

Here we are at Easter time...how fast it has come around. We are hoping that this month brings the Spring with it and sees an end to the wind and snow we have been having. We have lots of lovely activities planned, including our Zoo Lab visit. If you are interested in your child participating, then please speak to your child's key person. There will be posters promoting the event around nursery.

This month sees us saying goodbye to Jenny, supervisor in Smarties, who has worked here for 7 years. She is leaving to move to Wales, where her family live. Her last day in nursery is Friday 6th April. She will be missed, and we wish her all the best for the future.

We are still looking to develop our interactive walls in the playgrounds, so if anyone has any door locks, bolts, catches, letter boxes, doorbells, old radios etc that they would like to donate, please bring them into the office.

Our Topic at nursery for the Summer Term is.....
Our Environment. Our book of the month is
Aliens Love Underpants.

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 are going to be doing activities based around our April book, 'Aliens Love Underpants'. We shall be creating a big washing line of pants, which we will be making ourselves and also asking if anyone has any old pants they can bring into nursery so the Heroes can decorate them and add to our washing line. Heroes will also be using the story 'Aliens Love Underpants' to look at and learn about planets and space, creating our own planets, rockets and spaceships from junk modelling. The children shall be looking at a new letter in Jolly Phonics this month, the letter 'T', so the children shall be bringing work home to learn all about this letter, its sound, its shape and the song too. We will be doing some activities for St George's day, including learning about St George, who he is and why we celebrate him, decorating the English flag and making our own dragons. We also have the zoo lab coming out to see us and we will be learning about different animals, this will lead us onto having the baby chicks in May.

Smarties & Sweeties News

This month in Smarties we will be getting creative for our topic book 'Aliens Love Underpants'. We will be using different materials to create our own funny looking aliens as well as using the story to look at colours and patterns. We will continue to use our role play area for imaginative play and begin to introduce more dressing up and becoming characters with the Smarties. They have really loved our number wall that we created, and we will continue to develop our counting skills through a variety of activities. The Smarties will continue to explore our ICT toys as they are very interested in these. In Sweeties this month we will be looking at one of our favourite books "Aliens love Underpants". We will be creating different planets for our display, using a range of materials to make it bright and colourful. We will also be working on recognising the first letters of our names and trying to copy them and find them written in our environment as well. The Sweeties will be talking about how we brush our teeth this month and we will be drawing food onto our laminated teeth and then brushing them away.

Jelly Babies and Jelly Tots

This month the Jelly Babies we will be starting off by completing our termly assessments on the children. This is when we can see where the children are at with their development and look at their next steps. We will also be getting ready for parents evening, which is at the end of April. We have been finishing off our display boards and making the room look colourful with our artwork. It is also St George's Day this month, so we are looking forward to doing lots of activities for this. The book for April is 'Aliens Love Underpants'. We are going to be looking at the book and incorporating musical instruments into it. We have some new friends starting in Jelly Babies this month, so we will be doing some activities to get to know our friends and make them feel welcome.

This month in Jelly Tots the children will be getting very creative with paints and using a variety of materials and tools such as animals, Duplo, brushes and sponges this will be displayed on our display board. The children will be exploring the interactive wall outside and developing their fine motor skills using the balls and string as well as the locks. We will also be doing some water play and practicing pouring water into containers. This activity will be extended into pouring our own drinks at mealtimes.

Rolos News

This month the Rolos have been having lots of fun exploring in the forest school. This is something they look forward to every week as they can develop their problems solving skills. They also love their story sessions at the library and become very excited when we are getting ready to go. They always have their good sitting and listening skills at the library. The Rolos will be doing some activities for St George's Day including decorating the flag of England and decorating some dragons. We have the zoo lab coming in April, so the Rolos will have the chance to explore and learn about different animals. We also have our trip to Sheldon Country Park soon, which we love as they get to watch the planes flying overhead. The Rolos will also be learning about spring this month, including weather and new baby animals being born.

Parents Evening:

Nursery will close early this month for Parents Evening on **Thursday 26th April 2018**. Appointment lists will be available from Tuesday 3rd April.

Please make sure all children are collected by 4:45pm.

There will be a charge for late collection for any child on the premises after this time.

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Dates for your diary: From Tuesday 3rd April until Monday 30th April 2018

Story Sessions at the library: Monday 16th April, Heroes and Monday 30th April for Rolos. All visits are at 10am.

Computer lessons: Computer sessions have been temporarily postponed. We will keep you informed when they are due to restart

Nanny Shirley: Due to personal circumstances Nanny Shirley informs us weekly if she is able to attend

Sensory Room: These visits are currently being planned around the availability of the Centre.

Forest School: Heroes will visit forest school at Yardley School every Monday morning and Rolos will go on a Friday morning.

Upcoming Events and Dates

- *Notice for all parents*

*Drop in SENCO Session

Dianne is taking over the role of the setting based SENCO when Jenny leaves and will be offering parents and staff a drop-in session on Thursday 19th April 2017 10:00am – 11.00am at nursery. This session provides you with the opportunity to sought 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.

Notices for Parents

- We ask that parents put plain water in their child's water bottles. This applies to all rooms.
- We would like to remind parents that children should not be bringing in toys from home into nursery. We cannot accept responsibility if they get lost, broken or damaged.
- Please can parents, including pre-school parents, ensure that their child brings a bag to nursery each day with a supply of spare clothes?
- If parents have any old children's clothes they would like to donate to nursery, this will be appreciated.

Important notice:

It has been brought to our attention that Taxi's during morning drop offs and afternoon collection times are not pulling into the parking spaces provided and are blocking other drivers by parking in the middle of the drive. For the safety of children and other drivers, please can anyone being dropped off or collected by a taxi inform the driver to pull into a parking space.

April Dates for your Diary

- **Monday 2nd** – Bank Holiday – Nursery Closed
- **Tuesday 3rd** – Consultation forms to be started
- **Wednesday 11th** – Pre-School visit to Carrs Lane – Easter Singing
- **Friday 20th** – Zoo Lab visits nursery
- **Monday 23rd** – St George's Day – Wear something red/white
- **Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th** – Pre School trip to Sheldon Country Park
- **Thursday 26th** – Parents Evening

Staff Training

- 21st and 28th First Aid Training – Selected staff
- 23rd – Transitions for SEN children Training – Miss Tranter and Dianne

Staff Changes:

Due to personal circumstances, Tara from Rolo's has unfortunately had to leave us. We wish her all the best for the future. Elle from Sweeties, having finished her Apprentice course, will be made a qualified member of staff and will work alongside Sadie and Letisha in Rolos. Jenny will be leaving us on the 6th April and we have a new qualified member of staff starting in the Smarties room named Kareema. Sairish from Smarties is due to finish her apprentice course with us on 13th April and will be leaving us. We have a new apprentice starting work in Smarties named Yasmin. Hannah from Sweeties has been promoted to room supervisor, well done Hannah. We wish everyone luck for the future and welcome our new staff.

Do you have any old school uniforms? If so the Pre-school rooms are looking at extending their role play areas to incorporate learning about schools ready for their transition in the summer.