

Can you believe we are already in March!! The past month we have been really busy at nursery changing the nursery website for it to be more modern, user friendly and easier to navigate around. If you have not yet please have a look and let us know what you think. This term parents evening is a little earlier than usual. We will be holding parents evening on Thursday 21st March 219 from 5.10pm, nursery will close at 4.45pm please ensure your child is collected by this time. There will be no staff meeting on Thursday 28th March due to closing earlier the previous week. Appointment lists will be in all areas today please speak with a member of staff. I am sure you have noticed that we are using Makaton more consistently with the children at nursery and this is becoming an effective method of communication for the children, who really enjoy learning the new sign each week and can confidently communicate this with adults and each other. We will be looking to receive Makaton accreditation going forward, please look out around nursery and on the website for the sign of the week so you can support your child at home. Don't forget Mother's Day is this month all the children at nursery will be making someone special a card at nursery. Have a good month all !!! ☺

**Our Topic at nursery for the Autumn Term is..... 'Our 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 **Heroes** will be making pancakes for Pancake Day and experimenting with different toppings some healthy and some not so healthy!! To support the children's learning we will be having some activities and teaching around Lent and why we have Lent once a year. This month is also Mother's day and we will be talking about our loved ones, making cards, drawing pictures of the people who are special to us as well as planting some flowers to take home. It is assessment week at nursery this month and your child's key person will be completing class assessments with your child assessing colour, shape and number recognition activities will be set up during the month to continue supporting each child's learning in preparation for the assessment.



Over the next six months we will be completing the Millie's mark award at nursery. This is awarded as a special endorsement to childcare providers in England who go above and beyond minimum requirements by having 100% of staff trained in Paediatric first aid, and also ensure that everything learned during the course is kept at the forefront of practitioners' minds so they are confident in dealing with first aid incidents that may arise in the childcare centre.

Smarties & Sweeties News

This month **Sweeties** will be focusing on pencil control. We will be using dot to dot pencil control sheets to encourage the children to hold a pencil correctly and begin to write letters and recognise letters from their own names. We will also be doing our hungry caterpillar display board so we can name foods and learn about how caterpillars become butterflies through the life cycle. The children will also be focusing on colour and shape recognition during morning and afternoon circle times and playing matching games to enhance the children's learning. This month **Smarties** will be participating in activities based on the book of the month 'Monkey Puzzle'. The children will also be learning self-help skills such as washing and drying their own hands. To celebrate St Patrick's Day on the 18th March Kareema will be making hats with the children. The children will also be participating in math's activities this month such as counting objects, categorizing objects by their properties such as big and some and also counting plates etc... when getting ready for meal/ snack times.

Jelly Babies and Jelly Tots

This month in **Jelly Babies** the children will be making a pat mat, this is when we put cling film on the table and then the babies are encouraged to make marks with paint on the cling film. Staff then place another layer of cling film on top of the paint and then support the babies to pat down on the cling film to mix the paint together, making pretty patterns and an explosion of colour. The children will be continuing to use their Makaton signs with staff and children as a form of pre verbal communication, we are also learning different nursery rhymes using Makaton and this month we will be learning to sign 'three little monkeys jumping on the bed'. For St Patrick's day we will be making pictures using lots of green materials. We will be incorporating this with lots of sensory, texture play such as playing with ice and Water and adding food coloring.

This month **Jelly Tots** will be having lots of opportunities to be creative including making crafts for At Patricks' day and mother's day as well as work for our display boards in the Jelly tots room. 'Monkey Puzzle' is the book of the month and to enhance the children's understanding of the story we will be learning about different animals, the noises they make and where they live. Staff have also planned some lovely activities focusing on children's families and the people who are special to them. To support the activities staff have requested photos from home of people the children spend time with, could you please bring these in a give them to the Jelly tots staff or email them to Miss Tranter at sam@littleswans.org.uk This would be a lovely activity for the children to share pictures with their friends and staff.

Rolos News

This month in **Rolos** they are excited to welcome spring back and fingers crossed the nice weather!! The children will be learning about what happens during spring and the weather changes. We will planting seeds and having a go at growing some pretty flowers and yummy green beans. We have also been enjoying the physical activities we have learnt as part of the Startwell course and learning about the characters. This month the book is 'Monkey Puzzle' and we will be learning about different animals, Their babies, what they eat and where they live. We will also be making some yummy pancakes and after our treat day we will continue to learn about healthy eating and healthy food choices.

Little Swans Day Nursery Newsletter page 2

Dates for your diary: From Monday 4th March until Friday 29th February 2019

Story Sessions at the library: Heroes every Friday, Rolos every Monday
Nanny Shirley: Still poorly and unable to attend
Forest School: No Forest school until w/b Monday 25th March
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)

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 28th 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 professional's and their services in the local community.

Notice for Parents

- When phoning the nursery please make sure you select a room option if calling about your child as parents are coming straight through to the office
- If you have any spare paper that you can donate to the nursery for the children to scribble on and practice their writing we would be very grateful
- During the hours of 7.30-9.30am Mon to Fri please use the main intercom buzzer at the gate as signposted
- Parents wanting to claim 30 hour childcare funding for the summer term starting Monday 29th April 2019 need to ensure they have received their eligibility codes from HMRC no later than 31st March 2019. Parents who already have codes also need to have these reconfirmed by the above date. Thank you

NURSERY APP

Can we please remind parents that information on a daily basis can also be found on the nursery app. If you have not yet downloaded the app this can be done by going to the apple and Google play stores and search for Little Swans Day Nursery
Thank you

March Dates for your Diary

Monday 4th March

Children's two year checks for children who are 2 years of age (September 2018 - March 2019) will be available to view at the end of this week on your child's learning journal account.

W/C 4th March

This week will be pancake week. All children will try a pancake on Pancake Day as part of their tea and will make their own on their cooking day during the week.

Wednesday 7th March

World book day - Dress your child as their favourite book character £1.00p donation.

Monday 11th March

National Hydration week - Children will be encouraged to drink water and all areas will have a reward system for the week

Thursday 21st March

Parents evening nursery closes at 4.45pm. Appointment lists in all areas from Monday 4th March first appointment at 5.10pm



<http://startwellbirmingham.co.uk/>

Please refer to the above website as we have just commenced training for the start well award at the setting and there are lots of ideas for activities and healthy recipes for parents to try at home