

Hi All, Welcome back after the festive period, we hope you all enjoyed your Christmas celebrations and wishing you a very happy 2022 ☺

The start of the term has been very interesting, we have not escaped the Omicron variant and already staff have tested positive resulting in staff shortages at the nursery. We are trying really hard to avoid closures, however if we are unable to maintain child / adult ratios we will have to ask parents to collect their child, or not bring them in. We are trying to do everything we can to prevent this, however sometimes it is unavoidable and we would like to thank you for your understanding. As always we have planned lots of lovely activities for the children this month. Have a great month all!!

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](http://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

Happy New Year Everyone! This month the Rolos will be focusing on activities around our book of the month 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. We will be making bear ears by drawing circles and painting them a chosen colour and then using our cutting skills to cut them out. We will be acting out the story by making props from the story such as the mud, river and cave. We will use cardboard, paint, tissue paper and glue to do this and any other chosen materials. We will also be making character puppets from the story using lollipop sticks and felt to support us in positioning the characters in the story. On the 10th January we will be doing activities around Houseplant as it is houseplant week. We will be planting our own plants and tending to them every day to support our learning about the life cycle of a plant. We will also be doing leaf painting and exploring the different textures of leaves in a sensory bin.

We ask if any parents at home have house plants could they please upload a photo onto the learning journal site as we can discuss them during circle time.

**Heroes and Rolos** will be starting their phonics programme from the this term 'Jolly Phonics'. Jolly Phonics is a fun and child centred approach to teaching literacy through synthetic phonics. With actions for each of the 42 letter sounds, the multi-sensory method is very motivating for children and teachers. The letters we will be focusing on this term are 'S,A,T,I,P,N'. Each week we will focus on one letter at a time we will be learning how to sound out the letter, recognising the letter in objects names and how to form the letter, using sensory activities as well as the traditional pencil and paper. There will be a message on the learning journals to inform parents of the letter we will be teaching that week. Parents can support their children's learning at home by providing opportunities for children to mark make and helping to teach their child to hold a pencil correctly using a tripod grasp. More information about Jolly Phonics can be found on the link below

[http://www.littleswans.org.uk/media/other/8087/Parents\\_GuidetoJollyPhonics.pdf](http://www.littleswans.org.uk/media/other/8087/Parents_GuidetoJollyPhonics.pdf)

## Smarties News

It is the beginning of another new term, we are all really excited and happy to be back after a short break. We have some new children starting in the Smarties room, children who are joining us from the Jelly Babies as well as children who are new to the nursery. To support those children with the transition we will be doing activities in smaller groups, so the children can become familiar with their key person, peers as well as the routine. The activities we will be modelling with help children as a whole with their relationships with others, interacting and becoming more aware of their feelings. We will also be incorporating activities to focus on communication such as stories, singing and role play which are favourite activities of a lot of the Smarties children. We will also be looking at gross motor skills, such as balance and large movements we can make with our bodies we will do this both indoors and outside using tunnels, tents and climbing frames. On the 18<sup>th</sup> January its 'Winnie the Pooh' day Smarties have decided to have a teddy bears picnic in recognition of this day. At the end of the month we will also be focusing on building structure to coincide with 'lego Day', building a variety of structures and towers using different materials, this will also link with Maths development such as counting, size and developing patterns.

This month we will also be doing lots of creative activities and getting messy using sensory experiences, we will be getting messy with cornflour, counting the fishes in the water as well as sand play and digging for hidden objects. All the activities including cooking provide the children with the opportunities to explore textures and develop their likes and dislikes through engagement of a variety of activities. The Smarties team will also be welcoming Amber this month. Amber is a qualified member of the staff team who has experience in other nurseries and working with 2 year olds.

## Jelly Babies News

Happy New Year ☺ To start the New Year the Jelly Babies will be planting and looking after a room plant as this month is national house plants week. We feel observing this week will help support the babies to develop their understanding of how we care for living things, by watering it daily and watching the plant grow over time. To enhance the learning and development staff will extend the activity by supporting children to be creative and mark make their own representation of a plant, using various colours of paints with their fingers and lolly pop sticks. Our book of the month is 'The Hungry Caterpillar'. We will be tasting different fruits and exploring a range of textures. The babies will also be making fruit skewers to take home using a selection of fruits including apples, oranges, pineapple, strawberries and pears. We will also be decorating different fruits cut outs printed on paper based from the book of the month as well as fruit printing onto paper. The babies will be given a variety of materials to explore and use to decorate their fruit such as tissue papers, newspaper, paints and cotton wool. We will also be making Jelly and exploring the Jelly to see what fruits we can find hidden, supporting hand and eye coordination. The babies will be reading many different stories with their friends and teachers. Staff will encourage turning of the pages in the book looking at the pictures and trying to name pictures. We will be having a teddy bears picnic where the babies will have a book tea party with their friends and teddies. This month we are wanting to focus on communication and personal, social and emotional development in the Jelly

