



NEWSLETTER

We have had a number of new children and families join the setting recently and we would like to welcome them into the Smart Kids community.



The Baby Room

The Baby Room have been:

Exploring sounds and music with the introduction of the song of the month which is '*Five Current Buns*'. The children have also been making their very own shakers and music instruments and playing along to the songs as we have been singing them.

The last few weeks have seen a focus on the children exploring their own capabilities, particularly large motor skills. We have seen some of the children achieve milestones including crawling, standing and walking. To support this the practitioners have been supporting, providing additional resources and lots of praise and encouragement for the children as they practice these skills.

During the Bambin class, both the Babies and Two's children have enjoyed the new song which has been introduced which is '*Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*'. The children have been using the parachute to replicate this by making the toy monkeys jump up and down.



The children have also enjoyed exploring a wider variety of malleable experiences within the room which has included those with sensory elements.

The introduction of cornflour, full body painting, sand and water has been welcomed by the children and has allowed them to investigate filling, emptying, pouring, textures and how to manipulate and make different marks with a range of media/items/resources.

How to help at home:

- Have a go at making your own musical instruments with an empty bottle, rice and pasta.
- Sing familiar songs and rhymes to explore music and sound.

The Two's Room

Construction has been a big focus this term with the children exploring different building blocks and the small world construction site. This was created with different media including cornflake rubble and Weetabix bricks. The children enjoyed using the cranes and diggers to move and manipulate the different media.



We have been introducing the children to a range of different mark making activities to enhance their love of making marks including: drawing on the clear easel, large scale painting with brushes and wellingtons and looking at reflections and drawing on tin foil. The children have also been busy marking large scale marks painting on the fence within the outdoors.



We have also been supporting the children's love of numbers and songs introducing: *'Five Little Specked Frogs'* into the water tray and *'Five Current Buns'* into the home corner. The children have also loved the introduction of the new animal masks as we sing walking through the jungle.

How to help at home

- • Sing familiar songs: Five Current Buns, Five Little Speckled Frogs, Row Row Row Your Boat.
- Encourage the children to make marks, i.e. writing shopping lists and drawing pictures.

The Pre-School Room

The children have placed a large focus on numbers within recent weeks. The introduction of counting penguins in the water has enabled them to share, take turns, count, recognise and place numbers in the correct order.



The children's love of books has been supported through focus books such as: 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and 'Handa's Surprise'.

The children have linked role play to the books and carried out bear hunts within the garden. This has also been linked to phonics and listening to sounds within the environment. Handa's Surprise initiated food tasting with the fruits that are in the story, and the focus story enables the children to talk about different textures, fruits and places in the world.

The children are also enjoying Jack and the Beanstalk which is enabling them to become very creative and make their very own beanstalks on the collage table and castles in the construction area.

How to help at home:

- Go on a listening walk, encourage the children to recognise sounds and talk about what they can hear, i.e. birds, vehicles, people talking on phones etc.
- Encourage the children to choose and repeat stories and use the pictures to talk about what they can see.



EYLog

Please can all parents ensure that they have the latest version (2.0.4) of EYLog on their device. This has recently been updated.

OFSTED

As we hope you are aware, the setting had a planned Ofsted inspection on 6th February. We are very pleased to announce that we achieved the status of OUTSTANDING in all areas. The inspector had lovely comments about the: children, provision, and practitioner knowledge.

Introducing New Staff Members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Miss Mewish Ghulam. Miss Ghulam has a BA (Hons) degree qualification in Education and Professional Studies, and has gained experience working with children 0-5 years.

Mewish has been working primarily in the Baby Room since starting at Smart Kids, and is very excited to be joining the team. Miss Ghulam is looking forward to getting to know the children and supporting them through play to enhance their learning.

Schools

We do hope that all Pre-School children have been selected into their chosen school for September.

Please can all parents now notify us of their selected school, so that we can begin talking to the children about school and begin the transition process.

Please see policy below.

Policy of the Month

[Transitioning](#)

This policy demonstrates how we are able to support the children with transitioning. This is perfect for Pre-School children, but is also useful for those children transitioning from home to nursery, or between nursery rooms.



Bags

We have an increasing number of children who have very large bags which we are finding difficult to store. The nursery has its own drawstring bags available to purchase for £5.50 which are an ideal size for everything your child needs to get them through the day.

Nursery Uniform

It is a requirement for all children over the age of 2 to wear the nursery Polo shirt and/or jumper. These are available to purchase from the setting. Please speak to a member of the team.

Price List

Polo Shirt: £8.50

Jumper: £10.50



Exploring in the Snow

Isn't the weather strange?! We recently had some lovely snowy weather, which the children had great fun exploring. Together we made a snowman, snow angels and had snowball competitions. We also brought the snow inside to enable the children to create snow castles, explore colour mixing on the snow and see what happened when it warmed up.

Please may we ask that parents ensure children have appropriate clothing, including: hats, scarves and gloves as we do access the outdoors in all weathers. This is important as the children can learn a great deal about nature and exploring the outdoors.

World Book Day

We would like to thank those who took part in World Book Day. The children had lots of fun coming dressed up as their favourite character. We also looked at our favourite stories and read them with our friends.

We raised £23.70 towards Book Aid International



Mother's Day

The children have been very busy creating special gifts to share with their 'special person'. We hope that you liked them!

This year we also carried out our first stay and play session to celebrate, which we feel was a huge success. We hope those who were able to join us enjoyed carrying out some lovely activities with their loved ones.



Birthday Cakes

As a setting we promote healthy eating and we are finding that we were receiving a huge amount of processed cakes which were full of sugar.

Therefore, we have made the decision to stop accepting birthday cakes for the children. However, the children will be supported in celebrating their birthday in other ways. We have a birthday hat and throne, and as the children get older they will be supported in making their own birthday bun. Therefore their special day will still be celebrated within the nursery.



Nursery Opening Times

May we politely remind parents that the setting closes at 6pm. We recommend those parents who wish to have full and comprehensive feedback arrive no later than 5.50pm to allow time for this.

Absent Children

May we please ask that parents inform the nursery each day their child is not attending the setting and the reason behind this (by 10am for a morning session and 2pm for a PM session). It is important for the nursery to know so we are able to account for meals and keep a track of any illnesses which may be going around the nursery, and inform other parents where necessary.

Staff Training and Development

The practitioners are constantly attending training to furthering their knowledge, and support the children. We have had several members of staff attend fire training carried out by Phoenix Fire. This involved raising fire awareness, and how to use extinguishers.

All the practitioners have attended an open evening at Seven Stars Development Centre in Leyland. The evening focused on Communication and Language and has inspired the practitioners with new activities and resources which can be used to promote communication within the children's everyday play.

CCTV Installation

We would like to thank you for your patience whilst the nursery has been having the new door system and CCTV installed. This is now complete, and we feel this is already having a positive impact as the practitioners are no longer needed to leave the room to answer the door and parents waiting time is being considerably reduced.

Jewellery

Smart Kids asks that whilst children are at nursery, they do not wear any form of jewellery. This is for health and safety reasons. Earrings can get caught and lost backs can become a choking hazard for smaller children.

May we also ask that any medications, creams etc which are not needed are removed from bags. If your child requires medication whilst in the setting they are handed over to a member of staff. We request this for the safety of the children as within the Two's and Pre-School room the children do have access to their bags although practitioners discourage this.



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