

Contents

- Newsflash!
- Dates for your diaries
- Pre-School News
- Learning to read
- Advanced Apprentice
- Language for Life
- Festival Calendar
- Priorities for 2013



News flash!

Smarties is to open another setting in September 2013.

In response to local demand by parents for more quality childcare provision we have secured a building on the Ransom Wood business park to develop into a day nursery within a woodland setting.

This will be a new nursery to accommodate up to 37 children 0 -5 years: we hope that anyone interested in helping us spread the word to friends and family might ensure early booking could help avoid disappointment. Further details will follow but we are happy to follow up any enquiries now. The following link will give a taste of the site:-

Cedar House Day Nursery

www.ransomwood.co.uk



Smarties contact details

Smarties Private Day Nursery

205 Nottingham Road
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4AA

Telephone 01623 636100

Mobile 0780 4035160

Email

smarties-nursery@btconnect.com



Key Events for the next few months and dates to put in your diaries:-

Firstly we have **Parents' Evenings** starting in March:-

Sam - 11 March 5.00-6.00
Bec - 12 March 5.00-6.00
Steph - 18 March 5.00-6.00
Sharni - 19 March 5.00-6.00
Jenny - 25 & 27 March 4.45-6.00
Kim - 26 & 28 March 4.45-6.00

The next **weekend walk** is planned for Sunday 20 April. This will be a morning walk with the location to be decided. The route will be push chair friendly and it is hoped that friends and extended family might like to join in with you.

Closure dates:

Just a reminder that we're closed on the following two bank holidays:

Good Friday - 29 March 2013
Easter Monday - 1 April 2013

Advance notice:

We're planning another trip to the White Post Farm for Toddlers and Pre-School on Thursday 25 April 2013. Further details to follow.



Meet our Advanced Apprentice



Charlotte Tolley is settling in well to work alongside the staff and ensure all the children get the support they need. Charlotte works predominantly in Pre-School and Toddlers supporting the rising 2 and 3 year old children. Charlotte is working towards her Level 3 Childcare and has already achieved a Level 2 Diploma in Childcare and Education as well as Paediatric First Aid and Food Hygiene Level 2.

Pre-School News

You will already know that Louise Bennett is soon to start her maternity leave and we all wish both Jon and Lou all the best along with the safe arrival of baby 'Bennett' into the world.

Jenny Allen is now settling into Pre-School life and she will be with us throughout 2013 working alongside Kim. Jenny is qualified to Level 3 in Childcare & Education in 2009. She has recently enjoyed a working holiday to Australia for 7 months but prior to that worked at Centre Parcs in the Children's Time Out Club.



Learning to Read

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully and most children will be taught phonics when they start school. To prepare the children for this transition to school we focus on children recognising the sounds that each individual letter makes. So try to use letter sounds at home - a, b, c... rather than letter names A, B, C.... Once they confidently start to recognise letter sounds, we can look at 'blending' those sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Similarly if your child is showing an interest in writing, show them lower case letters, rather than uppercase to begin with and help them to form each letter the correct way (see diagram below).

Particular things to look for:

- **o** -the pencil stroke must be anti-clockwise, not clockwise
- **d** -the pencil starts in the middle, not the top)
- **m** and **n** -there must be an initial downstroke, or the letter **m** looks like the McDonald's arches.



If you would like more information about letter formation please ask one of the pre-school staff.

Language for Life

Here are the signs, songs and tips of the month for the next few months. Please use them with your children every day to help aid communication and language.

January

Sign



sorry

Song

This Little Piggy

Tip

Get their attention

When your child is absorbed in another activity, it can be hard to listen. Say their name first to get their attention and make sure they are listening.

February

Sign



home

Song

Humpty Dumpty

Tip

Build on what they say

Build on what your child knows and says already, to support them to develop language to go to the next level.

March

Sign



please

Song

Happy and You Know It

Tip

Have conversations

Children benefit from practising having conversations with other people. The more language is practised the better it gets.

If you have any questions or want any information come and see Steph – our Language Co-ordinator

Festival Calendar 2012-2013	
December 2012 1-24 Dec 25 December	<p>Advent The ten small advents leading up to Christmas, the birth of Jesus.</p> <p>Christmas Christmas is the time of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Chinese New Year The Chinese New Year is the most important festival in the Chinese calendar. It is a time of joy and celebration. The Chinese New Year is celebrated on the 1st day of the lunar calendar.</p>
February 2013 10 February	<p>Chinese New Year The Chinese New Year is the most important festival in the Chinese calendar. It is a time of joy and celebration. The Chinese New Year is celebrated on the 1st day of the lunar calendar.</p>
April 2013 25 March - 1 April	<p>Easter Easter is the time of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.</p>
May 2013 24 May	<p>Weeks in Buddha Day Buddha is the founder of the religion of Buddhism. He is celebrated on the 24th day of May. It is a time of joy and celebration. The Buddha Day is celebrated on the 24th day of May.</p>
August 2013 8 August	<p>Eid-ul-Fitr Eid-ul-Fitr is the most important festival of the Islamic religion. It is celebrated on the 1st day of the lunar calendar. It is a time of joy and celebration. The Eid-ul-Fitr is celebrated on the 1st day of the lunar calendar.</p>
November 2013 3-8 November	<p>Diwali Diwali is the most important festival of the Hindu religion. It is celebrated on the 15th day of the lunar calendar. It is a time of joy and celebration. The Diwali is celebrated on the 15th day of the lunar calendar.</p>
December 2013 1-24 Dec 25 December	<p>Advent The ten small advents leading up to Christmas, the birth of Jesus.</p> <p>Christmas Christmas is the time of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.</p>

Festival Calendar

You may have seen a copy of our Festivals Calendar in the setting. With the help of parents and we have been developing collections of resources to help to inform the children about a number of Festivals at given points in the year. We start with the Chinese New Year (10 February) and then our next Festival is Easter.

You may like to try the following activities with your children:

Chinese New Year - www.activityvillage.co.uk/chinese_new_year.htm

Easter - www.dltk-holidays.com/Easter

Our Priorities for 2013:

These have been developed with the staff team in line with the new EYFS. If you would like any more information about either the new EYFS or our Priorities please ask.

<h3>A Unique Child</h3>	<p>Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop Language for Life and the importance of language and communication for children and their parents • Develop a new system for tracking individual children's progress
<h3>Positive Relationships</h3>	<p>Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the use of handover to ensure parents are kept informed about their child's learning • Explore ways to positively promote children's behaviour
<h3>Enabling Environments</h3>	<p>Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the new Learning Journeys to ensure that all children have a rich and varied record of their progress • Develop a range of exciting rainy day activities which provide children with the opportunity to enjoy outdoor learning
<h3>Learning and Development</h3>	<p>Children develop and learn in different ways. Practitioners teach children by ensuring challenging, playful opportunities across the prime and specific areas of learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a focus on fun in developing new, exciting learning opportunities for children • Develop the use of observation of practice to ensure that children's learning opportunities embrace the characteristics of effective learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Playing and exploring ○ Active learning ○ Creating and thinking critically