

Hello All and welcome back after the Easter holidays.... Before the Easter break parents who have children going to reception in September 2019 should have now been informed of the school, their child has been allocated. Could you please inform your child's key person of their school so we can update our records and begin the transition process and preparation? Zoo Lab came into nursery last month and the children really enjoyed the visit, this month we have arranged for the children to take care of some baby chicks for two weeks. We did this last year and the children particularly watching the chicks hatch through the eggs and the taking care of them.



Our Topic at nursery for the Spring Term is..... 'All About me'. The book for this month is 'The Tiger who came for Tea'

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

During this month the Heroes will be starting to practice their leaver's assembly. The performance will be based on graduation and the journey we have been on at nursery with our friends and teachers. We have begun to look at the growing cycle and been doing some planting at nursery... have you seen are cucumber plants in the preschool room? We will be continuing this learning throughout May and will extend our learning as we look at the growth process with plants. As we are getting ready to leave nursery and go to school we will be talking about are new schools and which one we will be going too. To support the transition we will be visiting schools this term as well as trying on school uniform as part of our role play. We will be continuing to practice writing our names using different methods to support letter recognition and formation. We will also be keeping healthy through doing lots of exercise as part of our StartWell activities and learning about a healthy lifestyle and what this looks like.

Rolos News

This month in Rolos the children will be learning how to spell out their names aloud as well as begin to form letters using a variety of resources to support children using a tripod grasp and to build strength in their hands/ fingers, we will also be using name labels to support children recognising letters in their names. We will also be using objects in the environment to support phonic work and pronunciation of letters, such as letter stamps and magnetic letters that will also be available for children as part of our continuous provision so they can practice what they have learnt during their own play. As our book of the month is 'The Tiger who came for Tea', We have decided to extend this into learning about Jungle animals and making a display based on what the children learn through this topic as well as having a teddy bears picnic. To further support the children's learning we will be collecting different materials to use in our display in the local community such as twigs when we go to the forest school

Smarties & Sweeties News

This month **Sweeties** will be focusing on continuing to recognise their letters using the magnetic letters and letter stamps. We will use resources to encourage the children to match letters for example using their name cards to match the letter 'A' with a the letter 'A' in the magnetic letters. We will continue to extend letter recognition

Into everyday activities such as sensory play in the foam and sand. We will be learning about more shapes by counting how may sides they have and also using shape sorters in play to support the learning the children will experience at focus times. As the weather is becoming nicer we have are hoping to be spending more time in the outdoor environments; going for walks to the park, library and Tesco on the community. Sweetie's staff would also appreciate it if parents could bring their child's water bottle into nursery each day empty and staff will fill with fresh water as we have noticed some children are coming into nursery with squash into their water bottles which is not allowed due to children's allergies as well as nursery promoting a healthy lifestyle.

This month **Smarties** children will be looking at different textures through sensory play. The children will be mixing different textures together and will be encouraged to talk about the different textures they can feel. The Smarties room this month will also be focusing on their mathematical skills, such as being able to count the correct quantity of objects when asked. As the Smarties children have been really keen to explore the sand we will be looking at going on our holidays and to the beach when role playing in the sand this month.

Jelly Babies and Jelly Tots

This month in **Jelly Babies** will be doing lots of texture play, exploring different textures when water, paint and gloop are mixed together. The babies will be given the support and opportunity to choose what they want to add or take away. We will be continuing with our art work for our body painting display, doing lots of printing from different body parts e.g. hands, elbows, arms, fingers and feet. Staff will also be supporting babies with activities based on numbers/ counting using counting blocks and stacking cups as well as Duplo blocks and creating a variety of towers to support colour recognition with children who are developmentally ready to explore colours. We have also planned lots if food play and food tasting activities, to encourage the babies to experiment more with different textures as well as trying new foods as the summer menu at nursery has lots of new meals on it that the children have not tried before.

