



NEWSLETTER

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



Baby Room

An interesting outing took place within the Baby Room. The babies went to the library and had a lovely time listening to stories and enjoying looking at books together.

Within the room the children have been initiating their own interest in bugs, we have found lots of spiders and the children have enjoyed taking a close look and watching them move. Practitioners have added this into an investigation area where the children have been searching to see what they are able to find.

The children were fascinated by the investigation area and enjoyed manipulating the paper and peering through and under it.



The children have been using their large motor skills to make some marvellous marks within the garden, using brushes, chinks, and rollers to explore their grip and the marks they are able to make on the fence, chalk board and decking.

The children have been highly engrossed within role play, exploring the newly added resource. This has enabled the children to re-enact real life experiences such as cooking food in the pots and pans, or putting a slice of bread in the toaster.



After a long weekend of sunshine the children helped to water the lettuces to bring them back to life, ready to eat with their salad at lunch time. This was a great activity for filling and emptying the container and learning how we have to care for the plants.

How to help at home

- Help the children to locate different body parts. This can be done through every day routines such as "*Where are your teeth?*".... "*Let's brush them*".



The Two's Room

Amazing things have been happening within the garden. The children have planted, cared for and now seen all of their hard work pay off as they have been eating the peas, potatoes and strawberries which we have been busy growing over the last few months.

The children's particular favourite has been picking and popping their own peas to reveal how many are contained within the pod. This has allowed the children to have lots of mathematical discussions talking about who has the biggest and smallest pod and whose contains the most peas, as they count what is hidden inside.

Some of the children have been telling the practitioners that their peas have been growing. We would love to see some pictures if you have any. These can be shared via EyLog or printed if you prefer.



The children's new-found interest in farming has been linked into the small world area, where the children have been provided with a small world farm. This contained real vegetables which the children have grown and has been an amazing activity, allowing the children to discuss what they can see, their personal experiences and where food comes from.



Another major interest in the Two's Room has been dinosaurs. The children began by using a brush they found to brush the dinosaur's teeth. The practitioners provided one tube of tooth paste which enabled the children to help each other to squeeze the paste, and share and turn take with the brush. This also led to the dinosaurs being bathed and placed into bed (the nest which had been created).

The following week, a dinosaur visited the outdoor area and left some eggs for the children to explore. The children quickly broke the eggs to find what was inside, one of who excitedly said: "I have two in mine," before the children carried on their play.

Individually, the children also made their very own fossil biscuit made from a delicious home-made shortbread. The children pressed in the dinosaurs to reveal their foot print or fossil outline.

How to Help at Home

- Have a go at making some biscuits together... recipe as follows:
- Ingredients:
 - ■ 500g plain flour
 - 250g butter or margarine
 - 140g icing sugar
 - 2 teaspoons of vanilla extract
 - 1 tablespoon milk

Method

Prep: 15min › Cook: 12min › Ready in: 27min

Preheat the oven to 160 C / Gas 2 1/2. Place the flour, butter and sugar in a bowl. Rub together with your fingers (or put into a food processer!) until fine breadcrumbs. Add the vanilla extract and a little milk until the mixture sticks together. Combine together to form a dough. You can put it in the fridge for a while but I normally use it straight away. Place on a floured surface and roll out to about 5mm thick (1/4 inch). Cut out your shapes and place on a baking tray with some baking parchment or non stick cooking sheets. Bake in the preheated oven for about 12 to 15 minutes. Place on a wire rack to cool and harden



Pre-School

Over the past few weeks the Pre-School children have been taking care of our garden and looking after the plants. The children have even used the home-grown fruit to make their own home-made fruit cocktail with strawberries, fruit and mint leaves.

After showing so much care and concern for our plants, the children started to ask questions about aspects of their familiar world, particularly the natural world. They closely look at insects in the garden, make observations of the butterflies, caterpillars, spiders and worms in the garden. The children have then begun asking questions to find out more, including why they live in a certain environment, how they move and what they like to eat.

Indoors, the practitioners have provided opportunities for the children to observe living things using the magnifying glasses and photographs.

The children have also had the responsibility of looking after Cyril the Giant African Snail. The clear fish tank has made the perfect observation window for the children to record their findings by drawing, writing and making models or photographing.

Within groups, we enquired if the children had seen the underside of a snail, how does it move, eat and see? The children are intrigued by its movements and they have been able to watch Cyril emerge from his shell, and make his way to the top of the tank, watching his large foot muscle move back and forth.



Graduation Party

To celebrate the children's time at Smart Kids on Tuesday 17th July we held a graduation party. The party was a fun-filled occasion where the children were able to celebrate the friendships they have made and fun things they have experienced during their time with us. A Gruffalo-themed party allowed the children to get into character, craft and enjoy themselves one final time before the children begin to leave for school.





Alice in Wonderland

The children have been working very hard over the last few weeks, learning all about Alice in Wonderland. With the help of Petite Acting Academy they produced an amazing performance on Wednesday 18th July, which we are sure made the parents who came to see very proud.



How to Help at Home

- Talk to children about a variety of celebrations and why they take place.
- Try some planting at home, and send us some pictures. We would love to see how the children are getting on and this will help with discussions at circle time.

From September, Smart Kids will no longer offer term-time only places to new parents. This will not affect existing children who already attend during term-time only

Notice period for school leavers

As we are sure you can appreciate, the Pre-School children leave at different times during the summer, some leaving in July and others attending during the Summer holidays. Therefore, we would like to remind parents that you must give 4 weeks written notice of your child leaving the nursery. This will enable us to ensure we have everything ready for your child's last day at the setting.

School Leavers

This time of year is a very sad one for us as we begin to say farewell to some of the children who are going to school. We wish them all the very best in their new adventure and hope that some of the children may visit us again in the holidays or if a new sibling arrives in the future.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our school leavers the very best as they take the next step in life. We will miss you, and hope to see you all again very soon!

Sun Safety

May we please remind ALL parents to provide:

- A new bottle of sun cream for 2018 which is:
 - Clearly labelled with your child's name and date provided
 - Factor 50
 - And a wide brimmed sun hat
 - We also ask children wear full shoes and socks (no sandals or crocs)

Unfortunately, failure to comply with this will result in the child being unable to access the outdoor area. As a setting we have a duty of care to safeguard the children whilst in the setting and consider the above to be essential in order for the children to experience playing outdoors safely during the summer months.



Office and account enquiries

Please can any account or fees enquiries please be addressed to:
Mr Russell Hayes (russell@smarkids.org.uk), or directly to Mrs Hayes.

Policy of the month

This newsletter's Policy is 'Settling In'. Ideal reading for our new parents, or for parents of children who have recently or will soon be transitioning into another room. See below:

[Settling In Policy.](#)



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

Spare clothing.

May we please request that each child brings a change of clothes within their nursery bag. This is in the event that they need a change, as unfortunately within the nursery we simply do not have the space or resources to hold clothing suitable for all children.

Door entry.

May we please remind parents that on entry into or out of the setting you **MUST NOT** allow anyone else into the nursery by holding the door for them (even if you know them). We request this as the children's safety is of paramount importance and want to reduce the risk of an unauthorised person entering the nursery.

Diary Dates

Monday 10th September - Start of term



Email: info@smartkids.org.uk

Telephone : 01772 719719

