


NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2023

Little Swans Day Nursery
February 2023

Welcome to our February Newsletter. We can't believe it is February already! January has passed by in the blink of an eye and spring will be here before we know it. The children will be taking part in lots of  fun activities this month as we celebrate Valentine's Day and Pancake Day. The staff have planned lots of different activities to support the children's learning both indoors and outdoors as we hope to see an improvement in the weather and spend more time outdoors.

Follow us on  TWITTER, search for swansyardley and Facebook. Or go to our nursery website www.littleswans.org.uk

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

Nursery Topic This Term is The Environment

Rolos News

We are looking forward to a busy fun filled month in Rolos!

Our colour of the month is Pink, and we will be doing lots of activities based around Pink, such as mixing red and white paint to make pink, pink cornflour play, making pink playdough, icing biscuits with pink icing and printing pink hearts. We will also have our colour table in the porch and would encourage you to help your child find something pink from home to bring in for the table. These items will be returned when we choose our new colour in March.

For Valentine's Day we will be making jam tarts. We are also creating a heart display for our window. The children will be making Valentine's Day cards using tissue paper and drawing what they love inside a heart so we can talk about it during circle time. We will also be making friendship bracelets for our friends.

For Pancake Day, the children will be making their own pancakes and choosing their toppings. They will be measuring the ingredients and mixing them together then watching them cook in a pan.

We will be continuing with our library visits this month and weather permitting visiting the park again.

Smarties/Jelly Tots News

The Smarties and Jelly Tots staff will be focussing on developing the children's next steps as the new children have now settled into the room. We will continue to learn the room routine with the help of our busy board.

The children will be given opportunities to express their emotions to fit in with children's mental health week. The staff will work with the children to ensure that they feel happy and safe. This will be incorporated into our PSED activities.

We will be celebrating Valentine's Day with lots of fun activities such as Valentine's Day cards, making heart shaped biscuits and creating a rose out of tissue paper for someone special in the child's life.

We will also be learning about the different people who help us as the children have shown an interest in the ambulances that drive past the nursery with their sirens on. The children and staff have been talking about their hospital experiences during circle time. The children really showed an interest in these conversations, so we are setting up a role play hospital for them to explore.

We will continue to focus on learning our shapes and will be making sun catchers out of shapes.

To develop the children's language and communication skills, we will be talking to the children about what they want to be when they grow up with the help of pictures.

The children have really enjoyed our cooking activities and we will be cooking most weeks. Can all Jelly Tots parents please ensure that bags/coats/bottles etc are labelled.

Jelly Babies News

Hi all, we have a very busy month planned in the Baby Room. We have decided that we are going to have a messy February and our teachers have planned lots of messy activities such as painting our reflections on the mirrors and using wall paper across the baby room to make tracks in paint using different vehicles.

We will also be doing our hand and footprints as we have all grown so much since we did them last and our new friends who have joined Jelly Babies can make theirs too 😊

We will be continuing to develop our gross motor skills and exploring different ways of moving using tunnels, large boxes and large play equipment outside with help from our teachers.

We have also remembered that this month we make our special cards to celebrate the people we love and who take care of us. We are not telling you what we will be making as it is a surprise!

We have so much planned that it won't all fit in the box so keep on checking our day sheets to see what we have been up to.

Heroes News

We would like to say a big well done to all of the new children who have settled in really well to the Heroes Room!

We have a fun filled month ahead where we will be celebrating Valentine's Day and Pancake Day. Our colour of the month is Pink and the children will be exploring pink foam with glitter, sequins and paint. We will also be making pink binoculars.

To celebrate Valentine's Day, the children will be writing love letters to someone they love and talking about who we love and why during circle time. We will be making valentine's day cards using tissue paper and paint. We will also be making love heart shaped Brownies.

For pancake day, the children will be making their own pancakes and choosing their own toppings. We will be watching a video on how pancakes are made and pretending to make their own pancakes in the home corner. We will also be using the paint to create our own pancakes. The children enjoy being creative and will be making some bubble printing artwork this month by dipping bubble wrap in pink paint and then using it to make marks on the paper. We will also be doing some junk modelling this so we would appreciate any donations of toilet roll/kitchen roll tubes and boxes.

