

Spring is almost upon us and we can't wait for all the activities we have planned including World Book Day and St Patrick's Day. We'll be holding an Easter Bonnet competition, there will be further details to follow. We hope you will all get involved and we look forward to seeing what amazing creations you make at home. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the last few weeks, as a nursery we have had to adapt to the world we are living in; the smaller bubbles are working extremely well.



It is essential that parents stick to their designated drop off times as the bubbles are smaller therefore staff are spread across the Nursery so they do not have the flexibility to leave their room in between drop off times. We hope that moving forward the smaller bubbles will mean less children will have to isolate if we have a case of coronavirus; we fully appreciate the disruption a bubble closure has. The children who have continued to attend nursery have coped fantastically and it is lovely that we are beginning to welcome back families who made the decision to isolate at home until schools returned in March. The children that have been at home have really engaged with home learning. This period has been unsettling for children of all ages (and most adults too!), but the resilience of the youngest members of nursery has really impressed us. It is thanks to the parents and carers at home that the children have managed so well. This month we have some lovely news to share with you; our qualified member of staff Asma who is currently on maternity leave has given birth to a beautiful baby boy on Saturday 27th Feb who weighed 6.4lb. However, our thoughts are with Asma and her family as she is still in hospital recovering. Emma our SEN support staff gave birth to a beautiful baby girl Myla Lillie on Tuesday 2nd March who weighed 7lbs 15oz. We also have another staff member to add to our ever growing 'Little Swans Mum to be' list..... Rose (Assistant Manager) who is 6 months pregnant and is due to give birth to her first child in June.

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

'The Environment'

The book for this month is:

'Monkey Puzzle'

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 in Heroes our role-play area is based on a jungle. We will be exploring where animals live. The Heroes will be making jungle hats using paper plates. They will be using one handed tools such as scissors to cut up the tissue paper and use glue to decorate them with animal prints. We will be engaging in sensory play with green play-dough and will be using rollers, cutters and animals to explore different sized footprints. The children will be exploring shapes in the soil and use the animals to find them. This year for Mother's Day children will be painting flower pots and planting seeds and learning how to look after a living thing. The children will be using Easter tissue paper to make their Easter hats and using materials to decorate their Easter baskets. We will be joining in for egg and spoon races for Sports Relief and will use bean bags to balance. We are learning new Makaton signs and our Startwell characters.

Rolos and Sweeties News

This month Rolos/Sweeties are going to be celebrating World Book Day by dressing up as our favourite characters and showing our friends our favourite books. We are going to be designing our own books by making marks and writing familiar letters that we have been learning. In addition, we are going to make our own book marks to take home using creative materials. It is Mother's Day this month and the children will be making Mother's Day cards and flowers to take home using cupcake cases, paint, tissue paper and straws. We are also going to learn about St Patrick's day and how it is celebrated, we are going to make our own hats using card, bowls and green tissue paper. In addition, we will also learn an Irish dance routine and make leaf biscuits. This month for Sports Relief we are going to be carrying out fun activities like egg and spoon race, obstacle courses and bean bag races.

Smarties and Jelly Tots News

The Smarties/Jelly Tots are going to have a busy month in March; the children will be learning to potty train, learning shapes and developing their self-help skills. The children will be learning about grouping objects in relation to category such as size or colour and will compare objects that are the same/different. The children will also be engaging in a variety of creative activities for Mother's Day and discussing why we love our Mums. The Smarties/Jelly Tots will be celebrating St David's day and will be invited to come to Nursery in something yellow and something green for St Patrick's Day which will help them recognise and learn colours. It is also World Book Day so the children can dress up as their favourite character. The Smarties will use the outdoors to take part in an Easter egg hunt and will be learning positional language to find the eggs.

Jelly Babies

This month in babies we are going to be joining in with a range of different messy play activities. We are going to be using coloured paints, children will be encouraged to identify the colours they are using, use a range of tools to create marks such as paint brushes, shaped sponges, fingers, hands, sticks, flowers and cars. The babies will also be joining in with our book of the month 'Monkey Puzzle', we are going to use role-play resources to re-create the story and staff will be encouraging children to use single words such 'mum' and 'book'. On World Book Day we will be using the tents to create a cosy reading corner to listen to different books and sit alongside our friends. We will also be making Mother's Day cards as well as flower printing and making cakes.

Upcoming Events and Dates

March Dates for your Diary

Monday 15th March- Sports Relief activity Week (**Thursday 18th March Sports Relief Day**)

Monday 15th March- Easter craft week in Nursery

Wednesday 17th March St Patricks Day- Children can come to Nursery dressed in green

Monday 22nd March- Holi festival activities in Nursery

Thursday 25th March- early closure (please collect children by 4.45pm) as it is end of month staff meeting. The meeting will be focused on safeguarding and child protection. Thank you

Thursday 1st April- Term time only children finish for Easter (Term starts again Monday 19th April)

Thursday 1st April- Easter bonnet parade (please bring in children's creations) within children's class bubbles. If your child does not attend this day they can bring in their bonnet to show their friends and teachers.

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 March 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.
- 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!
- Please can all parents adhere to 2m social distancing and wear a face mask while on the Nursery site.

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.

Set 2 -(i, n, m, d)	
22/02/21	i- learn rhyme/sound
01/03/21	n- learn rhyme/sound
08/03/21	m- learn rhyme/sound
15/03/21	d- learn rhyme/sound
22/03/21	i, n, m,d recap all sounds
29/03/21	i, n, m,d recap all sounds

Nursery learning journal site:

Please make sure you can access your child's online Nursery learning journal site as we use this as our main communication portal; your child's observations are also displayed there.

If you do not have an account please speak to a staff member in the Nursery office on 0121 7068889.

Coronavirus notice for parents

- We'd like to say a massive thank you to our hard working staff during these difficult times! They have all worked so incredibly hard to make nursery life as 'normal' as possible for the children throughout the pandemic. We'd also like to thank our amazing parents and carers for being so understanding and adhering to the COVID 19 procedures.
- 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.