This month **Jelly Tots** will be having at tea party with their favourite animals whilst they are in nursery. We will also be doing some food tasting to support discussions around textures and likes and dislikes. The children will also be doing some learning about self-identity through mirror play and creating portraits. To support the children's sense of self staff have decided to make a display base on our homes and who we live with, this will focus on the children's families and support the children's sense of belonging whilst they are in nursery. The display board will enable the children to practice their fine motor skills through drawing members of their families using different resources and mark making equipment. Staff in Jelly Tots have asked me to ask parents for any family photos they may have at home which can be included on the display board at nursery. Thank you ☺

The nursery has secured accreditation though the Makaton Friendly Scheme. We have been informed that we are currently the only nursery in Birmingham to be certified Makaton friendly. The children have really enjoyed learning new signs and communicating using the Makaton, this has been really positive and the nursery will continue to use the Makaton as a form of communicating throughout. Well done to everyone ☺



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Dates for your diary: From Monday 1st May until Friday 31st May 2019

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| Story Sessions at the library: | Heroes every Friday, Rolos every Monday |
| Nanny Shirley: | Still poorly and unable to attend |
| Forest School: | Rolos on Monday and Heroes on Friday (Term time only) |
| Stay and Play: | Under 3's stay and play session at Swan Courtyard on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 10am - 11am. (Your child's key person will let you know if your child has attended) |
| Save a date: | The nurseries family parties have been booked for this year as follows: Halloween Sunday 27 th October and Christmas Sunday 8 th December |

Upcoming Events and Dates

• Notice for all parents

*Drop in SENCO Session

Rose is the nursery's setting-based SENCO and will be offering parents and staff a drop-in session on the last Thursday of the month 30th May 9-10am

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 professional's and their services in the local community.

Notice for Parents

- Sophie in babies has asked me to ask parents to ensure they put plenty of spare clothes into their child's bag for nursery as we have new drinking cups for meal times to support independence and hand-eye coordination and the children are getting very messy due to spillages. Thank you
- Can I please remind all parents of our healthy lifestyle choices at nursery? All children's water bottles must only contain water only. No squash, fizzy drinks or flavored water. Thank you
- Can all parents please ensure their child is not wearing laced shoes for nursery? Shoes with laces are not allowed due to trips and falls and the accidents caused when laces continue to become loose. Thank you
- Can all parents please remember to press the correct option when calling the nursery to speak to a member of staff in your child's room? Thank you
- During the hours of 7.30-9.30am Mon to Fri please use the main intercom buzzer at the gate as signposted

Staffing:

There are some new members of staff that have joined our team.

Sheath - Will be working in Jelly Tots completing her level 3 apprentice from 9am - 5.30pm

Nafeesa - Has completed her level two qualification therefore her apprenticeship has finished at the nursery and we wish her every success going forward

Kate is now working in the Sweeties room as a key person she is here from 9.30am - 6pm each day.

May Dates for your Diary

- Friday 10th May - Dentist visit for preschool children
- Monday 13th May - Living egg experience at nursery until 24th May
- Wednesday 15th May - Miss Tranter on safeguarding training
- Thursday 23rd May - Parent workshop for Makaton at Library from 5.15- 6.30pm (please see letter being sent out this week)
- Monday 27th May - Bank Holiday Nursery Closed
- Tuesday 28th May - Friday 31st May - May half term - no nursery for children attending for 15 hours only.

Key Makaton signs used in Nursery during meal times:



More



Drink



Food



Flat hand, palm down. Covers top of other fist



Small movement



Tap twice

Startwell

Being active, eating well, achieving more.

forward steps

NHS

Physical activities to try at home:

If you would like other physical activities to try at home please have a look on the Startwell website below.

<http://startwellbirmingham.co.uk/parents/activities-and-ideas/>

1. Assault Course

- Using cushions and objects within the house, lay out an assault course for child/baby to negotiate.
- Changes in heights and levels as well as different methods of movements, i.e walking, running, crawling and rolling etc.

10. Tea Towel Line

- Hang 3 or 4 different sized tea towels on a washing line.
- Using rolled up socks how many times can we hit the tea towels.
- Each tea towel has a different value of points if hit, who can achieve the most points.