Have a great month!!

Sweeties News

This month the Sweeties will be learning all about the role of a Dentist. We have turned our role play area into a dental surgery where the children will be encouraged to explore the Dentist's tools, act out the job role and learn ways to look after our teeth and keep them clean. This will link in with the Startwell character "Smiley Shen".

For Valentine's Day we will be drawing pictures of what we love and sharing them during circle time. We will be making our own Valentine's cards, using materials of our choice and creating Love Bugs using play dough, pipe cleaners and beads. We will be mixing colours using paints and flowers and writing our own love letters by tracing over letters. We will also be listening to stories about love during our Library visits.

As pancake day is approaching, the children will be designing their own pancake using pictures of their favourite toppings to stick on a pancake template. We will also be making our own yummy pancakes to enjoy.

The children will use the playdough to make pancakes using the rollers and cutters then using their fingers to draw different feelings on to them such as happy and sad.

During outdoor play, the children will be taking part in lots of fun activities such as racing, playing football, moving like animals, bowling and badminton.

We will also be visiting Oaklands park, where the children will learn about and observe different natural materials.

Staff Holidays

Alisha 10th- 23rd February

Charlie 1st February

Elle 2nd February

Sairish 27th and 28th February

Shaida 10th and 24th February

Yousra 6th, 7th and 8th February

SEN Drop-in Session

Dee will be holding her regular SEN drop in session on Tuesday 28th February at 10am. This is a great opportunity for parents to discuss any concerns they may have around their child's development. You can also call Dee on the nursery mobile 07597494216

Staff News

Elle will be leaving us on March 8th to start her maternity leave. We wish her well and lots of luck with the baby! Andrea will be staying in Sweeties and taking over Elle's Key children. The children in Sweeties are all familiar with Andrea.

Preschool - Sweeties, Rolos and Heroes

Phonic Programme

Jolly Phonics

Jolly Phonics is a comprehensive programme, based on the proven, fun, and multi-sensory synthetic phonics method that gets children reading and writing from an early age. This means that we teach letter sounds as opposed to the alphabet. Children will learn a new letter every two weeks the programme starts with the letters **s a t i p n**, and this will be the focus for the Spring term (Phonics is planned term time only). Each class will have a letter station which will display the letter the children are learning. For homework children will be encouraged to find an item that represents the letter sound they are learning such as a toy snake for **S**.

Week One of learning will consist of using a multi-sensory approach for the letter sound using fun actions, stories, and songs.

Week Two Letter formation, children will be supported with pencil control activities and will learn to form and write the letter using sensory activities and using their fingers to trace the formation of the letter in the air.

At the start of the next week children will recap on the previous letter sound they have learnt and then continue onto the next sound.

More information will be provided to parents through a phonics information sheet prior to children starting the phonics work at nursery.

Parent Messages

Can we please remind parents to call the nursery to report when your child will be absent from nursery. It is important that we know if your child is not in and the reason why. When staff have to call to chase up absences, it is taking them away from spending valuable time with the children.

If you are applying for a 30 hour funding code for the summer term, you must apply to HMRC before 31st of March 2023 and provide nursery with the code. Parents who are already in receipt of funding must refresh their code with HMRC before 31st March to remain eligible. This is the responsibility of parents not nursery. Please note that without a valid funding code, parents will be liable for any fees incurred.

Can we please remind parents that any pushchairs left on the nursery premises must be folded down and stored in the corner by the front gate. Please DO NOT put pushchairs in front of the Fire Exit.

As our carpark can become very busy, for the children's safety can parents please ensure that they are holding their child's hand to ensure that they are not running around.

Thank you 😊

Important Dates for February

Tuesday 14th February

Valentine's day
Safer Internet Day

Friday 17th February

Grant children break up for half term

Tuesday 21st February

Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday)

Monday 27th February

Grant children return to nursery

Preschool (Heroes, Rolos and Sweeties) will continue with their park and library visits, your child's keyperson will inform you of the dates.

Have a great month all !!!