

Hi everyone, last month seen lots of changes at the nursery regarding room alterations and children moving areas. We are now into our third week and children are settling well in all areas.

Now that things are settling down and covid restrictions have been lifted we feel it is the right time to think about getting the preschool out and about back into the community. Therefore, we will be asking the library if we can start back with our story sessions and also visits to the local park etc.

Staff meeting the last Thursday of every month - can parents/carers please make sure all children are picked up by no later than 4.45pm. This month's meeting will be Thursday 24th February.

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

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

Rolos News

This month in Rolos we are going to be learning about Chinese New Year. It is the year of the tiger. We will be using our creative skills to make paper lanterns by cutting along guided lines and designing them, using different coloured paint. We will also be making money envelopes, using red card, glue and felt tip pens to draw Chinese designs. We have started to watch videos of dragon dancing and are going to be performing our own dragon dance to our teachers.

As Valentine's Day is coming up, we are going to be learning about what love means. During circle time we will talk about feelings, about who we love and how we can express that feeling. We will be designing our own Valentine's Day cards, using materials of our choice. We will be matching heart shaped patterns that we have made ourselves and going on a heart shape hunt in the garden, identifying and matching the shapes we find.

We will also be creating our own love potions using water, food colouring, sequins, glitter, felt and pom poms.

Smarties News

Children are settling well into their new area. We would just like to remind all parents and carers that childrens coats need to be on their pegs and bags outside on the rack (taking anything out your child may need during the day such as water bottle and nappies and hand to a staff member) before your child comes upstairs to their room, each time they attend. Can you also wash their hands if your child arrives during breakfast time, before handing them over to the staff member. Can you please ensure your child's coat goes onto the correct named peg as this is causing confusion for staff looking for coats later in the day.

This month the Smarties will be celebrating the Chinese New Year with lots of exciting activities. We will be making lots of colourful lanterns and also masks resembling a tiger as this year is the year of the tiger. To link in with this our book of the month will be 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'.

On the 4th February it is National Wear Red Day. Can all parents, if possible, dress your child in something red for the day. We will also be celebrating Valentine's Day, again doing lots of creative activities such as Valentine's Day cards, cooking heart shaped biscuits as well as salt dough heart garlands.

To help to settle the children further in this group we will be taking part in role play and small group discussions with the childrens key person, talking about how they are feeling. Within these groups the children will be learning the names of their new friends. We will be pairing a new child with a child in the room who can help the new child with the daily routine. We will be talking about behaviour, rules and boundaries and explaining to the children how they can receive stickers on their high fives, such as helping to tidy up and using their good listening ears.

Jelly Babies News

Can parents please make sure you hang your child's coat up on their named peg and not another child's peg as this is getting very confusing when putting coats on to go outside, Thank you.

This month the Jelly Babies will be celebrating Valentine's Day by taking part in many different activities.

Firstly, they will be creating Valentine's Day cards for their loved ones. They will be encouraged to choose from 2 pre made cards which they can re-create.

They will be making a healthy (is there any such thing!) rocky road cake which will be made from chocolate, marshmallows and heart shaped sprinkles.

They will also be decorating biscuits using different coloured icing sugar and sprinkles, and a carrot cake to take home for you all to enjoy.

As part of our looking after house plants and plants in general our babies will be planting a sunflower seed. These will go home where you can share the experience of showing your child how to care for the seedling once it starts to grow.

During creative play the babies will be decorating a special heart using card, tissue paper, sequins and glitter and these will go home to give to someone special.

Happy Chinese New Year!

This month the babies will be celebrating the year of the tiger and will be creating their own Chinese lantern using many different materials of their choice.

They will also be tasting Chinese food such as noodles, prawn crackers, veg stir fry and fortune cookies.

The babies will be listening to Chinese music, dancing and clapping to the rhythm.

The babies will be finding tigers in different activities such as in sand play, in the play area and during water play.

They will also be making tiger masks, using different coloured paints.

Jelly Tots News

Welcome to the month of February at Little Swans nursery. The term has got off to a busy start as we continue to settle the new children into the Jelly Tots room. They are doing well and getting to know their new friends which is nice to see.

It is Chinese New Year and the year of the tiger. To celebrate this the children will be making a Chinese drum and later we will make music with them during music and dance time. To make the drums the children will use paper plates string and beads.

They will also make stripey hand prints which will turn into a tiger.

We will be making colourful lanterns, using black card and tissue paper.

