

Welcome back everyone ☺ ....

It's the start of a new term at the nursery and all the staff have been extremely busy preparing and settling children. We have noticed this year some children are taking a little longer to settle we feel this is due to many children having little socialisation during the lock down as a result of the Coronavirus, please bear with us when dropping off/ collecting your child from nursery as these times may be busier as staff may be comforting children who are still finding these times of transition difficult. Thank you

Rose, the nursery assistant manager and baby Olivia are doing really well and Rose is loving being at home that much that she has decided not to return to nursery next April following her maternity. We wish Rose all the best going forward ☺ We are currently advertising for a new assistant manager and will update you going forward.

HAVE A GOOD MONTH ALL - ALL THE STAFF TEAM AT LITTLE SWANS

Find out what we are up to on a daily basis by

following 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)

Our Topic at nursery for the Autumn Term is.....  
**All about Me**

## Pre School News - Rolos

This month the children will be learning about autumn and learn about the things that change in during this season. We will be going on an autumn walk to explore the outdoor environment by finding objects such as leaves, pine cones, acorns, twigs and conkers. If you are out and about with your child you could also collect these items for your child to bring into nursery. We will be using all this items to create pictures and to explore natural materials, textures etc... The children will also have the opportunity to do leaf painting, encouraging exploration of colours and roll acorns to make different patterns.

Our book of the month is 'Room on the Broom'. The children will be exploring different craft materials and will be making their own brooms, focusing on skills such as fine motor when using scissors and hand eye coordination. We will also be making pumpkin biscuits, focusing on developing mathematical language such as measurements and weight.

In our role play area 'dressing up' the children will be encouraged to design to design their own Halloween costumes / fancy dress, using different types of fabric, to wear at nursery and to share their creative ideas with their friends encouraging communication and use of complex sentences in speech. To also link with Halloween the children will be making their own decorations such as mummy plates and spiders to name a few.

## Smarties News

In September the Smarties planning focused on Personal, Social and Emotional development, settling in children into the nursery to enable them to feel secure and comfortable in their new environment and forming attachments with children and staff in the Smarties room. This month the children will be learning and becoming more aware of the routine in the Smarties room, as well encouraging positive behaviours such as awareness of others, their space and sharing resources with each other, this will extend from Septembers planning and continue to link to each child's personal, social and emotional development. During this month we will also continue with our all about me topic, using the family pictures that we have been provided with. Staff will be talking with the children about their family members, encouraging children to recognise individuals in their families as well as those in other children's families, promoting a sense of belonging. Our mathematical concept this month will be 'big and small'. We will be using the language with the children in a lot of activities and play to engage children's understanding of size, it would be fantastic if parents could also work with their children on this at home, such as big plate/ small plate when having meals together. We will also be celebrating Halloween in Smarties, children will be taking part in lots of activities. We would also appreciate if parents when out and about could collect leaves, twigs and acorns, to support activities at nursery around seasons and autumn.

## Jelly Babies News

This month the Jelly Babies will be doing lots of Halloween activities such as making monster cookies, cards, pumpkins, spiders and other creepy crawlies and using green gloop to encourage the children to explore textures whilst trying to find the crawlies.

As well as lots of Halloween activities, we will also be joining in with autumn activities looking for leaves, cones in the garden area, we will use the items we collect for our sticking and gluing activities.

This month in Jelly Babies we will also be focusing on sensory exploration through the use of creative materials such as coloured paints, sand, water, pasta and spaghetti to name a few, so we will be getting very messy in Jelly Babies.

The children really enjoy exploring the role play area and home corner, we will be extending on this during October and adding an element of dressing up into the children's play, using different costumes.

The children will be introduced to the song bag, this is where staff add items to a bag which represent a rhyme, for example a star for 'Twinkle, Twinkle'.

This gives the children a visual clue as well as an object they can relate to the actions.

## Jelly Tots News

This month the children will be making their own car track road, by painting the wheels on the cars and then transferring it onto paper by pushing the cars along the paper to make the tracks. The children have been showing a really keen interest in vehicles, so this will be a lovely way to engage them into creative play and making marks. We will then laminate each child's individual tracks so they can use it as a car mat when playing with the cars. The children will be carrying out a range of Halloween activities such as drawing, painting, gluing and sticking. We will also be creating our own pumpkins. This month now the children have started to settle we want to begin to establish the routine with them such as sitting for stories and singing at circle times. Children have showed particular enjoyment exploring the role play and having the small dolls and food out, pretending to feed them. This month we will extend this to exploring small world resources, such as the doll's house and accessories as well as imitating taking care of the babies, washing them and dressing them, all skills to support children's awareness of self-care. The children will also be exploring dance and movement listening to different beats.

## Sweeties News

This month the Sweeties children will be having lots of fun exploring with lots of activities involving colour. The children will be learning the rainbow song and finding objects round the room that are the same colour, this supports colour recognition and we will use colour cards to support this further.

