

HAPPY NEW YEAR! A warm welcome back to all our parents and children, we hope you had a lovely Christmas and a relaxing break. We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new families to the Nursery ;over the next few weeks we will spend this time concentrating on welcoming back former children and settling new children who have moved to a new Nursery room. Our objective led planning allows for lots of free play which helps children to become accustomed to their new surroundings and establish new routines with us. We really appreciate your parental observations, photographs and videos; as they really do support your child's learning journey and encourage you to send them in as often as you can. Many of your child's important learning experiences occur away from nursery at home. Parental observations will give us important information about your child's interests, experiences and developmental progress which we can use alongside our observations of your child to support their learning journey. If you haven't activated your learning journal site please do so, each child has their own personal learning journey and it will be great for you to keep up to date with their learning process (please email Sam or Rose who can add/ re-set your login details: rose@littleswans.org.uk sam@littleswans.org.uk). This is where notifications and important messages are also sent. Please ensure that you keep us updated of any changes to telephone numbers, addresses, emergency contacts and email addresses, so we can always ensure effective contact with you.

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

'The Environment'

**The book for this month is:
'We're Going On a Bear Hunt'**

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 Heroes will be introduced to phonics and looking at different letters each week and doing activities based around that letter. For example, making spiders for the letter sound 's'. If children find an object at home that starts with the letter sound of the week please feel welcome to upload a photo of this on your child's learning journal. The Heroes will be learning about farm animals and what the animals eat, they will also be looking at a variety of vegetables and how these grow. The Heroes role-play area will be transferred into a farm shop and the children will engage in imaginative play, recognising numbers on the till/coins and children will count how many items they are buying. This month the book of the month is 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' so we will be making a bear hunt story map and re-telling parts of the story. In addition, children will be making their own binoculars which will then be displayed on the Heroes board..

Rolos & Sweeties News

This month Rolos and Sweeties will be learning their letter sounds during circle time and they will concentrate on a letter sound a week. This will involve the children learning how to pronounce the letter sound, learning the action (jolly phonics) to support the sound and a rhyme to help the children remember how to write the letter. The children will look at a variety of objects and discuss which letter sound they start with. If children find an object at home that starts with the letter sound of the week please feel welcome to upload a photo of this on your child's learning journal site.

The children will be making 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' storyboard display using props to make paws and faces. The children will be learning about the different healthy startwell characters and engaging in activities based around them such as learning about healthy food choices, exercising and talking about portion sizes. The children will also be using the role-play area which will be turning into a veterinary surgery (following children's interests). In addition children will be using materials such as blue material etc to act out the story of the month.

Smarties News

It is nice to see everyone back after the Christmas break. We have a fun and busy month in Smarties as we not only have new children joining us but children that have moved up to our room. This month will be focus on supporting children to settle, make friends and form relationships with staff. This term personal, social and emotional development will run through all of our activities that are set up. Smarties children will be working in small groups with their key-person to develop their confidence to speak within a group. In these small groups children will be encouraged to talk about their family members, pets, homes and what they like doing. Children will also be setting up food tasting activities to encourage children to try different foods. This activity will allow staff to observe children's likes and dislikes in food. Within the Understanding of the World subject element staff will encourage children to look at themselves in the mirror and discuss features they can see and what makes them the same or different to their friends. The children will be provided with a variety of creative materials so that they can make their own self-portrait.

Jelly Babies

This month in babies we will be exploring different sensory activities. For example, the babies will explore different objects placed in zip locker bags (paint, sequins, water, materials and food colouring). The babies will be pointing to their reflections in the large mirrors and will use colourful paints to mark make on the mirrors. The babies will be painting on paper plates and explore different creative materials. The babies will use their senses and explore outside in the sandpit; babies will experiment filling and emptying containers with sand. The plastic animals will also be added to the sandpit for the babies to use within their play; burying in the sand, making animal sounds and looking at footprints the animals make.

The babies will also wash the dolls and brush their hair which will encourage the babies to learn to use their kind hands. The babies will be taking part in table top printing using colourful paints and stampers. The baby room staff will encourage the babies to use simple words through activities such as singing and having 'simple conversations' during their play.

Upcoming Events and Dates

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 28th January 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

- Please can parents 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 you ring the Nursery if your child is not attending so we know where they are.
- 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!

January Dates for your Diary

Monday 4th January 2021- Children return to Nursery after the Christmas break.

Friday 15th January 2021 -Please note the national closing date for primary school **Reception class** applications is (11:59pm) on 15 January 2021.

Monday 18th January 2021- Children's revised/new next steps flowers will be sent home to parents.

Letter sound of the week:

The pre-school unit (Sweeties, Rolos and Heroes children) will have a sound a week that staff will concentrate on with the children. This will be written on their learning journal story and a sheet will be sent home highlighting the action to help the children remember the sound.

Jolly Phonics sounds overview

Set 1 -(s, a, t, p)	
04/01/21	s- learn rhyme/sound
11/01/21	a- learn rhyme/sound
18/01/21	t- learn rhyme/sound
25/01/21	p- learn rhyme/sound
01/02/21	s, a, t, p recap all sounds
08/02/21	s, a, t, p recap all sounds

Paid Dance lessons:

Creative flair dance lessons will be paused until further notice (the dance company will review this weekly).

Jenny (the owner) will be in contact with parents in relation to fees and when lessons will resume.

Coronavirus notice for parents

- A learning overview will be sent home weekly on the learning journal site which will highlight some of the activities that are set up in your child's room. These will be available incase your child is isolating etc at home so that they are still accessing their learning if they are not able to attend Nursery.
- 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/coronavirus cases in the home environment (family members who have tested positive etc). 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.