The story of the month is... The Tiger Who Came to Tea. Through the book the children will be exploring many different activities. As with all our curricular activities, the children can take the story in any direction using their imagination to learn and develop. A few of the activities the children will be involved with are; sequencing the story using picture card, making tiger pictures using the paint, role play pretending to be a tiger, wearing a tiger mask, which the children will make. The children will also extend their vocabulary by learning new words and using them in their everyday play.

This month is also Valentine's Day, the month of love. To celebrate this, we will be making Valentine's Day cards for someone special. We will be baking some love hearts and something nice... it's a surprise.

Alongside all of our activities we will continue to learn our colours, numbers 1-10 by counting objects and toys, shapes 2D, stories and dancing as well as having lots of fun singing our favourite nursery rhymes.

Heroes News

Grant Children - Can parents/carers please wait at the main gate and Zanera will let the children in at 9am each morning and you can sign them in with Zanera on the gate. To take effect from Wednesday 2nd February 2022.

This month the Heroes are learning about Chinese New Year. The children will start by making tiger masks, as it is the year of the tiger. We will also be making lanterns using lots of different collage material and the children will use scissors for cutting out and round shapes.

We will be using chop sticks to eat our food and the children will be helping to make spring rolls using filo pastry and vegetables.

We will be focusing on what makes us different. Recently the children have been talking about their personal facial features, colour of their skin and eyes as well as what colour hair they have and if it is straight or curly. We have decided to start a display board called "All About Me". We will be having circle time discussions about what makes us different and will be dressing up in different costumes and talk about occupations.

We will be using paper plates and materials such as string, paint and felts to make self-portraits. We are asking parents for any family pictures that they can bring into nursery to go on the display board. We will also be reading stories about why we are all special.

And as this month is also Valentine's month, we will be taking part in Valentine's activities. The children will be making special cards to take home for a loved one. We will be doing some cooking too, learning to follow simple instructions and use our gross motor skills.

We will be reading stories on Valentine's Day and talk about what Valentine means.

This month we will focus on Jolly Phonics, learning to pronounce letters and finding the initial sound in different words.

Please help your child to recognise the letter their name begins with, as this is what we will be practicing.

As well as these activities we are also learning about healthy eating; Startwell, joining in with art work, learning to use different materials/ tools, learning to share our toys, learning to talk about different textures and speak about feelings and why we feel the way we feel e.g., happy, sad, excited, worried and confused.

PARENT NOTICES

Staff annual leave for this month

Smarties: Rafhit - Monday 14th and Wednesday 23rd

Jelly Tots: Sairish - Thursday 17th, Friday 18th and Monday 28th

Smarties coats and bags. Can parents please make sure before going up the stairs to your child's room that coats are on pegs and bags are out on the rack. Anything in the bag such as nappies and wipes etc please bring up the stairs with you.

Before taking your child to the room please wash their hands ready for breakfast if you are in first thing.

Heroes - would like copies of some family photos for their display board as soon as possible please.

Heroes 9am Grant Children - Can parents please wait at the main gate and Zanera will let the children in at 9am each morning and you can sign them in with Zanera on the gate. To take effect from Wednesday 2nd February 2022

February Dates for your Diary

Friday 4th February - 'National Wear Red Day'. All children in attendance can wear something red on this day.

Monday 7th February - Valentine's activities all week for the children in all areas

Tuesday 15th February - Chinese New Year art and craft activities for the children in all areas

CO - Vid Update

Again, a Massive Thank you to everyone who has been understanding and supportive last month due to staff isolating and this impacting on our child/ adult ratios. We understand that it has been disruptive for children who have not been able to attend nursery due to this. Please be assured that we are trying are very best to prevent closures of areas due to staffing, however in some cases this has been unavoidable. We are aware that some children have missed their free hours at nursery due to Co- Vid, however due to this having an impact across the country on the majority of Early Years settings the government have announced the following ***"hours missed due to nonattendance as a result of Co-vid pressures of managing staff absences and with rising cases of COVID-19 and staff having to isolate, is proving to be a challenging situation, so provision to make up lost hours will not be required in these specific circumstances related to COVID"***. Therefore additional hours to make up hours lost will not be offered on this occasion when children return back to nursery.

A reminder of the testing procedure for under 5's: If your child tests positive for Co-Vid 19 then you must inform the nursery as soon as possible. The nursery no longer needs to close areas where children have tested positive. Your child must isolate for 10 days, however if they test negative on a lateral flow test on day 6 and then 24 hours later on day 7 they can return back to nursery and stop isolating on day 8. These procedure also applies to our staff team where staff have been double vaccinated.