The book of the month for the Sweeties room is 'Jack and the Beanstalk', we have planned lots of activities around the book this includes, growing beanstalks, talking about the life cycle and what is needed to grow the beanstalks. We will also be making paper chains to help Jack climb up and down the beanstalk. We will be bringing in maths to our learning, using tape measures to make measurements of the beanstalk as it grows as well as mathematical language such as big, small, more and less. The children have settled well in Sweeties and this month we will now be focusing on boundaries and rules in the room and encouraging children to do 'good sitting, good listening and sharing toys whilst using kind hands. If you can reinforce this positive language with your child at home it would be really helpful. The Sweeties children will also be having a Halloween party it will be lovely to see the children dressed up in scary costumes, or their favourite characters. As well as having a party and decorating our room we will also be cooking and making some creepy treats to eat 'yummy'.

For self-care this month we will be continuing to encourage children to use the toilets and to communicate their need for the toilet using words. We will also continue with promoting good self-care skills, such as independently washing their hands after toileting and before meal times as well as cleaning their faces when they have eaten. We will also be discussing how we look after our teeth and why it is important to take care of them. **Can we please remind parents to ensure they bring their child into nursery on time for their allocated hours, this is really important learning time and children are missing out on this if they arrive to late for their session, it is also disruptive to other children in nursery who have already started their activities as staff have to leave them to come and collect your child. Thank you**

## Notices for parents

### All areas

#### 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** - Can we please remind all parents to label or their child's belongings, including nursery uniform and outer wear such as coats.

**Sleep Time** - Can we please remind parents for children in Babies, Tots and Smarties to provide nursery with a sleep sheet (cot sheet) and small blanket for sleep time? Thank you

**Allergies - We** have several children at nursery who have allergies to specific foods/ ingredients. **Can we please remind parents that we are a nut free setting as well as grapes.** Children are not allowed to bring food in from home, unless they have packed lunches and this has been agreed with a staff member beforehand.

**Passwords** - Can we please remind parents to ensure if you are unable to collect your child from nursery and send someone else please ensure they have the passwords you provided at registration. Staff will not let children leave with someone who is not able to provide the passwords. Thank you

**Items From Home** - Can we please ask parents unless they have spoken with a staff member previously about their child bringing items in from home for comfort, that parents **do not** bring their child to nursery with dolls, teddies, toys etc... as they may get lost and sometimes can cause the child distress as other children may want them. Thank you

**Water Bottles** - Children's water bottles for nursery should only have water in them. Thank you.

**Nursery Dress Code** - Can we please remind parents to ensure that their child wears shoes with no laces at nursery. We have this in place to avoid children tripping over and having accidents. We also have a no jewellery policy in place, children are only allowed to wear stud earrings. If your child wears an item due to culture reasons then please speak with a member staff who will provide you with a disclaimer form to sign.

## Staffing / Room Changes

### Pre School / Rolos

Leah from Rolos will be leaving the nursery on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Leah has been at Little Swans for two years and has successfully completed her NVQ Level 2. Leah has decided to explore new career opportunities.

### Sweeties

We are nearly half way through the new term and after careful monitoring of drop off/ collection and the Sweeties room we have made the decision to move the Sweeties are over into the main preschool unit. We feel that this move will support children with school readiness and provide opportunities for both preschool areas (Rolos and Sweeties) to work together, with planning and activities. From a safety aspect we also think drop off and collections will be smoother and safer with the Sweeties children coming through the preschool entrance. From Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021, can all Sweeties parents please bring their child through this entrance and collect from here. Staff have been preparing children for the change in area.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Samya who has been promoted to supervisor in our Jelly Tots room. Samya has been at the nursery for 2 years and has worked with the preschool children. Samya has many years' experience working with 2 year olds on her previous settings. Due to Samya's promotion Atikha (Senior Supervisor) we worked in the Sweeties room alongside Zanera and Andrea.

## September Dates for your Diary

**Friday 1st October** - Pyjama day at nursery. Please provide shoes for your child to wear not slippers due to going outdoors and safety.

**Monday 4th October** - We will be starting to collect harvest festival from today for Carrs Lane residential home. Donations of canned food, dried foods etc... including toiletries would be appreciated. Thank you

**Monday 4th October** - Parents or grandparents that would like to volunteer their time to come into the setting to read a book to the children. This is for children in Sweeties onwards. Please let the supervisor know in your child's room if you're able to do this.

**Tuesday 26th October** - Autumn Walk for all preschool children

**Friday 29th October** - Nursery Halloween party from 2-4pm. Dress up day for all children and staff. Party lists will be in areas for donations of party food.

**Our SENCO Denise Maguire will be available on Tuesday morning 26<sup>th</sup> October at 10am until 11am for parents that may have a concern about their child and would like advice or support to come into the setting and discuss.**