will be planting Daffodils in the garden. In addition they will be going for a sound walk in our outdoor area. Smarties will also be using their new plastic sensory bottles to explore a variety of materials and they will use these to make shakers.

Jelly Babies

This month the Jelly Babies will be enjoying fruit printing using fruits and coloured paint to create marks. The Jelly Babies will be experimenting with marks using different tools such as sponges, star bursts, cars, balls and Duplo which they will use to make their Valentine's Day cards for family members. In addition, we will be making biscuits and using different coloured icing Jelly Babies will also be working on their fine motor skills using the soft play which will support them to walk up and down steps and enhance their balance. The staff will also encourage the Jelly Babies to look at printed materials by setting up a cosy corner with a tent, teddies and dolls as well as sensory books.

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 25th February 11am until 12pm)

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

- 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.
- We would kindly ask that if your child is toilet training then you provide plenty of changes of underwear, socks and joggers or leggings.
- We ask that all parents and visitors using our car park, park their vehicles in the designated parking bays; do not park across three spaces or drop off right outside the main entrance. This causes congestion and danger to children and their families.
- We will be encouraging the children to use outdoors, so please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately with hats, gloves and scarves in order to benefit from all weather experiences as the opportunities arise.
- Can we remind all our parents that if your child needs medication during their time at nursery please ensure all medicines are clearly named and are in date. In addition you will also need to fill out the relevant medication form. Thank you.

Grant codes:

Please remember to re-refresh your grant code so that it is still valid for next term all 30 hours need to be validated by 31st March 2021.

Speak to Samatha Tranter
(sam@littleswans.org.uk)
if you are unsure how to do this.

Upcoming Events and Dates

February Dates for your Diary

- **Friday 12th February: Chinese New Year** – Children will be participating in activities to learn about this festival.
- **Friday 12th February:** Half term starts for our term time only children
- **Monday 22nd February:** Nursery starts again for our term time only children
- **Thursday 25th February:** End of month staff meeting, children will need to be collected by 4.45pm

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
- From Monday 1st Feb pre-school will have designated pick up times (a letter has already been sent to pre-school parents) These will be: **3.30pm, 4pm, 4.30pm, 5pm, 5.30pm and 5.55pm.**
- Please could parents continue to ring the Nursery if your child is ill or a contact in your bubble 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. If a person in your bubble including your child has gone for a test then it is important you contact the nursery prior to bringing your child in and speak with a member of the management team.

Thank you for your continued support to keep everyone safe.