

Wow!!! What fantastic Easter bonnets. A big thank you to all of our parents for their support and efforts in making Easter bonnets with their children. We all enjoyed the parade within Nursery class bubbles. The children who entered should have received a special Easter Bonnet certificate for joining in. We understand that communication is difficult at the moment for the brief spell of time you spend at the main gate with staff. If you would like to talk to their child's keyworker in more detail regarding their child's time at nursery and their progress and development. Please feel free to email or ring at any time if you wish to book in for a quick chat with your child's key person. Each child is allocated a Key person, this is the person who works closely with your child and monitors their development. It is vital that every parent/carer is aware who their child's Key Person is. If you are unaware who your child's Key Person is, please ask your child's room supervisor to introduce you to them. This term we will be holding parents evening; we are still unable to hold face to face meetings, we will be arranging telephone consultations on Thursday 29th April (you will be able to book these from Monday 12th April - please talk to a member of staff in your child's room). This will give you the opportunity for you to have a chat with your child's key person, to discuss their progress and any other issues you may want to talk about. Further details will be given out shortly.

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

'The Environment'

The book for this 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 in Heroes our role play area will be transformed into a flower shop for spring. The children will be exploring different textures of flowers in soil and will be learning how to grow flowers by planting seeds and watering them daily. Our dressing up this month will be focused on different professions so that they are able to express roles they like, looking at what they would like to be when they are older. This activity will also encourage group play and support the children expanding on their ideas and thoughts. We will be doing printing activities using different object to create marks and colours. The children will also be learning about Ramadan and Eid, as this is a festival many of our children in Heroes will be celebrating this month. The children will continue to expand on their understanding of shapes and temperatures through ice play; frozen and melting. The children continue to do well with their phonics work, we will continue sounding our letters and adding other sounds to make simple words.

Jelly Tots News

This month the Jelly Tots will be learning more about their shapes through activities such as catching shapes in the water or mark making in sand and with creative resources. They will also be learning more colours. The Jelly Tots will be recognising their routine with the visual support of the Jelly Tots timeline. The Jelly Tots role play this month will be turned into a baby care area, with babies, beds, bottles and and lots of other accessories to help the Jelly Tots look after the babies. We also be doing lots of baking and will be making cupcakes and decorating them to take home. We will be working on our hand - eye coordination and the children will be further challenged through activities such as puzzle boards, throwing and catching games as well as threading.

Jelly Babies

This month in babies will be taking part in lots of fun Easter activities, listening to Easter songs, making Easter baskets as well as other creative activities and the bonnet parade. We will be doing some baking and using red and white colouring. The children will also be hand printing and mark making in foam using red colouring. Staff will also be preparing the children who are moving to Smarties in April, the children will be shown photos of staff in Smarties as well as pictures of the children and the environment. We will be celebrating Ramadan and Eid with the children. Listening to music 'Naheeds' and making cards. We will be focusing on fine and gross motor skills, linking the activities to our start well character 'Active Azra'. We will have sand, water and lots of large movement exploration such as slides and frames. We will be experimenting with the ways and movements we can make with our bodies when in the outdoor areas and putting these movements to music.

Rolos News This month the Rolos will be focusing on the theme space which links really well with our book of the month 'Aliens love Underpants'. The Rolos will be making their own space stations and having the opportunity to join in with space activities such as making their own space hats and designing their own planets. To support the children's; understanding during circle time we will learning about the planets using the interactive whiteboard to provide the children with visual learning as well. We will also be learning Makaton signs related to space and planets. Many of the children in Rolos will also be celebrating Eid and Ramadan so we can all join in with the celebrations with our friends we will be learning about the festival. As spring is coming and the children are noticing changes in the environment 'new life' we will be continuing with our planting, as we enjoy this. We will extend the children's learning to include the life cycle of flowers and what they need to grow, we will be planting in the garden area and designing our own flowers using different resources.

Smarties News

We are going to have a busy and exciting month in Smarties during April. We have new children joining us from Jelly Babies, and we are sure they will have fun making friends with the Smarties children. This month in the Smarties room we will be focusing on our personal, social and emotional development talking about emotions and playing imaginary with our peers. We will also be continuing with our Easter activities; we hope you liked your cards and Easter baskets that we have already sent home. We will be making an Easter basket this month from chocolate shredded wheat. We will also be revisiting number recognition as part of our activities and routine as well as shapes and extending this to more shapes and numbers as the children have been doing so well. The Smarties have enjoyed their planting activities indoors so this month now the weather is changing we are going to take this outdoors. Angela will be leaving us at the end of this month to return to Germany, she will be missed by all. Sairish will return to the Smarties room, she has previously worked in Smarties and is qualified. All the children know Sairish well ☺

Sweeties News This month the Sweeties children will be looking at the story book 'Aliens love underpants'. We will be looking at space and planets. To extend children's creativity we will be experimenting mixing colours together to create a galaxy of colour. The children will also be decorating different pictures of underpants by using a variety of creative materials. During this they will be looking at number recognition 1-5 and matching numbers and quantity 1-5. To further extend the topic we will be making Alien biscuits and looking at recipes, mark making our own ingredients and quantities. We will also decide how we want our biscuits to look and then mark make this onto the biscuit using icing. The children in Sweeties have also been showing an interest in playing detectives, so we have all decided that we will go on a treasure hunt in the garden making map and looking out for clues.

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 Wednesday 31st 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.
- As the weather is changing can parents bring in a sun hat labelled with their child's name and also ensure sun protection is applied before coming into nursery. Thank you
- If you have any spare clothes that you are happy to donate then we would be very grateful as we always need an endless supply! These could include things such as trousers, socks etc. We will isolate these in the Nursery office before we wash them.

April Dates for your Diary

Thursday 1st April- Fees due today for parents who pay in cash each week at nursery. Parents paying direct debit do not need to make any changes to their payment dates. Polite reminder that fees increase from this week, please change your payments to reflect this. 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.

Friday 2nd April and Monday 5th April – Nursery closed – Bank holidays

Monday 19th April – Term starts for children in Jelly Tots and Sweeties attending 15 hours per week (term time only)

Friday 23rd April – St George's day – Dress up Blue and White

Thursday 29th April – Virtual parents evening. Appointment will be available to book from W/C 12th April

Letter sound of the week:

The timetable below highlights the sound of the week that pre-school children will be learning (please refer to your child's learning journal for more details. Thank you!

Set 3 -(g,o,c,k) Set 4 (ck,e)	
19/04/21	g-learn rhyme/sound
26/04/21	o- learn rhyme/sound
04/05/21	c- learn rhyme/sound
10/05/21	k- learn rhyme/sound
17/05/21	ck- learn rhyme/sound
24/05/21	e- learn rhyme/sound

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! As we begin the road map out of lockdown, nursery at present will be continuing with the designated drop off and collection times, so we can keep infection and possible bubble closures to a minimum whilst ensuring the safety of everyone.
- 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.