## Jelly Tots News

Happy new year to everyone and welcome back to Jelly tots. This month we will be learning about different types of transport, as the children have shown interest in cars and trucks. We will be exploring different vehicles in a many ways; pushing them along the car mat, up and down the ramps, making marks using wheels and paint to name a few. The children will also listen to the sounds of transport when we are outside asking question such as "is that an ambulance", "is that the bus, beeping his horn". We will also ask Rafhit very nicely if we can stand and watch the vehicles from her big windows for a little while and talk about what we see. The children will also be provided with a large selection of creative materials to mark make, their creations will be displayed on our display boards for all children to see throughout the next month / term. As part of their maths development we will be focusing on recognising and naming 2d shapes as well as primary colours and counting to 10 by rote and beyond for some children. We will encourage learning through fun activities such as building and knocking down towers as well as using mealtimes to count plates and cups. This month we will continue promoting self-care skill such as washing and drying hands independently, and where children are ready encouraging toilet training. If you feel that your child is ready to start toilet training then please speak with Samya. Our book of the month is "we are going on a bear hunt" We will be using role play props to re-create the story outdoors. Staff will encourage children to use single words to support their development of their speech and repeat small phrases from the book as they become more familiar with it.

## Heroes News

Welcome back everyone, we hope you had a lovely break, it's lovely to have you all back.

This month the Heroes along with the Rolos will be introduced to Jolly Phonics at nursery.

We will be introducing Jolly Phonics and taking part in activities for the children to be familiar with the letters and sounds they pronounce in everyday practice such as literacy board games, mark making activities as well as magnetic letters to name a few. Please see the Rolos news section for more information on Jolly Phonics.

The children will be participating in lots of mark making activities this month, using a variety and tools and creative resources to capture their imaginations and to put their creative marks into the display work in the Heroes room.

As part of our Startwell work this month we will be promoting healthy eating choices and talking about food and what is good for our bodies. The children will be supported to discuss their favourite fruits and vegetables and provided with the materials to communicate this through mark making and displaying their choices for each other to see. To extend children's learning further the role play area will be available as a kitchen for the children to explore cooking utensils and role play food to make their favourite recipes, promoting communication as the children discuss amongst themselves what they are making and talk about the food they eat at home, sharing their experiences together. To continue to learning we will also extend to supermarkets. What we see in the shops, what we buy and using trolleys and baskets as well as mark making materials to pretend to go to the shops and to write shopping lists to take along with them, pretending to be customers and shop keepers. This activity will help the children with their mathematical skills, counting pretend money and putting the shopping away. To support learning at home parents can encourage children to participate in shopping, tick items of shopping lists and out items in the trolley as well as help putting the shopping away when they return home.

The children will also be cutting out different fruits and vegetable pictures and placing them on the correct side by playing the healthy and unhealthy game. The aim for this activity is for children to recognise the importance of healthy eating and how we can keep fit and well.

The Heroes will also be taking part in fun activities outdoors such as the big jenga blocks, bowling, throwing and catching skills and jumping jacks where we will place the hula hoops on the ground and children need to take steps and jumps to finish the obstacle courses, this will also support children's understanding of exercise and the effects this has on the body, such as increased heart rate.

## PARENT NOTICES

### Donations of resources:

This month we would appreciate any donations of Junk boxes, Toilet Rolls, egg boxes, Yoghurt pots etc... for the children to make decorations as well as junk model.

### Labelling:

Rolos staff would like to remind parents to label items of clothing and water bottles before Coming into Nursery. Thank you

### Collection and drop offs

A polite reminder to all parents to make sure they are using the intercom system before entering the building each day. Thank you

### Staffing / Room Changes:

Ambber will be starting in the Smarties room this month. She will be in nursery between 9.30-6pm each day, term time only. Ambber has previous experience working with 2 year olds. Welcome to the team Ambber☺

Taz has been working in Jelly Babies as an apprentice will be moving into the Rolos room to work alongside Elle and Robin.

## January Dates for your Diary

**10<sup>th</sup> January** - This week is Houseplant week. The children all have houseplant in their classroom which they are helping to take care off.

**20<sup>th</sup> January** - Today is penguin awareness day we will be doing some activities based on penguins with the children. We are also trying to arrange a visit from someone who takes care of penguins to talk with the children about this.

**27<sup>th</sup> January**- Monthly staff meeting nursery will close at 4.45pm, please ensure your child is collected by this time. Training will focus on child protection and safeguarding.

**Week of 31<sup>st</sup> January** - This week is story telling week. The children in Preschool will visit the library o have a look at the books and also borrow some books to bring back to nursery. Children are welcome to bring in a favourite book from hoe this week to share with their friends at storytime. Please make sure any books brought into nursery are labelled with your child's name.

## CO - Vid Update

Again a Massive Thank you to everyone who has been understanding and supportive so far this 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.